

2022 DACOF Quick Notes!

In a little more than a week, DACOF 2022 will be in the history books! Each year we have many newbies experiencing their first DACOF. As such, we thought it would be helpful to send out some brief information regarding the weekend. But even if you're an "old hand" at DACOF, there is always new and updated information, so we ask that everyone please read these notes!!! If you need more information, most questions can be answered by visiting the DACOF.com web site ("Send a Team" tab), or the DACOF Facebook Page.

Agility Gate

Agility Gate is new for DACOF 2022. Most of us have probably already used Agility Gate at another Trial and the application is probably already on your Smartphone. For those who have not used Agility Gate, it is an easy-to-use Smartphone Application that allows everyone using the application to "check-in" their dogs, mark "conflicts" and see the current "real-time" running order of each ring, all from the convenience of looking at your smartphone. If you have not already downloaded the Agility Gate application to your Smart Phone, please do so **BEFORE** the event. If you already have Agility Gate on your smartphone, it is probably good to update the application (if you have not already done so recently). **Lastly, please remember to "check-in" your dogs on the Agility Gate application first thing in the morning Saturday and Sunday!**

Leg Lifting / Marking on Ring Corners, Walls, Support Columns, Garbage Cans, Etc.

There was a lot of "Leg Lifting" during DACOF 2019, with urinating on walls, and all sorts of things our dogs should not have been marking on! It seems that after the first dog commits an offense, several others follow suit. **It is NOT ACCEPTABLE** for our dogs to be marking or relieving themselves on the arena walls, ring corners or ring fencing, brick columns outside the lobby doors, garbage cans, elevators, etc. If your dog happens to mark by mistake, please clean it up! **Handlers allowing (or as occurred several times in 2019, encouraging) their dogs to relieve themselves in any of these areas may be subject to disciplinary action as if their dog eliminated inside a ring and may receive a zero score on a run.** Please make every effort to potty our dogs in the designated areas of grass OUTSIDE the arena building! **AND PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER OUR DOGS!!!**

Please clean up after our dogs!

This usually goes without saying but we would like to ask everyone to please clean up after our dogs. **ESPECIALLY** at the hotels!!! Our Housing Committee Chairperson, Tamara Aull, works hard to secure lodging for our Members. ALL our hotels are new for DACOF this year. We are generally very good about cleaning up after our dogs, but Tamara had to address concerns of Hotel Management while she was trying to acquire housing for us this year. So, we ask everyone again to please carry an extra poop bag (or three) so we might be able to help someone out who needs one. **Let's all strive to be extra good stewards for the dog community and clean up after our dogs!**

Center Aisle / Tight Quarters:

We are all aware that squeezing three agility rings onto the surface at Silver Spurs creates "Close Quarters" and tight spacing in the arena. Especially the center aisle! We ask everyone to please keep the center aisle open as much as possible, and we ask that no treats be left on the tables around the rings. DACOF is a "Team" event/environment so there may be many "first-time" dogs and handlers participating. DACOF is a veritable "Three Ring Circus" with constant activity! It is very easy to become distracted and lose awareness of our dogs. We ask everyone to please remain cognizant of their dog and its spacing between other dogs. Some dogs may require extra space, and they may be wearing a bandana to signify this need. Additionally, "flexi-leashes" are prohibited inside the arena and should not be used anywhere around the arena. If we all try to remain aware of our surroundings, we can help avoid the possible conflicts that can occur in such tight quarters. Lastly, we should probably not be watching and cheering-on our friends from the center aisle. There are much better vantage points to watch from, and it will help cut down on the congestion!

Concessions Stand:

The Concessions Stand **WILL NOT** be open at all on Friday and does not open until **10:00am** on Saturday and Sunday. So please bring drinks/snacks for those times, to be **consumed discreetly**. The concession area will be open Saturday and Sunday from 10am to approximately 4pm. They will be offering regular concession fare but are also going to having their “signature salads” available as well.

Outside Food:

We NEED to be discreet with our Outside Food!!!

