

Chapter 1 : What Is Dog Agility?: Agility Information for Newbies | PetHelpful

Agility Training offers a challenge to you and your dog that keeps both of you interested, entertained, and coming back for more. The author, a noted trainer, has competed in National competition with her Rottweiler and teaches Agility classes to eager learners.

But it mainly centered around sportsmanship, and trial behavior for humans. The discussion was excellent, lots of really good points. I ended up responding to this thread. I thought I would post it here. And I hope to blog more: So here is my response: World Team competition is a pressure cooker of expectation—we all have sides that come out when the heat is on. I feel mental management is very crucial to the success of an individual and a team. Do they have more pressure than a person who just wants to compete on the weekends? I cannot say that. I think we ALL have challenges that trouble us. We all have goals. And we want to meet those goals. I do not like separation. I think every time a team steps to the line, they are all facing challenges. The things I tell people to ask themselves and think about: If there is any doubt in your mind, assume your behavior is inappropriate and stop it. If so, stop it. I have no issues with disappointment, but emotions do change those around you. After a not so great run, you can go process for 10 minutes—if you need more time, take more time. But do not come back to the group until you are done processing and can emerge. You have to or it will cause issues in your next runs. Work on getting that processing time down to 10 minutes or less mental management. Give them time to process, to be with their dog because what is agility without a dog? But unsolicited comments are not needed. I do this a lot and people completely understand. For the "thieves of joy" well To yourself, to your fellow competitors, to your dog, to the ring crew. You do not know what others are struggling with. These go for any competitor as far as I am concerned. We all want to have fun. It just requires some changes in behavior for many of us myself included—I am human too! Agility is made of lots of new folks and people that are wanting to have fun. These people are the next stars! The next supporters of the sport! The next teams for World Teams! It starts with fun. So support each other. Here is what I tell my team members: That is YOUR job. Handling, click below to check it out! It is going to be a blast!! FDSA is a really awesome, supportive online dog training school!

Chapter 2 : How to Build a DIY Dog Agility Course | This Old House

Authors Note: Like many sports, dog agility is open to anyone who wants to participate. But this sport requires that you enlist the co-operation of a dog, any dog, who also wants to participate. From the moment you decide that you would enjoy running round a large obstacle course to direct your dog.

There are all sorts of ways to bond with your dog through exercise, ranging from walking your neighborhood to highly competitive sports, like dog agility competitions. Destructive, bored dogs look for, and will find, an outlet for their energy. Why not direct it in a way that you and the dog can really enjoy? Dog agility training is healthy and fun, all at the same time. According to the United States Dog Agility Association, there are over different breeds including mixed breeds, participating in dog agility. Almost every sound, healthy dog, and almost every person, can do agility training. Then go watch a couple of classes, both beginner and more advanced. Is the atmosphere warm and friendly? Do the handlers and their dogs appear to be having fun? However, your dog will need to have the appropriate vaccines and be social enough to be in a confined area with other dogs in a non-aggressive way. I was ready to get started, not go sit in a lecture. Wow, I was so wrong. The first class WE got to be the dog and the instructor gave us commands, non-verbally and often with no hand signals and we were supposed to know what she wanted us to do “how? It was an eye-opening experience. Understanding agility from a canine perspective is the right way to start. You might be wondering: Am I too young or too old? There is no upper age limit on agility. The same goes for the handlers. Dog Agility Weave Poles Image: Some people have different collars that they use for different activities, and the dog associates the activity by the collar they are wearing. Typically, for practice, you will want to use a standard flat collar with nothing hanging off the collar: A simple slip lead is good to have as well as a short clip-on leash. They are big ticket reward treats. Dog Agility Training Expectations How long should you practice? Dogs, in many ways, are like children. They enjoy being challenged and enjoy being rewarded, but their attention span can be short, especially in the beginning. Keep your training spontaneous and short. Although they are all very similar, these organizations have unique and differing rules. For instance the AKC only allows purebreds, whereas the other organizations allow mix breeds to participate. Some dogs and some handlers are just naturals at this sport and some take it at a slower pace.

Chapter 3 : Wholistic Hound | AGILITY CLASSES

Enjoying Dog Agility (2nd edition) is the premier beginner's guide to the fast-growing sport of dog agility. Author Julie Daniels, a national and international agility champion and one of the early pioneers of the sport in the United States, has written an upbeat and informative must-read that shares her insight into all aspects of agility, from initial training of the dog to competing and.

