



Dock Diving™ FAQ's

What is DockDogs®? Also known as dock jumping, the sport of dock diving™ is a rapidly growing sport in the United States. Most competitions are held in a regulation 40 foot dock diving™ pool, while some competitions are in a natural body of water.

What are the requirements for a dog to be eligible to enter an event? Any breed is welcome! The dog must be at least six months old and current on all vaccinations. You do not have to wait until your dog is an accomplished jumper.

How do I know if my dog will be good at the sport? Dogs that excel the most in the sport have two qualities: (1) They love to chase a toy, and (2) they love water; but any dog can do this sport! Dogs that don't love water can be taught with patience and time, please see the Welcome Tent for more information.

Can anyone be a handler? Handlers must be at least 7 years of age. 'Youth handlers' are classified as those ranging in age from 7-15 years old. Any Youth Handler in competition must be able to control the competing dog at all times. To ensure the youth handler has full control of their dog it is recommended that they have a parent/guardian with them while in line or while going to and from the dock.

Who is allowed on the dock? Only the handler and the competing dog will be allowed on the dock during competition.

How do I register for an event? You can pre-register online (recommended) prior to the event to ensure your spot in the waves you choose. If waves are not full you will have the opportunity to register on-site at the Registration Desk.

Can I practice on the dock? If you register for one or more waves you will receive a competition wristband which entitles you to utilize the open dock practice times. Heart of Texas DockDogs® will have practice coaches available to help you and answer any questions.

How much practice time is allowed? The amount of practice time depends on how full the waves are. Often the practice lines are long, so you might only get one or two times on the dock during a practice session. On average practice times will be about 2 minutes per team.

Are there awards? Yes! After every wave each dog will be awarded a ribbon based on their placement within the wave they competed in, please see the registration desk to pick up your ribbon. If you participated in Speed Retrieve™ or Big Air™ don't forget to check the registration desk at the conclusion of all the waves to see if your dog qualified to compete in one of the final rounds. Finals are held on the last day of competition.

What is a lap dog? A Lap Dog is one that measures 17" or shorter from the top point of the shoulder (withers) down to the ground while standing in its "natural" stance.

Can my dog wear a life vest? YES! Dog vests and floatation devices are permitted.

Is there any reason my dog cannot participate in an event? Dogs in heat, dogs who have severe aggressive tendencies or an injured or ill dog will be asked to cease competition. Examples of injury shall include visible limping, bandages, stitches, and open wounds (a "hot spot" is not considered an open wound).

What are the events of DockDogs®? There are three competitions within a DockDog® event. You can compete in any or all of them.

Big Air® - Measuring distance
Speed Retrieve™ - Measuring speed
Extreme Vertical™ - Measuring height

Big Air® – As the most popular of the competitions, this is what most people think of when they hear the term “dock diving™” and is based on distance. In Big Air®, the dog runs down the dock and jumps out for a toy or object that has been thrown into or out over the water. The distance measurement is taken at the point where the base of the dog's tail (where it meets the body) hits the water. With 90 seconds to execute each jump, the team is given two jumps in each wave with the longer of the jumps being their official score for that wave.

Speed Retrieve™ – DockDogs® Speed Retrieve™ scoring is based on time. The dog will run, jump from the end of the dock into the water and swim towards the end of the pool to retrieve the object. When the dog grabs the object and pulls it down, the timer stops. The team with the fastest time wins. A DockDogs® Flappy is used as the retrieving object. If the dog begins his run and crosses the 20 ft. line before the signal is given, it is considered a false start and the run does not count. The handler has 60 seconds to execute the run. Each team is given two runs in each heat with the faster of the two runs being the official score for that heat.

Extreme Vertical™ – DockDogs® Extreme Vertical™ scoring is based on height. The dog will jump from the end of the dock and grab an object from an extender suspended over the pool. The Team that achieves the highest height wins. A DockDogs® Flappy is suspended from an extender 8 feet out from the dock and at heights ranging from 4'6" up to as high as a dog can jump. (The current record is over 8 ft.) The Flappy is moved up in increments as the participating dogs execute the jumps.

What are the divisions within each event?

Big Air® Divisions:

Novice	0"1" – 9"11"
Junior	10"0" - 14"11"
Senior	15"0" - 19"11"
Master	20"0" - 22"11"
Elite	23"0" - 24"11"
Super Elite	25" and above

Speed Retrieve™ Divisions:

Sonic	< 5.999 seconds
Nitro	6.000 – 6.999 seconds
Turbo	7.000 – 7.999 seconds
Express	> 8.000 seconds

Extreme Vertical™ Divisions:

Cadet	Up to 5"11"
Top Gun	6"0" to 6"11"
High Flyer	7"0" and above

What are the basic rules at a DockDogs® event?

1. Keep your dog on a 4ft leash or shorter at all times (except on the dock) or in a crate.
2. Your retrieving object must float, cannot be edible, alive or ever been alive.
3. Only one handler on the dock at a time.
4. No training collars are allowed on the dock, flat collars ONLY.
5. Do not push your dog into the water or jump into the water yourself.
6. Always clean up after your pet!

1 RULE: Have FUN with your dog!