**The ADBA Top Dog Athletic Event**

- All dogs must be at least 9 months old to the date of its birth to compete.

- The ADBA Top Dog Athletic Event consists of three canine athletic competitions; Treadmill Race, Wall Climb, and either the Sprint Drag Weight or Lure Course. (Club will choose to use either Sprint Drag Weight or Lure Course. Club will advertise which three events they will be using.) All dogs competing in the Top Dog Athletic Event must compete in all three competitions advertised. Dogs will receive points for placement first thru tenth in each class of competition. A point system will be used and the dog’s points from each competition will be added together for a combined overall score.

- All Sanctioned Top Dog events MUST be advertised in the show calendar in the same manner as all ADBA sanctioned events.

- One sanctioned Top Dog Athletic Event per day.

- A total of 3 separate competitions must be held for a sanctioned Top Dog event.
  
  o For the benefit of our exhibitors, order of events must be consistent for all clubs: 1st - Treadmill Race; 2nd - Wall Climb; 3rd - Drag Sprint or Lure Course. (Club can choose to host the Drag Sprint or the Lure Course for the Top Dog event. However, due to unforeseen circumstances and in case of equipment malfunction, alternate equipment must be made available to insure Top Dog event is held.)
  
  o All events must be held on the same day within a reasonable window of time.

- The ADBA Top Dog Athletic Event will be judged by a certified judge through completion and passing of a written test. All decisions by the judges are final.

- All dogs entering Top Dog are to be weighed and measured (height at withers) before entry is considered complete.

- If a dog is entered in a two day Top Dog event, the height & weight from the first day will flow over to the 2nd day’s event.

- If the Top Dog event is being held on Sunday, dogs will be weighed and measured on the day of the event. (Dog’s weight from the weight pulling event from day 1 cannot be used to enter the Top Dog event unless the weight pull and Top Dog event are being held on the same day.)

- **A minimum of 6 dogs must compete** for a Top Dog event to be considered sanctioned with no less than 3 dogs in a group.

  o If 6 - 8 dogs compete, dogs will be divided into 2 “balanced as possible” groups.
  
  o 9 dogs and over will be divided into 3 “balanced as possible” groups.

Dogs will be divided into 2 or 3 groups (depending on number of dogs competing) to create a “balanced number of dogs”. *(By having the dogs divided into groups with the number of entries being as balanced as possible, will eliminate a class of 2 or less dogs competing.)* All dogs entered into the Top Dog event will be listed from the lightest to heaviest (once registration is closed) and all dogs have been weighed. The overall Top Dog Event **official (to be designated by the hosting club)** will take the list of the total number of dogs entered and divide them into as equal (as possible) groups.
Since the number of dogs entered on the 2\textsuperscript{nd} day may change, the grouping of dogs may need to be re-adjusted by the event official by following the same steps as listed above.

The decision of the Top Dog Event official is final. No class adjustments will be made after the Top Dog event has started.

Each group/class will take its separate turn - starting with the lightest dog in each class.

Placement points are awarded for each separate group/class.

- 1\textsuperscript{st} ........ 25 pts
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} ........ 20 pts
- 3\textsuperscript{rd} ........ 15 pts
- 4\textsuperscript{th} ........ 12 pts
- 5\textsuperscript{th} ........ 10 pts
- 6\textsuperscript{th} ........ 8 pts
- 7\textsuperscript{th} ........ 6 pts
- 8\textsuperscript{th} ........ 4 pts
- 9\textsuperscript{th} ........ 2 pts
- 10\textsuperscript{th} ...... 1 pt

Dogs achieving the **top three combined overall scores** (regardless of class entered) will be awarded the ADBA Top Dog rosettes: first, second, and third place. Points toward ADBA’s Top Dog title (TD) will be earned for the three overall awards in a Top Dog Athletic Event:

- 1\textsuperscript{st} place – 15 pts
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} place – 10 pts
- 3\textsuperscript{rd} place – 5 pts

The ADBA Top Dog title will be awarded when a dog achieves 100 points. That includes placing 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd}, or 3\textsuperscript{rd} at a MAJOR Top Dog Athletic Event. (A MAJOR Event is defined as a total of ten or more dogs competing.)

