

# **\*UPDATED 2024\***

## **The ADBA Top Dog Athletic Event Overall Rules**

- All dogs must be ADBA registered or LPP certified. (Show & Pull ID card, ADBA Registration certificate or LPP card)
- All dogs must be at least 9 months old to the date of 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 must advertise which one they will be using.) All dogs competing in the Top Dog Athletic Event must compete in all three competitions advertised.
- 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.
- ***Top Dog Event must start on time and be completed in time as to not interfere or hold up conformation and/or weight pull event.***
- A total of 3 separate competitions must be held for a sanctioned Top Dog event.
  - For the benefit of our exhibitors, the order of events must be consistent for all clubs.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - Treadmill Race
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Wall Climb
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> - Drag Sprint or Lure Course. (Club may choose to host either event.)
  - Due to unforeseen circumstances, and in case of equipment malfunction or a safety issue, alternate equipment must be made available. At the discretion of the judge/club, order of events may be adjusted to ensure Top Dog event is held. **The drag sprint will NO LONGER be used as an alternative for any one of the three events. If there is an equipment malfunction that cannot be repaired, that event will be eliminated, and the judge will score from the 2 events that were successfully completed.**
  - 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 sanctioned judge who is currently certified through completion and passing of a written test from the ADBA. *All decisions by the judge(s) are final. Any Top Dog Event that is judged by a non-certified judge, or a judge whose certification has expired, been suspended, or revoked, will have points voided. No refunds given.*
- Overall Top Dog Judge (*judge measuring/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 CANNOT have a dog entered in that day's event, judge a family member/significant other's dog(s), or judge someone who resides in the same household. (\*A significant other is viewed as someone you are dating, having a serious relationship with, boyfriend/girlfriend, etc. If you are asked to be the overall judge it is your responsibility to decline the assignment if you will be judging someone that fits the description.)**
- 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.

- ADBA Sanctioned Weight Pull judge CAN weigh-in dogs for the Top Dog event if needed.
- All dogs entering Top Dog are to be measured (height taken at the withers) before entry is considered complete. (**\*Height will be taken to no less than ¼" only.**)
- **The only time a dog would need to be weighed in is if the club is hosting a drag sprint.** Weigh-in will be performed the day of the first event entered. Contestant may request 1 re-weigh if time permits. (All weigh-ins must be completed 30 minutes before the competition begins. If re-weigh is approved by the judge, and within the designated time limit, the 2<sup>nd</sup> weight must be used.) A dog's **height/weight** will carry over from any sporting event held on the same weekend. Dogs being weighed for Top Dog can use the same weight for the weight pull, and vice versa. Weight will remain the same throughout the weekend, regardless of the day of entry. (e.g. Owner pays for dog to compete Friday night, then pays again Sunday to compete. The weight will be the same as it was Friday night. No re-weigh.)
- On non-digital scales, the judge will only use whole numbers when weighing dogs into ADBA sanctioned events. When using a digital scale, place a piece of masking or other non-transparent tape over the 10<sup>th</sup> and use whole numbers only. (Simply put: if a dog weighs 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).
  - A minimum of 10 or more dogs competing is defined as a Major Event. Dog must receive no less than a 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> place award to achieve title.
  - If there is a Handler Withdrawal (HW) or a no score (a zero), that dog must have completed and be given a score in 2/3 of the events for that dog to be considered in the overall number of dogs competing to count toward the 10-dog minimum for a Major Event.
- Dogs will be divided into groups (depending on number of dogs competing) to create a "balanced number of dogs":
  - 6 – 14 dogs will be divided into 2 "balanced as possible" groups
  - 15 – 27 dogs will be divided into 3 "balanced as possible" groups
  - 28 – 52 dogs will be divided into 4 "balanced as possible" groups
  - 53 – 65 dogs will be divided into 5 "balanced as possible" groups
  - 66 – 78 dogs will be divided into 6 "balanced as possible" groups
  - 79 or more dogs will be divided into 7 "balanced as possible" groups
  - (This will produce a *maximum* number of 13 dogs per group, up to 91 dogs entered, ensuring all dogs within a group receive at least 1 point in each competition toward a group placement if they complete each event. *Please note: Increasing the number of groups, and limiting their size, was imperative since we now score the overall 9 placements based on individual performance and do not allow a dog with a no score/zero score to place overall.*)

