

Trialing

Go-To-Ground 101

Submitted by Karen Cooper, NJ

It's almost our favorite time of year again, trial season! It's time to start getting the dogs back in shape. Let's start legging those terriers up and working on those coats. Soon we will be hugging old friends and meeting new ones. Some of you may have a new puppy that is coming to trials for the first time. If they are to compete in Go-to-Ground, they will need to do a little practice at home first.

Puppies and novice dogs may need the event broken down so they can understand what you are asking of them. Basically, you will be asking your puppy to:

1. Enter a dark tunnel
2. Make a 90 degree turn
3. Mark the quarry, which means that they are interested in the cage of rats at the end of the tunnel. This can be as simple as staring, digging, whining, barking, etc.

Let's start with entering. Not everyone has a yard, or a carpenter for that matter, to have their own practice tunnel, but you can improvise by using large cardboard boxes or turning over your patio furniture and covering it with a tarp to create a dark tunnel. Start with a straight tunnel and toss your pup's favorite toy through. Have someone else at the other end, and call your pup through and reward him by tossing his toy to "kill." The goal is to be able to send him through the tunnel by yourself. Once he understands this, you can introduce him to quarry.

With my first Jack we purchased a small rat at the local pet shop, kept it a few days to play GTG, then returned it. (I lived in an apartment and my mom wouldn't have that thing living in her house.) Of course they wouldn't refund our money, but they did take the rat back. Mom called it "rent a rat." We did this several times during the first trial season. Introduce your pup to the caged rat away from the tunnel. Some pups are very cautious and will walk by, almost ignoring it. Let him take his time. You can tap lightly on the cage and slowly walk away from the pup. If he follows, great. Put it back and let him think. Once he is comfortable with the rat, or if he is one of those that pounce on it right away, you can encourage him by telling him to "get it." Now, place the cage at one end of the tunnel and send your pup through.

As you know, Go-to-Ground is a timed event. Besides entering and marking the quarry, your pup is competing for the fastest time. There are several ways to teach speed, but I'll give you my favorite. You will need a friend to help. With one of you at each end of the tunnel, send the pup through. But, instead of letting him mark his quarry, quickly pick him up, hand him back to the person at the entrance, and send him through again. You can make noise to encourage him, but each time he reaches the rat, pick him up and start over. Be very positive. The object is to frustrate him so he will run faster through the tunnel to get his prize.

Do these two or three times, then let him mark. Only play this game with a short tunnel. The novice tunnel is 10 feet long with one 90-degree turn. If you were trying to build up the speed of the dog competing in the open or championship tunnel, you would still only use the 10-foot tunnel. Remember, the object is to frustrate him, not have him run 30 feet.

And there you have it. Now go have fun at your local trial. If you come to one that I'm judging, stop and say "Hi." I'll be the one with a stopwatch in my hand and my head in the end of the tunnel looking for your dog.

Terrier Trial Survival Guide

Submitted by Renee Gamba, RI
YJRTN Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Well, Spring has sprung! That means lots of fun for you and your terriers – from fun days to trials, there are lots of terrier happenings. Perhaps you and your terrier have never been to a trial or fun day, and wondered what to expect or what to bring. There are lots of events to try and see your terrier's instincts come alive...now, what do you need, that is the question!! I still remember going to my first trial. All I had was my puppy, a leash, and me! What I saw when I arrived was overwhelming – what do I do, where do I go, and how do I sign up?! Of course, there were plenty of great people to show me the ropes. I spent only the afternoon, participated in a couple of events, and returned home. I learned some events required pre-registration, but I was able to try a couple of events. It was amazing to see my puppy's excitement! I was hooked! Even after going to a few trials I realized I needed some supplies to make the day more enjoyable for my terriers and me. Going to a trial or fun day provides a great opportunity for you to meet terrier friends and have a great time with your terriers. So are you and your terrier ready? Here is a Terrier Trial Survival Guide!!

WHAT DOES YOUR JRT NEED?

