

Agility Course Descriptions

Agility Level 1 – Foundations

Entry Requirements: Basic obedience (sit, down, fairly dependable recall and attention to handler)

Exit Criteria: Handler confidence in: flat work (shadow handling, front crosses on the flat, rear end awareness, control on raised surfaces), criteria based learning and shaping, start line control and recall with distractions.

Description: This introductory course will focus on building the important relationship between dog and handler that is necessary for both Obedience and Agility. Principles of self-control, reliability, and learning will be a large portion of the course. Dogs will work to develop body awareness and control in a variety of situations.

* * * * *

Agility Level 1 – Introduction to Equipment

Entry Requirements: Basic obedience (sit, down, fairly dependable recall and attention to handler)

Exit Criteria: Dog will demonstrate basic skills to negotiate the agility equipment with a measure of confidence suitable for this introductory level of instruction.

Description: This is an introductory class to the sport of agility. Participants will be exposed to the basic elements of agility including basic jumping, basic handling, beginner equipment (A Frame, Dog Walk, Tunnels, Table, Chute, Teeter and Weaves) and will begin to build the team aspect of the sport.

* * * * *

Agility Level 2 – Equipment and Sequencing

Entry requirements: Completed both 'Introduction to Equipment' and 'Foundations'

Exit requirements: Able to do channel weaves with wires, lowered teeter, A-Frame and dog walk, and sequences of four obstacles in a row; with both front and rear cross.

Description: This novice level class continues to work on equipment skills, with considerable emphasis on the teeter and weaves, and introduces basic handling skills, contact end behavior and the theory of jumping.

* * * * *

Agility Level 3 – Advanced Equipment

Entry requirements: Completed Agility Level 2 – Equipment and Sequencing

Exit criteria: able to do regulation weaves without wires, full height teeter and dog walk, while increasing the number of obstacles in the sequence; conversant with front and rear cross and basic handling manoeuvres.

Description: This class continues to work on improving equipment performance, with emphasis on the teeter and weaves while developing basic handling skills, preparing the student for Agility Level 4 – Introduction to Handling. In addition, jumping skills will be further enhanced.

* * * * *

Agility Level 4 – Introduction to Handling

Entry Requirements: completed Agility Level 3 – Advanced Equipment.

Exit Criteria: Achieve a competency in full height equipment, regulation weaves without guides, and an ability to display a working knowledge of the handling system.

Description: This class will introduce the student to Serpentine, through warm-up drills, and how to do them initially using Front and Rear Crosses. At the same time, the student will be further introduced to a handling system which will provide the dog with a clear and consistent message, leaving no chance for a misunderstanding. Ultimately, Serpentine handling will be taught and integrated with all the equipment.

* * * * *

Agility Level 5 – Advanced Handling

Entry Requirements: Completion of Agility Level 4 – Introduction to Handling.

Exit Criteria: Proficiency with Front and Rear Crosses, Serpentine, Threadles and Lead out Positions; basic understanding of course analysis and handling decisions, bearing in mind any limitations on the part of you or your dog.

Description: This class will present the technical aspects of Front Crosses, Rear Crosses, Lead out Positions, Serpentine Handling and Threadles. In the latter stages of the course such matters as Decision Making, Handling combinations of Equipment and Course Analysis will be discussed.

* * * * *

Agility Level 6 – Putting it all Together

Entry Requirements: Completion of Agility Level 5 – Advanced Handling

Exit Criteria: Proficiency in all areas of handling and equipment performance.

Description: This class is designed to integrate both handling and obstacle performance. Introduction to distance work, discrimination and distraction will be covered while advancing handling skills. Proofing of weave entries and contact end performance will be discussed and advanced.

Agility Level 7 – Excellent Handling

Entry Requirements: Completion of Agility Level 6 – Putting It All Together, PLUS at least one successful leg for the dog/handler team at an intermediate level in a CKC agility trial or equivalent.

Description: This class is designed to develop the abilities of advanced dog and handler teams through excellent level course simulations in order to improve competition performance.

Note: this course will only be offered only in May-June and September-October

* * * * *