Steps in determining groups:

- Once registration is closed and all dogs have been **measured (to no less than ¼")** and the registration forms have been turned in, the scorekeeper will take the forms and **organize/sort them from the shortest dog to the tallest dog, in order.**
- **He/she will then write the heights from shortest to tallest dog on a piece of paper (by height 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 **height** 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 (**shortest to tallest**) and add the dog's name next to its height, then fill out the judges' book for each event.
- **If multiple dogs are the same height, and because of the division of groups one of those dogs ends up with the shorter or taller dogs, the overall Top Dog judge will take the weight of those dogs into consideration (only if club is hosting a drag sprint) and move the lightest or heaviest dog of the same height to the shorter or taller height group.**
- Since the number of dogs entered on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 shortest dog in each group.**
- No more than 2 handlers may be used.
- Contestant will supply: Walking Harness, belt buckle collar, leads (4' and 10'), parting stick

- The only bait that is allowed in any of the three competitions is a regulation "type" tug that conforms to ADDBA specifications. **(See photo for what is -visually- considered regulation for the wall climb.)** Tug Dimensions: approximately 10" to 14" length, 2" – 2.5" in diameter. Straps approximately 7" – 16" when closed (for wall climb).



- (A strapless/single/double strap may be approved by judge for treadmill/lure/drag sprint ONLY. **A double (loop) strap tug CANNOT be used for the wall climb. It will be considered a disqualification.** A thinner tug may be used for smaller breeds with judge's approval.)



- Each contestant is required to have a regulation "type" tug (see above) for their personal dog to use. All tugs used by contestants MUST be checked by judge, prior to use. **No balls, frisbees, stuffed animals, squeak toy (this includes a tug altered with a squeak toy), etc. may be used during any of the three competitions. Using anything other than regulation "type" tug as shown will result in a disqualification with no refund given.**
- Dogs will receive points for placement first through thirteenth, within their group, in each class of competition. The following placement point system will be used and the dog's points from each competition will be added together for a combined overall score. Placement points are awarded in each separate group and will determine how a dog places in the overall top 9. (Dog must have a "time or score" listed for each event to earn placement points.)

1 <sup>st</sup> .....	25 pts	8 <sup>th</sup> .....	6 pts
2 <sup>nd</sup> .....	20 pts	9 <sup>th</sup> .....	5 pts
3 <sup>rd</sup> .....	15 pts	10 <sup>th</sup> .....	4 pts
4 <sup>th</sup> .....	12 pts	11 <sup>th</sup> .....	3 pts
5 <sup>th</sup> .....	10 pts	12 <sup>th</sup> .....	2 pts
6 <sup>th</sup> .....	8 pts	13 <sup>th</sup> .....	1 pt
7 <sup>th</sup> .....	7 pts		

- After calculating the placement points, the top 9 dogs, overall (regardless of group), will have their individual performance in each of the three competitions placed with the same point system (above) to determine the result for the top 9 overall placements. **If there is a tie when determining the top 9 dogs being moved over to the overall finalist sheet, the tie will go to the shorter dog. If a tie remains (since only 9 dogs can be moved over) judge will consider the wall climb results by taking the overall height climbed, then the least number of attempts.**

## **UPDATED Tiebreakers for Overall 9 - Top Dog Event**

- The final 9 overall dogs will now be considered as individual dogs and groups are no longer a factor in determining tiebreakers. Group scores are also not taken into consideration.
- First, score the treadmill race. If a tie results on the treadmill, the tiebreaker will go to the shorter dog. If there is still a tie **STOP** and move to the wall climb results.
- Next, compare wall climb results. Take the last completed height on the wall (in total inches) and divide it by the height of the dog at the withers. Score the dogs 1 – 9.

