



Canadian Association of Rally Obedience



## Survey Responses

The board of directors would like to thank everyone that took the time to complete our first every survey! 189 people from across the country added their voice to the direction of CARO.

If you didn't get a chance to respond to the survey, but have great ideas or want to help out in some capacity, please contact [boardofdirectors@canadianrallyo.ca](mailto:boardofdirectors@canadianrallyo.ca).

The following responses are completely unfiltered (with the exception of removing contact information)

The board hopes you can make it to our first virtual AGM in 2019. Watch the website and facebook for details, coming soon!

Warm regards,

Sarah-Jane

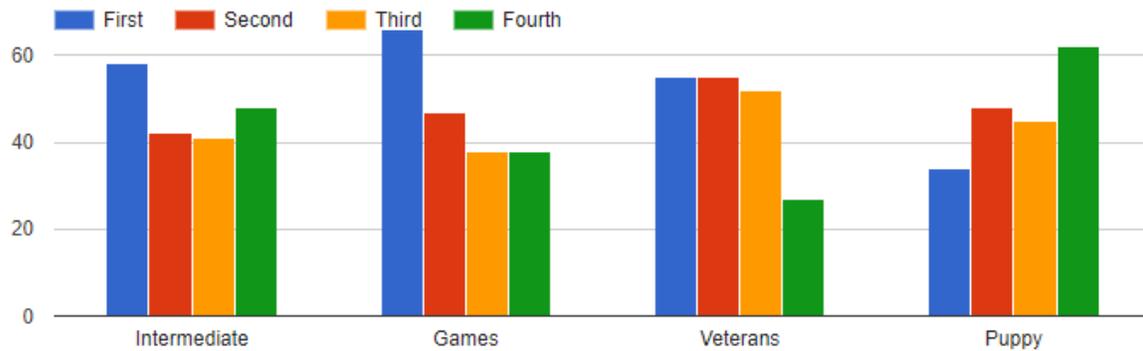
On behalf of the board of directors

## Overall Ranking



## New Classes

### Rank in order of interest

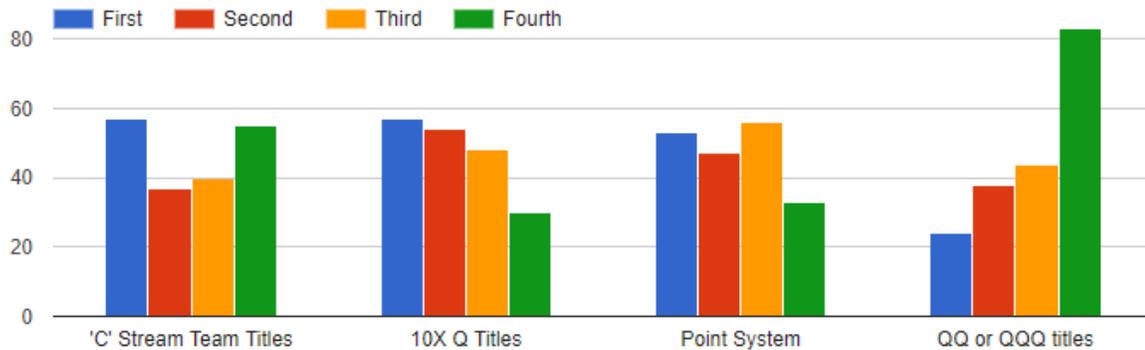


- ★ Please do not make crazy signs like CKC masters!!!
- ★ I'm concerned about the need for a veterans course with a reduced number of sits - if the dogs are too sore to sit, should they be competing?
- ★ I like the idea of veterans so we can continue for as long as a dog is able to preform .. Some veterans have eye problems to see the jumps. etc Also there is quite a differance from Novice to Advanced so an in between would be wonderful.
- ★ I LOVE them all equally!

