

Volunteering at DDTC

Dauphin Dog Training Club is a volunteer organization and relies heavily on the enthusiastic participation of its membership. Volunteering for the following positions is a great way to learn more about a particular sport, whether you are a beginner, experienced handler, or just thinking about starting with your dog. No prior experience is needed – we will train you!

Sometimes people hesitate to become involved because they don't have a sense of what a particular job entails. Here are some descriptions to help you know what is needed:

Agility Trial

Course Builder: Course Builders move obstacles between classes as directed by the Chief Course Builder. You must be aware of when each class ends so the new course can be set quickly. The Chief Course Builder (and then the Judge during final "tweaking") provides instruction about what pieces of equipment are needed and where to place them.

Gate Steward: The "Gate" makes sure the dogs and handlers are ready at the start line. Armed with a running order, call out the names of handlers and dogs to make sure they are present and aware of when they will be going into the ring. It's a great way to get to know names and faces.

Scribe: The Scribe marks down faults and points as directed by the Judge on the scribe sheet while each dog is running. Scribing differs for different classes, just as judging differs. The Judge will instruct you as to the meaning of various hand signals; s/he is always pleased to provide you with a quick one-minute primer on the signals if you ask.

Timer: The Timer monitors electronic timers and writes the time on scribe sheets after each run or reports the time to the Scribe. In most cases, the time is started and stopped by the dog completing the correct first and last obstacles. In some classes, you may be required to manually start or stop the time. The Judge will give you specific instructions on timing each class before the first dog runs.

Sheet Runner: The Sheet Runner takes scribe sheets from the Scribe or Timer to the Score Table. This job requires a bit of walking.

Leash Runner: The Leash Runner takes leashes from the start line to the finish line. After the dog and handler have begun their course, pick up the leash and take it to the designated spot at the finish line.

Ring Crew: Ring crew members reset bars for height changes and when they are knocked by dogs during a run. This is a great job for watching each dog run as you must be attentive to the happenings in the ring at all times.

Equipment Setup: Load equipment from the dog club to the truck and/or set up the rings the night before.

Equipment Tear Down: Tear down the rings after the trial is done and/or help unload at the dog club.

Agility Run Through

Equipment Setup: Set up the ring the morning of the Run Through.

Timer: The timer monitors each handler's time in the ring to ensure equal time for each handler.

Equipment Tear Down: Tear down the ring after the Run Through is done.

Obedience Show

Table Steward: The Table Steward takes care of all the entries and keeps the judge informed of who is next in the ring.

Gate Steward: The Gate Steward makes sure the next person is ready to go into the ring when it is their turn. They also check off the person's name when they are going in the ring.

Ring Stewards: Stewards are needed in the open ring to change the jump heights for the broad jump and high jump. Stewards are needed in the utility ring to change the jump heights for the high jump and bar jump. One steward is responsible for putting out the articles and one is responsible for putting out gloves.

Setup: We are always looking for volunteers to help with the setup for our trials, i.e., we need volunteers to help set up the ring gates, steward tables, secretary table, and trophy table and to set up all jumps for each ring. Most of these items need to be brought in from the shed. We also have items that need to be taken out to the shed from the building to make room.

Tear Down: After our obedience show is done, we need volunteers to tear down and put away all ring gates, jumps, and tables in the shed. We will bring back in everything that we stored in the shed.

Obedience Match

Stewards: Stewards in obedience matches will help to change jump heights. If they are stewards in the open ring, they will change jump heights on the broad jump and high jump. In the utility ring, stewards will change jump heights on the high jump and bar jump. One steward is responsible for putting out the articles and one is responsible for putting out gloves.

Judges: Judges will judge each person that comes in their ring. There are six varieties of run orders to choose from.

Rally Trial

Table Steward: The Table Steward takes care of all the entries and keeps the judge informed of who is next in the ring.

Gate Steward: The Gate Steward makes sure the next person is ready to go into the ring when it is their turn. They also check off the person's name when they go in the ring and, after their run, put their score beside their name.

Ring Steward: A steward is needed to change the jump heights in the ring.

Rally Match

Stewards: Stewards will be needed to change jump heights.

Judges: Judges are needed in each ring to bring the person into the ring and judge as they go through the course.

Scent Work Trial

Trial Setup: Trial setup happens the afternoon before the trial. Duties can include putting up pop-up tents, measuring and marking ring sizes, arranging items for scent hides, filling containers with sand, and assembling small cardboard boxes.

Gate Steward: The gate steward makes sure that dogs and handlers are ready to run when the judge is ready for the next dog. A gate steward is needed for each judge.

Ring Stewards: Ring stewards reposition items in the search area and carry out any orders from the judge. One steward handles the hot items (those with the scent) and another handles cold items (no scent). Both ring stewards wear disposable gloves. They may also notify the gate steward that the judge is ready for the next dog to enter the ring.

Timer: The timer uses a stop watch to time each competitor's run in the ring. This is a time-limited event, so the timer also gives a 30-second warning to each competitor, if needed.

Score Runner: The score runner periodically collects the score sheets from the judges and gives them to the Trial Secretary for recording.

Trial Tear Down: Volunteers work together to restore the trial site to its original state. This could include taking down the tents, putting away all equipment used, and disposing of cardboard boxes.

FAST Cat Trial

Huntmaster: The huntmaster has control of the course and is in charge of all dogs and handlers on the field. S/he ensures that handlers understand safe release and retrieval procedures, that the lure is properly positioned, and that the lure operator, timers and starting line signal person are ready. At that point, the huntmaster signals the lure operator to start the lure and gives the verbal signal “tallyho” to release the dog.

Inspection Committee: The inspection committee inspects each entry for lameness, fitness to compete, and females in season. If necessary, the inspection committee is responsible for measuring dogs to determine their height at the withers.

Tracking Trial

Volunteers: Volunteers will be asked to walk a trail for the handler/dog team to follow. The day before the trial, the volunteer and two judges will walk through field and/or woods and place flags along the way. The next day, the judges will ask the volunteer to walk the same marked trail, pulling up the flags along the way and leaving a glove at the end for the dog to follow. Volunteers commit to a few hours of work on the day before the trial and another few hours the day of the trial. If you like to take walks in fields and woods, this is a great volunteer opportunity for you!