IF two dogs are the exact same height and went the exact same height on the wall, or IF the numeric equation - after dividing the height on the wall in inches by the dog's height - is the same, THEN # of attempts would be taken into consideration. The dog that made the final completed jump in the least number of attempts would win tiebreaker.

- If a 3<sup>rd</sup> tiebreaker is needed, results from the treadmill race are to be used; the dog that went the furthest distance. If there is a tie, higher placement goes to the shorter dog.

**If there is tie once you have added up the three scores of all 9 dogs from each event, the tie would go to the shorter dog. If a tie remains, both dogs will receive the same placement points.**

(Example: 1, 2, 3, 4, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 - still 9 placements, total)

**\*IMPORTANT\*: Group placement points are not considered on Top 9 Finalist Sheet, Place each competition 1st - 9th, then add up those three *NEW* point values on each dog to determine their final score/overall placement. If you encounter a tie when placing dogs on the mill, the higher placement will go to the shorter dog. If the dogs are the same height **STOP**, then move to wall climb individual results. If there is a tie on the wall climb, divide dog's last height on the wall by the dog's height. If there is still a tie, use number of attempts. If the number of attempts is the same, **STOP** and move to lure/drag results. If you encounter a tie on the lure/drag the placement will go to the shorter dog. At this stage, each separate event should be scored 1 – 9. Add the totals together to determine each dog's overall points to determine the overall placements.**

- Once the top overall 9 placements (regardless of group) have been determined, dogs achieving the *top three combined overall scores* 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:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place – 15 pts – Rosette award
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place – 12 pts – Rosette award
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place – 9 pts – Rosette award

- Points will be earned for dogs placing 4<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> place and will go toward dogs overall “Top Dog” title.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> place - 6 points
  - 5<sup>th</sup> place - 5 points
  - 6<sup>th</sup> place - 4 points
  - 7<sup>th</sup> place - 3 points
  - 8<sup>th</sup> place - 2 points
  - 9<sup>th</sup> place – 1 point
  
- **If there are 40 or more dogs entered in the Top Dog Athletic Event, and 30 of those 40 dogs have completed 3/3 events with a score, then the following points will be awarded:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place – 18 pts – Rosette award
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place – 15 pts – Rosette award
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place – 12 pts – Rosette award
  
- Points will be earned for dogs placing 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> place and will go toward dogs overall “Top Dog” title.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> place - 9 points
  - 5<sup>th</sup> place - 8 points
  - 6<sup>th</sup> place - 7 points
  - 7<sup>th</sup> place - 6 points
  - 8<sup>th</sup> place - 5 points
  - 9<sup>th</sup> place – 4 points
  - 10<sup>th</sup> place – 3 points
  - 11<sup>th</sup> place – 2 points
  - 12<sup>th</sup> place – 1 point

(These are points at a regular sanctioned ADBA Top Dog Athletic Event. Points for placing at a National event are listed on our website.)

\*Individual clubs can choose to give generic ribbons or a certificate for 4<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> place. **Clubs may also choose to give fun awards for furthest distance traveled, highest wall climb, fastest lure.**

- The ADBA Top Dog title will be awarded when a dog achieves 100 points. That includes placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> at a Major Top Dog Athletic Event. (A Major event is defined as a total of ten or more dogs competing.) Dog must receive no less than 1 – 3 place award to achieve title. If points are earned and dog has NOT earned a 1 – 3 placement during a Major event, dogs’ points will continue to accumulate until requirement is met.
- 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.

### **THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS GIVEN**

- 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, the dog will get a “no score” on that competition. Judges and or Stewards are not responsible for dogs missing event.

### Judges’ decision is FINAL

- Challenges must be made directly to the judge immediately. Only a handler can bring a challenge on the individual dog that he/she is handling. Once that specific competition is completed, challenges are no longer considered, and the score remains as is.