A dog achieving 200 pts (after placing in a Major event) will be awarded the title of Top Dog I (TD One), 300 pts, Top Dog II (TD Two), and so forth.

The only bait that is allowed in any of the three competitions is a regulation tug that conforms to ADBA specifications. (Each contestant is encouraged to have a regulation tug for their personal dog.) For the specifications of the regulation tug, please visit the ADBA website. These tugs are available for purchase at:  

**Tie breaker for overall Top Dog Event**

In the event that a point tie results, the dog achieving the most first placements in the competitions will be given the award.

- The second tiebreaker is the final successful wall climbing height of each dog divided by the dog’s height for the final percentage. (Wall Climb height by inches divided by dog’s height by inches.)

- In the event that a 3\textsuperscript{rd} tie breaker is needed, results from the treadmill race are to be used; the dog that went the furthest distance.

(04/29/16)
ADBA “Top Dog” Treadmill Race Rules

- The dog must be at least 9 months old to the date of its birth.

- A **minimum of 6 dogs must compete** for a Top Dog event to be considered sanctioned with no less than 3 dogs in a group.
  - If 6 - 8 dogs compete, dogs will be divided into 2 “balanced as possible” groups.
  - 9 dogs and over will be divided into 3 “balanced as possible” groups.

- Dogs will be divided into 2 or 3 groups (depending on number of dogs competing) to create a “balanced number of dogs”. *(By having the dogs divided into groups with the number of entries being as balanced as possible, will eliminate a class of 2 or less dogs competing.)* All dogs entered into the Top Dog event will be listed from the lightest to heaviest (once registration is closed) and all dogs have been weighed. The overall Top Dog Event **official (to be designated by the hosting club)** will take the list of the total number of dogs entered and divide them into as equal (as possible) groups.
  - Since the number of dogs entered on the 2nd day may change, the grouping of dogs may need to be re-adjusted by the event official by following the same steps as listed above.

- Placement points are awarded for each separate group/class.

- Each class will take its separate turn - starting with the lightest dog in each group.

- Dogs run on a slat treadmill for two minutes and the distance is read from an odometer and recorded. The treadmill race judge along with an event steward will stand by the mill to mark the time of the finish and reinforce rules and safety. The judge’s decision is final.

- Dogs will be placed and points awarded 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. within each group, according to most distance ran in two minutes.

- All dogs must wear a properly fitting walking harness or a “belt buckle” collar.

- The regulation tug is the only allowed bait. No more than two handlers may be present to encourage the dog. (Each contestant is encouraged to have a regulation tug for their personal dogs use.)

- Dogs’ toenails must be at a trimmed length to run on the slat mill. Judge must check the dog’s nails.

- The Judge will run the stopwatch and keep the mill from moving before dog starts. The event steward should work the odometer and make sure the dog is hooked up correctly. Both officials should watch the time/distance and come to an agreement on the distance. *(The distance changes rapidly on the odometer).*
• The judge may stop and re-start the event at anytime for the dogs’ safety or equipment malfunction. (Alibi) Only one alibi will be given before a dog is disqualified.

• Once started, the dog cannot touch any person or the tug.

• All placement ties within a class will result in a one minute run-off. Judges decision is final.

(06/25/17)
ADBA “Top Dog” Wall Climb Rules

- The dog must be at least 9 months old to the date of its birth.

- A **minimum of 6 dogs must compete** for a Top Dog event to be considered sanctioned with no less than 3 dogs in a group.
  - If 6 - 8 dogs compete, dogs will be divided into 2 “balanced as possible” groups.
  - 9 dogs and over will be divided into 3 “balanced as possible” groups.

- Dogs will be divided into 2 or 3 groups (depending on number of dogs competing) to create a “balanced number of dogs”. *(By having the dogs divided into groups with the number of entries being as balanced as possible, will eliminate a class of 2 or less dogs competing.)* All dogs entered into the Top Dog event will be listed from the lightest to heaviest (once registration is closed) and all dogs have been weighed. The overall Top Dog Event official *(to be designated by the hosting club)* will take the list of the total number of dogs entered and divide them into as equal (as possible) groups.
  - Since the number of dogs entered on the 2nd day may change, the grouping of dogs may need to be re-adjusted by the event official by following the same steps as listed above.

