



WINNEMUCCA COW DOG TRIAL
FEBRUARY 28TH & 29TH, 2024 WINNEMUCCA, NV
GENERAL INFORMATION AND RULES
Listed and Sanctioned by National Cattledog Association
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE WINNEMUCCA EVENT CENTER
(775) 623-2220



GENERAL INFORMATION

The Winnemucca Cow Dog Trial is conducted in conjunction with the Winnemucca Ranch Hand Rodeo Weekend. In the spirit of the Ranch Hand Rodeo and the working ranchers of the Great Basin, this trial is tailored for the working cowboy and cowgirl. This trial gives these handlers and dogs a venue in which they can participate in a local trial that is inexpensive and enjoyable. The majority of the personnel that assist in this dog trial are community volunteers.

NUMBER OF ENTRIES AND RUNNING ORDER

Overall number of entries accepted will be limited. Each handler is limited to two entries for the OPEN class and one entry for the BRACE, NURSERY, INTERMEDIATE, RANCH, and GAMBLER classes. If any additional spots exist in the BRACE, NURSERY, INTERMEDIATE, or RANCH after January 13, 2024, an additional entry may be granted. Running order will be determined by a draw.

ENTRY FEES FOR PULLED DOGS

In the event that an entry is pulled prior to February 2, 2024 at 5:00 p.m., entry fees will be returned to the handler. Pulled dogs after February 2, 2024 will not receive a refund. However, the Winnemucca Cow Dog Trial may consider refunding a portion of the entry fee (up to 80%) with a letter of injury from a licensed veterinarian or medical doctor. The remaining amount will be retained for administrative fees.

COURSE

Rules cannot be changed once trial has started. This trial will not be a judged event, but will be a points and time trial. The handler is required to be on horseback. The dog that accumulates the most points and the fastest time will win the class. Contestants will enter the finals with a clean score. The course may change for the finals and/or the Gamblers' Scramble. The course will be explained during the Handlers' Meetings.

SANCTIONING

The 2024 Winnemucca Cow Dog Trial will be sanctioned with the National Cattledog Association and Mountain States Stockdog Association. Please refer to www.nationalcattledog.com for more information on NCA eligibility, and visit mountainstatesstockdog.com for further information.

JUDGE OR TRIAL COMMITTEE'S DECISION

The Judge or Trial Committee's decision will be final in all situations. The Judge or Trial Committee may disqualify a contestant or dog at any time due to any violation of rules.

HANDLERS' MEETINGS

A handlers' meetings will be held before each class in the Event Center arena. It is recommended that all contestants attend this meeting. The Judge and Trial Committee are not required to repeat instructions given for contestants arriving late. If the preceding class finishes early, we may proceed sooner than expected. Participants should be prepared. SCHEDULE MAY CHANGE.

BRACE CLASS- The handlers' meeting will be held tentatively at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, immediately preceding the class.

OPEN CLASS- The handlers' meeting will be held following the Brace Class on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, immediately preceding the class.

NURSERY CLASS- The handlers' meeting will be held following the Open Class on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, immediately preceding the class

INTERMEDIATE and RANCH CLASSES- The handlers' meeting for both classes will be held tentatively at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 29, 2024.

DRESS CODE- Long sleeved shirt with collar, boots, and hat with brim or bill must be worn while competing. The weather may change dress code, and the Trial Committee or Judge may make exceptions.

TRIAL OBSTACLES AND POINTS

1. **DRIVE/FETCH/PEN** The first challenge ***may*** include a drive, fetch, and/or pen. The handler will receive their cattle. When the last cow exits the gate, the time will start and the handler can initiate the drive or fetch. There is a 2-minute time limit that **WILL SERVE AS THE TIEBREAKER**. The course and scoring will be explained at the handlers' meeting.
2. **AN OBSTACLE** is considered complete when one or more of the cattle pass beyond the exit plane. Each obstacle must be completed in the order specified at the handlers' meeting. Points will be awarded on the number of cattle that pass through each obstacle. The handler cannot return to a previous obstacle if he/she has moved on to the next obstacle.
3. **DAYLIGHTING OF OBSTACLE** If any animal enters an obstacle from the wrong direction, it must completely daylight the obstacle and be put through again correctly. Points will be awarded for cattle that pass through the obstacle.
4. **TROTting RULE** Handlers may trot. **No cantering, loping, or galloping**. If handler does not trot their horse throughout the course and completes the course in the allotted time, the handler will receive an additional 5 points.
5. **IF TRAILER IS THE LAST OBSTACLE**, points will be given for each head standing in the trailer when time expires. If a trailer is used and it is not the last obstacle, points will be given for each head to exit the trailer.

OPEN CLASS DESIGNATION

Anyone can run in the OPEN CLASS, however once competing in the OPEN, a handler is ineligible to compete in the INTERMEDIATE or NOVICE classes. An OPEN CLASS dog cannot run in the INTERMEDIATE or NOVICE classes at this trial. Only one entry is permitted per dog in this class.

NURSERY CLASS DESIGNATION

A NURSERY CLASS dog must have been born after October 1, 2020 to be eligible to compete in the NURSERY CLASS. Only one entry is permitted per dog in this class. There will be an additional FUTURITY within the NURSERY CLASS for dogs 24 months or younger as of October 1, 2023. Any dog can compete in the NURSERY CLASS if it is within the eligible age.