- ADBA reserves the right to make necessary adjustments.  
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:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Treadmill Race
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Wall Climb
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - 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, and so on and so forth. It is important to remember that the lure course can be a sound distraction so judges may require all dogs finish BEFORE beginning the next event.

(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 ensure dogs remain ready to compete.) Overall judge will be dividing dogs, figuring out score sheets and overall results.

(02/29/24)

## ADBA “Top Dog” Treadmill Race Rules

- Each group will take its separate turn - starting with the shortest dog in each group.
- No more than 2 handlers may be used.
- Dogs’ toenails must be trimmed to a length to run on the slat mill. The judge must check the dog’s nails.
- Dogs run on a slat treadmill for two minutes and the distance is read from an odometer and recorded. (We strongly suggest going to the third decimal to reduce the number of ties.) 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc. within each group, according to furthest distance ran in two minutes.
- All dogs must wear a properly fitting walking harness or a “belt buckle” collar.
- The only bait that is allowed is a regulation “type” tug that conforms to ADBA specifications. (See overall rules.) Each contestant is required to have a regulation “type” tug for their personal dog to use. All tugs used by contestants MUST be checked by judge, prior to use.
- Under the direction of the judge, the stopwatch (to be held by the judge) & odometer readings will be taken, and the judge/steward will keep the mill from moving.

- The judge may stop and re-start the event at any time for the dogs' safety or equipment malfunction.
- Once time has started, the dog cannot touch any person (hair, clothing, body part, etc.) or any part of the tug. When this occurs, it will result in a "no score". (To avoid any contact with the dog once the mill has started, it is suggested the handler should remain approximately one foot away from the front of the treadmill to avoid a no score.)
- **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 out) Run is not valid unless it is uninterrupted. (A mechanical error or trouble with the equipment is not an alibi.)
- **Stability of equipment is paramount. If equipment fails and cannot be repaired in a reasonable amount of time, event will not be held and the other two events will determine the winners.** (Judge will determine when this option is used.)
- All dogs MUST use same timing/distance device.
- **All placement ties within a group will go to the shorter dog. If dogs are the same height it will result in a one-minute run-off to be held before the next group begins.**

(02/29/24)

## **ADBA "Top Dog" Wall Climb Rules**

- Each group will take its separate turn - starting with the shortest 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. (If wall is *not* in a fully enclosed/fenced area, or dog is *not* using the safety harness, then handler is to retain hold of lead.)
- The only bait that is allowed is a regulation "type" tug that conforms to ADDBA specifications. (See overall rules.) Each contestant is required to have a regulation "type" tug for their personal dog to use. All tugs used by contestants MUST be checked by judge, prior to use. **A double strap tug CANNOT be used for the wall climb. It will be considered a disqualification.** A thinner tug may be used for smaller breeds with judge's approval.)
- **A handler may use a treat for an out on the wall climb ONLY during a Top Dog Athletic Event. This will not be considered bait. The treat may not be more than 1 square inch. If the handler intends to use food as an out, the handler must notify the judge when they arrive at the wall. They will then show the treat to the judge prior to the dog's first attempt for approval. The treat must be given in a designated location OFF the run mat.**
- Handlers are responsible for catching 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.
  - **If the club is using safety harness, only a designated steward is allowed to handle the rope. Not the competitors.**
- 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.
  - Once height is set, and tug is in place, it cannot be brought back down to encourage the dog. (Tug cannot be switched out or replaced unless approved by the judge. This would only be done in an alibi situation or some type of mechanical issue.)
  - A successful climb is when a dog's mouth grabs tug and tug releases from Velcro strap or other release device. As the dogs' safety is the 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.
  - 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 **two** attempts at each height. A failed attempt is when a dog misses the tug, fails to pull it loose or fails to engage. (Failure to engage includes, but not limited to, showing no interest, standing at the base of the wall without attempting to climb, passing, or attempting to pass the side of the physical wall, etc. Two failures to engage = no score.) After each failed attempt, the dog will need to immediately return to the starting area. (**"Reset" dog behind the 5' line/starting area; get dog prepared to be released. See below.**)
  - **\*\*NEW FOR 2023 SHOW SEASON: ONE EXTRA ATTEMPT (at any given height) will be granted on the wall climb only at the handler's discretion. If the dog fails with two attempts/alibis, the handler may choose to request their ONE EXTRA ATTEMPT with the judge at that time. No other attempts will be granted after the extra attempt is given. If the dog advances on the extra attempt, then regular rules apply. (In a tie situation, number of attempts will be taken into consideration.)**
    - 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.
    - Dog's front paws must be behind the 5 foot line.
    - Dog's front paws must be in front of 15 foot line.
    - Holding area is to be far enough away to not interfere with dog competing.
  - An alibi is when dog is required to be stopped by judge due to safety issue or an outside distraction or circumstance that would interfere with a successful climb. When this occurs, dog is to be brought back to the start line and "reset". (2 Alibis = 1 attempt) (A mechanical error or trouble with the equipment is not an alibi.)
  - As this is endurance, as well as an athletic event, the dog will continue wall climbing until it has **two** 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 handlers 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 judge and up to 2 stewards are required. Event steward/judge 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> etc. by determining the dog that climbs the highest within each group.
- If a tie occurs, you will compare wall climb results. Take the last completed height on the wall (in total inches) and divide it by the height of the dog at the withers. The dog that went higher based on those calculations wins tiebreaker.

