

The ADBA Top Dog Athletic Event Overall

- All dogs must be ADBA registered or LPP certified. (Show & Pull ID card, Registration certificate or LPP card)
- 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 through ninth 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.
 - 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.)
 - Due to unforeseen circumstances and in case of equipment malfunction, order of events may be adjusted to insure Top Dog event is held.)
 - 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 an ADBA certified judge through completion and passing of a written test from the ADBA. *All decisions by the judge(s) are final.*
- The Top Dog judge and/or family members can not enter a dog in a Top Dog event that he/she is judging, unless an alternate judge is used for that individual dog.
- Overall Top Dog Judge (*judge weighing in dogs, dividing dogs into groups', assisting with final result paperwork, settles disputes, etc.*) must be an ADBA certified judge through completion and passing of a written test from the ADBA, and CAN NOT have a dog entered in that days event.
- ADBA Sanctioned Weight Pull judge CAN weigh-in dogs for the Top Dog event if needed.
- Dogs being weighed for Top Dog can use the same weight for the weight pull ONLY when events are held on same day.
- All dogs entering Top Dog are to be weighed on the day of the event before entry is considered complete. *Contestant may request 1 re-weigh if time permits. (All weight-ins must be completed 30 minutes before competition begins. If re-weigh is approved by the judge*

and within the designated time limit, the 2nd weight must be used.) Dogs weight will be carried over from one Top Dog event to the next if all entry fees are paid for on same day.)

- When using a **digital scale**, placing a piece of masking or other non-transparent tape over the 10th and use whole numbers only. On **non-digital scales**, the judge will only use whole numbers when weighing dogs into ADBSI sanctioned events. (Simply put: if a dog weigh's 33.60 pounds, the .60 is omitted and the dog's weight will be 33 pounds.)
- To aid in safely catching the dog in the wall climb portion of the Top Dog Event, the ADBA continues to strongly suggest that dogs wear a harness while competing in the Top Dog wall climbing event.
- 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.
- A minimum of 10 or more dogs competing is defined as a Major Event. Dog must receive no less than a 1st – 3rd place award to achieve title.
- 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.*)
 - Once registration is closed and all dogs have been weighed and the registration forms have been turned in, the scorekeeper will take the forms and organize/sort them from the lightest to heaviest dog in order.
 - He/she will then write the weights from lightest to heaviest dog on a piece of paper (by weight only, no names are to be listed at this time).
 - The overall Top Dog judge will take the list of the total number of dogs entered by weight and divide them into as equal (as possible) groups by drawing a line.
 - Once the groups have been determined, the scorekeeper will go in order of the registration forms (lightest to heaviest) and add the dog's name next to its weight, then fill out the judges' book for each event.
 - If multiple dogs are the same weight and because of the division of groups one of those dogs ends up with the lighter or heavier weight dogs, the overall Top Dog judge will take the height of those dogs into consideration and move the shortest or tallest dog of the same weight to the lower or higher weight group.
- Since the number of dogs entered on the 2nd or 3rd 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 will take its separate turn - starting with the lightest dog in each group.
- No more than 2 handlers may be used.
- The only bait that is allowed in any of the three competitions is a regulation "type" tug that conforms to ADBA specifications. Using anything other than regulation tug will result in a disqualification. (Each contestant is required to have a regulation "type" tug for their personal dog to use.) For the specifications of the regulation tug, equipment section of Top Dog rules.

- Placement points are awarded for each separate group. (Dog must have a “time or score” listed for each event to earn points.)