- ★ I especially like the idea of fewer or no sits for dogs over a certain age. On our club's fun day, when the trials don't count, we have no sits for dogs 10 and up. I've take in older dogs who loved reliving their glory days.
- ★ Concerned about trial timing/club expenses for trials if veterans are allowed extra time. I would simply reduce number of sits. Or even better, maybe reduce the max of 20 stations for the higher levels for all dogs (would also help solve timing issues for vets), I find even experienced young dogs have a hard time finishing under 3 minutes on a 20 station advanced/excellent corse!
- ★ Truthfully like all these ideas the same. More than the additional title ideas so my preference would be time spent on these.
- ★ Fewer downs for veteran dogs too - hard for them to go down and get up especially on some harder surfaces
- ★ none of these interest me
- ★ I found the jump from novice to advanced was too difficult for my dog, which is why we quit really. The idea of having advanced on leash appeals to me.
- ★ I've participated in game days for practice and they are lots of fun for everyone.
- ★ Love all these ideas as I would bring my older girl back to rally with less dignity and sits. By the same token a puppy class would be awesome to get them working at an early age in a fun environment with plenty of reinforcement. When starting out in Rally I found the move up between naive and advanced with the addition of back up 3 steps, food bowls and a jump to name but a few. Perhaps introducing food bowls in no ice..upside down, or no food or even figuring weights around comes, to introduce the concept. I'm so glad we have this opportunity to share ideas.
- ★ I think it is very important to keep our Veterans working as long as possible when they have been used to working with you as a Team
- ★ I would do advanced course on leash as an intermediate option. Not novice course off leash
- ★ I LOVE all 4 of these ideas and hope we implement them all!
- ★ LOVE all these new ideas, couldn't pick a favorit, so all get one!

## New Titles

Rank in order of interest

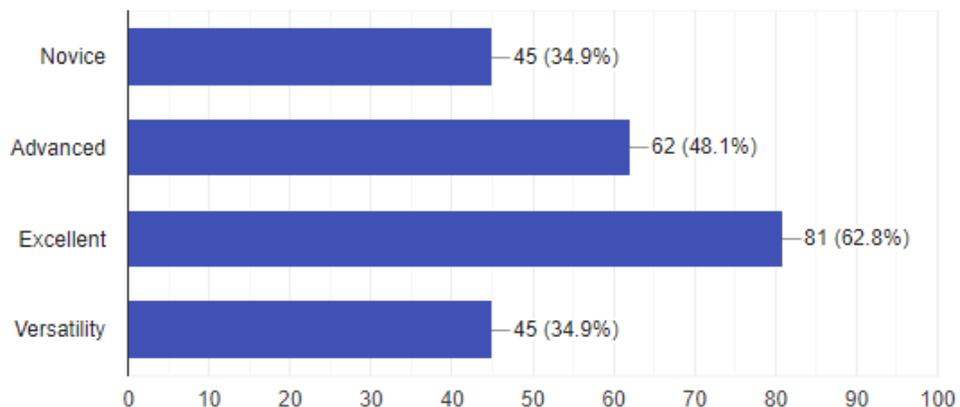


- ★ I would prefer to see introduction of classes with more challenging exercises rather than doing the same old same old in doubles or just achieving higher scores in the same old classes. Also doing doubles is expensive for competitors at a time where people are struggling with the costs of entering trials/hotels/gas/food
- ★ Points system favours those that can show a lot.
- ★ Try to keep things at a reasonable financial cost.
- ★ I'd like to see a Platinum Title which would come after Gold where you need 5 Versatility Exc. Q's in C Stream.
- ★ At this time, I find there are more than enough different options for titles, I'm having a hard time figuring what you already have, but like all of your different options and the addition of agility components.
- ★ Perhaps some kind of new working class titles too?
- ★ intermediate level like CKC so more opportunity to trial on lead
- ★ i am not really a fan of just needing more of the same. it feels like a money grab
- ★ none of these interest me
- ★ I feel like CARO has almost too many titles to keep track of already.
- ★ Titles don't really matter to me (and especially my dog)
- ★ I'm not really interested in doing the same level 10 or more times. I am in an area where there aren't many trial available but I think both my dogs and myself would get bored with the same stations over and over.
- ★ I think it would be great to add a Master Champion Brace title. Working one dog has its challenges but so does working two. This would be a very worthy title to earn.
- ★ I invented a new Rally O Game with the large puzzle mats-30- an oversized dice and two tunnels. I call it Rally Mats and Tunnels-Set up in a U shape-tunnels are bi-directional, only one player per square, - up to 5 players at a time, vary signs, Like snakes and ladders for dogs. D Whitmore.
- ★ Better communication on the website