- e.g., Both dogs jumped 13'8 (164")
 

Dog 1 is 19"	$164/19 = 8.63^{**}$	Wins tie
Dog 2 is 25"	$164/25 = 6.56$	

(IF two dogs are the exact same height and went the exact same height on the wall, or IF the numeric equation - after dividing the height on the wall in inches by the dog's height - is the same, THEN # of attempts would be taken into consideration. Dog that made the final completed jump in the least number of attempts would win tiebreaker.)

- If, after following the tiebreakers above, the number of attempts is the same, a final tiebreaker, the "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. The winner will be determined by dog that completes the final (highest) completed height in the least number of attempts. **(The shortest dog in group begins the climb off)**. If the final height for both dogs in the Climb Off is the same, with the same number of attempts, the tie will remain and both dogs will receive the same placement points within the group. (e.g. Tied for 1<sup>st</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, etc.)

(04/10/24)

## ADBA "Top Dog" Lure Course Event Rules

- Each group will take a separate turn starting with the shortest dog in each class.
- No more than two handlers may be used.
- All dogs must wear a properly fitting "belt buckle" collar or harness. Lead is to remain attached and in handle's control until judge approves time to release the dog.
- **Handler has the option to use a silicone or metal basket muzzle for lure course only. Overall judge must approve muzzle prior to use.**
- There will be one judge with him/her being the timekeeper to time the race. One steward should be at each end of the track (in the case of a straight track). Both judge/steward(s) will watch for attempts/alibis. A two-way radio might be needed for the judge/steward 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 the run.
- Spectators are not permitted to bring their dog up to the course fencing. Holding area should be substantially away from the actual course.