1 st	25 pts	6 th	8 pts
2 nd	20 pts	7 th	6 pts
3 rd	15 pts	8 th	4 pts
4 th	12 pts	9 th	2 pts
5 th	10 pts		

- 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. (*Dog must have a “time or score” listed for each event to earn points.*) Points toward ADBA’s Top Dog title (TD) will be earned for the three overall awards in a Top Dog Athletic Event:
 - 1st place – 15 pts – Rosette award
 - 2nd place – 12 pts – Rosette award
 - 3rd place – 9 pts – Rosette award
- Points will be earned for dogs placing 4th through 9th place which will go toward dogs overall “Top Dog” title. (Dog must receive no less than a 1st – 3rd place award to achieve title. If 100 points are earned and dog has NOT earned a 1st – 3rd placement during a Major event, dogs points will continue to accumulate until requirement is met)
 - 4th place - 6 points
 - 5th place - 5 points
 - 6th place - 4 points
 - 7th place - 3 points
 - 8th place - 2 points
 - 9th place – 1 point

*Individual clubs can choose to give generic ribbons or a certificate for 4th through 9th place

- The ADBA Top Dog title will be awarded when a dog achieves 100 points. That includes placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd 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.

Tiebreaker for overall Top Dog Event

- In the event that a point tie results, the 1st tie-breaker will be the dog achieving the most first placements in the competitions will be given the award. (Dog must have a “time or score” listed for each event to be considered for tiebreaker.)
- In the event a 2nd tie-breaker is needed; to insure the dog that out performs the dogs within its group is awarded, the following formula will be used;
 - a. If two dogs tie and they are in the same group, tie-breaker will be determined by the dog who won more within the group. (Example: If a dog placed higher in two out of three events within the group, then that dog is the one who will win the 2nd tie breaker) If two dogs tie and they are NOT in the same group, then you would compare their wall climb results. 1st: Use the overall height of the last completed jump then the number of attempts. The dog that went the highest with the least # of attempts wins. 2nd: If the height and number of attempts are the same for both dogs then height of each dog will be used. (Height of dogs will be taken at this time.) Take the last completed height on the wall and divide it by the height of the dog at the withers. The dog that went higher based on those calculations wins.

- b. In the event that a 3rd tie-breaker is needed, results from the treadmill race are to be used; the dog that went the furthest distance will be the winner of the 3rd tie-breaker.
- TOP DOG EVENT MUST NOT INTERFERE OR HOLD UP CONFORMATION EVENT AND/OR WEIGHT PULL EVENT!
 - If using electronic timing equipment or odometer, stability of equipment is paramount. If equipment fails (judge will determine when this option is used), dog will go to back of group and stop watch will be used for ALL DOGS IN GROUP. (All dogs in group MUST use same timing device etc.)
 - It is the responsibility of each contestant to pay attention to when & where they need to be to compete. If your dog is not ready to compete when it is your turn, dog will get a “no score” on that competition. Judges and or Stewards are not responsible for dogs missing event. NO REFUNDS GIVEN.
 - TOP DOG EVENT MUST START ON TIME AND BE COMPLETED IN TIME AS NOT TO INTERFERE OR HOLD UP CONFORMATION OR WEIGHT PULL EVENT.

Judges decision is FINAL

- Challenges must be brought to the judges’ attention at time of occurrence.
- Placements will not be changed after judges books are submitted to ADBA.

More Details on running your Top Dog Events

As the Top Dog Event is endurance as well as talent and training, it is important that all contestants are treated equally, therefore each group of dogs will compete together through each competition. By keeping the groups moving through each competition, (making sure that each competition “station” is far enough away not to distract each other) the entire Top Dog Event can be completed within a reasonable amount of time. It is imperative that the Top Dog Event NOT HOLD-UP THE CONFORMATION AND/OR WEIGHT PULL EVENT.

Example:

- 1st - Treadmill Race
- 2nd - Wall Climb
- 3rd - Drag Sprint or Lure Course

Group 1 - Treadmill. Dogs will compete in treadmill competition, then all dogs will move to Wall climb competition, then all dogs will then move to lure course or drag sled. While group 1 is at wall climb, Group 2 will compete in treadmill competition, then dogs will move to Wall climb competition, then move to lure course or drag sled. It is important to remember that the lure course can be a sound distraction so judge may require all dogs finish the wall climb BEFORE beginning the lure course competition.

(To achieve the above goal, club will need to use a separate judge for each event along with a “staging” area for each competition to insure dogs remain ready to compete.) Overall judge will be dividing dogs, figuring out score sheets and overall results.

