



## July 17-19, 2020 Agility Trial Information

Dear Exhibitor:

**BRING YOUR SIGNED COVID WAIVER!** We will have a box for you to drop it in. **PRINT IT NOW AND PUT IT IN YOUR PURSE OR DOG BAG!** Please do not attend our trial if you or someone in your house has a fever or is ill. If you are unsure if you have a fever/are sick, please stay home.

Governor Northam is moving Virginia into Phase 3 on July 1. Therefore we will be allowed to have “gatherings” of 250 people inside the room. The Governor has mandated that masks must be worn while indoors unless you are exercising. Therefore, we must wear masks inside unless you are actually running with your dog. Please bring your own mask to wear.

Wipes and hand sanitizer will be available but as you know these items are in short supply so if you can bring your own or have some to share it will be appreciated.

We will ask that people stay 6 feet away from others as best as you can! Please try not to congregate.

**Check In:** There will be a volunteer to check in dogs during the walk thrus. If you wish to check in earlier, please do so with your own pen.

Geoff Nieder is not a VMO but Judy Smotrel will be at the trial and has agreed to measure dogs for us. Only entered dogs will be measured at this trial. Wear your mask to get your dog measured. If your dog is fussy and it is going to be time consuming to get an accurate measurement, you may get a measurement that is only good for the trial weekend and not an official measurement so that you don't have to spend too much time in close proximity trying to get the measurement.

**Briefings:** There will be no briefings for Master/excellent or Premier classes. We will see how we need to handle open and novice briefings after we get final numbers but likely we will just space out and conduct the briefing. The judge has provided a written briefing at the end of this letter and that briefing will also be posted.

We will decide on walk thrus once the trial closes and we have final numbers.

You must wear your mask to enter and exit the ring. When you are in the ring, you may slide your mask down to expose your nose and mouth to allow you to breathe while running. Please return your mask to your face once you have left the ring. We are not going to be the mask police and we hope that

you are not either. If the mask wearing of others is worrisome to you, please stay away from those people as best you can and let it go at that.

**Leashes:** You may place your leash in your pocket or wear it while running the course. If it is in your pocket, it must be completely in your pocket and not peeking out. The leash runner will have a grabber which will be wiped or sprayed between leashes.

**Course maps:** Following AKC's suggested practices we will be posting 2 copies of the courses for exhibitors to look at and/or take a photo of for their personal use. We are planning to also email all competitors copies of course maps the evening before. Computers are fickle beasts and we can't guarantee delivery into your inbox. If you are unable to take a photo or download your email a few copies will be available.

**Results and Ribbons:** We will post results on a wall or board. We will have a ribbon table so you can get your ribbon or label without touching other ribbons. Gretchen will also email results at the conclusion of the trial. Kim Black and Wendy Pendleton are in charge of the ribbons and will find title ribbons for you and put the ribbons out.

**Hospitality:** Sadly no common food or MACH cakes are allowed thanks to Covid. The facility has a very nice snack bar and they will have wraps, salads and healthy options. The facility also has a NO OUTSIDE FOOD policy. I have a waiver for dog treats and your small coolers. Discreet food is not going to be an issue but please don't come waltzing in with a big McDonald's bag and get me in trouble. It seems that beer and wine will likely also be available and there is a nice viewing area on the mezzanine where you can eat and watch thru glass and avoid the mask for a while.

**Crating:** We have a HUGE space for crating. Try and stay 6 feet apart. Wear your masks. If the masks work as I am constantly informed, it shouldn't be an issue. I do think we have enough room! TARPS UNDER your crates are REQUIRED. We will be designating a "IN" door and an "OUT" door. This is a brand new facility, let's be welcomed back!!

**Potty:** There is a large grassy area beside the building. I will have trash bags for poop on stakes. Please don't place poop bags in the facility trash cans. Please try not to let your dogs pee on the landscaping around the building.

**Volunteering:** Louise Gilchrist will be our volunteer coordinator. I believe we will have a club member who will be scribing most of the trial but other positions will be needed.

Please wash your hands or use a little sanitizer anytime you feel you have touched things that too many others have also touched! We will use a little before and after course building for example.

This is a new facility and it would be hard for me to cover everything even without Covid adding another layer of difficulty. Your patience and support are appreciated. The days are likely to run late. The street you must turn onto off Route 11 is a little bit hard to see. It is roughly across from the BBQ Ranch sign. The Horizons Edge sign is small. There is a big farmhouse on one side and Rice Tire on the other. Down the lane a bit you pass a School called Cornerstone on the left. Keep going. I am going to try and have a club member to direct you in the morning.

**RV:** If you are driving an RV please send Marcie an email at [elkrunstablesva@gmail.com](mailto:elkrunstablesva@gmail.com) and let me know what days and how large your RV is as well. I need to know how many we have and double check with facility management regarding where they want you. They priced overnight parking to me at \$50/night and stated it would have to be in their lot up by Rt. 11. I don't think you want to do that but she is going to revisit the price and let me know something next week. The facility staff has been very kind to work with so far but this is all new to them too as the place just opened in December and construction is ongoing.

**DON'T FORGET YOUR SIGNED COVID WAIVER!**

**Judge Geoff Nieder's written briefing:**

Thank you for coming out this weekend. I appreciate the invitation to judge and hope you'll enjoy this weekend's courses I have designed for you.

In order to maintain social distancing as much as possible, we have chosen to use this time to do a general briefing. Please be respectful of each other when it comes to social distancing and each other's dogs. With regards to being on the line for the next dog I have designed all of the courses to hopefully minimize any concerns of distancing. Instructions on when to enter in the ring will be listed on the emailed courses each day. Please keep your dog on its leash at all times until you are in the ring and timer has signaled "go".

With regards to leashes (from AKC):

For 2020 exhibitors may place leashes in their pockets when running the course or wear on themselves (i.e., clip like a belt around the waist). Note: if the dog grabs the leash while running this will be scored as an "E".

If you want to have the leash runner grab your leash, please just place it on the ground as you normally would, otherwise, please just place it in your pocket.

Please follow all posted and emailed rules regarding this weekend, provided by your trial chair.

Please be respectful to everyone this weekend, as this is all new territory for any of us, myself included, as this is my first trial back to judging.

I wish you all the best of luck this weekend. I hope you enjoy time with your dogs, along with the fun and spacious courses this weekend.

Judge Geoff