

Seven earthdog dens are available for use at Purina Farms. Two were established by MOE, the Missouri Earthdog Club, four by joint effort of the Dachshund Club of St. Louis and Gateway Terrier Association, and one by Gateway Terrier Association. All are in place permanently and ready for use by terrier and dachshund enthusiasts. There is a shed onsite which requires a key for entrance. Please contact one of the members of the local clubs listed below if you would like to practice at the dens. The blueprints for each den are located in the GTA (Gateway Terrier Association) box in the shed.

Two clubs offer practice and instruction for earthdogs:

Practice dates for Missouri Earthdogs (non-sanctioned) are on their website, [moearthdogs.org](http://moearthdogs.org).

Practice dates for Gateway Terrier Association (AKC) are held 1-4 weeks prior to an AKC earthdog test weekend. The decision of the practice day is determined, in part, by the weather. All interested owners should email Lucy Shinkle ([Lshinkle@centurytel.net](mailto:Lshinkle@centurytel.net)) and ask to be added to the practice list. Lucy will then email everyone on the list a few days before practice. Private practice dates may be considered.

Den A: Novice / AKC Intro to Quarry (IQ)

This is a fenced ten foot tunnel with one ninety degree turn

Den B: Novice / AKC Intro to Quarry (IQ)

This is a fenced ten foot tunnel with one ninety degree turn

Den C: Novice / AKC Intro to Quarry (IQ)

This is a fenced ten foot tunnel with one ninety degree turn

Den D: Novice / AKC Junior, Senior (practice only)

This fenced system consists of a Novice / Into to Quarry tunnel that backs up to a standard thirty foot tunnel with three ninety degree bends (Open/AKC Junior, AKC Senior) with a false exit. Sliders are in place where the false exit and den connect to the main tunnel. This den is not AKC compliant.

Den E: Open / Stakes, AKC Junior, Senior and Master Earth:

The original den at this site, the AKC Senior and MOE stakes den, has been replaced by a much larger den. In the works for over two years, the new design incorporates AKC Junior, Senior and Master designs, giving redundancy to the existing AKC dens. The footprint of the den also allows Missouri Earthdogs to run their Stakes Go To Ground competition at this den. The den was constructed by Nestle Purina of the new, plastic wood composition, providing low maintenance on the den. The yard of the den is 90' by 100', making it the largest of all the Purina Farms fenced dens. To accommodate the many levels of AKC competition at this site many sliders are available. Walk up to this Master den may be through the field where Den H, the original Master den, is located or from beneath this den. This den was designed by Shirley La Mear of Gateway Terrier Association and Susan Parsons.

Den F: AKC Junior Earth:

This den is located up the hill from the multitasking Den E. It is fenced and consists of the standard 30' tunnel with three ninety degree turns. It is made of the new plastic wood material.

Den G: AKC Senior Earth:

A few short steps up the hill from the AKC Junior earth, this fenced complex is a standard Senior den consisting of thirty feet of tunnel, three ninety degree turns, false den, and false exit. It is also made of the new plastic wood material. Dens F and G were both built and installed in 2013.

Den H: AKC Master Earth:

This beautiful den was rebuilt in January 2014 using the new plastic wood material. It is designed in an H shape to allow two variations of den entrances. The common middle section of the H design houses the baffle. Each leg of the H design houses a false exit, den, and a section into which the constrictor can be dropped. The den is located in a wooded area at the top of a large meadow, which provides an ideal setting for this event. Several options for the walk up to the den are available. Quiet and remote, most test organizers borrow a Gator from Purina to ferry each brace to the walk up starting area.

Still needing some finishing touches and plant growth, we're pleased that the E-dog neighborhood at Purina Farms has steadily improved and enlarged over the years. This was made possible by the cooperation between our three local earthdog clubs and Nestle Purina. Please contact any of the listed area E-dog clubs if you would like find out more about offering an earthdog event for your next show at Purina Farms.

[www.moearthdogs.org](http://www.moearthdogs.org)

[www.gatewayterriers.org](http://www.gatewayterriers.org) AKC

[www.dachshund-stl.org](http://www.dachshund-stl.org) AKC