We cannot emphasize this point strongly enough! Our agreement with Silver Spurs allows us to bring in small amounts of personal food items in small personal coolers! Think items like apples, bananas, yogurt, cheese sticks, etc. At the 2019 Event, several Teams ordered Pizza delivery or brought in fast food for their entire Team(s) to the Saturday Evening Annual Meeting/Awards Ceremony. Pizza boxes were passed around during the awards ceremony (which was not very discreet!) and then sadly, making things worse, pizza boxes, bags of fast-food garbage and drink containers were left behind in the stands for the Silver Spurs custodians to clean up. Thankfully, several DACOF Members who were last to leave, collected most of the garbage but the Pizza Boxes did not fit in the trash receptacles and had to be stacked on top of the garbage cans. We received stern admonishments from Silver Spurs regarding the Pizza being passed around, all the garbage left behind, and that we pushed the boundaries of the “Outside Food” agreement too far in 2019. Profuse apologies and sincere assurances that it wouldn’t happen again this year allowed us to keep our “Outside Food Privileges” for 2022 with a warning that they will be monitoring the outside food closely this year. We understand Saturday is a very L-O-N-G day and that Teams would like to have dinner together but going out for a Team Dinner after the awards ceremony would keep most of us awake too late, so we won’t forbid Teams from bringing in outside food for dinner. However, what we respectfully request from Teams that may bring in “Outside Food” Saturday evening (or at any time during the three-day event) is:

- 1) Bring the food in **DISCREETLY!** The Papa John’s delivery person bringing pizzas inside the arena to your crating area IS NOT discreet!!! Meet the delivery person OUTSIDE the arena, hide the food underneath dog blankets or some other covering, and inconspicuously bring the food to your crating area.
- 2) Distribute and eat the food as invisibly as possible. (No buffets or setting out all the food)
- 3) PLEASE bring all “Outside Food” garbage out of the building with you when you leave. Pizza Boxes in the stands or on top of garbage cans, or Fast-Food bags/cups overflowing from the garbage cans are **RED FLAGS** to the staff at Silver Spurs that we are bringing in significant amounts of “Outside Food.”

Please remember, our agreement with Silver Spurs allows us to bring in small amounts of personal food items in **SMALL PERSONAL COOLERS ONLY!** Items like apples, bananas, yogurt, cheese sticks, etc. **If bringing in any other types of Outside Food, it should be hidden from plain sight, and the resulting garbage should NOT be left behind for the Silver Spurs staff (custodian or others) to find.**

Bring a Sweater and/or Sweatshirt and/or Scarf:

The Silver Spurs Arena is airconditioned and some may find that it is quite cool inside the arena. Please be prepared by having an extra layer of clothing (or two)... just in case!

Safeguard all valuables:

Please be sure to safeguard your valuables while inside the Silver Spurs Arena. The agility community in general, and the DACOF Family especially, is a very trusting and trustworthy group! Therefore, it is easy for us to let our guard down when it comes to protecting our valuables. We would like to remind everyone that there will be outside workers and there may be other outside visitors moving through the Silver Spurs Arena. Unfortunately, through the years, cell phones and other valuables have gone missing. We would like to remind everyone to please remain vigilant protecting our valuables.

Personal Photography / Video:

Personal Cameras (excluding cell phones) will NOT be allowed on the arena floor during the competition on Saturday or Sunday. Additionally, Professional, “prosumer” or professional-like cameras (any camera with a detachable lens) will not be allowed for taking pictures or video from the seating areas during competition. Anyone seen with a camera on the arena floor, or with a professional-like camera in the stands will be asked to please leave the arena. However, Members will be permitted to freely take pictures/video in the arena during the practice run-thru’s on Friday, with whatever photography/video equipment they may have.

But please remember, Flash photography is NEVER allowed!

Run Thrus and Crating on Friday: Friday will again be the day most people arrive at DACOF to setup and catch a practice run. Joanne Killeen and her team will start to layout the crating area at 8am. CRATING ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE POSTED AFTER JOANNE AND HER TEAM ARE FINISHED!!! Please do not move any crates or personal items into crating areas until after Joanne has posted the crating assignments!!! (Thanks Joanne Killeen and the Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg!)

We will also start building the rings and courses at 8am.

Hint! Arrive at 8am to help! Regarding run-thrus; we will start them as soon as the rings are built. This is usually around 10am. We will have all 3 rings running AS LONG AS WE HAVE VOLUNTEERS TO STAFF THEM! Volunteers will earn a free run thru for each hour worked.

(Thank You Rhonda Koeske, Betsy Walton and Jill Potter!)

