



Basenji Club of America, Inc.

Dog Shows in the Covid-19 era

Covid-19 has created a dilemma for many sporting events, including Dog Shows. How to conduct a Dog Show while using Covid-19 best management practices (BMP) is still evolving. Fortunately, the Basenji Club of America can evaluate other All-Breed, National, and local specialties shows prior to our National.

Covid-19 will change the sport of dog shows for the foreseeable future. As the science of Covid-19 evolves, so must dog shows. A vaccine may be available in the future, though what immunity and duration it will provide is uncertain. This pandemic is not unique, there will be others. Dog shows must adapt to address contagions, both human and canine.

The Basenji Club of America has a responsibility to the sport of dog shows. It will take the concerted effort of the AKC, and its member clubs, to address the Covid-19 dilemma.

The Basenji Club of America, Inc. bylaws state:

SECTION 2. The objects of the Club shall be:

(e) To conduct sanctioned matches, specialty shows, and other performance events and any other events for which the club is eligible under the Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club.

Covid-19 - General

- Everyone who chooses to attend the National must determine their Covid-19 risks. The risk to themselves, family, co-workers, and neighbors. Individuals who determine their risk is high should stay home, and continue to practice isolation, self-quarantine as needed to protect themselves, family, co-workers, and neighbors. BCOA does not support attendance of those who determine their risk as high, where the personal protection equipment (PPE), social distancing, and Covid-19 best management practices (BMP) being utilized at this show are insufficient to mitigate that risk. This is an individual's choice the BCOA cannot assess.
- Everyone who chooses to attend the National must abide by their state, county, and local jurisdiction laws, especially those related to Covid-19. You are expected to self-quarantine should those conditions exist at the time, or in the future. Entering the National does have a risk that the laws and conditions may change prior to or during your attendance.
- Everyone who chooses to attend the National must exercise Covid-19 best management practices, as established by location, prior to, during, and after the National. Engaging in risky activities prior to, during, and after the National is unacceptable, and may possibly be

determined as prejudicial to the BCOA, the breed, and the sport of dog shows. BCOA and AKC rules and bylaws apply.

Covid-19 - Best Management Practices (BMP)

There is a significant amount of information to review. Links to websites are being provided below. Everyone who is considering attending the National has a responsibility to determine the risks to themselves, family, co-workers, and neighbors. If you do not have internet access, please request the assistance of others who do. The information is constantly changing and cannot be summarized.

- Please review the State of Missouri Show Me Strong Recovery plan, <https://showmestrong.mo.gov/> and the Missouri Covid-19 response plan, <https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/>
- The proposed National is being held in Eureka, MO, Saint Louis County. Please review the Saint Louis County, Covid-19 information page, <https://stlcorona.com/> Saint Louis County, Covid-19 charting can be viewed at <https://stlcorona.com/resources/covid-19-statistics1/> Current statistic for the Eureka area (63025 zip code) is 175 Covid-19 positive per 100,000 persons.
- Please review your own state, county, and local municipality Covid-19 response. Each area is unique, responses vary greatly, depending on occurrence and protection needs.
- Please review the CDC COVID-19 information site, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>, it provides guidelines for risk assessment and travel.
- Please review the AKC COVID-19 Press Center updates. <https://www.akc.org/press-center/covid-19-updates-from-the-american-kennel-club/>
- AKC Conformation - Suggested Best Practices for the Well-Being of Dog Sport Participants - <https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn-origin-etr.akc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/22171948/Conformation-Suggested-Best-Practices-072220.pdf>
- AKC Obedience & Rally - Suggested Best Practices for the Well-Being of Dog Sport Participants - <https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn-origin-etr.akc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/12165904/Obedience-and-Rally-Suggested-Best-Practices.pdf>
- **Exhibitors and BCOA guests will be required to wear an appropriate face covering, i.e. mask, in all public spaces.** This includes the common areas of the hotel, event areas, or any other area where gathering can occur. Only exception will be designated dining areas, when isolated in outdoor open spaces, or when isolated in private indoor spaces.
- **Exhibitors and BCOA guests will be required to maintain 6-foot social distancing in all public spaces and in private spaces when appropriate.** This includes the common areas of the hotel, event areas, or any other area where gathering can occur. Only exception will be for family or groups who arrive together. This does not mean you cannot socialize, you just need to wear a mask, and maintain 6-foot separation. BCOA has specifically chosen to hold an outdoor event and utilize areas large enough to provide for 6-foot social distancing.
- **Sanitization is everyone's responsibility.** Hand washing often is strongly encouraged. All individuals in attendance are encouraged to carry their own personal supply of hand sanitizer

for situations where hand washing is not readily available. Individuals are encouraged to bring sanitizing wipes and use such to keep high contact areas sanitized and use the upmost care to avoid handling objects and surfaces when possible. This includes dogs which you do not own or are not responsible for. Bring your own pen, and other objects, to avoid sharing. In addition to an individual's sanitization responsibilities, BCOA will provide additional hand sanitizer locations, sanitizing wipes, and assign sanitizing responsibilities to all show committee members.

