

AN INTRODUCTION TO BARN HUNT:

Presented by Bonnie Bird and Colleen Pinner. Both are past members of CDTA.

Barn Hunt has three elements: the climb, the tunnel and the rat. To qualify in any given trial, a handler must get his/her dog to climb up on a bale of hay, go through a tunnel and find a live rat hidden in a protective tube somewhere amidst a configuration of hay bales. There are decoy tubes hidden in this configuration as well. The event is timed.

There are five levels of difficulty IN Barn Hunt. A Novice dog must find one rat and go through a simple (straight) tunnel. A dog competing in the Open class must find two rats and go through a tunnel with a 90 degree bend. There are two additional classes with additional rats and more complicated tunnel structures and there is one very simple level called the Instinct Test. All qualifying rounds lead to titles recognized by both AKC and CKC.

In this demonstration, dogs will get to meet and sniff a live rat in a box with one clear plexiglass side and one wire mesh side. The rat will then be transferred to a clear tube where the dog will again be able to confront it. Finally the dog will be given a modified Instinct Test, where it will be presented with three opaque tubes, one containing a live rat, one containing rat litter and one containing nothing at all.