- Placement points are awarded for each separate group/class.

- Each class will take its separate turn - starting with the lightest dog in each class.

- Dog must be on no longer than a 10’ lead and we encourage the dog to wear a walking harness, which will assist in the catching of the dog. The club will provide a lead if the handler’s lead is insufficient for the climb. *(Handler is to retain hold of lead.)*

- Handlers are responsible to catch the dog under the wall to avoid injuries to their dog. No more than two handlers can be present to encourage the dog and/or catch the dog.
  - Handlers are required to catch their dog upon reaching a certain height (determined by judge). Judges will give only one warning before dismissing a dog/handler. If dog is dismissed, last completed height will be final score.
  - A parting stick may be needed to part the tug from the dog. The handler/handlers are required to part their own dog, unless they give permission for the judge to assist them.

- Handler can choose the height of the first climb (minimum is 3 times the height of the dog at the withers). Handler can request how many 4 inch - increments will be added for each subsequent climb.

- A successful climb is when a dog grabs and pulls the tug loose. As the dogs’ safety is the first priority in all events, we have chosen to have the regulation bait tug held in place by a Velcro strap or other release device that ensures that every time the dog goes up the wall, successful climb or not, the dog is coming down in the same manner and pace each time. *(Each contestant is encouraged to have a regulation tug for their personal dog to use.)*

- The dog is allowed a maximum of three attempts at each height. A failed attempt is when a dog misses the tug, fails to pull it loose or fails to engage. After each failed attempt, the dog will need to return to the starting area.
  - The starting area will be a designated area with a starting line no closer than five feet from the wall and the back line to be fifteen feet from the wall.
  - Dogs’ front feet must be in front of the 15 foot line.
• Holding area is to be far enough away to not interfere with dog competing.

• As this is an endurance, as well as an athletic event, the dog will continue wall climbing until it has three failed attempts in a row. The handler may also choose to withdraw at any time with the final successful "climb" as their final score.

• An event steward will keep track of # of jumps and heights jumped. An additional event steward will be needed to control the rope to adjust tug height.

• Dogs will be placed and points awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. by determining the dog that climbs the highest within each group. If dogs tie within their group at the last height achieved, then the dog with the least number of attempts is awarded the highest placement points, second least number of attempts 2nd placement points and so on. If the number of attempts at that height are the same, then a “climb off” will be held.
  • The Climb Off’s beginning height is to be determined by the judge after a discussion with the handlers after which each additional height will be increased by each individual handler. There will be two attempts for each dog at each given height. Winner will be determined by dog that completes the final completed height in the least number of attempts. (The lightest dog begins the climb off).
ADBA “Top Dog” Lure Course Event

- **Description:** Dog runs after a white plastic bag (“lure”) that is attached to a line while being pulled over a specific course. (Straight or Oval) As this is a timed race, placement will be according to the fastest time completed. Ties will be broken with a run-off.

- The dog must be at least 9 months old to the date of its birth.

- **A minimum of 6 dogs must compete** for a Top Dog event to be considered sanctioned with no less than 3 dogs in a group.
  - If 6 - 8 dogs compete, dogs will be divided into 2 “balanced as possible” groups.
  - 9 dogs and over will be divided into 3 “balanced as possible” groups.

- Dogs will be divided into 2 or 3 groups (depending on number of dogs competing) to create a “balanced number of dogs”. *(By having the dogs divided into groups with the number of entries being as balanced as possible, will eliminate a class of 2 or less dogs competing.)*
  - All dogs entered into the Top Dog event will be listed from the lightest to heaviest (once registration is closed) and all dogs have been weighed. The overall Top Dog Event **official** *(to be designated by the hosting club)* will take the list of the total number of dogs entered and divide them into as equal (as possible) groups.
    - Since the number of dogs entered on the 2nd day may change, the grouping of dogs may need to be re-adjusted by the event official by following the same steps as listed above.