- Crate and/or exercise pen
- Crate fan
- Water (lots!)
- Bowl
- Food and treats
- Leash (Be careful if you are using a retractable leash as it may make it difficult to maintain control of your terrier!)
- Collar (Make sure your terrier can't escape!)
- Plastic bags (to clean up after your dog)
- A copy of your dog's Rabies Certificate
- For JRT Racing – a closed softie or basket muzzle is a must.

- For confirmation – show lead

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

- Chairs
- Hat
- Sun block
- Insect repellent
- Drinks
- Lunch/snacks (although many trials have food vendors!)
- Hand wipes
- Toilet paper
- When attending trials, you may wish to purchase a water-proof pop-up tent and all weather gear. All trials and most fun days are held rain or shine.
- It is also a good idea – for both you and your dog - to have a first aid kit to treat minor injuries.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE EVENTS?

Terriers can compete in Conformation, Racing, Agility, Obedience, Super Earth, Go-to-Ground, Youth Division, Lure Coursing, Barn Hunt, Trailing and Locating, and more. Every trial has different event offerings, but most have Racing, Go-to-Ground, and Conformation. (For JRTCA sanctioned trials, participants must be JRTCA members. Please remember that you must pre-register for Racing.) For more information about events or how to enter your terrier at a JRTCA sanctioned trial, refer to the article in this edition of True Grit or please visit the JRTCA website's Beginner's Guide to a Terrier Trial for more information at <http://www.terrier.com/trial/survive.php3>.

WHERE DO YOU FIND A LISTING OF TRIALS?

For a complete JRTCA sanctioned trial listing, visit the JRTCA website, www.terrier.com. For more information about various fun days, you can visit local JRTCA affiliates' websites. Please refer to the JRCTA affiliate listing page on their website, <http://www.terrier.com/jrtca/clubs.php4>. Please contact any of the affiliate contacts with any questions you have about trials or fun days.

WHAT IS PROPER DOG TRIAL/FUN DAY ETIQUETTE?

Not all dogs are well socialized with other dogs and/or have good manners with people. For you, your family, and your dog's safety, please remember to:

- Always ask before petting another dog.
- Extend your hand for sniffing before you pet another dog. Make sure your hands are clean.
- Always ask before letting your dog approach another dog. Not all dogs like other dogs.
- Be sure to have control of your dog at all times. Your terrier may surprise you at trials and fun days!! Be prepared!
- Always approach a dog from the front.
- Never reach into another dog's crate or exercise pen.

- Keep food out of reach. (Children carrying snacks or eating ice cream might get licked.)
- Don't block the entrance to the rings/events.
- Please review the rules/guidelines posted at each trial.
- Please be courteous to the trial organizers and stewards - many are volunteers.

Hope this information helps you and your terriers prepare for a season of fun! Trials and fun days are great way to make new friends and see old ones.

JRTCA Sanctioned Trials 101

Submitted by Tandee Morris, IN

JRTCA Sanctioned Trials are fun-filled, family oriented events. They are not the typical "bench show" that is seen with most all breed registries. Our sanctioned trials offer something for everyone and every Jack Russell. It doesn't matter whether the terrier is a conformation dog, a performance dog or a couch potato there are events and classes for all. However, the terminology and all the events and classes offered can be a bit overwhelming to those who are new to our trials. It is our hope that the following will answer your questions and encourage you to attend a JRTCA Sanctioned Trial near you!

What is a JRTCA Sanctioned Trial? A JRTCA Sanctioned Trial is one for which the person or persons holding the trial have applied to be listed as a sanctioned trial and have been granted permission or approval to be noted as a JRTCA Sanctioned Trial.

