

Red Dog

2-8 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Easy

Duration: Short

Bet that a third card will rank between the two dealt cards.

SETUP

- 1 or more players against the dealer.
- Standard 52-card deck.
- Place a bet before cards are dealt.

SCORING

- Spread 1 pays 5:1, spread 2 pays 4:1, spread 3 pays 2:1, spread 4+ pays 1:1.
- Three of a kind on a pair pays 11:1.

Tip: Only raise on spreads of 7 or more — anything less heavily favors the house.

ON YOUR TURN

- Dealer deals two face-up cards and determines the spread.
- Consecutive cards push; pairs draw a third for possible trips.
- If a spread exists, choose to raise or stand.
- Third card is dealt; if between the two, you win.

Red Dog, also known as Red Dog Poker or Acey-Deucey, is a casino banking game where players bet on whether a third card will fall in rank between two initially dealt cards. The wider the spread between the two cards, the better the odds for the player. It is a simple, fast-paced game of pure chance.

Objective

Bet that a third card dealt will have a rank that falls between the ranks of two previously dealt cards.

Setup

1. **Players:** 1 to multiple players against the dealer.
2. **Deck:** Standard 52-card deck (some casinos use multiple decks).
3. **Bet:** Each player places a wager before the cards are dealt.

Gameplay

1. **Two cards dealt:** The dealer places two cards face-up on the table.
2. **Spread determined:** The spread is the number of card ranks between the two cards. For example, a 4 and 9 has a spread of 4 (5, 6, 7, 8).
3. **Consecutive cards:** If the two cards are consecutive (e.g., 7 and 8), the hand is a push and bets are returned.
4. **Pair:** If the two cards are a pair, a third card is dealt immediately. If it matches for three of a kind, the player wins 11:1. If not, the hand is a push.
5. **Raise option:** If there is a spread, the player may raise by placing an additional bet up to the original amount.
6. **Third card:** The dealer draws a third card. If it falls between the two cards in rank, the player wins. If not, the player loses.

Scoring

- **Spread of 1:** Pays 5:1.
- **Spread of 2:** Pays 4:1.
- **Spread of 3:** Pays 2:1.
- **Spread of 4 or more:** Pays 1:1 (even money).
- **Three of a kind:** Pays 11:1.

Variations

- **Multiple decks:** Some casinos use multiple decks which slightly changes the odds and house edge.
- **Acey-Deucey home game:** Players contribute to a pot and bet on whether their card falls between two dealt cards, with the pot growing when players miss.

Tips and Strategies

- Only raise when the spread is 7 or greater, as this is when the odds shift in your favor.
- The house edge varies by spread — smaller spreads heavily favor the house.
- Red Dog is a high-variance game; set strict win and loss limits before playing.

Tips & Strategy

Only raise your bet when the spread between the two cards is 7 or more, as narrower spreads give the house a significant edge.

The mathematics are straightforward: with a spread of 7 or more, the probability of the third card falling in between exceeds 50%, making a raise profitable.