

# Beginner's guide to... agility

Is your dog playful, energetic and full of fun? Then agility is for you!



## 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.

Suitable for both  
pedigree and  
crossbreed dogs

Jess Clark/The Kennel Club ©

## Why should you do agility?

- Meet new friends – there's 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's one of the fastest growing canine activities in the world



## All you need to know

- Your dog must be registered with us 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 regulations booklet, which is available from the our publications department
- Dogs can only enter agility shows when they are 18 months of age
- Small, medium and intermediate dogs are required to be measured before competing. Large dogs are not required to be measured. Make sure you purchase an Agility Record Book for when you have your dog measured. These record books need to be brought to all shows you compete in. They can also be used to record all your competition wins and clear rounds
- There are seven grades of competition from one to 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
- No previous experience is necessary so use our 'Find a Club' and 'Find a Show' services today

## Handling your dog

Attending your first agility show may cause your dog to behave differently than they do in training. Young dogs in particular can be bothered by crowds and if this is the case, you can move away from other competitors and officials. Just remember it's a new experience for you and your dog and should you have any concerns there are always stewards/officials available to speak to.



Possibility of  
taking part  
at Crufts!

Clubs all over  
the UK!

Register your dog on the Activity Register using form 5 online at [thekennelclub.org.uk/activityregister](http://thekennelclub.org.uk/activityregister)

## Get started today!

To find a list of clubs, training classes or competitions near you, use the 'Find a Club' and 'Find a Show' services available on [thekennelclub.org.uk](http://thekennelclub.org.uk)

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## 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. For a list of all agility obstacles visit [thekennelclub.org.uk/agility](http://thekennelclub.org.uk/agility)

In every class you'll have an opportunity to 'walk the course' beforehand so you know which route through the obstacles you and your dog will need to take.



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### The hoop (tyre)

The hoop, or tyre obstacle, as it is commonly known started out as a life buoy, which you would normally see in a swimming pool! It's moved on a lot since then and is now made of soft material so the dog won't hurt itself. The dog must jump through the tyre which takes lots of training to make it clear the dog must go through it, not over it!



Jess Clark/The Kennel Club ©

### Rigid tunnels

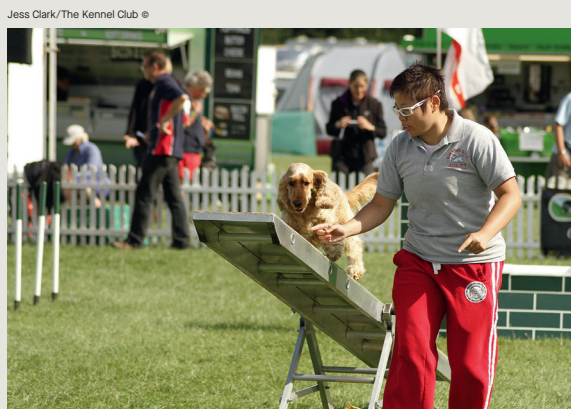
Dogs love these obstacles so much that they fly through them and are difficult to control at the other end. Training will help here.



Yulia Titovets/The Kennel Club ©

### 'A' ramp and 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.



Jess Clark/The Kennel Club ©

### Seesaw

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



Yulia Titovets/The Kennel Club ©

### Weaving poles

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

## Are you ready for your first agility show?

Visit [thekennelclub.org.uk/agility](http://thekennelclub.org.uk/agility) or email us at [agility@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:agility@thekennelclub.org.uk) for all you need to know about entering shows and the next steps to becoming an agility champion!

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