- **Dogs must be released from the starting line. (No running starts.)**
- There will be two attempts per run, then out. Attempts are failure to engage, breaking course barrier, dog retreating to the owner, handler touching dog after crossing the start line, etc. Use of tug to encourage or call dog will be considered an attempt. When this occurs, dog is to be brought back to the starting line and the chase begins over.
- Alibi: An alibi is when dog is required to be stopped by judge due to safety issue, or if the dog steps on the lure string, catches the lure, or if there is a distraction on the course. When this occurs, dog is to be brought back to the start line and the chase begins over. (2 Alibis = 1 attempt) (A mechanical error or trouble with the equipment is not an alibi.) For Lure Course only: *\*If there is an interference noticed by the handler, but not the judge, handler may immediately request an alibi. If judge grants the alibi, and the handler withdraws their request, the judge may choose to disregard or consider the alibi toward an attempt. Judge's decision is final.*
- Baiting with the tug is not allowed in Lure Course. However, owner/handler may use a tug at the end of the lure course for release once the dog has successfully crossed the finish line/end timer.
- The only bait that is allowed is a regulation "type" tug that conforms to ADBA specifications. (See overall rules.) Each contestant is required to have a regulation "type" tug for their personal dog to use. All tugs used by contestants MUST be checked by judge, prior to use.
- Owner/handler may not walk down "runway/track". Owner/handler catching the dog must walk outside of the "runway/track" so it does not encourage the dog to follow them.
- Handler has the option for a second run. *However, the second run must be requested by the handler who released the dog by informing the judge as soon as the dog crosses the finish line.* (\*Failure to inform the judge will result in the first time being valid.) If the second run is requested, the time of the first run is void and the second run/time *must* be taken. The dog will be taken directly back to the starting line and run again. Dog *will not* have a rest period and cannot wait until the end of the group for its second run. *Note for handlers: If dog receives a no score (zero) on its second run, the dog is out of the running for an overall placement.*
- If using electronic timing equipment, stability of equipment is paramount. If the equipment fails a stopwatch will be used. (Judge will determine when this option is used. All dogs MUST use same timing device, etc.)
- Dogs will be placed, and points awarded of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> etc. within each group, based on elapsed time the course is completed.
- **All placement ties within a group will go to the shorter dog. If dogs are the same height it will result in a "run off" as the tiebreaker.**
- In a runoff, the dog is allowed 1 **attempt**. Judge's decision will be final.
- If using electronic timing equipment or odometer, stability of equipment is paramount. If equipment fails dog will go to back of group and stopwatch will be used. (Judge will determine when this option is used. All dogs MUST use same timing device, etc.)

**COURSES:** Course (oval or straight) will be no less than 200 feet (if space permits).

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.

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. The handler to catch is positioned 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 2<sup>nd</sup> handler is required to have a 4ft lead.) Electronic timing equipment may be used. If it is unavailable, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> handler to catch and leash the dog. As this is a timed event. Fastest dog receives points awarded of 1<sup>st</sup> placement; second fastest dog receives points of 2<sup>nd</sup> placement and so forth. \*Communication device is needed for judges when using straight course.

Required Staff:

Judge (Judge is timekeeper)

Steward: Lure Operator, Record keeper, Holding area steward

Equipment Needed:

Lure machine  
4 pulleys (minimum)  
String (specialized)  
Stopwatch (no less than 2) or timing system  
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.

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## ADBA "Top Dog" Drag Sprint Rules

- 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. **Dogs must be released from the starting line. (No running starts.)**
- Time will begin when the dog's nose passes the start line and will end when the dog's 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. **We strongly recommend using 80% of the dog's weight** but weight is to be determined by the judge, depending on drag conditions. Placement points are awarded for each separate group/class.
  - **Drag sprint sled weight guidelines will be decided at handler's meeting.** Your sled and surface may pull faster or slower. Grass will pull slower than dirt. Please do a test run to make sure there is enough resistance to slow the dog down.
- Dogs must wear a weight pulling harness and "belt buckle" collar to compete in this event. Lead is to remain attached and in handlers control until judge approves time to release the dog.
- There will be one judge with him/her being the timekeeper to time the race. One steward should be at each end of the track. Both judge/steward(s) will watch for attempts/alibis. A two-way radio might be needed for the judge/steward to communicate with each other.
- The judge may stop and re-start the event at any time for safety or if a condition arises that puts the dog at risk.