INTERMEDIATE CLASS DESIGNATION

** An INTERMEDIATE CLASS handler is one that competes in sanctioned trials for points, but has not competed in the OPEN. An INTERMEDIATE CLASS dog cannot run in the OPEN or NOVICE classes at this trial. Only one entry is permitted per dog in this class.

RANCH/NOVICE CLASS DESIGNATION

** A RANCH or NOVICE CLASS handler is one that does not routinely compete in trials. The ranch class is intended for novice handlers to attempt running their dog in a trial setting. A RANCH/NOVICE CLASS dog cannot run in the OPEN or INTERMEDIATE classes at this trial. Only one entry is permitted per dog in this class.

BRACE CLASS

TWO DOGS WILL BE WORKED IN THE BRACE. No additional points will be awarded for the dogs' performance if the dogs work separately or together. However, this is a BRACE and the dogs are expected to work as a team. The handler should be able to sufficiently demonstrate this ability. There will be a warning issued if the Judge or Trial Committee feels that the dogs are not working together. The Judge or Trial Committee reserves the right to disqualify a handler for not working both dogs. Only one entry is permitted per dog in this class.

FINALS

There will be a final round in the OPEN, BRACE, NURSERY, INTERMEDIATE, and RANCH classes. The top five in the preliminary round for the OPEN and the top three BRACE, NURSERY, INTERMEDIATE, and RANCH will advance to the finals. The finals will be held following the last class on Thursday, February 29, 2024, or immediately following the Gamblers' Scramble. **Contestants will enter the finals with a clean score.**

CALCUTTA

There will be a Calcutta for the OPEN finals. The first-place winner will win 50% of the pot and the second-place winner will win 30% of the pot. 10% of the pot will go to the top handler/dog in the OPEN.

AWARDS & PRIZE MONIES

Prize monies will be awarded first through fifth place in the OPEN class and first through third place in the RANCH, INTERMEDIATE, NURSERY, and BRACE classes. A buckle will be awarded in the OPEN, BRACE, NURSERY, INTERMEDIATE, and RANCH classes.

TIEBREAKER

In placing each class, the score will come first and then the overall course completion time next. The fastest time on the drive/fetch/pen will be used as the final tie breaker in the event that one is needed.

CALLING OF TIME

If a handler calls time on his or herself, the points accumulated up until that point will be scored.

INJURED DOG

If a dog is injured, the Judge or Trial Committee may elect to leave it up to the handler whether to continue or pull their dog. The Judge or Trial Committee may stop the clock for a short time to allow the dog to regain their soundness or the Judge or Trial Committee may demand the dog be taken from the trial. An injured dog will not justify a re-run.

CATTLE

New cattle can be awarded to a contestant at the discretion of the Judge or Trial Committee.

MISHANDLING LIVESTOCK

No Objects may be carried in the hand or used in any way in assisting the contestant/dog with the run. The cattle must not be touched by the contestant during the run, to do so will result in a loss of points on that obstacle on each animal. Overworking the livestock may result in disqualification. This is at the discretion of the Judge or Trial Committee. Contestant is responsible for the replacement, at market value, of cattle or veterinarian services associated with injured livestock due to actions by them or their dog.

COLLARS

No training collars or devices will be allowed in the arena area immediately prior to or while running your dog.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Grievances will be heard ONLY AFTER the last dog runs in a class. Do not approach the announcers' stand during the class. The Trial Committee and Judge will have the final say in any grievances. Violation of this policy may result in disqualification. No video-taping will be conducted at the trial.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and will result in disqualification and a possible forfeiture of winnings from a previous class. This will include, but not be limited to, abusive conduct and language towards dogs, livestock, trial officials, contestants, or spectators. No refund on entries will be issued to disqualified handlers. The Judge or Trial Committee will make the final determination in cases of unsportsmanlike conduct.

DOG ON GROUNDS

All dogs must be under control at all times while on the grounds. If a contestant's dog enters the course while another dog is competing, the contestant who owns the dog may be disqualified from the entire trial. Any dog entered in the trial may not be used to handle or settle the livestock. If an unattended dog enters the arena while a handler is participating, the Judge or Trial Committee may issue the handler a re-run. **ONLY DOGS PARTICIPATING IN THE TRIAL ARE ALLOWED INSIDE THE WINNEMUCCA EVENT CENTER.**

The McAuliffe Gamblers' Scramble- February 29, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. time is TBD at event.

A tribute to Ambrose McAuliffe. This is pure fun in honor of our good friend, who contributed immensely to the stock dog industry. The Gamblers' Scramble will run just prior to the finals. Contestants must be present and ready in the main arena on Thursday, February 29, 2024 at TBD.

- Cards drawn to determine teams
- High pairs determine the order of go
- 2 Handlers, 2 Dogs, & 6 Head of Cattle
- Same rules as in other classes apply
- Both handlers and both dogs must approach every obstacle.
- There will be a warning issued if the Judge or Trial Committee feel that the dogs are not working together.
- Wildcard draw will shake things up!
- \$50 entry fee per person