Dogs have to learn to navigate various agility obstacles in order to safely and successfully run an agility course. These pieces of equipment include the A frame, dogwalk, teeter, table, tire jump, jumps, double jump, triple jump, panel jump, broad jump, chute and tunnels. There may be different types of equipment, depending on the rules of the group offering the agility trial. Most other agility venues are similar enough to AKC rules to generalize this information to those venues. The A frame is the widest, largest piece of equipment and is called an A Frame because it makes an A shape see Photo 1 and video above. Dogs must go up and over the A frame and hit the yellow paint contact zone before leaving. The dogwalk is the longest piece of equipment see Photo 2 and video above. Dogs must go up and over the dogwalk and hit the yellow contact zone before leaving. The teeter is the most unsteady piece of agility equipment see Photo 3 and video above. Dogs are often afraid of having the plank move out from under their feet as the teeter falls. Dogs must go over the teeter, have the teeter hit the ground, and hit the contact zone before leaving. A pause table is a table onto which the dog must jump and stay for five seconds see video above. The dog must stay on the table until released by its handler. Some venues require the dog to lay down, sit or stand while on the table. There are several types of jumps. A dog must simply jump over a single bar jump without dropping a bar see video above. Double and triple spread bar jumps also require the dog to jump them without knocking a bar see Photo 4 and video above. The broad jump requires the dog to jump it without ticking or walking on it. The tire jump requires the dog to jump through it see Photo 5 and video above. The panel jump is a solid jump with displaceable panels that must not be dropped see video above. The dog must then "weave" between each pole without missing a pole see Photo 6 and video above. The weave poles are considered by many to be the hardest agility obstacle to train. There are two types of tunnels. The regular tunnel is simply a vinyl tunnel the dog must run through see video above. The second type of tunnel is called a chute, closed tunnel or collapsed tunnel. This has a hard barrel opening with a length of material on its exit end that the dog must run through see Photo 7 and video above. How long the length of material is depends on the rules of the agility organization sanctioning the agility trial. The Different "Levels" in Agility Like most sports, agility has "levels" of difficulty. Teams a team consists of a dog and a handler who are beginners run on the easiest courses with the fewest obstacles, and they are allowed to make mistakes and still qualify pass on the course that day. Teams who are in the masters level cannot make any mistakes in order to qualify, and the courses are the most difficult. The levels between Novice and Masters allow for fewer mistakes and harder courses as they progress. The Novice level will mostly have teams brand new to competition. The dogs will often run amok and the handlers may even seem lost. The runs are not always smooth with lots of mistakes and bobbles. Other teams may have a few mistakes, but still have beautiful, fast runs. There will still be the occasional "train wreck" run as even experienced teams get out of sync, but most teams will run with great skill and precision. The goal is for teams to qualify - or "pass" - on any particular course as qualifying runs add up toward titles that the dogs can earn. These titles are greatly coveted and celebrated. To learn about AKC titles, click here. A sheltie jumping off of a teeter before it hits the ground. Refusals - This is where a dog stops forward motion or spins before an obstacle. If a judge raises their hand in a fist, it means the team incurred a refusal or run out. If a judge raises their hand in a fist, it means a team incurred a run out or a refusal. If a judge raises their hand with their fist open, it signifies a wrong course. Table Fault - A dog is called for a table fault if it gets on the pause table but leaves it before the five second count is finished. Tables are in Standard Class only. If a judge raises their hand with two fingers or makes a "T" with both hands, it signifies a table fault. Mandatory Elimination - There are many ways a dog can incur a mandatory elimination or "failure to perform. They can jump off of the contact obstacles A Frame, teeter, dogwalk before hitting the usually yellow painted "contact

