

FastCAT Job Descriptions

Here are the job descriptions, as I understand them. I will have a copy of the AKC rulebook at each station, in case anyone challenges you as you perform your tasks.

Hunt Master/Mistress – This person is in charge of the field. Period, end of discussion! This job involves being that last one to verify that the collar is correct before releasing the hound! Hopefully, the check-in and/or the gate keeper have already caught any problem collars (no chokes, prong/pinch, or e-collars; nothing dangling from the collar). Be sure that the leash has been removed, and is in no danger of being picked up by the lure string. The Hunt Master/Mistress will also verify that the front feet are “in the box” – per the rulebook. If anyone argues that the feet can be on the line, show them the rulebook. IF they still argue with you, you have the authority to excuse them. I hope it won’t come to that.

Once you have verified that the dog is ready, verify that Ching is ready. If all are ready, drop your arm. You may hold a yellow or white cloth to make your hand/arm more visible to Ching. Ching should start the lure. Once the lure is moving, shout “**Tally Ho**”, and the releaser should release the dog. Remind folks to wait for your “Tally Ho” (if possible, especially with strong and highly excited dogs). You need to verify that the lure is actually moving before “Tally Ho”ing!

Gate Keeper – This person should be the only one to touch the gate. Use the walky-talky to find out if the catcher is available near the catch pen for the next dog up. If so, invite the next team to the Start Box area, **once the lure is back in position**. Then, open the gate wide enough for the dog and handler(s) to easily enter. Be sure to close the gate, as soon as all involved are safely in the start box area. Keep an eye on the line of dogs waiting, just in case there is any problem with any of the dogs. In a few cases (like my dogs), there will be a place-holder. Alert those folks to have their dog(s) 2nd handler(s) ready to come right into the box, once the lure is in place. Assist the Hunt Master/Mistress with leashes, making sure that nothing gets tangled in the line. **Remind releasers, if necessary, that all dogs must enter and leave the course on leash!** Take a look at the collar. If necessary, remind the handler that the dog can not run in any sort of choke/Martingale, prong/pinch, or e-collar.

If the catcher is not available, ask the catch pen folks, by walky-talky, who is there, and call up the dog/handler for that catcher. **We do not hold up the event for folks who are not ready!**

Expediter – this person will stand at the front of the line of waiting teams. Collect the “checked in ticket” for that run (if tickets are being used) and invite the team to head to the Start Box area, once the previous dog is well on its way to the Catch Pen. Some sort of collection vessel will be provided. From time to time, return tickets to the Check In table for reuse.

Check in – This is a team of 2 club members who watch each dog move, to make sure that it is not lame. This team also directs handlers of female dogs to wipe the female to prove that she is not in season. If either case shows up, that dog is to be excused and Ching will need to be informed so that their money can be fully refunded. There should be tissue/toilet paper easily available, and a trash can for disposal of the used paper. You are not to handle that paper, unless you need to hand it to the person in the first place. Please mark the run list so that you know if this is a dog’s first or 2nd run. It also helps to know how many dogs are still to come for that time period. If at all possible, try to get in all 1st runs before running dogs for the 2nd time. Remind everyone that they must check in for their 2nd run! **We have gone to a “ticket” system. One color will be given when inspection has been passed for Run 1; a different color for Run 2.** There is a 3rd color, in case of a “re-run”.

Have the dogs and handlers line up along the side of the building (Tweak this to fit your situation). There will be a few cases where a “place holder” will get into that line, and the actual dog/handler team will wait behind the building, or somewhere else, out of sight of the track.

Catch Pen – You are the only ones who should handle the gate to the catch pen! Find out who is waiting to catch a dog. When the gate keeper calls, on the walky-talky, verify that you have that dog’s handler. Inform the start box folks that you do have that dog’s releaser (**or, if you don’t**). Once the previous team has left the catch box area, invite the new catcher(s) into the catch pen area. If necessary, remind them that no toys or food are to be used **prior to the dog crossing the finish line**.

Club Table – You will be the ones assembling the stickers and “Q” ribbons. I prefer to use an envelope system, because some folks don’t take the ribbons, or just take one ribbon/dog. Each dog (or, if you know that one person owns multiple dogs, you can put multiple dogs’ stickers in one, carefully labeled, envelope) will have its stickers put into an envelope with its name. Once both stickers (runs 1 and 2) are in the envelope, place the envelope in a holder, such as a basket. When the owner comes, you will hand them their envelope(s) and ask them how many “Q” ribbons they need. Then, hand them the correct number of light blue, flat “Q” ribbons (one per qualifying run). Please keep the envelopes in alphabetical order, whether waiting for the 2nd sticker, or in the holder, waiting for the owner.

IF someone says they’ve earned a new title rosette, check them off on the list provided and get them a rosette from the box. Please leave the display ones alone. (This presumes that the Trial Chair has collected those names, and has provided a list. I always put an appeal on the Mid-Atlantic... Facebook page asking folks to let me, as Trial Chair, know if they expect to earn a New Title rosette.)

Someone will need to go to Ching to get the stickers. He will tell you to pull them from the printer “down and to the left”. He may just do it for you!

Floater – Please be prepared to do any/all of the above jobs. If you are just learning, schedule yourself to spend about an hour at each station. Don’t be afraid to ask questions of the folks working those stations. There should be a rule book at each station. Familiarize yourself with the FastCAT portion.

There will be water and snacks at the Club Table. You could take them from post to post and offer them to the workers. You can ask if anyone needs a bathroom break, and cover for them. If in doubt, find me and ask what needs to be done.

Thanks, so much, for working for us to make these events successful!