

# *Fast CAT Experience 2023*

By Diane Brewer

Gambit and I are still chasing lures with the Jackson Tennessee Dog Fanciers Association. This past year I learned a couple of new things that I'd like to share. First, as we know dogs are color blind, so I learned to not wear clothing that blends with the environment. I wore green pants and a yellow shirt to one event and I am certain we lost time as I jumped up and down and yelling, "Gambit! Get it!" simply because I blended in with the beautiful green lawn. Gambit looked around confused and was unsure of where I was for several seconds. It was also a windy day, and no one could hear me as I yelled at the top of my voice. Second, the dog must start chasing the lure from a dead stand still. This poses a problem for Gambit because I am pretty sure the movement of the lure was part of what got his attention when we first began. It took several runs before



I realized that he was losing time at the starting gate because the lure can no longer start until the dog crosses the starting line and begins the chase. In the year ahead, I will be working on wearing clothing he can see and trying to get him to start a bit faster. On occasion Gambit also slows down and gazes at the time keepers especially if one is on a ladder above watching the course. He has stopped and barked at them too. I haven't taken Gambit to a Fast CAT event outside of the JTDFFA events which are held twice a year in the Jackson Tennessee area. I realize I will eventually have to try new courses and other venues if I want to get a FCAT title on Gambit. Currently, I am working on Gambit's DCAT title.

I have tried a couple of my other dogs on the course during the Fun Matches thinking that all bloodhounds will be like Gambit and love running full out chasing a plastic bag. I was wrong about that. Sissie did eventually slowly follow the lure kind of like a crouching tiger if they kept it in front of her nose. Star stayed with Jimmy sniffing every inch of the starting gate in true bloodhound fashion. So, we tried a different strategy with Star. Jimmy decided I should release her, and he catch her. That did not work so well

either. She looked at me as if to say, "Okay, what are we doing exactly? What do you want me to sniff?" Jimmy found out that he is not comfortable being a cheerleader yelling, "get it." I found out that I don't know where the starting line is, and I kept triggering the timer by stepping over it. I decided to run with Star to show her what I wanted her to do. She didn't know why we were running but she was happy to do it with me. I ran it twice with Star and my peers yelled, "Diane, I think you ran it best the second time!" For the record the dog must run the course alone unless it is a fun match. So, for now, Gambit appears to be my one and only "FAST CAT dog." One thing the more serious competitors told me is that they practice with their dogs at home using lures to get the dogs excited about chasing them. They start them out as puppies training them to chase a lure. Obviously, I haven't done that, and should practice first however Gambit is proof some dogs will naturally chase a lure without special training.

Before I close I would be remiss if I did not recognize the top dogs. The number one bloodhound in FAST CAT just happens to be the fastest bloodhound currently and that is "King Douglas BCAT" with his best average being 23.36 MPH. Coming in with the second

fastest run ever is “Slyther-Ryn My Chamber of Secrets BCAT” with her best average being 23.30 MPH. The top ten fastest bloodhounds appear to be running at least 20 MPH. Yes, there are other breeds that are faster but not many of them look like a bloodhound in motion. FAST CAT photos of bloodhounds are amazing. I find FAST CAT to be a good way to get out of the house and do something fun with my dog.



## Fast Cat Top 20 Fastest Dogs By Breed Statistics

Rank	Dog Name	Sex	MPH
1	King Douglas BCAT	Dog	23.36
2	CH Wychway-Crown's Last Of The Mojitos DCAT MT CGCA CGCU TKN	Dog	22.64
3	GCH CH Quiet Creek's Tru-Luv Conquers All	Dog	21.97
4	Slyther-Ryn My Chamber of Secrets BCAT	Bitch	21.60
5	M & M's Rainbow Dash BCAT DSA CGCA CGCU	Dog	21.24
6	Denarii's Secret Treasure BCAT	Bitch	21.18
7	GCH CH Flessner's Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious FDC CA BCAT DJ DN CGCA TKA	Dog	21.14
8	A Spontaneous Additon At Bezalel	Bitch	21.03
9	GCHS CH Skipton's A Win For Winter CA BCAT DSA DJ CGCA CGCU TKP	Dog	20.56
10	M & M's From Little Things Big Things Grow BCAT	Bitch	20.19
11	Flessner's Udder Perfection BCAT CGCA CGCU TKA	Dog	19.87
12	Flessner's Big Clucking Deal TD DCAT MT DN CGC TKI ATT	Dog	19.73
13	St. Francis In the Heat Of The Night FCAT2 DJ CGC	Dog	19.46
14	Southwind's Life Is A Highway With Mayflower BCAT	Dog	19.45
15	Wycheay's Ferrous Of Them All FCAT ATT	Dog	19.29
16	GCH CH Wychway's Searching For Jellystone DCAT MTX CGCA CGCU TKI	Dog	18.73