- Placement points are awarded for each separate group/class.

- Each class will take a separate turn starting with the lightest dog in each class.

- All dogs must wear a properly fitting “belt buckle” collar. Leash is to remain attached and in handlers control until judge has given the order to remove lead.

- There will be two judges (with 1 being the timekeeper to time the race.) One Judge at each end of the track. Both judges will watch for fouls. A two way radio will be needed for the judges to communicate with each other.

- No more than two handlers may be used.

- Spectators are not permitted to bring their dog up to the course fencing. Holding area should be substantially away from the actual course.

- There will be 3 fouls; Foul, foul then out. Fouls are: Failure to engage; Breaking course barrier; handler touching animal after crossing the start line. When this occurs, dog is to be brought back to the start and the chase begins over.

- **Alibi:** Alibis do not count as a foul. An alibi is: Failure of lure equipment; Timing equipment malfunction. When this occurs, dog is to be brought back to the start line and the chase begins over.

- Dogs will be placed and points awarded of 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. within each group, based on elapsed time the course is completed.

- All placement ties will result in a “run off” as the tiebreaker. Judges decision will be final.

**COURSES:** Course (oval or straight) will be no less than 200 feet.
Straight Chase: One dog on course, one dog in holding and one dog on deck. Requires two handlers; one to release the dog, and one to catch the dog. Handler to catch is position several feet in front of finish crash pad. The handler to release the dog is to report to the starting line with your dog on a 4ft lead (and your 2nd handler is required to have a 4ft lead.) Flagger will have the handler unleash the dog and remain holding the dog by the collar. The Flagger will raise the flag, the handler will release the dog once it shows intent to chase lure. When the released dog’s nose crosses the orange start line, the flagger drops the flag notifying the timer to start the time. Straight chase for length of course. When dog’s nose crosses the orange finish line, time will be stopped. The dog should be permitted to catch an ADBA regulation tug, not the lure, for the instant gratification and the opportunity for the 2nd handler to catch and leach the dog. This is a timed event. Fastest dog receives points awarded of 1st placement, second fastest dog receives points of 2nd placement and so forth.

Required Staff:
Judge at start line
Judge - at finish line
Timer
Lure Operator
Records keeper
Holding area steward

Oval chase: One dog on course, one dog in holding and one dog on deck.
Requires only one handler. (Two can be used) Start line set on beginning of right side straight-a-way designated by orange line. Once the lure passes the dog the dog is released. Course set as wide and sweeping. Straight course is normally set inside of oval to assist in directing the dogs on the course thus eliminating sharp turns or the dog cutting across the course. Timer starts the clock once the dog crosses the beginning line. Once the dog is released the handler moves across the turn to the end of the left side straight-a-way. Handler positions himself a few feet in front of the finish pad. Machine operator will stop the lure a few feet in front of the handler. The dog should be allowed to the catch the lure for instant gratification and the opportunity for the handler to leach the dog. This is a timed event. Fastest dog places 1st, second fastest dog places 2nd and so forth. Ultimately an area approximately the size of a football field is required for an oval track..

Required Staff:
Judge at start/finish line
Timer
Lure Operator
Records keeper
Holding area steward

Equipment Needed:
Lure machine
4 pulleys (minimum)
String (specialized)
Stop watch
Zip ties
Scoring sheets
Course Fencing (if needed)
Sight Barrier Fencing (42” silt fencing)
4 ft rebar
LOOKING FORWARD

The straight and oval course is only the beginning for this performance event. There are many creative things that can be done, such as steeple jumps and obstacles, whereby more challenging levels could be presented for competition.

*This is a labor intensive performance event as it pertains to set-up and tear-down. It is imperative that hosting club have the necessary manpower available. With five to six people, set-up can be accomplished within a 2-3 hours. Sight barrier fencing is used for the perimeter of the oval course and the straight course is established down the middle of the oval course.

