

Alapaha Bulldog Registry's Barn Hunt

Why Barn Hunt Is Important

Not everyone will understand the importance of “rat catchers,” but if you live in the countryside, you sure do! “Rat catchers” rid farms of destructive vermin – and the hunting and teamwork skills required to do so are the foundation of the sport of Barn Hunt. Dogs and their handlers work as a team to locate and mark rats (which are always safely held in aerated tubes) hidden in a maze of straw or hay bales. Barn Hunt tests the nose, speed, agility, and sure footedness of dogs that have a history of above-ground vermin hunting. It also shows the natural prey instincts and drive that an Alapaha Blue Blood Bulldog should possess.

About ABR's Barn Hunt

The ABR Barn Hunt is specifically for all Alapaha Blue Blood Bulldogs. Our Barn Hunt rules are different than others and is not recognized by any other club/registry. Barn hunt is a timed event to test your dog's vermin searching (hunting) and marking (finding) ability in a barn-like setting. Essentially, around bales of hay – not necessarily a barn. Climbing and tunneling skills are also tested, and all together your ability to work as a team with your dog. An essential skill is the ability to notice your dog marking the find, the signal, which could be as subtle as a flick of the head or as obvious as pawing and barking at the found rat.

Barn Hunt has many similarities to noseworks, detection, or search and rescue activities.

There is a total have 4 different tests. Barn Hunt Instinct (BHI), Barn Hunt Level 1 (BHL1), Barn Hunt Level 2 (BHL2), and Barn Hunt Master (BHM). You can apply for the ABR Barn Hunt Championship (BHC) once all levels have been successfully completed.

Quick Rules

- 1- The ABR Barn Hunt is always done in a quarantined area with only one dog at a time.
- 2- Minimum age requirement is 6 months old at time of testing
- 3- Your dog runs naked except for a collar. This means leashes (handed them to a designated person). Collar will stay on for safety reasons.
- 4- Don't bring anything into the area. No cameras, treats, toys, etc.. I'll bring a helper to take some photos of the action or outside spectators can take photos/videos from afar.
- 5- Don't touch the hay. There are hay bales stacked up all around, you're not supposed to touch it. You can indicate to your dog (point) to show him or her where to go, but don't touch the hay.
- 6- Don't touch your dog. You can use voice control, and body language or pointing, but you can't touch your dog to maneuver him/her in any way.

- 7- Have your dog jump on any bale of hay or hay stacks, all 4 paws must be off the ground and on the bales.
- 8- Have your dog tunnel through the hay (there is a hay tunnel built for this purpose).
- 9- If you think your dog finds the rat, very clearly say RAT (or whatever the judge wants you to say) as a statement... not a question.
- 10- Don't swear. This is for fun and we may have young spectators!

Barn Hunt Regulations

Barn Hunt Instinct time allowed: 60 seconds from the starting point

Barn Hunt course time allowed: 120 seconds (2 minutes)

Barn Hunt Masters course time allowed: 180 seconds (3 minutes)

Number of attempts allowed: One

Number of ABR Evaluators: One

Number of tubes needed: One empty tube, one litter tube, one rat tube.

Requirements to earn BHI title: Correctly indicate the tube with the rat.

Requirements to earn BHL1 title: Successfully completing 2/3 requirements.

Requirements to earn BHL2 title: Successfully completing all 3 requirements.

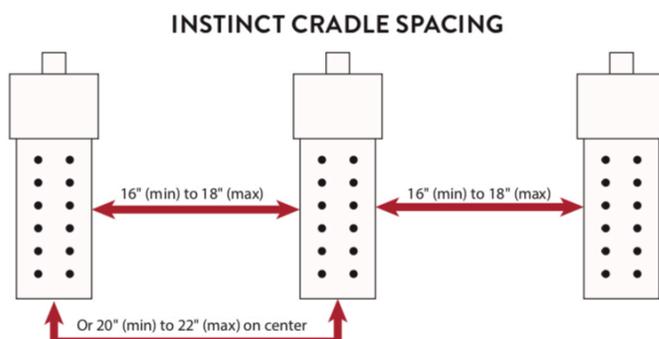
Requirements to earn BHM title: Successfully indicating Live Rat location

Requirements to earn BHC title: successfully complete and earn BHI,BHL1,BHL2, and BHM.

