



# WIENER MANIA

Brought to you by Arizona Adopt A Greyhound

## 2017 Wiener Mania

March 11, 2017 / Approximately 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Turf Paradise Race Track

1501 W Bell Road

Phoenix AZ 85023

These are some basic instructions to help everybody have a really fun day. Please email us at [aagi@arizonnaadoptagreyhound.org](mailto:aagi@arizonnaadoptagreyhound.org) with any questions.

## What happens in a race?

1. Your wiener will be running approximately 50 yards on a grassy surface. **Note:** Seniors & Juveniles run approximately 30 yards.
2. It takes two people (a holder and a catcher) – one to hold the Wiener in the starting box and one to call them to the finish line (a spray chalk line on the ground). **Please let us know in advance or at check-in if you are by yourself.**
3. The starting box is an enclosed structure with 8 individual starting “boxes”. They are 15” w x 30” deep x 28” tall. Back panel is open and that is where the “holder” will place the Wiener upon instruction by the Starter. Place them facing down the race course as well as possible holding them until the gate (front) opens and they are released.
4. The “catcher” can call the wiener’s name, wave a toy, squeak a toy or whistle – **NO Food or Thrown balls**
5. The wiener is supposed to run as straight and fast as possible to the “catcher” but **MUST** cross the finish line before the “catcher” grabs them.
6. The “catcher” **MUST** stay behind the **second** yellow line leaving room for the wieners to cross. Only **ONE** family member is allowed on the catcher line. Please listen to the instructions to be sure you aren’t disqualified. **NO DOGS BEHIND THE FINISH LINE.** Let us know if you need a holder for a second dog.
7. During the Trial Heats the **TOP 2** wieners will advance to the quarter-finals (subject to change based on entries). Advancement through the Quarter & Semi-Finals will be announced on race day based on entries.
8. All wieners are loaded on to the track from the Paddock, which is the enclosed area at the same end of the course as the Starting Box. Arrive at the Paddock as instructed & get your Wiener outfitted in their Racing Jackets.

## How is My Wiener picked to race?

Everyone who registers gets to race!!! They will advance from Trials to Quarter Finals to Semi-Finals to Finals based on their performance as outlined above. All participating wieners are “drawn” into their original Trial Heat. Depending on number of entries there may or may not be Trials for the Senior & Juvenile Sprints.

## Training Tips:

A few things you can do to prepare your Wiener for their big day!!!

1. Practice running to the designated “catcher” and to whatever “noise” or “motion” they are going to make.
2. The “wall” of screaming “catchers” can throw some wieners so it helps to practice having them run at or to several people.
3. Practice having them go inside a box and be held by the “holder” while facing forward at a closed “door”.
4. Practice crossing the line – we use a bright yellow rope on the ground as the finish line – some wieners are reluctant to cross it and stop just short.
5. The overall crowd noise can be intimidating – so if you have lots of friends have them come practice with you and make lots of noise.
6. Be sure your wiener is comfortable with having a racing jacket on while they run.

Here is a fun video one of our previous racers posted that will give you some ideas for training: Lola's training for 2011 - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IAaGA7\\_IpY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IAaGA7_IpY)

### Can my Wiener bring their friends??

- Yes and no. **ONLY DACHSHUNDS** are allowed. If you own 2 (or more) wieners, and only one is competing but you wish to just bring the others, they may attend for a reduced fee of \$10 each. This only applies to multiple dogs who are just attending. **They may not compete, will not get a Swag Bag and the first dog must pay the full \$25 fee.** They must be registered in advance, so please let us know if you are bringing a friend.

### How do I raise money?

It is easy to raise money for your competing wiener – some of the methods are listed below but I am always amazed at the ideas people come up with so please share if you have a new idea that works for you!

1. First register & set up your Wiener's Individual Fundraiser Website (comes free with registration) with their photo and a quick story about what you are doing.
2. Email all your friends, family, distant relations, whoever and let them know your Wiener is competing in this great cause & that you would love their support. They can make their donations on your website or link off the main [AAGI site](#). If you need wording for your email, we can help you.
3. Go door-to-door in your neighborhood with a collection jar. We have pledge sheets that people can be listed on and you can post the results electronically or bring them the day of the event. Please download forms from the main [AAGI site](#).
4. Put a donation jar out at work – on your desk, at the front, in the break/lunch room, wherever.
5. Ask your vet (or any business you know) to let you put a donation jar out on their front counter.
6. Ask your employer for a corporate donation – any amount over \$200 will get their logo on our website & their sponsorship announced during the event

### What happens when I get there on Saturday?

Ok – all the fundraising is over and the magic day has arrived.