## New Signs

### Which level(s) require new signs?

129 responses



- ★ Not sure (2)
- ★ handler's choice, Left about turn twice...take a look at CKC and ASCA
- ★ The new Master signs in AKC are similar to the feel of CARO, with more of a dance feel than just going from sign to sign, if that makes sense. I think some of them would be a great addition to CARO.
- ★ Off-set serpentines, turn & dog circles, double about turn
- ★ Unsure
- ★ I don't play often enough to want/need new signs, but don't object, either.
- ★ Figure 8 with no distractions
- ★ Would have to think about that one, but maybe side changes where the handler changes sides instead of the dog?eg dog in stand on left of handler, handler turns away from dog, walks around back of dog to heel position and dog will be on right of handler. Can be done with sit or down. Also a multi leg weave? JMT
- ★ Rally-FrEe signs
- ★ Not so many sitting signs
- ★ I need to ponder this one, but there are some signs in other organizations that would be fun to have
- ★ I saw a new sign in AKC Master where the dog goes around the handler to the right or left. It was neat and is a nice example of a tricky sign that isn't stationary.
- ★ Front pivots, sit/down/stand sequence,

- ★ Ones like Masters in CKC and AKC. I would also like a Masters level after Excellent, separate from Versatility.
- ★ I am not experienced enough to know what would be new, but I like the idea of adding new signs.
- ★ Given that I would prefer to see introduction of classes with more challenging exercises rather than doing the same old same old in doubles or just achieving higher scores in classes. I would be introducing new classes with new/more challenging signs. So I would leave novice, advanced basically alone although you could change or add the odd sign.
- ★ All the new CKC signs are fun
- ★ None
- ★ I like CARO just the way it is. Please don't turn into Masters CKC...
- ★ Please, no additional pivots -- they're hard on humans with joint problems and the reason I'm not pursuing CKC Masters despite my dog having an RAE.
- ★ No
- ★ more moving signs
- ★ none
- ★ Step back
- ★ Not sure I can think of any you don't already have, I have not had the opportunity to do the higher levels but wonder if you already have the change of positions signs similar to CKC
- ★ Pivots
- ★ any and all
- ★ Halt, 3steps sit, 2 steps stand, 1 step down
- ★ unsure
- ★ Take a look at CDC rally
- ★ Maybe some of the more formal OB ones like drop on recall. From cynosport. Love caro excellent signs. Still dislike the NQ with the distance required of send to jump in advance level
- ★ send dog around a cone and come back to heel. Send around a cone and come back to the other side of the handler (front cross). Walking turn - handler does not change direction or stop walking and has the dog do a circle at the handlers side and come back into heel position (both sides of handler for versatility)
- ★ Call front return to heel  
Stand leave dog sit dog call front finish  
Stand leave dog down dog call front finish  
Double left about turn
- ★ Been awhile since I've looked at them all. Is there a moving sit sign?
- ★ 270 pivots, 360 pivots, double weave through legs (so ends up on same side, no side change to next sign), double K turn, moving sit, send to weaves both entries (like jump), to name a few
- ★ I would need to think about this. But perhaps, "figure eight around comes" for Novice. I would have to chat with friends in the sport to chat further about this.
- ★ weave between legs while walking; dog spins right/left; switch handlers sign (shows ability to work with other handlers and follow commands); if intermediate is added and jump is included maybe allow handlers to run beside jump instead of sending over from a line (might be too hard

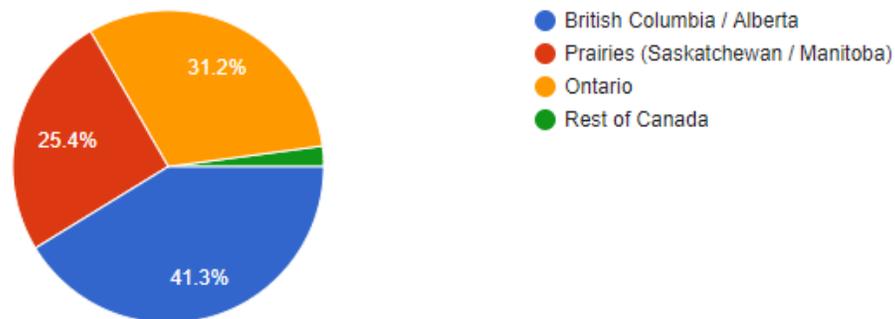
for intermediate level dogs to do what advanced dogs are doing)?; dog walks on low level balance beam beside handler.

- ★ I would have to think about it for longer. At first glance, I would say it looks fine the way it is. And believe me I have run MANY MANY courses
- ★ A retrieve sign would be fun in Excellent level - something simple like a toy
- ★ Not sure what for signs, however as a judge I find the advanced the most difficult to design to get the needed advance signs without having to always use multi-part signs.
- ★ I like CARO signs just the way they are.
- ★ Off set figure 8 with toys, spirals weaves with toys.