**Due to unforeseen circumstances alternate equipment (Drag Sled) must be made available to insure full “Top Dog” event is held**

(06/25/17)
ADBA “Top Dog” Lure Course Event

- Description: Dog runs after a white plastic bag (“lure”) that is attached to a line while being pulled over a specific course. (Straight or Oval) As this is a timed race, placement will be according to the fastest time completed. Ties will be broken with a run-off.

- The dog must be at least 9 months old to the date of its birth.

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- Dogs will be divided into 2 or 3 groups (depending on number of dogs competing) to create a “balanced number of dogs”. (*By having the dogs divided into groups with the number of entries being as balanced as possible, will eliminate a class of 2 or less dogs competing.*) All dogs entered into the Top Dog event will be listed from the lightest to heaviest (once registration is closed) and all dogs have been weighed. The overall Top Dog Event *official (to be designated by the hosting club)* will take the list of the total number of dogs entered and divide them into as equal (as possible) groups.
  - Since the number of dogs entered on the 2nd day may change, the grouping of dogs may need to be re-adjusted by the event official by following the same steps as listed above.

- Placement points are awarded for each separate group/class.

- Each class will take a separate turn starting with the lightest dog in each class.

- All dogs must wear a properly fitting “belt buckle” collar. Leash is to remain attached and in handlers control until judge has given the order to remove lead.

- There will be two judges (with 1 being the timekeeper to time the race.) One Judge at each end of the track. Both judges will watch for fouls. A two way radio will be needed for the judges to communicate with each other.

- No more than two handlers may be used.

- Spectators are not permitted to bring their dog up to the course fencing. Holding area should be substantially away from the actual course.

- There will be 3 fouls; Foul, foul then out. Fouls are: Failure to engage; Breaking course barrier; handler touching animal after crossing the start line. When this occurs, dog is to be brought back to the start and the chase begins over.

- Alibi: Alibis do not count as a foul. An alibi is: Failure of lure equipment; Timing equipment malfunction. When this occurs, dog is to be brought back to the start line and the chase begins over.

- Dogs will be placed and points awarded of 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. within each group, based on elapsed time the course is completed.

- All placement ties will result in a “run off” as the tiebreaker. Judges decision will be final.

**COURSES:**  Course (oval or straight) will be no less than 200 feet.
Straight Chase: One dog on course, one dog in holding and one dog on deck. Requires two handlers; one to release the dog, and one to catch the dog. Handler to catch is position several feet in front of finish crash pad. The handler to release the dog is to report to the starting line with your dog on a 4ft lead (and your 2nd handler is required to have a 4ft lead.) Flagger will have the handler unleash the dog and remain holding the dog by the collar. The Flagger will raise the flag, the handler will release the dog once it shows intent to chase lure. When the released dog’s nose crosses the orange start line, the flagger drops the flag notifying the timer to start the time. Straight chase for length of course. When dog’s nose crosses the orange finish line, time will be stopped. The dog should be permitted to catch an ADBA regulation tug, not the lure, for the instant gratification and the opportunity for the 2nd handler to catch and leash the dog. This is a timed event. Fastest dog receives points awarded of 1st placement, second fastest dog receives points of 2nd placement and so forth.

Required Staff:
- Judge at start line
- Judge - at finish line
- Timer
- Lure Operator
- Records keeper
- Holding area steward

Oval chase: One dog on course, one dog in holding and one dog on deck. Requires only one handler. (Two can be used) Start line set on beginning of right side straight-a-way designated by orange line. Once the lure passes the dog the dog is released. Course set as wide and sweeping. Straight course is normally set inside of oval to assist in directing the dogs on the course thus eliminating sharp turns or the dog cutting across the course. Timer starts the clock once the dog crosses the beginning line. Once the dog is released the handler moves across the turn to the end of the left side straight-a-way. Handler positions himself a few feet in front of the finish pad. Machine operator will stop the lure a few feet in front of the handler. The dog should be allowed to the catch the lure for instant gratification and the opportunity for the handler to leash the dog. This is a timed event. Fastest dog places 1st, second fastest dog places 2nd and so forth. Ultimately an area approximately the size of a football field is required for an oval track.