zone" at the bottom of the obstacle. This is a safety zone, and a dog must have part of its paw in the zone before leaving the obstacle. A dog could "fly off" the teeter, meaning the dog leaves the teeter before the teeter hits the ground. A dog could drop a bar on a jump. If a dog gets a Failure to Perform at any level, it has not qualified that day. When a judge raises both hands, this indicates a Failure to Perform. Mandatory Excusal - There are many ways a dog can get excused from the ring. Some of the more common include: In order to qualify, the dog must run the course under the SCT. Some dogs will go over SCT but are still allowed to continue running the course until the maximum course time is reached. At that point, the dog will be asked to leave the ring, even if it is still in the middle of the course. Below are tables explaining the different levels and the different mistakes allowed at each level for a team to qualify pass the course. The above list of "mistakes" possible is by no means exhaustive. For a full listing of potential mistakes in AKC agility, [click here](#). Video Showing Different Classes and Equipment Classes in an Agility Trial In addition to levels, there are also different classes in which a team can show. Often called "games," the AKC has five different types of classes available. Standard is the class where all of the agility equipment is used. The dogs must run through the obstacles in a certain order. This course, too, is sequentially numbered, and the teams must complete the course in order. A line is placed on the ground, and handlers must at some point in their run send their dogs out at distance to take two or three obstacles in a certain order. Dogs unable to work at a distance from their handlers find this class to be difficult. Time 2 Beat T2B is another game where teams run a flowy course as quickly as possible. Teams that are the fastest earn the most points in this fast-flying game. Premier classes come in both the Standard and JWW variety and are for the most experienced teams. Knowing the rules helps the spectator better understand what is happening in the ring. Just as with any sport, rule knowledge helps greatly with spectator enjoyment.

Chapter 4 : Full Tilt Border Collies: Enjoying Agility All Of Us.

Enjoying Dog Agility (Kennel Club Pro) and millions of other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more Enter your mobile number or email address below and we'll send you a link to download the free Kindle App.

Training[edit] A mixed-breed dog demonstrates the teeter at an agility class. Dogs can begin training for agility at any age; however, care is taken when training dogs under a year old so as to not harm their developing joints. Introducing a new dog to the agility obstacles varies in response. Each individual dog learns at his own pace; confident dogs may charge over equipment with little encouragement, while more timid dogs may take weeks to overcome their hesitations with much encouragement. Both scenarios present their own challenges; dogs may be overconfident and sloppy to the point where they have a serious accident, so self-control must be taught. Whether for competition or recreation, the most important skill for an agility team to learn is how to work together quickly, efficiently, and safely. Training techniques for each piece of equipment varies. Seasoned handlers and competitors, in particular, may choose to train independently, as structured classes are commonly geared towards novices. Common reasons for joining an agility class include: Access to agility equipment, especially the larger contact obstacles, which can be expensive, difficult to build, and require a lot of space to use. The handler can also benefit from being physically fit, but with some handling styles it is not necessary to keep up with the dog nor is it possible with very fast dogs. Research has also demonstrated health benefits to handlers engaged in dog agility. The club might be devoted solely to dog agility, or it might be primarily a breed club that wants to promote the working abilities of its breed, or it might be a club that hosts many types of dog sports. The club contracts with judges who are licensed by the sanctioning organization and applies to the organization for permission to hold a trial on a specific date or weekend; most trials are two-day weekend events. Key trial jobs[edit] The club designates a member to be the chairperson or show manager, who is responsible for ensuring that the trial takes place, and another member to be the secretary, who is responsible for providing competitors with the show premium or scheduleâ€”a document that describes the specific competition, summarizes the rules, describes the trial site, and includes an entry formâ€”receiving completed entry forms, sending out running orders, producing running-order lists for the day of competition, and compiling the results from the trial to send to the sanctioning organization. The designated chief ring steward or ring manager is responsible for finding and assigning workers, almost always volunteers, to perform the myriad tasks involved in putting on a trial. This section does not cite any sources. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. July Learn how and when to remove this template message Agility competitions require considerable space. Each ring is usually at least 5, square feet I. Competitions can have anywhere from one to a dozen rings. The ground must be non-slip and level, usually being either packed dirt, grass, carpeting, or padded matting. Dogs, when not competing, are usually left to rest in exercise pens, crates , or dog tents familiar and enclosed environments in which they can relax and recover between runs. Handlers also bring reflective cloths to protect their dogs from sun exposure and to calm them down by covering their crates with the cloths. There also needs to be space for many handlers with dogs on leashes to move freely around the rings without crowding, and space for warming up, exercising, and pottying dogs. Adjacent to the site, parking must be available for all competitors. In heavily populated areas, therefore, it is uncommon to find real estate inexpensive enough to devote entirely to agility, so sites are usually rented for the weekend. Even in more rural areas, agility-only sites are uncommon. Popular locations include large parks , covered horse-riding arenas, and in cold-winter areas, large, empty warehouses in which mats or carpet can be laid. Course design[edit] Before the trial, each judge designs the courses that he or she will judge at the competition. Guidelines include such issues as how far apart obstacles must be, how many turns are allowed or required on a course, which obstacles and how many of each must appear on the course, and so on. The rules vary by level of competition and by organization. Building a course and calculating times[edit] Golden Retriever in an agility competition. Before each class, or the evening before the first class, course builders use course maps provided by the judges to place equipment on the course. The chief course