(02/15/20)

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.
- A **minimum of 10 or more dogs competing is defined as a Major Event**. Dog must receive no less than a 1st – 3rd place award to achieve title.
- 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 judge 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.
- No more than 2 handlers may be used.
- 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 “type” tug is the only allowed bait. No more than two handlers may be present to encourage the dog. (*Each contestant is required to have a regulation “type” tug for their personal dog to 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.
- Only one foul will be given before a dog is disqualified.

- **Alibis** - Unintentional circumstances that make a dog unable to complete a two minute run. The judge will stop time and instruct the handler to handle their dog. (2 Alibis = 1 foul) Run is not valid unless it is uninterrupted.
- If using electronic timing equipment or odometer, stability of equipment is paramount. If equipment fails (*judge will determine when this option is used*) dog will go to back of group and stop watch or alternate method to determine distance will be used for ALL DOGS IN GROUP.
- All dogs in group MUST use same timing/distance device.
- Once started, the dog cannot touch any person or the tug. When this occurs, it will result in a “no score”
- All placement ties within a class will result in a one minute run-off. Judges decision is final.

Judges decision is FINAL

- Challenges must be brought to the judges' attention at time of occurrence.
- Placements will not be changed after judges books are submitted to ADBA.

(02/15/20)

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.
- **A minimum of 10 or more dogs competing is defined as a Major Event.** Dog must receive no less than a 1st – 3rd place award to achieve title.
- 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.
- No more than 2 handlers may be used.
- Dog must be on no longer than a 10’ lead. The club will provide a lead if the handler’s lead is insufficient for the climb. (Handler is to retain hold of lead.)
- **The regulation “type” tug* is the only allowed bait.**
- 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 is required 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 dogs mouth grabs tug and tug releases from Velcro strap or other release device. 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 required to have a regulation tug for their personal dog to use).**

- Velcro strip attachment on wall climb must remain consistent for all dogs in group. If adjustment is needed. Overall Judge must oversee all adjustments and or replacement.
- 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 immediately 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 15 foot line.
 - Dogs' front feet must be behind the 5 foot line.
 - Holding area is to be far enough away to not interfere with dog competing.
- Alibi: Alibis do not count as a foul. An alibi is: Failure of lure equipment; Timing equipment malfunction **or when dog is required to be stopped by judge due to safety issue**. When this occurs, dog is to be brought back to the start line and the chase begins over. (2 Alibis = 1 foul)
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- As this is 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.
- It is the judge's responsibility to keep the event moving. The judge will insure this by instructing contestants not to *play with dog and tug after each completed jump*. *Contestant is to part dog off tug and get ready for next jump*.
- 1 judges and 2 stewards are required. 1 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 in group begins the climb off).

Judges decision is FINAL

- Challenges must be brought to the judges' attention at time of occurrence.
- Placements will not be changed after judges books are submitted to ADBA.

(02/15/20)

ADBA “Top Dog” Lure Course Event Rules

- 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.
- 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.
- A minimum of 10 or more dogs competing is defined as a Major Event. Dog must receive no less than a 1st – 3rd place award to achieve title.
- 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 judge 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 or 3rd day event 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.
- No more than two handlers may be used.
- All dogs must wear a properly fitting “belt buckle” collar or harness. 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 (in the case of a straight track.) Both judges will watch for fouls. A two way radio will be needed for the judges to communicate with each other when using a straight course.
- It is the judge’s responsibility to keep the event moving the judge will insure this by instructing contestants to be sure to collect dog after run.
- 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: An alibi is: Failure of lure equipment; Timing equipment malfunction or when dog is required to be stopped by judge due to safety issue. When this occurs, dog is to be brought back to the start line and the chase begins over. (2 Alibis = 1 foul)

- If using electronic timing equipment, stability of equipment is paramount. If equipment fails dog will go to back of group and stop watch will be used for ALL DOGS IN GROUP. (*Judge will determine when this option is used.*) All dogs in group MUST use same timing device.
- 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.
- In a run off, the dog is allowed 1 foul. 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 area as designated by club.