1. Turf Paradise is located between 15<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Bell Road.
2. We will have designated parking for all participants, including 4 people. Instructions will be emailed before the event directing you to the proper parking. It will be close and involve very little walking. Please don't use the handicapped spaces unless you have a permit.
3. For the easiest way come in on 15<sup>th</sup> Ave and follow the road behind the Wal-Mart. Turn left into the first parking lot (there will be signs), park and come in the gate to the grass area where a Volunteer will direct you.
4. Please ask your other guests to park in the main lot and come in the Main Race Track Entrance. There will be a \$2 Entrance fee for them and then they can meet you inside. Tell them to come out of the building, facing the race track and Wiener Mania will be on the left.
5. After you park, please proceed through the designated gate & present your pass for **4 people per wiener**. You will be wrist-banded so you can come and go freely if you need to.
6. Proceed **DIRECTLY** to registration/check-in (just inside the gate) and collect your Swag. **ALL WIENERS MUST CHECK-IN.**
7. Any donations that have not been completed on-line can also be paid at this time.
8. If you have qualified for one of the Top Dog tables they will be located along the race track with seating for 10 guests. Your Name will be on the table. Other seating will be located in the big tent.
9. Hang out, relax, play games and enjoy the event!!!

### They have just called my name to the Paddock area for my race – what is that??

1. About 10 minutes before the start of your heat please come to the Paddock (located on the race course behind the starting box). Please listen for announcements.
2. Your Wiener will be outfitted in its racing jacket for the race. They may wear any personally designed silks during the rest of the event but must wear official silks for their race.
3. Only holders and catchers may be in the staging area to keep crowding and confusion to a minimum. Have your entourage and fans gather at the rail to begin cheering!!
4. We would like to run the heats fairly quickly – approximately every 5 minutes.
5. As the catcher, please help us by going straight to the finish line without backing up calling your wiener.

## **After the race – what do I do??**

If you finished 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> we will want to congratulate you, take your picture and award you your trophy & ribbons. Your fans may storm the track and join you for the photo but then please make way for the next racers. All racers receive a ribbon for their participation in each heat so be sure to get that before you leave the race course.

## **Where will we be sitting?**

The **Top 10 Fundraisers plus the 2016 Champion** will have trackside tables for themselves and 10 guests. There will be lots of tables under a big tent for shade for sitting. All tent seating will be first come first served. You may bring lawn chairs if you prefer or you can also bring a blanket to sit on the grass and/or beds for your wiener. This is an outdoor event – dress appropriately! Keep in mind the grass area could get VERY crowded with spectators so you might want to “camp” closer to the fence and not right by the track.

## **What should/can I bring?**

1. Whatever helps your wiener be comfy – a blankie, a small bed, a crate, his own water or food (we will have water out & plenty of snacks but some kids get stressed). There is a lot of just hanging out between time trials
2. If it is hot, we will also have “cool down” pools for the Wiener’s that like to get in the water to cool down between races.
3. Although we hope we won’t need it we can bring a wiener inside the air conditioned building for heat emergencies

## **Shades or umbrellas:**

Please limit your shade devices to things that will not completely block the view of everyone around you. **NO** large pop-up tents please. There will be areas you can get to for shade if needed.

## **Food & Beverages:**

Turf Paradise will have a variety of food and beverage available. **We will not be allowing ice chests to be brought in.**

## **Costume Contest:**

Every year I am amazed at the creativity we have in this ever popular contest!! Sign up at Game Central & be ready to strut your wiener between the Trial Heats & the Quarter Finals.

Prizes for the top 3 as decided by our panel of judges.

## **Best Dressed Team or Entourage:**

Have your “Game” shirts” on, all wear the same color, wear hats, wave banners, whatever shows your spirit for supporting your wiener. Enter at Game Central & then parade on course right after the Costume Parade – our esteemed panel of judges will pick the winner.

## **Other Fun Things to Do / Game Central:**

We will have many fun things to participate in – all at Game Central plus vendors for shopping.

More than anything just have FUN. If you have any questions, please email [us](mailto:us).