builder is usually an experienced competitor who understands what equipment is legal, how it must be configured, how each must be aligned compared to other obstacles, and can direct several course-building volunteers to efficiently move the equipment into place. To make the job easier, courses are often marked in some way to correspond to a grid: When the course builders finish, the judge walks through the course and double-checks that the obstacles are legal, that they are placed where the judge intended, and that there are no unintended hazards on the course such as potholes, uneven ground, or mud puddles around which the course must be adjusted. For many classes, the judge then measures the path through the course to determine the optimal running distance of a typical dog. The judge uses that measurement with a speed requirement determined by the rules to calculate the standard course time, the time under which dogs must complete the course to avoid time faults. For example, if the course is yards or meters long, and the rules state that dogs must run the course at a rate of at least 3 yards or meters per second, the standard course time would be 50 seconds. For novice handlers in classes with complex rules, the briefings can be much longer. The competitors then walk the course as described earlier. When the walk-through ends, the gate steward or caller ensures that dogs enter the ring in the running order previously determined by the trial secretary and manages changes to the running order for handlers who might have conflicts with other rings of competition. At the score table, scorekeepers compile the results in a variety of ways. Some organizations require or encourage computerized scorekeeping; others[who? When all the dogs in a given height group, level, and class have run, the score table compares run times, faults, and any other requirements to determine placements and, for classes that provide qualifying points towards titles, which dogs earned qualifying scores. Each ring might run several classes during a day of competition, requiring multiple course builds, walk throughs, briefings, and so on. Awards and titles[edit] A variety of rosette award ribbons from dog agility competitions. Awards are usually given for placements and for qualifying scores. Such awards are often flat ribbons , rosettes , commemorative plaques , trophies , medals , or pins. Some clubs award high-in-trial awards, calculated in various ways, or other special awards for the trial. Dogs who complete their final qualifying scores to become agility champions are often presented with special awards. Many Kennel Clubs also award titles to those who manage to qualify enough times in a particular level. Most clubs require three qualifying scores in any level to get the corresponding title, however, other clubs may require more or less. Injuries[edit] Surveys of handlers indicates that about 1 in 3 dogs incur injuries from agility related activities. The most common types of injuries were in order strains, sprains and contusions. There were no relationship between the use of warm-up and cool-down exercises and injuries.

Chapter 5 : Dog agility - Wikipedia

Enjoying Dog Agility (2nd edition) is the premier beginner's guide to the fast-growing sport of dog agility. Author Julie Daniels, a national and international agility champion and one of the early pioneers of the sport in the United States, has w.

Chapter 6 : How To Get Started In Dog Agility Training - Wagbrag

In an agility course, your dog must go through an open tunnel, also called a pipe tunnel, of about 24 inches in diameter. Tunnel lengths range from 10 to 20 feet and are generally constructed of coated flexible ducting material.

Chapter 7 : Enjoying Dog Agility: From Backyard To Competition by Julie Daniels

Agility Obstacles: Training Your Dog for the Seesaw Check out these dog training tips to train your dog for agility obstacles like the seesaw. One of the favorite obstacles of the spectators, the seesaw or teeter cements the image of an agility course as a big playground.

Chapter 8 : Enjoying Dog Agility by Julie Daniels

Agility is a competitive sport for dogs. It is an obstacle course made up of jumps, tunnels, and walkways. Dogs and handlers work as teams, with the handler helping the dog to navigate the obstacles in the correct order.

Chapter 9 : ENJOY YOUR DOG! - Home

Dog agility is a dog sport in which a handler directs a dog through an obstacle course in a race for both time and accuracy. Dogs run off leash with no food or toys as incentives, and the handler can touch neither dog nor obstacles.