



## New to Lure Coursing?

Lure coursing is a sport for dogs that involves chasing a mechanically operated lure. In lure coursing, dogs chase an artificial lure across a field, following a pattern. The fields may be fenced or not.

Let your dog watch the lure coursing first. Do they track the lure with their eyes? If they track the lure and get excited then they will probably want to run but there are no guarantees that they will. If they are tracking the dogs running instead of the lure, let them watch a little longer to see if they follow the lure.

You may need a helper if you have more than one dog. When the dogs are excited about the lure it is hard to hold more than one. **Give other dogs lots of space**, sometimes they will not be happy if another dog is trying to get “their” lure. Some dogs are sensitive about other dogs barking, if yours is then put them in the car between runs.

Warm up your dog by walking or running them around for 10 or more minutes prior to their run. You may want to stretch them a bit after they are warmed up. Go out of sight of the lure coursing area to do this. We have a class called Foundations for Agility & Dog Sports where we teach dog stretches and strengthening for dog sports. If you are interested visit our website for more information.

Keep track of when it is your turn and be ready to go when you are called. We will call the name on your ticket to tell you that you are “on deck”. It will help to watch what the other people are doing so that you will know what to do when it is your turn. Make sure that any metal collars (choke or prong), long tags, harnesses or clothing are removed before you run your dogs. These items tend to inhibit running by hitting the dog or hampering free movement.

Step into the “On Deck” area when the dog before you is running. When the dog before yours is back on a leash and exiting the field you may step into the starting area on the field. Carefully step over the lure string into the middle of the field and remove your dogs leash while holding onto them. You may want to hold both hands in front of your dog’s chest so they do not choke on their collar.

Tell the lure operator when you are ready. When the lure starts, let go of your dog. You may want to run around the field with your dog if they are unsure about what to do or if they have never run on a field with dogs barking nearby. You can also stand in the middle of the field to give them more confidence. **Never touch the string! It can rope burn your hands.**

When your dog completes the course, you will need to stand ready to get hold of them as they come in. If your dog does not have a recall, everyone will be waiting while you try to catch your dog. If you would like to work on a recall (Come), we offer classes, workshops and private lessons on “Reliable Recalls”. Check our website for the calendar.

If you bought several tickets, you will need to return to your car and get your dog some water and shade if your dog is hot. Wait for your next turn or purchase more tickets if you want to run again.

Check our online class calendar at [www.livingwithdogs.us](http://www.livingwithdogs.us) for dates, times and locations of Lure Coursing.