How does a trial become "sanctioned"? The JRTCA provides a form called a Pre-Sanctioning Form. This form is completed by the person or persons wishing to hold the trial. It includes the name of the trial, the location of the trial, the dates the trial is to be held, whether it is to be an A-rated trial or a B-rated trial, the name of the trial chairperson or trial administrator, as well as the names of co-chairpersons or co-administrators. Also listed are the events to be held and the names of conformation and go-to-ground judges. The completed form is then returned to the JRTCA office along with the appropriate sanctioning fee. Those forms are then copied to the JRTCA Trial Committee Chairperson for approval. To be approved, the dates and location must not be in conflict with another sanctioned trial, the judges for conformation and go-to-ground must be current JRTCA Sanctioned Judges, and the trial chairperson/administrator and co-chairperson/co-administrator must be current members of the JRTCA in good standing.

How does one become a trial chairperson/administrator of a sanctioned trial? If the person listed as the chairperson or administrator or co-chairperson or co-administrator has chaired a sanctioned trial previously and they are current members of the JRTCA in good standing, there is no special approval process for them to go through. However, if the person or persons named on the Pre-Sanctioning form have not chaired a sanctioned trial previously, they must submit a Trial Chairperson Application along with two letters of reference. At least one of the letters must be from someone who has chaired a sanctioned trial at which the applicant has volunteered and worked. Since chairing a trial

involves many things, the more experience a person has had as a volunteer at sanctioned trials, the less difficult it will be for them to take over total responsibility as chairperson/administrator or co-chairperson/co-administrator of a JRTCA sanctioned trial.

What is the difference between a trial chairperson and a trial administrator? Sanctioned trials which are sponsored by JRTCA Affiliate Clubs, Russell Rescue or the Research Foundation are allowed to chair their trials by committee. In other words, the trial is being organized and run by the Board members of those organizations rather than by one individual. In this case, a person is appointed as the trial administrator. The person named trial administrator will be the named contact for communication with the JRTCA, judges, exhibitors, etc. The trial administrator, as part of a committee, is allowed to enter their terrier or terriers in any of the events at the trial if they wish.

If the trial is not sponsored by one of the above organizations, then it is considered to be sponsored by one or more individuals. In this case, a trial chairperson is named and that person is not allowed to enter their terrier or terriers in any of the events at the trial they are chairing. If a co-chairperson is named as well, that individual is not permitted to enter their terriers in any of the events at the trial they are co-chairing.

What is the difference between an A-rated trial and a B-rated trial? A-rated trials include both JRTCA Conformation AND Go-To-Ground Divisions. B-rated trials include EITHER Conformation or Go-To-Ground, but NOT BOTH. Other sanctioned divisions are optional and may be held at either an A-rated or B-rated trial.

What are the advantages of a sanctioned trial? The advantages for the person or club holding the trial are:

- The trial is listed in True Grit and on the JRTCA website.
- The trial chairperson/administrator is provided with a Sanctioned Trial Packet to guide them with everything from the planning of the trial through compiling of trial results.
- The trial chairperson/administrator is provided a list of JRTCA approved and experienced Conformation judges and Go-To-Ground judges from which to choose.
- Medallions for Best Working Dog and Best Working Bitch are provided by the JRTCA for presentation at the trial.
- Working Conformation Champion and Reserve Champion and Go-To-Ground Champions and Reserve Champions are listed and the pictures of the terriers which received these awards are published in True Grit.
- A complete listing of placements for all sanctioned events at the trial is published on the JRTCA website.
- The trial has the full support of the JRTCA Trial Committee for answering questions, making recommendations, etc.

The advantages for those attending sanctioned trials are:

- Consistency of rules between sanctioned trials.
- Consistency of classes and eligibility for those classes from one sanctioned trial to the next.
- Ribbons for first through sixth place in every class.

- An opportunity to earn JRTCA certificates in Go-To-Ground, Super Earth, Agility and Obedience.
- Results published on the JRTCA website.

Who can enter terriers at a sanctioned trial? Only current JRTCA members are eligible to enter their Jack Russell Terriers in sanctioned classes. Both current individual and family memberships are honored. When entering terriers in advance of the trial, you will be asked to provide a copy of your JRTCA membership card along with your entry. If entering at the door, you will be asked to show your membership card.