## Demographics

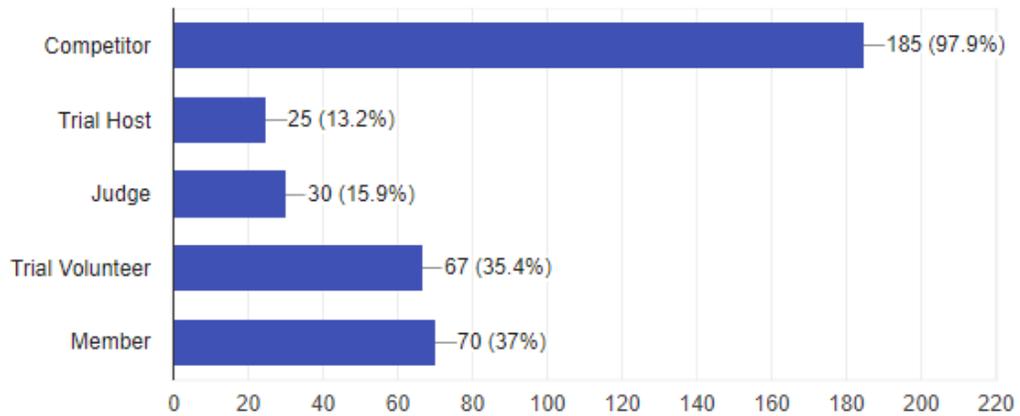
Which region (as defined in the CARO by-laws) do you belong to?

189 responses



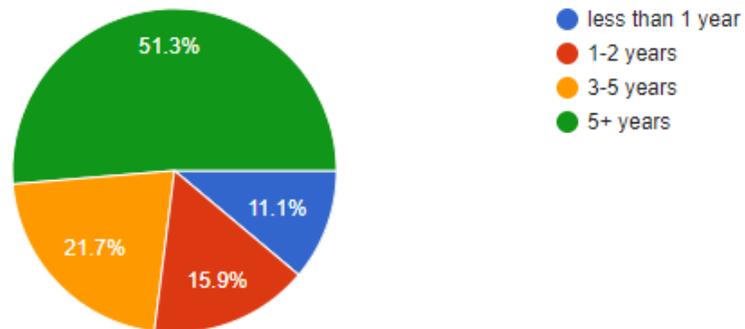
## How do you participate with CARO?

189 responses



## How long have you been involved in CARO?

189 responses



## Other Comments

- ★ No (3)
- ★ More trials (2)
- ★ There wasn't a comment field regarding the "QQ" distinctions. Be aware that for the Internet generation QQ = crying or whining. As such, I would strongly suggest finding another way to designate multiple Qualifying passes.

- ★ No, I love CARO for what it is today.
- ★ A Caro computer program for clubs to input data and standardize the trial process
- ★ I would like the NOVICE course to allow for ONE Handler Error or Incorrect Performance as a 10 point (minimum) deduction. I find newcomers to the sport discouraged at the Novice level when they NQ based on one error. This does not include the dog not being able to perform the station but might include an imperfect side step, a sign performed in the incorrect direction that goes unnoticed, etc.
- ★ Operate as a club with executives approving not changing as they wish with out involvement from the members, use your rule committee to change rules and add surveys from members. This is a club that should have representation from all areas, west use to complain it was run by Ontario now run by west. Executive should be from all areas and one person should not have two jobs, conflict of interest. Involve members more.
- ★ I like the CARO organization. There is not a lot of opportunity to compete on the prairies especially MB. My first love is agility so I tend to spend a lot of my time and training and money with that. I do enjoy CARO rally when I participate in trials. I don't think the organization could do anything differently, but it's always good to keep things fresh and perhaps new titles or exercises will do that.
- ★ I would like luring / "air cookies" not be allowed, similar to CKCs and other organizations rules. There is a clear difference between a signal (open hand) and a lure (fingers pinched together) that looks like a person is holding a cookie.  
I would like tossing cookies over a jump or anywhere else on course not to be allowed. That suggested by a judge and subsequently done by a competitors as a way to get dogs who have NQ'd the jump to go over it. That's really not good training and makes the sport/competitor look bad while making more food remnants on course for the next dog which seems unfair.  
Rally is disrespected in dog sports circles because of this sort of thing and it's of no benefit to the competitor or the sport to allow it.  
I don't like when a judge teaches each sign in the briefing/ walk through. There is a difference between answering questions or pointing out a few specifics vs teaching each sign.

