

## CHAPTER 1 GENERAL COMPETITION GUIDELINES

APDT Rally for All Dogs is intended to promote positive relationships between dogs and owners that are based on trust and mutual respect. To this end, our Rally Rules and Judging Guidelines encourage positive reinforcement and reward during APDT Rally competitions, and prohibit the use of physical corrections or harsh verbal corrections. Attitude is more important in APDT Rally than precision. Our goal is for both dog and handler to have an enjoyable time in the ring.

### Collars

- The APDT does not allow the use of correction collars in the ring - choke chains, slip collars and prong collars are not allowed, nor are head halters or "no-pull" harnesses. Dogs must be shown in a flat buckle or snap collar, a properly fitted limited-slip collar, or standard harness. Collars may have tags on them provided they do not interfere with the dog's motion. Decorations and/or costumes are not allowed.

### Excusal from the ring and/or grounds

- A dog that in the officiating judge's opinion exhibits threatening behaviour towards a handler, judge or any other persons or other dogs while in the ring will receive a non-qualifying score and be excused from the ring and the show site. Refusal of the handler to comply shall result in permanent removal of that dog and that handler's APDT Rally eligibility. Threatening behaviour includes but is not limited to snarling, baring teeth, growling, air-snapping.
- Any dogs exhibiting signs of aggression that threaten the safety of other dogs or humans shall be excused from the competition at the discretion of either the judge or the Trial Host. If the trial official believes that it is necessary in order to ensure the safety of others, he/she shall request that the dog be removed from the trial site or confined in such a manner as to remove the threat to others. Refusal by the handler to comply shall result in permanent removal of that dog and that handler's APDT Rally eligibility
- The trial judge, APDT Rally representative and trial host must file a report on any incidents of aggression with the Rally Coordinator within one week of the trial date.
- The owner of any dog that exhibits without provocation a reported threatening behaviour anywhere on the show site will be issued a written warning from the APDT Rally office . A second warning will result in permanent suspension of the dog's APDT Rally eligibility. A written warning will be sent to the owner by the Rally coordinator by certified mail and the warning will go in the dog's records. A list of banned dogs will be made available to trial hosts.
- Judges may excuse any handler who delivers a correction while in the ring.

- Representatives may excuse any person who delivers a correction while outside the ring.
- Judges, Representatives and/or the Trial Secretary are required to file a report with the APDT Rally office of any incidents as described above.
- Two complaints filed against an individual will result in that individual being unable to participate in or attend APDT Rally events for a period of two years.

### **Walk-throughs**

- Competitors are provided with a 10 minute period at the beginning of the event during which to walk the course (without dogs) and ask the judge questions. If there are more than 20 competitors, an additional 10 minutes will be provided after every 20 competitors have walked the course. All walk-throughs will be held before judging the entire class begins.

### **Course Time**

- APDT Rally Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, courses have a maximum course time of 4 minutes.

**Ring Size:** The minimum rally ring size is approximately 50 x 80 feet or 15m x 24m for Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 courses. In some instances, ring size may be modified. Please refer to the chapter on Hosting a Trial for full details.

**Sign Placement:** Unless otherwise noted in the Exercise Descriptions, exercises are performed with the sign to the handler's right.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

1. All breeds of dogs and mixed-breed dogs are eligible to compete in APDT Rally for All Dogs.
2. Disabled Dogs/Handlers: Dogs with disabilities are allowed and encouraged to compete in APDT Rally, providing they do not show evidence of being in pain or discomfort as a result of the disability. The judge shall excuse any dog who appears to be in pain or discomfort during the competition. Judge's decision is final, although a competitor with a disabled dog may present to the judge a statement from the competitor's veterinarian that the dog did not appear to be in pain or discomfort at the time of the exam. In the event a dog's disabilities prevent the team from performing an exercise as described, the handler shall provide the judge with a written description of how they intend to perform any of the course exercises that must be modified to accommodate the dog's particular disability. The modification must approximate, to the best of the dog's ability, the original course exercise. If the judge approves the modification(s), the judge will initial and attach the written description to the team's scoresheet.
3. Handlers with disabilities are allowed and encouraged to compete in APDT Rally. Disabled owners shall provide the judge with a written description of how they intend to perform any of the course exercises that must be modified to accommodate the owner's particular disability. The modification must approximate, to the best of the handler's ability, the original course exercise. If the judge approves the modification, the judge will initial the modification(s) and attach the written description(s) to the team's

scoresheet. Modification forms shall be made available to competitors on the Rally showgrounds.

4. The judge must excuse any dog that goes lame while on course, eliminates in the ring or demonstrates illness such as vomiting
5. Judges must excuse a dog if it is brought into the ring with bandages, stitched or taped in any manner. The dog may not be brought back into the ring later, even if the bandages have been removed.
6. Female dogs in estrus may not compete.
7. Dogs must be at least six months of age to compete.
8. All dogs must be shown at all levels of APDT Rally by the owner or handler registered with the APDT.
9. Dogs must be registered with APDT Rally in order to be eligible to compete for APDT Rally titles. There is a one-time registration fee per dog-owner team of £12. Current Fee for current APDT members and subscribers is £10.