

Canine Performance Sports: Unleash the Fun!!!

Canine performance sports are growing in popularity because they offer dogs and their guardians a way to deepen their bond. In addition, training and participation in performance sports provides the dog mental and physical stimulation, which is especially beneficial with breeds such as the Miniature Bull Terrier who are exceedingly capable of finding their own methods to be entertained.

The Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America encourages club members to train and participate in performance sports with their dogs. An award program has been developed to recognize teams that participate in these sports and achieve honors.



Check out the club's Performance page at mbtca.org for more detailed information and photos of the awards.

We have outlined some of the many sports available to dogs in this flyer. Because of the variety of sports available, there is something for every interest and every skill set....

So, get out there and **Unleash the Fun...** your dog will thank you for it.



Rally

Similar to obedience, but is more relaxed and allows the handler to provide more support and encouragement for their dog. Handlers and their dogs learn to navigate a course of that has signs indicating specific exercises the dog must complete with heeling between stations. During trials, handlers are permitted to talk to their dogs. Initially trials are performed on leash, but become off leash as the team advances.



Obedience

Obedience is similar to Rally, but requires teams to deliver on a more precise performance. This is a rewarding sport for dedicated teams. Trials are performed on leash, but as teams advance off leash skills are incorporated.

Agility

Dog and handler agility teams negotiate an obstacle course while racing against the clock. The sport does require significant equipment, dedication and training. This sport is ideal for teams that are physically fit.



Tracking

An outdoor sport demonstrating a dog's ability to recognize and follow a human scent. The handler learns to "read" the dog while following a laid track. This sport is based on search and rescue skills of working dogs. This sport is conducted on a long leash.

Nose Work, Scent Work

This sport is based on drug or bomb sniffing working dog skills. Nose work teaches the dog to use their powerful scenting ability to track the source of a target odor. This sport is mentally challenging to dogs and does not require significant equipment. Trials may be inside or outside and on or off leash (if safe). This is a great sport for dogs of any age.



Barn Hunt

This sport utilizes the dog's natural instinct and is based on the historic role of terriers as vermin hunters. The dog hunts to locate safely caged rats hidden in a maze of straw bales and "alerts" on the rat. The handler must recognize and call when the dog has found the rat.



Earthdog

Earth dog is similar to Barn Hunt, but is done underground in a series of mazes that the dog must navigate. Once the dog finds the caged and protected rat they must "alert". Tunnel sizes are limited making this ideal for smaller dogs who are not intimidated by small spaces.

Canine Good Citizen

This AKC test measures basic control of your dog in a public setting. CGC classes are widely available and offer a great way for new owners to meet the challenge of training an adolescent dog.

Other activities

Therapy work, freestyle (dancing with your dog), lure coursing, weight pull, trick dog, and dock diving.

Websites with additional information:

- akc.org
- barnhunt.com
- nacsw.net
- k9nosework.com
- usdaa.com
- ukcdogs.com
- sportingdetectiondogs.ca,
- northamericadivingdogs.com
- nasda.dog

Facebook Pages:

- MBTCA Performance Group
- K9 Nose Work Team Bull Terrier



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Getting started in Canine Performance Sports can be intimidating. We are here to help you get started.

MBTCA PERFORMANCE SPORTS



UNLEASH THE FUN