- Each group will take a separate turn starting with the lightest dog in each class.
- No more than two handlers may be used. **If this event is *not* held in an enclosed/fenced area**, dog must be on a lead; handler cannot pull on the lead. Once released, the handler must be in front or alongside of the dog during the sprint. (Handler may use lead for correction, cannot pull the dog forward.)
- The only bait that is allowed is a regulation “type” tug that conforms to ADBA specifications. (See overall rules.) Each contestant is required to have a regulation “type” tug for their personal dog to use. All tugs used by contestants **MUST** be checked by the judge, prior to use. **The handler may choose to attach their 4’ lead to the tug to create distance to run in front of the dog. That is the only thing approved to be attached to the tug. Any other item – string, etc. will be considered an alteration of the tug and will result in disqualification.**
- Alibi: An alibi is 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 attempt.)
- Dogs will be allowed two attempts, then out. Attempts are failure to engage, breaking course barrier, dog retreating to the owner, handler touching animal after crossing the start line, etc. When this occurs, the dog is to be brought back to the start and the chase begins over. (A mechanical error or trouble with the equipment is not an alibi.)
- If using electronic timing equipment, stability of equipment is paramount. If the equipment fails a stopwatch will be used. (Judge will determine when this option is used. All dogs **MUST** use same timing device, etc.)
- Dogs will be placed, and points awarded of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> etc. within each group, based on elapsed time the course is completed.
- **All placement ties within a group will go to the shorter dog. If dogs are the same height it will result in a “run off” as the tiebreaker.**
- In a runoff, the dog is allowed 1 **attempt**. Judge’s decision will be final.
- Judge’s decision will be final. If using electronic timing equipment, stability of equipment is paramount. If equipment fails dog will go to back of group and stopwatch will be used. (Judge will determine when this option is used. All dogs **MUST** use same timing device, etc.)

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# **- 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. All dogs MUST be ADBA or LPP registered.

- a) 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 Top Dog judge to be used by club prior to event. 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 event. If held on same day, Top Dog event will be held before/after other events to avoid entry conflicts.

## **EQUIPMENT**

Proper equipment is mandatory to hold an ADBA Sanctioned Top Dog Event.

### **Clubs will supply**

- Wall - (We strongly suggest using a safety harness. This is to be specified in event advertising. Wall climb safety harness for competitors shall be provided by club.)
- Scale
- 50lb. Check weight for scale (if hosting a drag sprint)
- Community regulation tug
- Stopwatch (no less than 3)
- Lure course and Drag Sled w/weights ranging in all weights
- Weight pull harness (for Drag Sled)
- Rope - holding areas.
- 2 Chalk board/Dry Eraser - for recording dogs in groups and results of last wall climb height.
- Communication device for judges. (Walkie talkie's work great!)
- Wicket or other measuring device.
- Judges book and score sheets. ([www.adbadog.com/events](http://www.adbadog.com/events)) Both judge's books and score sheets MUST be on these forms, and both MUST be returned to the office of the ADBA Show within 5 working 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](http://www.adbadog.com/events))

### **Contestant will supply:**

- Walking harness
- Belt buckle Collar
- Leads (4' & 10' lead)
- Parting stick
- ADBA Regulation tug. Each contestant is required to have a regulation "type" tug (see specifications on following page) for their personal dog to use during the wall climb competition. All tugs used by contestants MUST be checked by judge, prior to use.
- *No balls, frisbees, stuffed animals, squeak toy (this includes a tug altered with a squeak toy), etc. may be used during any of the three competitions. Using anything other than regulation "type" tug as shown will result in a disqualification; no refund given.*

The only bait that is allowed in any of the three competitions is a regulation “type” tug that conforms to ADBA specifications. **(See photo for what is - visually- considered regulation for the wall climb.)** Tug Dimensions: approximately 10” to 14” length, 2” – 2.5” in diameter. Straps approximately 7” – 16” when closed (for wall climb).

(A strapless/single/double strap may be approved by judge for treadmill/lure/drag sprint ONLY. **A double (loop) strap tug CANNOT be used for the wall climb. It will be considered a disqualification.** A thinner tug may be used for smaller breeds with judge’s approval.)

**Top Dog Event must not Interfere or hold up  
Conformation Show or Weight Pull!**

**Any Top Dog Event that is judged by a non-certified judge, or a judge whose certification has expired, been suspended, or revoked, will have points voided. No refunds will be given.**

Any additional questions contact [Heather@adbadoq.com](mailto:Heather@adbadoq.com)



(02/29/24)