Can I join the JRTCA at the trial and enter my dogs in events at that same trial? All sanctioned trial chairpersons/administrators are provided blank membership forms in order for people to join the JRTCA at the trial. Once the membership form is completed and the membership fee paid, you will be able to enter terriers in most events at that same trial. Racing is usually the only event you cannot enter at the door, although some trials make exceptions. Generally, however, people entering classes the day of the trial can expect to pay a slightly higher fee per class, referred to as a "post-entry fee."

Does my Jack Russell Terrier have to be registered or recorded with the JRTCA in order to compete at a sanctioned trial? For most events and classes offered, the terriers can compete without being registered or recorded with the JRTCA. The exceptions to this are Working Conformation Classes, Certificate Go-To-Ground and Certificate Super Earth Classes, and some of the higher level Agility Classes. Terriers must be registered or recorded to obtain the certificates required to compete in these classes. All terriers competing at the JRTCA National Trial must be registered or recorded, in advance, with the JRTCA.

How can I find out where and when sanctioned trials are being held? The JRTCA website maintains a current listing of upcoming sanctioned trials. It provides the date, location, events offered and contact information for each trial approved and scheduled. A listing is also published in each issue of True Grit.

How do I get an entry form and a class list for a trial? Many trials request mailing labels covering a geographical area of JRTCA members to which they will mail their trial flyers. A large majority of sanctioned trials on the JRTCA website have provided links to their own websites from which the class list and entry form can be printed. You may also contact the person listed as trial chairperson/administrator and request a copy from them. Most trials have a pre-entry cut-off date, usually approximately two weeks prior to the trial. Entries mailed after the designated cut-off date may be subject to a slightly higher class entry fee.

Many events have classes divided by height and coat type. What if I am unsure of my terrier's height or whether it is smooth or broken? The best thing to do is enter the height and coat category you think is correct. As soon as you get to the trial, tell the Trial Chairperson you need to have your terrier measured or that you are unsure of the coat type. A judge can then accurately measure your terrier with wickets and can also tell you whether your terrier is smooth or broken-coated. Then, if need be, you can switch to the appropriate classes prior to the start of the events.

What do I do when I get to the trial? When you arrive at the trial site, you should immediately go to the registration desk. If

you have pre-entered classes for the trial, you will be given a packet. The packet will include an armband number for each terrier you entered. That number is a dog's identifying number for the trial. If you entered classes which require score sheets, such as Go-To-Ground or Agility, those sheets will also be in the trial packet. If you have not pre-entered classes for the trial you should go to the registration booth and do so as soon as possible so that your terrier can be entered on the appropriate class lists.

What events or divisions are offered at a sanctioned trial? Events offered include Conformation, Youth, Racing and Go-To-Ground at most trials. In addition, sanctioned events such as Agility, Obedience, Rally-Obedience, Trailing and Locating and Super Earth Go-To-Ground are offered at many trials. Some trials also offer non-sanctioned, fun events such as Lure Coursing and Barn Hunt.

What can I expect in each event? Below is an overview of each event and what can be expected.

CONFORMATION DIVISION

Overview

Terriers entered in Conformation classes are judged according to the JRTCA breed standard. Judging criteria include, but are not limited to, the flexibility and size of the chest, the terrier's movement, bite, coat, and overall condition of the terrier. These are all important factors in the terrier's ability to physically do the job for which the terrier was bred.

The Conformation Division is divided into Sections and subdivided into Classes within each Section. The Conformation Sections are:

- 4 up to 6 Month Puppies
- 6 up to 12 Month Puppies
- JRTCA Working Terrier
- Open Adult
- Family
- Miscellaneous

Puppy Conformation classes are divided by gender and coat type. Working and Open Conformation Sections are for terriers over one year of age and have classes dividing terriers by gender, height and coat-type. With the exception of the Miscellaneous Section, terriers that have been spayed or neutered may not be entered.

What to Expect

Each terrier entered in the trial will be assigned a number to identify that terrier. That number will be the same for all events you might enter throughout the trial, but should be worn on your left arm during your Conformation class.