!!! Run thrus will end at 4pm !!!

However, ticket sales for run thrus will end by 3pm.

Being in possession of a Run-Thru Ticket may not guarantee you a turn!!!

Please make sure to get your run in before 4:00pm!

We may request handlers move to a different ring as time runs out near 4pm.

An online worker sign-up sheet is available at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054aaea62fa75-2022>

Packets and Course Maps: Team packets may be picked up on Friday afternoon between 3:00pm – 5:00pm and on Saturday and Sunday morning. Course maps for Saturday may be picked up Saturday morning from 6:40 – 7:15am and Sunday’s courses can be picked up during the same time period Sunday Morning. (Thanks Cindy Little and DTCT!) Please send one person to pick up your team’s packet and course maps. They will not be given out individually!

Outside Noisemakers: DACOF is proud of the team spirit that makes this competition exciting!

However, in the past, comments in our post competition survey complained about outside noisemakers that disturbed dogs running in the rings. In the spirit of consideration for our fellow dog/handler teams, we ask that no outside noisemakers be used while dogs are running. And in the same spirit, please be considerate of our fellow competitors at all times!

Awards Ceremonies: As we did last year, we will have the awards for Saturday’s competition on Saturday along with the Annual Meeting and the presentation of the Randy Reed Memorial Award. A Cash Bar will be available for those who may want to enjoy an adult beverage or soft drink. This year we will also have some pretzels, potato chips with dip, and vegetable platter for light snacking. So, bring the team and cheer on our Members, then gather with all your friends to celebrate! After the competition ends on Sunday, the awards will begin only after all the equipment trailers have been loaded. The more people we have helping with ring breakdown and trailer loading, the sooner we can start the Awards Ceremony.

Raffle: The DACOF raffle is famous for the AWESOME “baskets” that each team brings to help ensure DACOF can continue financially. Please remember that each team, not each organization, is required to bring a basket for the raffle. When completing Team Raffle Baskets, please attach an **ITEMIZED LISTING** of items in the Basket so everyone will be able to know what wonderful things are included in the baskets! A team without a basket is a team without a score – so please make sure that the Raffle table checks in your baskets (thank you Lisa Fortschneider, Michael Fortschneider and Shenanigans!) Baskets will be accepted on Friday from 2:00pm – 5:00pm and on Saturday morning through 9am. Tickets will go on sale after that point. Ticket sales will end approximately 11:00am on Sunday and the numbers will be drawn some time after noon. An announcement will be made after the numbers have been drawn.

ONLY WINNERS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE RAFFLE AREA AFTER TICKET SALES CLOSE!!! Any baskets that have not been picked up by the beginning of the awards ceremony will be re-raffled at that time so keep your tickets!

DACOF CATCH: CATCH stands for Crating Area Team Challenge. Our esteemed judges will do a walk-thru of your crating areas on Sunday morning while you are walking-thru their courses! Sound may be used during the CATCH Judging. Please be considerate of your neighbors though! Four teams (2 winners and 2 runners-up based on team size) will win entry discounts to DACOF 2023! **Please remember, no tape on the walls or arena surfaces and if a Team’s decorations include a pop-up tent, regular tent, covering or enclosure, a fire extinguisher must be provided, present and visible at all times!**

Outstanding Sportsmanship Award: During the event weekend, if you see a competitor or worker do something “above and beyond” to show outstanding sportsmanship, we would like you to nominate them for the Outstanding Sportsmanship Award! Nominations cannot be made for someone on your own Team and current Board Members are not eligible to be nominated. This is your opportunity to help recognize someone [on another Team](#) for their Outstanding Sportsmanship.

Written Briefings: Please be on the lookout for the DACOF Updates email blasts and check the DACOF Facebook Page, and the dacof.com web page for the current briefings on the events offered at DACOF. A **BIG THANKS** to [Tracy Hanna](#) who compiles these each year. These briefings explain the games and their scoring. Please share these with your whole team.

Golf Cart Parking: A few of us have opted to rent Golf Carts for the weekend while some may be bringing our own from home. Please **DO NOT** park under the entryways. In previous years the carts made things very crowded trying to get dogs and people in and out of the arena.

Thanks everyone! See you all VERY soon!

Your DACOF 2022 Board of Directors