

Chintimini Kennel Club Lure Coursing Practices: Goals & Procedures

Are you new to practices?

If you have not been to a practice before we will need to have you sign a “Hold Harmless” form to protect the landowners who allow us to use their property for these practices. The forms will be available at the field or you can go online to:

<https://form.jotform.com/82107206984155>

PRACTICE ETIQUETTE

PLEASE READ

Lure coursing is a fun activity for dogs and their handlers. Chintimini Kennel Club strives to make all of our dog events dog and handler friendly. But we must remember that in lure coursing, we are trying to turn on our dog’s prey drive and that does require some understanding that the dog’s behavior may be different than what we see at other dog activities. Here are some things that we ask while at our practice and other lure coursing events:

- All dogs should be on a strong lead with preferably well fitting buckle collar or martingale type collar or harness so the dog cannot slip out or back out of its collar or harness. **NO FLEXI-LEADS PLEASE.** We have seen many flexi-leads fail when a dog jets out after the lure.
- The only dog off lead is the dog running.
- Lure coursing is not a place to socialize your dog with other dogs. Again, we are asking them to follow their prey drive instincts and they can get very excited.
- Please pick up after your dogs. We are on private property and we need to take care of the owner’s land.
- Please be respectful of others. We often have new people and we were all beginners at one time. If you think someone might need some extra help, please let us know if you are not sure how to step in.
- **How we would like to handle dog aggressive dogs at practice?** Please let us know if your dog might have some issues or you have concerns about the safety of your dog. During practices we do not routinely ask that dogs not running be put into crates or cars. We especially encourage new dogs to watch other dogs run to help increase their interest in the lure. Thus, there will often be many dogs on leads at the practice field. When a dog aggressive dog is running we will ask that people watching with their dogs to put their dogs in a crate or car. We want everyone and their dogs to have fun but we also want to be sure that all are comfortable.

GOALS and Practice Procedures

1 Goals of Practices

- Having the dogs learn to be keen for the lure.
- Straight runs help dogs to learn to follow.
- Zig-zag runs are used to give dogs practice in changing “leads” with quick left and right turns.
- Giving handlers experience releasing dogs.

2 Learning to be Keen?

- For successful lure coursing, a dog must want the lure more than anything else on the field.
- This is contradictory to obedience. An obedient dog wants to be near its owner, a course will require the dog being hundreds (100s) of yards away from the handler.
- Plastic bags are cheap. Let the dog play (shred) the bag. The catcher then puts the dog on lead. If you don't have a catcher don't call the dog back until after it leaves the bag, making sure that all body parts are out of the string including teeth and toes.

3 Steps of a Practice

1. Get dog's name added to the running order used by lure operator.
2. When your turn comes up, wait for previous dog to be put on leash.
3. Pick up lure and take dog and lure to starting position.
4. When ready to release your dog “signal” lure operator (by voice or by hand).
5. When dog has finished and is no longer “on the lure” then call your dog.
- 6.

4 Safety during Practices

- Please no flexi-leads. Dogs can get very excited and can break the flexi plus flexi-leads can clothesline (wrap around) other dogs and people.
- Moving lure string can cause severe burns and cuts. Please walk around the lure machine and string even if it's not moving.
- Dogs can get tangled in the string, especially after some “gymnastics” catching the lure. Thus the importance of a catcher. If no catcher then be absolutely sure no body part of the dog is in the string before calling.

5 Lure Operator's Final Comments - Safety!

- Lure coursing is a forced exercise. For the dogs, the lure is the most important thing in the world.
- Always watch your dog, especially if it loses the lure.
- A moving string can cause severe cuts.
- After each run, check your dog for injuries (pulled muscles, string cuts etc.).

- Don't run a dog that is not fit. In a trial a dog could make 4 to 5 runs of the course. Conditioning and proper weight is important. (CAT) Coursing Ability Test dogs run only once per event.
- A good event is when dogs and owners leave the field happy, safe, tired and ready for the next event.

6 Why Do Only Run Straights Courses at Practices?

- Dogs soon learn to anticipate turns on a full course.
- At a lure coursing trial this is called "cheating".
- Cheating lowers the dog's score from the judges.
- We address "cheating" in two ways:
 - § At our Corvallis practices, field conditions dictate that the dogs must precisely follow the lure.
 - § In Junction City we use a reversing continuous loop machine that allows us to reverse the lure as soon as the dog shows signs of not following.
- Finally, the dogs have fun chasing the bags. A keen dog will follow the bag anywhere. They don't need to run a complex course to have fun.