Required Staff:  
- Judge at start/finish line
- Timer
- Lure Operator
- Records keeper
- Holding area steward

Equipment Needed:
- Lure machine
- 4 pulleys (minimum)
- String (specialized)
- Stop watch
- Zip ties
- Scoring sheets
- Course Fencing (if needed)
- Sight Barrier Fencing (42” silt fencing)
- 4 ft rebar
LOOKING FORWARD
The straight and oval course is only the beginning for this performance event. There are many creative things that can be done, such as steeple jumps and obstacles, whereby more challenging levels could be presented for competition.

*This is a labor intensive performance event as it pertains to set-up and tear-down. It is imperative that hosting club have the necessary manpower available. With five to six people, set-up can be accomplished within a 2-3 hours. Sight barrier fencing is used for the perimeter of the oval course and the straight course is established down the middle of the oval course.

**Due to unforeseen circumstances alternate equipment (Drag Sled) must be made available to insure full “Top Dog” event is held**

(06/25/17)
ADBA “Top Dog” Drag Sprint Rules

- The dog must be at least 9 months old to the date of its birth.

- A **minimum of 6 dogs must compete** for a Top Dog event to be considered sanctioned with no less than 3 dogs in a group.
  - If 6 - 8 dogs compete, dogs will be divided into 2 “balanced as possible” groups.
  - 9 dogs and over will be divided into 3 “balanced as possible” groups.

- Dogs will be divided into 2 or 3 groups (depending on number of dogs competing) to create a “balanced number of dogs”. *(By having the dogs divided into groups with the number of entries being as balanced as possible, will eliminate a class of 2 or less dogs competing.)* All dogs entered into the Top Dog event will be listed from the lightest to heaviest (once registration is closed) and all dogs have been weighed. The overall Top Dog Event **official (to be designated by the hosting club)** will take the list of the total number of dogs entered and divide them into as equal (as possible) groups.
  - Since the number of dogs entered on the 2nd day may change, the grouping of dogs may need to be re-adjusted by the event official by following the same steps as listed above.

- Placement points are awarded for each separate group/class.

- Dogs will pull a weighted drag sled no less than 150 feet; or no more than 200 feet. *(Depending on the venue)* Drag Sprint track is to be in a straight line. Time will begin when the dogs’ nose passes the Start line and will end when the dogs’ nose has crossed the “Finish” line. As this is a speed race, dogs will be placed and points awarded, according to lapsed time.

- Drag weight is increased for handicap purposes for each larger weight class. The weight is to be determined by the time keeping judge, depending on drag conditions. Placement points are awarded for each separate group/class.
  - Drag sprint sled weight guidelines. These weights are suggestions. Your sled and surface may pull faster or slower. Grass will pull slower than dirt. Please do test run to make sure there is enough resistance to slow the dog down. (40lbs and under) 10-20lbs; (40-50lbs) 20-30lbs; (50lbs and over) 30-40 lbs. *(Weights include weight of Drag Sled.)*

- Each class will take its separate turn - starting with the lightest dog in each class.

- Dogs will be allowed one attempt. The judge may stop and re-start the event at anytime for safety or if a condition arises that puts the dog at risk. *(Alibi)* The dog will be brought back to the starting line and a new drag sprint will be started. Only one alibi will be given before a dog is disqualified.

- There will need to be 2 judges (with one being the timekeeper) to time the race; 1 judge at each end of the track. Upon the go command, time will commence. Both judges will watch for alibis. A two way radio will be needed for the judges to communicate with each other.

- Dogs must wear a weight pulling harness and “belt buckle” collar with lead to compete in this event.
- No more than two handlers may be used. Both must be in front or alongside of the dog during the sprint. Dog must be on a lead but handler cannot pull on the lead. (Handler may use lead for correction but cannot pull the dog forward through competition).

- Only a regulation tug may be used as bait. The dog will be disqualified if the dog is pulled by the handler or comes in contacts with the tug. (Each contestant is encouraged to have a regulation tug for their personal dogs use.)

- Dogs will be placed and points awarded of 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. within each group, based on elapsed time the course is completed.

- All placement ties will result in a timed sprint of 100 feet as a tiebreaker. Judges decision will be final.

(06/25/17)