Barn Instinct Test

The BHI is a timed event. There will be three tubes that'll be placed secured and uncovered in plain sight on the course. One tube will be completely empty, second tube will have only rat litter inside, third tube will have the actual live rat inside. The purpose of BHI is correct identification of the live rat tube. Time starts when the dog leaves the starting point.. Time ends when the handler indicates a rat tube or time expires.

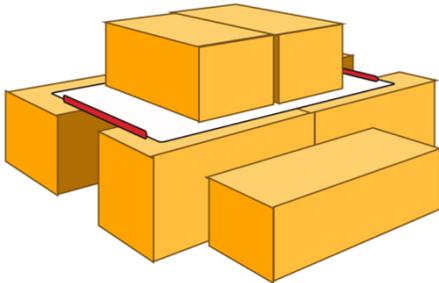
Instinct Test Setup:



The Barn Hunt

Time starts when the dog and/or handler leaves the starting cone. Test stops when the time expires or when the dog/handler has successfully found and indicated the rat live rat tube with successfully completing the tunnel and climbing requirements. The required elements can be achieved in any order. If the dog/handler runs out of time before finding the live tube and completing all requirements, the dog will be immediately escorted to the nearest live tube, shown the tube, and briefly praised.

Tunnel Setup:



Barn Hunt Level 1 (BHL1)

During the Barn Hunt. The dog is required to either do 2 of the 3 requirements. The dog/handler must indicate the rat location, and/or must successfully go through the tunnel, and/or successfully complete the climbing effort (all four paws must be on the bales). Successfully completing 2/3 requirements has when time expires earns the ABR's BHL1 title.

Barn Hunt Level 2 (BHL2)

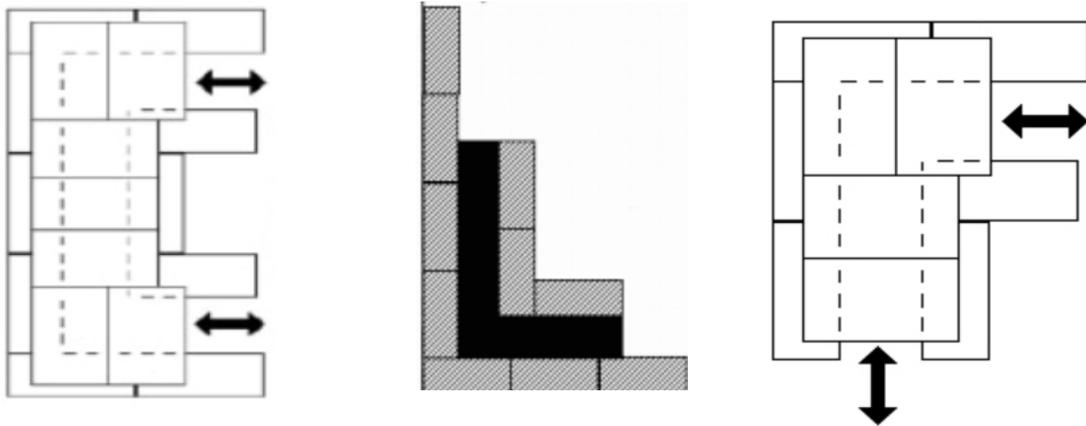
During the Barn Hunt. The dog is required to complete all the 3 requirements. The dog/handler must indicate the rat location, must successfully go through the tunnel, and successfully complete the climbing effort (all four paws must be on the bales). Successfully completing all 3 requirements before when time expires earns the ABR's BHL2 title.

Barn Hunt Masters

The Barn Hunt Master Test is done on the same course with an additional bale of hay set up in different various ways that also makes a tunnel that turns. All 3 tubes will be hidden throughout the course. The dog/handler must find the location of the live rat and correctly call out RAT when found. One wrong call is allowed but two wrong calls is an automatic fail.

Successfully finding the live rat tube earns the ABR's BHM title.

Examples of Barn Hunt Masters Setup:



Barn Hunt Championship (BHC)

The ABR Barn Hunt Championship can be applied for once all 4 titles (BHI, BHL1, BHL2, BHM) have been earned. Your dog will then earn the ABR BHC once applied for and all criteria meets requirement. Your Alapaha Blue Blood Bulldog will then earn the suffix of BHC.