Each Class is assigned a Class Number. You should be ready to enter the Conformation ring with your terrier at least a couple of classes before the one in which you are participating. An announcer will call terriers to an "on deck" area while the class before theirs is being judged. When your class is called to the on deck area, you should make your way there immediately and be ready to enter the ring. Being ready means having your terrier's number displayed on your left arm, having a show lead on your

terrier and making sure you have small, easily chewed treats or a small toy to hold your dog's attention while you are in the ring. If your terrier is other-dog aggressive, you may stand nearby the on deck area so as not disrupt others.

When it is announced that your class is entering the ring, you should get in line with the others in your class. At the entrance, the Ring Steward will look at and check off your terrier's number. This allows the Steward to know whether all terriers entered are present and whether all terriers entering the ring are in that class.

As you enter, the judge will typically be standing toward the center of the ring. All entries will walk their terriers around the ring until the judge indicates they should stop. It is important that you walk your terrier on your left side so that the dog is always between you and the judge. This allows the judge to observe the movement of each dog. You should also allow room between your terrier and the ones in front of and behind you. You will walk at a normal pace, not trot or run. Ideally the terrier should be walking on a loose lead so that its movement is not impeded by the lead.

When the judge tells everyone to stop, the terrier should stop in a normal stacked position with its attention focused on you. You should not stoop down and place the dog's feet but, rather, allow it to free stack. Most likely, at this point, the judge will look at each terrier from a distance before beginning individual examination.

Some judges will individually examine each dog in the center of the ring, with you walking your terrier up to the judge. Other judges have exhibitors remain in place and move down the line from terrier to terrier for individual examination. The judge will indicate what to do and when to do it. You can also see how the judge is examining terriers by observing classes prior to yours.

When it is time for your terrier to be examined, the judge will check your dog's bite either by lifting its lips and looking or by running their finger over the front teeth. A scissor bite is the ideal, although a level bite is acceptable. A terrier that is over or under shot will likely be excused from the ring as these are excluded from registration. If your terrier is reluctant to allow a stranger to examine its bite, then you should lift the dog's lips so the judge can see. The judge will also span your terrier's chest with his/her hands to check size and flexibility, run their hands through the dog's coat to check coarseness and density, etc. With males, the judge will also check to make sure the testicles are present and both are descended.

Once the judge has completed the hands-on examination, they will ask you to walk your terrier away from them, across in front of them and then back towards them in a triangle. This is to check the terrier's legs and movement from all angles. When you get back to the judge, you should once again free stack your terrier for the judge's final look. If the judge is in the middle of the ring, you will then return to your place in line. If the judge is moving from terrier to terrier, they will then move on to the next in line.

After each terrier in the class has been examined, the judge may have everyone walk their dogs around the ring again as he/she makes their placements. The judge will then begin to pull terriers into the center of the ring and excuse the rest from the

ring. First through sixth place ribbons will then be awarded. Persons receiving a first or second place in a class should be prepared to come back into the ring with their terrier for the Best Of class. The males receiving Best Dog and Reserve and the females receiving Best Bitch and Reserve will then come back into the ring for Best or Champion and Reserve.

Unlike other events at the trial, awards for Conformation are presented for each class as soon as the judge has determined placements for that class.

GO-TO-GROUND DIVISION

Overview

Terriers compete one at a time in the Go-To-Ground event. Each terrier is placed at the opening of a scented tunnel and is timed from moment of release until it reaches the other end of the tunnel. The length of the tunnel, whether the terrier is allowed to leave and re-enter the tunnel, and the time allowed to get through the tunnel depend on the level at which the terrier is competing. When the terrier reaches the end of the tunnel, the judge will observe the terrier "work" the quarry for a designated time ranging from 30 seconds to one minute. The "quarry" used in this event is always safely caged laboratory rats.

