

August 18, 2005

NAFA Announces the Futurity Class – August 18, 2005

The Board of Directors of the North American Flyball Association met by teleconference to finalize the development of a new class of flyball, that targets the upcoming flyball dog and handler. Following are the highlights of that meeting. Rules will be available very soon.

NAFA Futurity Class

The training and development of any Flyball dog takes many months and, in fact, our rules prohibit the racing of any dog before it is a year of age. Many dogs continue to train well past their first birthday before their initial racing career.

In an effort to foster the development of racing in young dogs, NAFA is pleased to announce the addition of a new "test" that can occur at NAFA sanctioned events. The class will be known as the *"NAFA Futurity Class"*.

Using a simple, flat recall, puppies and dogs will perform the recall over 51 feet without hurdles. The intent is to give the young dogs an opportunity to "feel" the floor at a tournament without the stress of jumping, competition and using a box. A valid NAFA CRN must be provided at time of entry and owner and dog information will be collected. Classes will be for pups up to 4 to 6 months, 6 to 9 months, 9 to 12 months and for dogs over a year of age. Entrants will be awarded a Pass or Fail based on their ability to perform the recall.

A separate testing area will be used for the class to avoid any conflict with the existing tournament racing lanes.

Entry fees will be a token amount and are at the host club's discretion. NAFA will not impose any fees for this class, but will record and publish the results. We hope that all breeds and tournament hosts will embrace what should become an exciting new offering at NAFA events.

Please address any questions relating to the above press release directly to Glenn Hamilton, NAFA Secretary at flyball@flyball.org