

## Performance Dogs in Action Lure Coursing

For a moment imagine you are a dog, held back by your handler holding your collar, watching three white objects moving sporadically about 15 feet away in the grass. Dogs nearby are barking excitedly but you are focused on the white animal like objects and pulling against your leash to investigate these strange animal like creatures.

Suddenly to the loud cry of "Tally Ho" your collar is suddenly released and you lurch forward as the three white animals bolt away down the field. Your momentum carries you forward and in two strides you are at full speed after these strange white creatures that race forward zig zagging across the field. Just as you get close they change direction and you have to change direction and increase your speed to catch up. As you hit top speed you are oblivious to everything but the strange white creatures that manage to stay just out of reach.

As your breathing becomes strained the white creatures dart under a fence and as you stop for the fence your handler slips your collar back on. As you stand there panting you know that next time you will catch these strange white critters and they will be yours.

On March 25, 2012 at 10:00 AM if the weather cooperates, Performance Dogs in Action will begin offering "Lure Coursing" and the first day will be for small dogs. Art Baird will be in charge of the "Lure Coursing" and will be setting up and running the course. The course will be such that it will begin and end at the coursing machine. The machine can reverse the course almost instantly and can move the lures at over 50 miles per hour. Whippets have been clocked at over 50 mph. The idea to begin with is to set this up as a laid back fun type event. Where it will end up is unknown at this time.

Although Lure Coursing is exhilarating for the dog it is also physically very stressful and in spite of all precautions dogs can be injured. Pads can be torn loose, legs broken, etc. To run a course, the dog must be over one year old and healthy.

Dogs and children must be kept under control at all times. Excited dogs can sometimes become aggressive dogs and accidents can happen very quickly.

The internet has several sites about lure coursing.