



OVERVIEW
Small terriers compete to navigate man-made, underground tunnels and find the quarry at the end.

A Jack Russell terrier enters a tunnel in pursuit of live quarry.

Earthdog

Certain terrier breeds, called earthdogs, were bred to **go to ground** to hunt vermin living in underground tunnels. **Earthdog trials** (also called **den trials**) are competitions that test this working ability and instinct. In competition, dogs negotiate through turns in a 30' (9.1 m) man-made underground tunnel, using their scenting ability to find the **quarry** (such as a rat) at the end of the tunnel. The quarry is protected in a cage and not hurt. The dog must reach his quarry within about 30 seconds and must **work** the quarry (bark and scratch).

HOW TO GET STARTED

Construct a short, wood tunnel with inside dimensions of 9" by 9" (23 x 23 cm). Toss a treat barely into the entrance. Your dog should tentatively stick his head in the tunnel and grab the food. Keep repeating this process, tossing treats a little farther inside. If your dog goes all the way through the tunnel, give him a whole handful treats.

MEET SHIRLEY LAMEAR & EDEN EARTHDOG CLUB PRESIDENT



"I compete with Norfolk terriers (like Eden) and Jack Russell terriers. One hot day at a earthdog trial, my Jack Russell went in the tunnel but never appeared at the end. We opened the trap doors above the tunnels, but no dog. We couldn't figure it out. We finally found him waaay in the back, stretched out like a cat. Heck, that was the coolest place he had been all day!"

IDEAL DOGS FOR THIS SPORT:

Ideal dogs are dachshunds and small, short legged terrier breeds such as Jack Russell terrier, Norfolk terrier, border terrier, rat terrier, fox terrier, West Highland white terrier, Bedlington terrier, and miniature schnauzer.



OVERVIEW

Terriers sprint down a track, chasing after an artificial lure that ducks through a small hole at the finish line.

Jack Russell terriers leap over a hurdle in hot pursuit of a lure. Colored racing collars are used to identify the dogs and determine the order of finish. The dogs are muzzled for safety (theirs as well as the catchers).

Terrier Hurdle Racing

Dogs sprint down a 150'–200' (46–61 m) straight track chasing a **lure** (usually a piece of scented fur). The lure is attached to a string that is reeled in by a motor toward the finish line. The track has a starting box at one end and a stack of hay bales with a hole in the middle at the finish. The first dog to come through the hole in the hay bales is the winner. At the exit is a **catch pen** with catchers waiting to pick up the dogs. There are divisions according to age, height, and sometimes gender. There are two types of races: **flat** and **hurdles** (also known as **steeplechase**).

HOW TO GET STARTED

Tie a piece of fur (or a sock) to a 20' (6 m) string. Tease your dog with it and then run away, trailing the lure behind you. Let your dog catch the fur so it will be a satisfying experience for her.

MEET BONITA KNICKMEYER & KARMA RACING CHAMPION



"If your dog is in a big class, and does well, it can be a long day: quarter-finals, semi-finals, and then finals. I don't know about my dog, but I come home exhausted!"

IDEAL DOGS FOR THIS SPORT:

Terriers breeds and dachshunds are allowed to compete, including Jack Russell terrier, fox terrier, border terrier, cairn terrier, miniature schnauzer, Norfolk terrier, and more.



OVERVIEW

In this fun event, dogs race to swim across a pool chasing a lure pulled on a string.

Two Jack Russell terriers jump into the water chasing a lure at the Missouri Earthdogs annual muskrat races.

Muskrat Racing

Muskrats are medium-sized semi-aquatic rodents. In the past, dogs were used to swim after and catch the muskrats in an effort to control their population. Today's muskrat racing is a fun and humane sport, where dogs chase an artificial lure pulled by a string through a pool.

The dogs start on land and jump into the water after the lure. Dog catchers (often the owners) wait at the opposite end of the pool to help the dogs to the exit ramp. Designated doggy lifeguards are in the pool at all times. This is not a titling sport and is done merely for fun.

HOW TO GET STARTED

Dogs must be able to swim (see page 58). Improvised muskrat races are sometimes held at public swimming pools, at the end of summer right before the pools are drained.

MEET BETTINA WOOLBRIGHT & THOMAS

"Most of the dogs (like my Jack Russell terrier, Thomas) ran down the deck after the lure and didn't even realize there was water until they were in it! Some dogs put on the brakes right at the pool edge, and some still fell in from their momentum. Others just watched the lure float away and wouldn't jump in after it. Everybody had fun, and everybody got wet (owners too!)."



IDEAL DOGS FOR THIS ACTIVITY:

Jack Russell terrier events sometimes host muskrat races. It can also be found at dog fun day events. Dogs are sometimes classed by size.