



**AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB™**

# **Temperament Test**

## **Suggested Best Practices for the Well-Being of Dog Sport Participants**

The AKC supports each club's informed decision to reschedule, postpone or cancel their events, as well as supporting clubs ready to hold events in locations that are open and permit gatherings. As events resume across the country, people need to feel safe while enjoying their dog activities. The AKC urges clubs to take precautions for the benefit of their participants. Events need to be held in a manner that emphasizes the safety of participants and event officials over efficiency.

The following is a list of suggested best practices that may be helpful when planning or attending an event. Event locations, facilities and dates will differ. With a situation that is continually evolving, it is up to the clubs to determine the guidelines that best fit their event. In order to inform participants, specific guidelines established by the club should be published in the premium, the club website and posted on signage/flyers at their event.

### General Practices

1. Clubs, officials and participants are required to follow state, local and facility guidelines that apply to the area and site where the event is held.
2. Practice social distancing consistent with current guidelines. Avoid congregating to the extent possible.
3. Everyone should consider wearing masks when in close proximity to others. Clubs should provide masks if desired for officials, evaluators and volunteers.
4. Consider wearing disposable or washable gloves.
5. Have plenty of hand sanitizers placed for people to use.
6. Wash hands as frequently as possible. Have disinfecting spray at bathroom facilities for people to spray door handles (or anything else they touch).
7. If you utilize portable toilets, please ask for a hand washing station to be delivered as well.
8. Avoid shaking hands or hugging.
9. Avoid touching dogs that are not your responsibility.
10. Avoid common use pens/pencils – bring your own.
11. Disinfect surfaces in common use areas as often as possible (tables, chairs, doorknobs, etc.) Clubs and facilities may consider not providing chairs.

12. Meals - Avoid or stagger group lunches/dinners if possible. It is recommended that club supply boxed lunches for judges and volunteers. Hospitality areas should avoid community items such as salt and pepper shakers, condiments, creamers, etc. Participants should consider bringing their own lunch/drinks.
13. Parking areas – park with sufficient distance between vehicles if possible.

### Event Practices

1. Scheduling – Consider scheduling participants in blocks in order to reduce crowds.
  - Use SignUp Genius (free app) to schedule or the event secretary assigns dogs to a time block.
  - Set times for day-of-event entries – assign day-of-event participants a time and number.
2. Handlers and Evaluator should consider wearing masks and gloves.
3. Participants waiting to be tested should practice social distancing. (Option: text or call when it is time for participant to come to the ring).
4. Safe handling of paperwork and payment for day-of-event entries.
  - Go cashless as much as possible – encourage use of PayPal, Google Pay or EWallet.
  - Cash for day-of-event entries – inform participants they should have correct change.
  - Individual handling paperwork and entry fees should wear gloves.
5. Consider having someone wearing gloves handing out ribbons or rosettes.
6. Have a separate table at least 6 feet from trial secretary table for day-of-event entries and questions.
7. During the ATT test, those in the ring assisting should practice social distancing.
8. The steward for the Unexpected Stimulus (who wears the unusual costume) should bring his or her own costume so that clothing is not shared.
9. Equipment should be set up by a person wearing a mask and gloves. Equipment should not be touched by handlers, however, if a person touches the equipment, it should be sanitized.

### Test Modifications – these modifications are in effect until December 31, 2020

ATT ITEM AS IT IS CURRENTLY WRITTEN	MODIFICATION
Evaluator approaches, greets handler	Handler/Evaluator pretend handshake or elbow bump, evaluator greets handler
Auditory items-steward within 3 ft.	Adjust distance to 6 ft.
Visual items- 3 to 5 ft. from steward	Adjust distance to 6 ft.
Unexpected stimuli- within 5 ft.	Adjust distance to 6 ft.

## Policies that Have Been Temporarily Suspended

1. Event Application Late Fees – Event application late fees are waived through the end of October. This provide clubs more flexibility in planning or rescheduling their events.
2. For events cancelled in 2020, AKC will apply Event Application fees to the club's next event of the same type.

Participants are expected to follow state, local government, facility and event guidelines. Clubs should be prepared to enforce the guidelines that apply to their event.

CDC - How to Protect Yourself and Others:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

These Suggested Best Practices may be periodically updated. Please check the AKC Temperament Test website ([www.akc.org/akctemptest/](http://www.akc.org/akctemptest/)) for the most up-to-date version.

For questions or additional suggestions, please contact the AKC Family Dog Department at [AKCtemptest@akc.org](mailto:AKCtemptest@akc.org).

**Stay Safe – Enjoy Your Dogs**