- **All attending BCOA members are responsible for enforcement of Covid-19 Best Management Practices.** Members are encouraged to give friendly reminders to guests and other BCOA members, as it easy to lapse in the practices. BCOA members shall report individuals who blatantly disregard Covid-19 Best Management Practices to the Show Committee for immediate action. These Covid-19 Best Management Practices will be published in the premium. Individuals who blatantly disregard Covid-19 Best Management Practices will be subject to the BCOA and AKC rules and bylaws. Such conduct may be determined as prejudicial to the BCOA, the breed, and the sport of dog shows, resulting in removal from the show, possible AKC, and BCOA suspension. Stay home if you disagree with the Covid-19 Best Management Practices being imposed.

Venue

Regrettably, the preferred venue, Purina Farms has been closed for the remainder of 2020. This was a corporate decision, where financial consideration was weighed in addition to issues with Covid-19. It was determined that the Holiday Inn Saint Louis West at Six Flags, approximately 10 miles from Purina Farms, would be suitable for a National. Three prior BCOA Nationals have been held at the facility, along with the 2017 Basenji Top Twenty. The facility is dog and dog show friendly and has been a popular hotel for those attending events at Purina Farms. Ground level rooms have direct access to the lawns and courtyards. BCOA has a very limited agreement with Holiday Inn Saint Louis West at Six Flags: pet policy has been adjusted to a \$25 fee per your stay, for up to 4 pets per room.

Unfortunately, loss of the Purina Farms Herding field for Lure Coursing and Racing could not be replaced. Lure Coursing and Racing have been cancelled.

Please visit the hotel's website for additional information regarding the facility and its amenities.

<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/eureka/eerek/hoteldetail>

Holiday Inn is an IHG facility. Please review Covid-19 Response,

<https://www.ihg.com/content/us/en/customer-care/travel-advisory>

And IHG Way of Clean, <https://www.ihg.com/content/us/en/customer-care/clean-promise>

Members and guest are free to reserve accommodations at any of the motels/hotels in the area.

As with many businesses in the service industry, they, too, are having to adapt. BCOA, by holding the National at the facility supports the local community, jobs, and industry. **It is expected that attending BCOA members and their guests follow all the facility's policies and posted notices.**

The location, Purina Farms, Pacific – Grey Summit , MO was chosen due to the low incidence of Covid-19. While moving it to the Holiday Inn, 10 miles away, the incidence of Covid-19 in this portion Saint Louis County remains reasonably controlled. **BCOA expects its members and guests to protect the community with utmost care.**

Schedule

The tentative schedule with judges is below; We will endeavor to keep you all informed as decisions are finalized. Please be aware this is subject to change as things change with the pandemic.

Sunday Oct 18:

National Rally/Obedience Trials (PM) judge Jim Comunale

Monday Oct 19:

African Stock Exhibition (AM); judge Pat Marshall

Sweepstakes (AM); judge: Kathy Jones

Regional Specialty - Rally/Obedience Trials (PM) judge Jim Comunale

Tuesday Oct 20:

Conformation - class dogs and bitches judge - Dana Cline

Wednesday Oct 21:

Conformation - BOB and non-regular classes judge Dane Cline

Thursday Oct 22:

Regional Specialty - Conformation judge Clair Wisch Abraham

Ring – Show Grounds

The ring will be setup in a dedicated lawn, which was created for dog shows. It will be sized and arranged to meet AKC Conformation - Suggested Best Practices for the Well-Being of Dog Sport Participants.

An additional 42-inch plus height safety fence will be installed 6 to 10 feet outside of the show ring.

Such as Tenax Guardian Warning Barrier,

<https://www.tenaxus.com/en/professional/construction/safety-fence-warning-barrier/guardian-safety-fence-barrrier/>

The safety barrier will establish a 6-foot social distance from the ring perimeter. Only the judge, steward, and exhibitors/dogs being judged will be permitted in the ring area within the safety barrier, unless otherwise authorized by the show chairman.

The safety barrier will also help contain any dog performing off leash events. Opening will be manned and secured in the event of a dog leaving the ring. Exhibitors are expected to evaluate their dog's

safety. The facility is close to major roads, including an interstate / highway interchange. The safety barrier will be the only fencing provided to secure the ring area.

A 20-foot x 40-foot tent will be utilized for the ring, judge, steward, and for active exhibitors only. BCOA members and guest are encouraged to setup their own personal shade and rain protection. Such setups must be 10 feet from the safety barrier and spaced at least 6 feet apart, to maintain social distancing. BCOA members and guests are encouraged to bring their own personal chairs, as none will be provided by the club, with the exception of chairs dedicated and labeled for show personal.

Dining

To avoid large gatherings, formal dinners and banquets have been cancelled. The Holiday Inn has a restaurant and bar. In accordance with the St. Louis County Health Department in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, restaurants and bars have capacity restrictions. BCOA members and guests are expected to abide by the restrictions and policies established.

There are several other dining opportunities in the area, including a McDonalds takeout across the street. BCOA is also planning to make arrangements for box lunches and use of food trucks to provide socially responsible dining. Gathering, where 6-foot social distancing cannot be maintained is to be avoided. Attending BCOA members are expected to give friendly reminders to social distance under all situations.

Closing

While the Covid-19 Best Management Practices being imposed may seem to stifle the socialization we all find as a primary reason to attend a National, we can adapt. This adaption is expected in all aspects of society. It will be those who choose to adapt who will provide opportunities.