I would like to see properly fitted martingale collars allowed. (Where when the collar is at it's tightest it is comfortable around the dog's neck. ) For some competitors a snap/buckle collars are impossible to put on due to fine motor issues. Some want the safety provided by a martingale (so the dog can't slip their collar if spooked while away from home at a trial). It would not change the rule about leash pops/physical corrections. A dog can be jerked/yanked on a flat collar, a halti or a harness just as well.

- ★ I wish there were more trials in Manitoba. Love everything else about CARO.
- ★ I love CARO, it would be nice if there were more trials in the area! (Merritt, BC)
- ★ Have someone randomly observe at trials
- ★ More fun stuff like games and working level
- ★ Maybe make the judging a less stringent. People prefer CKC because you can talk to your dog more, extra commands.

- ★ I have been out of CARO for 4 years from when I started in 2005. think it was great as far as offerings at that time. I loved the addition of Team. Prior to that I was only in Obedience and ckc had no rally. Definitely CARO brought us all forward into R+ training in fun activities with our dog. I say keep up the good work adding titles, and signs and games It's all wonderful training and bonding
- ★ You don't mention working Level. I love that too. Perhaps If it didn't require 5 passes in every exercise it would become more popular. It's hard to get ahead if more trials aren't available Thanks for asking your members opinions! Ckc and UKC could take a hint from you
- ★ I would like to see more involvement in CARO Working Level. I compete at that level & thoroughly enjoy it. It is so different & my dogs enjoy doing it. My previous dog (died last fall) competed at this level when it was first introduced & got her 1st Working title then & I have thoroughly enjoyed doing it since then. My present dog is currently working on his 3rd Working Title. Both my dogs completed their Novice, Advanced & Excellent titles before doing Working. The problem is the limited no. of Working Level trials in my area (Ottawa). Montreal/Brockville/Kingston is within easy driving distance if there were trials there. (ps. I have been told that an Advanced title is no longer needed to compete in Working trials but I can find nothing about this change on the CARO website).
- ★ I think this survey is great. Both my dogs have their masters, would love new opportunity to title still, as I love Rally. Didn't know anything was in the works, so I got a new dog instead! Keep up the great work!
- ★ Have more judging workshops available throughout Canada
- ★ It's a good organization with a great approach to rally.
- ★ Videos to help judges standarize
- ★ and in between class from Novice and Advanced.
- ★ Quite happy with how things are handled.
- ★ Online slide set to learn the signs
- ★ The jump in difficulty from novice to advanced is intimidating. Maybe make IP points off instead of NQ
- ★ I have not been to many trials but they have been well run and fun to do, looking forward to my dog gett Ng to the versatility level. Thanks for all of your hardwork
- ★ add tricks at a sign
- ★ I would find it helpful if the CARO signs indicated which level(s) they can be used for, the way the CKC does. That's about the only thing I like better about CKC rally. Whatever you decide to do, please do not turn any of the levels into obedience/militaristic exercises like the CKC has done. Keep it fun for dog and handler.
- ★ I would love to see an Intermediate class
- ★ Have a copy of an example completed Trial record for hosts to review.
- ★ More trials in the Maritimes!
- ★ Remove the stand for exam entirely. I do not like seeing nervous/reactive dogs being left standing while a stranger approaches them and walks behind them. Maybe change it to dog stays in a stand while handler walks out around a cone or around the judge and back to the dog.

- ★ I love caro!!
- ★ collar checks enforced (have seen not permitted collars in the ring and Q'd)
- ★ More Caro
- ★ I would like to see a judges seminar in Manitoba- I am hoping to pursue becoming a judge in the near future. There are currently only 3 judges in mb that I know of. I think if there were more we would see more trials in our area. I enjoy CARO a lot and would love to see more people learn about it and get involved.
- ★ Change your membership year from June to May  
I belong to many dog organizations and January is BRUTAL. This is a large part of the reason I'm not a member at present.
- ★ Judging by area is super inconsistent, my scores have ranged from NQ to 198 with the same dog, same quality of runs, just based on where I happened to compete. Some kind of consistency would be nice lol
- ★ More trials :)
- ★ Eliminate the food bowls
- ★ I REALLY enjoy CARO!
- ★ Transition between novice to advanced is too extreme. Going from on leash to off leash, plus additional signs is too much Needs to be some adjustment to advanced signs to make a better transition.
- ★ Offering an Intro level (half the number of signs, with a scaled back list of novice signs); a level after Novice, and before Advanced, that allows for a dog on leash still; Working Level Titles for getting 5 and 10 of each skill. Some dogs may never achieve some skills, for various reasons, and providing another way to title would encourage more participation; Offering Judges seminars along with working seminars on skills, at preset dates (set well in advance) and locations. Judges teaching skills rather than just talking about it at a judges seminar. For example, there are a few people that would be great judges in Winnipeg, they need someone to come in and hold a seminar, encourage the sport and reinforce some of the newer rule changes with all those training and trialing. They are in a bubble there, but there are some wonderful teams and poel who want to compete in CARO.
- ★ Take out the station that requires the judge to walk behind the dog. It's dangerous.  
Also I have seen so many good teams fail due to the jump in advance classes.  
Is this part of a walk that a person and their dog see if out walking? I suggest maybe shortening the distance asked of in the rules now. I ask, do you send your dog out that far to jump when walking, especially on leash.
- ★ Not really, I think you're doing a great job.
- ★ More trials in the west
- ★ More trials
- ★ Have more time at the start line to ensure your dog is ready to go...more time to connect with your dog inside the ring before starting.