Event 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 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. *Dog is required to complete the chase straight through length of course.* When dog’s nose crosses the orange finish line, time will be stopped. The dog can catch the handler’s regulation tug, not the lure, to enable the 2nd handler to catch and leash the dog. As this is a timed event. Fastest dog receives points awarded of 1st placement; second fastest dog receives points of 2nd placement and so forth. *Communication device is needed for judges when using straight course.

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 can catch the handler’s regulation tug, not the lure, to enable the 2nd handler to catch and leash the dog. As 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 desired 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 (no less than 2)
Zip ties
Scoring sheets
Course fencing (if needed)
Sight Barrier fencing (42" silt fencing)
4 ft rebar
2 way radio for judges (2)

*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****

If using electronic equipment for timers etc. and it malfunctions, dog will go back to end of group and a stop watch will be used to time all dogs in the group. (*Judge will make the decision when this step will be done*)

Judges decision is FINAL

- Challenges must be brought to the judges' attention at time of occurrence.
- Placements will not be changed after judges books are submitted to ADBA.

(02/15/20)

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.
- **A minimum of 10 or more dogs competing is defined as a Major Event. Dog** must receive no less than a 1st – 3rd place award to achieve title.
- 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.)
- Placement points are awarded for each separate group/class.
- Each class will take a separate turn starting with the lightest dog in each class.
- No more than two handlers may be used.
- Dogs will be allowed one foul then out. 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: An alibi is failure of lure equipment, timing equipment malfunction or when dog is required to be stopped by judge due to safety issue. When this occurs,

dog is to be brought back to the start line and the drag begins over. (2 Alibis = 1 foul)

- 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 “type” 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 required to have a regulation “type” 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.

Judges decision is FINAL

- Challenges must be brought to the judges’ attention at time of occurrence.
- Placements will not be changed after judges books are submitted to ADBA.

(02/15/20)

- TO HOLD AN ADBA SANCTIONED TOP DOG EVENT -

- Clubs wishing to hold a Top Dog Event MUST apply and receive verification from the ADBA show department in the same manner as requesting a Sanctioned Conformation Show OR Weight Pull.
- a) All dogs must be ADBA registered or LPP certified. (Show & Pull ID card, Registration certificate or LPP card)
- b) All events need to be featured in the ADBA Gazette's show Calendar, in the issue prior to date of show.
- b) All events are held by ADBA Sanctioned Clubs only.
- c) Only ADBA functions will be held at ADBA shows.
- d) The ADBA show department must be notified of the qualified Top Dog judge to be used (name, phone number, and sponsoring club) Top Dog Judge MUST be certified by the ADBA show department.
- e) ADBA Sanctioned Top Dog Event need not be held in conjunction with a Conformation Point Show or Weight Pull. If held on same day, Top Dog event will be held before/after other events to avoid conflicts will other events.

EQUIPMENT

Proper equipment is required in order to hold an ADBA Sanctioned Top Dog Event.

Clubs will supply

- Wall - (If club will be using wall with safety harness attachment, this must be specified in event advertising.)
- Scale - Check weight for scale.
- Rope - for pulling area and holding area.
- Stop Watch (no less than 4)
- Chalk board/Dry Eraser - for recording dogs in groups and results of last wall climb height. *By using a dry eraser board at each event, will let contestants know at a quick glance when a tie exists.*
- Communication device for judges.
- Judges book and score sheets. (www.adbadog.com/events) Both judges books and score sheets MUST be on these forms and both MUST be returned to the office of the ADBA Show within 10 days of the date pull was held, along with the fees due.
- Current ADBA Top Dog rules for handouts; and registration entry forms. (download all forms at: www.adbadog.com/events)

Contestant will supply:

- Walking harness
- Belt buckle Collar
- Leads (4" & 10" lead)
- Parting stick
- ADBA Regulation "type" tug – Contestant CAN NOT use anything other than regulation "type" tug for event.

Tug Dimensions'

Approx: 10" to 14" length; 2"- 2.5" in diameter,
Straps approx 7"- 16" length when closed

A thinner tug may be used for the smaller breeds.



**Top Dog Event must not Interfere OR HOLD UP
Conformation Show or Weight Pull!**