

Breed First - Coursing Ability Test {CA}



**CH Kudos' Crown Royal v Regalbear
TKN, TKI, TKA, FDC, CA,
BCAT, ACT I, DJA, DN, CGC,
CGCA, CGCU, ATT, VHMA**

Beth Horn & Brian Gulewich

By Beth Horn

The Coursing Ability Test (CAT) is an introduction test into the sport of Lure Coursing. Lure coursing is a fast action sport, where dogs of a specific breed chase a lure over a long course, which includes twists and turns. The introduction to the sport is a smaller, but similar course, where the dog has to chase the lure in under a specified timeframe. There is a 600 yard and 300 yard course depending on the dog testing, each distance has its own timeframe. The timeframes are not meant to be difficult to meet, but the dog will have to run to beat the time. The coursing ability test is a pass/fail test, there is no score. Either the dog chases the lure in under the timeframe or it doesn't. Saint Bernards are unfortunately not able to compete in regular full lure coursing events, but they are eligible to earn the Coursing Ability title.

Rye has been running Fast CAT events since March 2020, and even has his BCAT title. He also loves chasing the lure. So when I noticed that there was going to be a coursing ability test near me I was excited to tackle this challenge.

My local trainer has a coursing test at her facility and for 3 weekends we ran Rye through various tests and distances to build his endurance. He had no problem with anything we threw at him and I knew he was ready for his tests!

We entered 4 trials, which meant that if Rye could get 3 passing tests, he would earn the CA title.

The trial was hosted at a sheep farm in Arizona, the day was a little warm and the venue only had a couple trees for shade, so my goal was to first and foremost make sure Rye stayed cool for his runs. I soaked him completely down in a water trough, and lied him down under a tree.

When it was our turn, I took Rye to the start line, he locked in on the lure, it took off, I released his leash, and he took off! Less than 30 seconds later Rye was running into the finish line and grabbed the lure in celebration! He did it! He passed his first coursing ability test! Over the weekend, Rye had 4 passing scores, earning his the Coursing Ability title! This was Rye's 15th performance title, plus his championship, which he earned in November 2020.

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**First Saint Bernard Champion to Earn The
Coursing Ability Test**

January 31, 2021