- ★ I have been pleased and proud to be a member of CARO. It promotes being a true team with your dog in a positive and most importantly fun non-intimidating environment. I plan to continue running my dogs in CARO for as long as we can.
- ★ Maybe add a special class that includes continuation of food reward at appropriate times at all levels; easier signs etc, for those that don't compete on a competitive level but just do it for fun for their dog to enjoy themselves.
- ★ Not "require" the jump sign in Advanced. Another type "Distance behaviour" sign that doesn't require equipment could be required as an option. Requiring the jump makes for a difficult course design in the minimum allowed space ring and the course feels it as a result.
- ★ remove the distance jump for excellent and weave poles in excellent.
- ★ another level between novice and advanced
- ★ Don't forget one of the main purpose and goals of CARO to be accessible to all teams including ones with disabilities. No other organizations is focused on this, this is what is so appealing and unique for many of us
- ★ National Championship with Corporate sponsors and Media coverage
- ★ Reduce the number of exercises at the Novice level to 15 (ncluding start and finish)
- ★ I would like to see A and B divisions revised to ensure novice competitors can be in A (not counting Trick Dog or CGN titles so that those people end up in B, B should be for seasoned competitors). Also would like to see the Sit Side Step Sit judged easier in Novice level as the failure rate for that sign can be crazy on otherwise pretty perfect runs.
- ★ re your opening statement..."a lot" is correct, not alot.
- ★ I'd like to see less control by the Alberta group and see the exec spread more evenly across Canada. I d like to see CARO develop more interest in the rest of the country. I was extremely upset to see how the exec handled the spat with Bev Hurst. Everyone needs to behave like adults.
- ★ Definitely new Advanced exercises. It's hard for a judge to design an interesting course given the limitations on Advanced exercises. I agree with the stipulation that there must be 8 Advanced exercises, but there is not enough choice. Too many of the Advanced exercises are stationary. I like to design a course that flows nicely, but with the current limited number of Advanced exercises, an Advanced course too often ends up being very choppy and stilted, just because there are not enough option to choose signs.  
I like some of the CKC's ideas for a few exercises - introducing the offset figure 8 at Novice level without distractions; also the Intermediate level, doing Advanced exercises (except for the jump) on leash as a trial-prep for doing them off leash.  
On the whole, I think the CARO executive is doing a great job! Kudoes to you for reaching out and doing this survey. I think you will get a lot of responses - which will indicate that CARO is alive and well :))))
- ★ JH handler class!! - double triple Q's titles is just a money maker and not worth the time or money to get to, but if someone wants to do it great but it does not interest me at all
- ★ Possibly have a few minutes where the ring is open for people to let their nervous-nelly dogs a chance to walk around and get familiar with their surroundings. Not doing the signs....but let then be in the ring before ccomepting. I have rescues and some are nervous of their new surroundings

- ★ I would love to earn new titles at the Supreme level but we struggle to get perfect scores. Now that we have our RMCh, it would be great if those extra C level qualifying runs could count towards a point system or added up for new titles so that we would have an incentive to keep competing. It is a struggle to get a perfect score at the Excellent, Versatility, and Versatility Excellent level, and as much as I love competing, I can't afford to keep chasing the impossible.

Also, I think it would be great if judges could bring or travel with a CRMCh title ribbon when they judge, and any other future specialty title ribbons (Supreme). This would allow competitors to get that special picture with the judge awarding the title. The competitors can then wait to get their official title ribbon from CARO once scores are verified.

- ★ Broad jump marked with black.