



## Dog Scouts of America Evaluation Criteria

## Lure Coursing & Fast CAT

**PURPOSE:** Lure Coursing is a sport that was developed for sight hounds to hone their skills in chasing little critters as they were bred to do. With lure coursing, the dog is chasing an empty, crinkly bag that simulates a small critter that is run on a cable threaded through pulleys and moved with a motor control. In this way, the dog gets to chase without harming a small critter or having one harm him. All breeds tend to enjoy the sport and competitions, both Lure Coursing and Fast CAT (Coursing Ability Test) and these sports welcome all breeds.

**DOG REQUIREMENTS:** Most dogs love to chase the lure. It excites their instincts to chase things moving away from them. For both Lure Coursing and Fast CAT, the dog must chase and stay on the bag for a sustained period of time. The dog should follow the bag around the course or down the line as closely as possible while continuing to maintain interest. The dog must have two successful runs to earn either the Lure Coursing or Fast CAT badge, including allowing himself to be leashed at the end of the run. All runs are pass/fail as the dog will either do it or he won't.

**HANDLER REQUIREMENTS:** The handler must know how to warm up the dog for this "sprinting" activity, and must be able to calculate the rule of 120 used for speed activities (temperature + humidity = < 120) for the evaluator. The handler must follow all instructions given by either the lure meister or the evaluator. Repeated failure to follow directions will result in the dog being dismissed. The handler must be aware that there is some inherent danger to these sports to both the dog and the handler as both badges require a very fast-moving line. The handler must make the best decision for their dog as to whether the dog should run at that time. An additional person must be recruited to either release or catch the dog at the end of the run in Fast CAT. Both people – at the start and finish of the Fast CAT run – must have an appropriate leash/collar for the dog. "Coursing Ability" implies that the dog must be focused on the bag throughout the run. Because of this no one may call the dog or yell encouragement during the run.

**EQUIPMENT NEEDED:** A lure machine set up is needed for both Lure Coursing and Fast CAT. Lure Coursing requires an open expanse of terrain that allows for both left and right turns in order to run the course. Fast CAT requires a flat area 100 yards long that allows for the dog to move safely to the end of the run. Fast CAT requires snow fencing to be run down both sides of the run to keep the dog safely on course, and an electronic timer (or multiple timers with stopwatches) is needed to accurately record run times. If multiple timers are used, the times are averaged to get the official time. Timing allows for determining the dog's miles per hour for each run.

**PROCESS:** The lure can be run either by the evaluator or by another experienced person. The lure meister must know all safety procedures for these sports and must be prepared to direct handler to prevent/deter any unsafe behaviors. The lure meister and/or evaluator have the final say on whether a dog is fit and able to run at any time. Dogs must be at least 12 months old to run either Lure Coursing or Fast CAT. The evaluator must see two successful runs for both Lure Coursing and Fast CAT.

Fast CAT formula for determining MPH –  $\frac{204.545}{\text{run time}} = \text{miles per hour}$

### ALLOWED:

- Wiggling the bag to get the dog interested
- Running multiple times depending on conditions
- Wearing a muzzle while running
- No collar or flat collar ONLY – no tags may dangle from the collar

### NOT ALLOWED:

- Anything that would be harmful to the dog's well-being
- Failure to deposit the dog's leash, harness, etc. in the designated area
- Running with a leash on
- Anything, including collar tags dangling from the dog
- Calling the dog during the run