What to Expect

The Go-To-Ground competition is generally open for several hours the day of the trial. This allows entrants to take their dogs to this event before, between or after their other classes. Unlike Conformation, your terrier can do its Go-To-Ground class at any point in the day the event is open, regardless of which GTG class your terrier is in. There is usually a line at this venue and it is generally quite noisy!

The tunnel system is generally set up inside a fenced area as dogs perform this event off-lead. When it is your turn, a steward will take your Go-To-Ground score sheet which would be found in your entry packet. They will then check your dog's number off their sheet and give your score sheet to the judge. The steward will then direct you to the appropriate tunnel entrance and show you the starting line.

When you are told by the steward to release your terrier, all four feet of the terrier should be on the ground and behind the starting line. The judge will begin timing at point of release. Timing will stop at the point the terrier reaches the end of the tunnel nearest the judge. At that point, the judge will begin timing the terrier as it works the quarry and stop timing when the required time limit for that class has been reached. You will then be directed to come and get your terrier and the judge will give you the completed, signed score sheet. As soon as you have your terrier and the score sheet, you should leave the area so the next terrier can enter.

Go-To-Ground classes are divided by age group and experience, from Novice to Championship. Adult classes are also divided by height. Only terriers that have earned and received a JRTCA Trial Certificate are allowed to compete in the Adult Championship classes.

First through sixth place ribbons for each class will be presented at the close of the Go-To-Ground event. The judge will

determine placement by fastest passing time through sixth fastest passing time. In Championship classes, fastest passing time will be the Champion and second fastest will be Reserve Champion.

SUPER EARTH GO-TO-GROUND DIVISION

Overview

This event is much like regular GTG with a much more complex and longer tunnel system. It may contain false tunnels and/or false dens within the tunnel system. The set up for Super Earth Go-To-Ground will vary from trial to trial.

What to Expect

Other than the difference in the tunnel system and the class list this event is run the same as the regular Go-To-Ground division. Terriers are given 30 seconds for each 30 feet of tunnel to complete the course and must work the quarry at the end for one minute.

A steward will check you in and take your score sheet. The steward will then show you the starting point and tell you when to release your dog. A judge will be at the opposite end of the tunnel timing your terrier and will let you know when to retrieve your dog.

First through sixth place ribbons will be awarded at the close of the event.

YOUTH DIVISION

Overview

The JRTCA offers a variety of classes for our Youth. These classes are designed to be both fun and, at the same time, be a learning experience. Child Handler class is for children aged 5 to 9 years. The Youth classes are for youths aged 10-16 years. (Age is determined by the age of a child as of January 1 of the current year, regardless of when their birthday falls.) The classes for youth include Youth Handler, Working Judge's Choice, Youth Go-To-Ground, Youth Obedience and Youth Agility. The events culminate in a Youth High Score and Reserve at each trial. Youth High Score & Reserve are determined by a point system. The youth with the highest number of points after all Youth events will be Youth High Score; second highest will be Youth High Score Reserve. In all events, the Youth are being judged on their ability to handle their terrier and on the knowledge of the event in which they are competing.

What to Expect

Most trials will have a Youth Coordinator assigned. That person will meet with the children prior to the start of competition to explain the schedule and answer any questions. The Youth will then move from event to event as a group. In each venue the judge will observe them with their terrier and will ask them questions to see what their knowledge level is in that event and of the Jack Russell Terrier in general. The terrier is never being judged in the Child and Youth classes.

Child Handler and Youth Handler classes are always scheduled as the first classes in the Conformation ring. Other Youth classes will be held at different times throughout the day. Youth Go-To-Ground Class is run through the 10' Novice Go-To-Ground tunnel. Youth Agility is run over the Novice Agility

course. All classes except Working Judge's Choice require the youth to handle a terrier; they must handle the same terrier in each event unless the terrier becomes ill or is injured. If the terrier becomes ill or is injured, the youth is allowed to substitute another terrier upon notifying the Trial Chairperson.

