

# Is your dog playful, energetic and full of fun?

## Why not try Agility!

### What is Agility?

Agility is action-packed, rollercoaster excitement for you and your dog. Comprising various obstacles for your dog (not you!) to run through, jump over, and weave in and out of – and all against the clock! Not only does Agility test your dog's fitness, it also measures your ability as a handler to direct your dog over the course.

### Reasons why you should do Agility

- Fight the flab with Fido! Agility is terrific at helping you and your dog shed those excess pounds.
- Meet new friends – there is a great social scene to be enjoyed.
- Your dog does not have to be a pedigree – all dogs can do Agility.
- Show off your dog's new skills to your friends and family.
- It is one of the fastest growing canine activities in the world.

### All you need to know is:

- Your dog must be registered with the Kennel Club on the Breed Register or the Activity Register.
- Competitors taking part in any Kennel Club licensed event must familiarise themselves with the Kennel Club Rules and Regulations beforehand. The Agility Regulations can be found in the Agility and Flyball Regulations booklet which is available from the Kennel Club Publications Department.
- Dogs can only enter Agility shows when they are 18 months of age and have been officially measured and placed in the correct height category.
- Dogs are officially categorised in three different sizes, Small, Medium and Large.
- There are seven grades of competition from one – seven, with beginners starting at Grade one.
- For safety's sake it is recommended that dogs do not start training on equipment until they are at least a year old.
- Make sure you buy an Agility Record Book in which to record all your competition wins and clear rounds.
- There are hundreds of Agility shows throughout the year in the UK that can be entered.
- No previous experience necessary so request a list of Agility Clubs today!

### INFORMATION BOX

For a free list of Agility Clubs\* in your county please contact the Kennel Club on **0870 606 6750 ext 226 or 212**, or complete a Further Information Request form available **via the Kennel Club website**. Alternatively, show listings can be found in the Kennel Gazette.

To purchase the Kennel Gazette please contact the Kennel Club publications department on **020 7518 1016**.

For an **Agility and Flyball Regulations booklet** or an **Agility Record Book** please call the Kennel Club publications department on **020 7518 1016**.

\*Clubs are listed under county. Not all Clubs are registered with the Kennel Club. Where no clubs are registered in your chosen county, club listings closest to your address will be sent instead.

Visit our website  
[www.thekennelclub.org.uk](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk) or  
[www.kcagility.org.uk](http://www.kcagility.org.uk)

*"The bond and understanding between agility dog and handler is very special and we learn to have great fun together!"*

**Sue White**



**THE KENNEL CLUB**  
Making a difference for dogs

[www.thekennelclub.org.uk](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk)



# Agility Obstacles: Top Tips

## The Course

Each obstacle will have a number in front of it. Make sure you go round the course in the correct order or you will be eliminated. In every class you will have an opportunity to 'walk the course' beforehand so you know which route through the obstacles you and your dog will need to take.



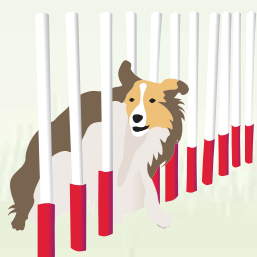
## 'A' Ramp & Dog Walk

Make sure your dog touches the contact points at the beginning and end of these obstacles or he will be penalised by the judge.



## See Saw

Take this carefully – faults can be incurred if the dog does not touch the contact points and you need to make sure your dog is safe when the see-saw tips, the see-saw must be touching the ground when the dog alights.



## Weaving Poles

Always enter the weaves from the right hand side and do not miss any out or your dog will be faulted.



## Rigid And Collapsible Tunnels

Dogs love these obstacles so much that sometimes they fly through and are difficult to control at the other end. Training will help here.



## Table

Your dog will be very excited rushing about the course. The table, where he may be requested to remain still for five seconds, might catch him out.

## INFORMATION BOX

### Handling your dog

Attending your first Agility show may cause your dog to behave differently than it does in training. Young dogs in particular can be bothered by crowds and if this is the case you can move a little way from other competitors and officials. Just remember it is a new experience for you and your dog and should you have any concerns there are always Stewards/Officials available to speak to.

## Are you ready for your first Agility show?

So, you have been attending Agility classes and are now ready to enter your first show. Here's a run down of what you need to do next.

### Entering the show

- Contact the Kennel Club for a list of shows in your area. We will send you listings of all the shows, with the telephone and address details of the club secretaries who are running them.
- When you've decided which show you want to enter, phone the secretary of the club and request a schedule (these are usually free of charge).
- Once you have the schedule you will have to select which class or classes you would like to enter and complete the entry form (which is located inside the schedule).
- As a new competitor in Agility, you can enter any class which includes Grade one for your height of dog.
- Send your entry form and payment to the secretary before the closing date. Entries usually close at least one month before the show, so you will need to plan well in advance. Entries received after the closing date will not be accepted.

### Before the show

- Groom and prepare your dog.
- Prepare a show bag containing your treats, toys, leads, water bowls, water, poop scoop etc.
- Remember to take your show passes (if appropriate), schedule and directions.

### At the show

- Arrive at the showground/venue in plenty of time to find your bearings.
- It's advisable to 'walk the course' so that you are familiar with the course when it is your turn to compete, but this needs to be done before the class starts. So get there early.
- Keep an eye on the judging and don't miss your class or running order.
- Speak to fellow exhibitors and learn more about Agility.
- Look around the show and have a fantastic day!

## INFORMATION BOX

If you would like to see some of the world's best Agility dogs in action why not come along to the biggest Agility show in the world – the Kennel Club International Agility Festival.

For full details see the Kennel Club website.  
[www.kcagility.org.uk](http://www.kcagility.org.uk)

The Kennel Club  
International  
Agility  
Festival



*Fit for Function: Fit for Life. Together we can make a dog's life the healthiest and happiest it can be.*  
[www.fitforfunction.org.uk](http://www.fitforfunction.org.uk)