Child and Youth Handler classes are awarded first through sixth place ribbons immediately upon placements by the judge. Many trials also give participant ribbons to those who did not receive a first through sixth place. Ribbons for all other events, along with Youth High Score and Reserve, are awarded at the conclusion of all youth events scheduled for that trial.

RACING

Overview

JRTCA Racing is one of the most competitive, exciting, fast-paced and noisy events at the trials! Racing is normally the first event of the day and starts quite early. It requires pre-entering for most trials as heat sheets have to be set up in advance. Some smaller trials that do not have full heats may allow post-entries to fill the heats, but that is luck of the draw. Therefore, pre-entry is advised if you want to be sure you get to race your terrier.

Qualifying heats are divided by age, height and gender. Races will be run first over flats and then over hurdles. Terriers must be entered in both flats and hurdles to qualify for the Championship Run-Offs. Championships are awarded in each age and height category.

All ribbons and Championships are awarded at the culmination of the Racing event.

What to Expect

Heat sheets showing which terriers are scheduled to run in each heat are posted near the starting gate area of the race track. You should check to see that your terrier is listed in the appropriate class before racing begins. The heat sheet will also indicate what color your terrier will be wearing for each qualifying race. There will be up to six terriers in each heat.

Prior to the start of Racing there may be a short meeting for all entrants. This is generally given by the judge or one of the Racing stewards. They will speak about reasons for disqualifications, etc. Following this, Racing will begin.

An announcer will call each heat of racers to the "on deck" area approximately one race ahead of the actual running. At that time you will be assigned a spot in the starting gate and given the appropriate colored collar for your terrier for that race. This is when you should make sure your dog is muzzled and that the muzzle is secure enough that it won't slip off. (For safety purposes, no open ended muzzles are allowed.) When you are told, you will load your terrier into the appropriate starting gate opening. You should then make your way toward the catch area of the race track.

After all terriers for a heat are loaded into the starting gate, the gate will be opened. The terriers will chase a lure down a fenced track approximately 75 yards in length. At the end of the track is an opening large enough (ideally) for one terrier to get through at a time. It opens into the catch area where six people are waiting to catch dogs as they emerge. This is also the area where the

judge stands. Placement is determined by order of entry into the catch area.

Following all qualifying and final races over flats, hurdles will be set up and the same procedures for qualifying will be followed. After qualifying and final races are run over hurdles the Championship run-offs will take place.

If there is only one heat of dogs, that race will be considered a final. If there are multiple heats in a category, the first through third place dogs will be brought back for a semi-final. First through third in each semi-final will then come back for a final. On rare occasion enough terriers are entered in a category that quarter-finals and semi-finals are necessary to determine the heat for the finals. First through sixth place ribbons are awarded for final heats only. The first place terrier in each final will advance to the Championship run-offs.

Two important things to remember in Racing are:

- 1) Terriers entering the catch area without a muzzle or with their muzzle off will be disqualified from that race.
- 2) Terriers fighting during a race will be disqualified from racing for the remainder of the day.

OTHER SANCTIONED EVENTS

As mentioned earlier, some trials will also offer Agility, Obedience and Rally-Obedience. For an overview of these events and for detail of classes offered in all Sanctioned events, please visit the JRTCA website. This information will be found in the Sanctioned Trial Section of www.terrier.com.

Sanctioned Trials Are Fun!

The most important thing about a Sanctioned Trial is that it gives you an opportunity to have fun with your terrier and to meet many people from all over the United States and abroad who are also terrier lovers. The atmosphere is friendly and welcoming. Many long-term friendships have developed amongst the Jack Russell "family" by attending sanctioned trials and meeting others in attendance.

Never feel intimidated because you are uncertain about what to do at a trial. Even those who have participated in sanctioned trials for many years attended their "first" trial at some point. If you have questions, feel free to ask anyone at the trial. We are all willing to give advice and answer questions or point you in the direction of those who can. With many things, experience is the best teacher and the only way to gain experience regarding sanctioned trials is to start attending and participating! We can almost certainly guarantee your first trial won't be your last.

