

## **WHAT IS AGILITY?**

Agility is a sport that appeals to all dog lovers - from young people to senior citizens. It has great spectator appeal. Agility is designed to demonstrate a dog's willingness to work with its handler in a variety of situations. It is an athletic event that requires conditioning, concentration, training and teamwork. Dog and handlers negotiate an obstacle course racing against the clock.

The 'Standard Class' includes contact objects such as the dog walk, the A-frame, and seesaw. Each of the contact obstacles has a "safety zone" painted on the object and the dog must place at least one paw in that area to complete the obstacle.

The 'Jumpers with Weaves' has only jumps, tunnels and weaves poles with no contact objects to slow the pace. Additionally, many venues offer games designed to test handler-and-dog teams' strategy skill, accuracy, speed and distance handling.

Agility is available to purebreds and mixed breeds. From tiny Yorkshire Terriers to giant Irish Wolfhounds, the dogs run the same course with adjustments in the expected time and jump height. The classes are divided by jump heights in order to make the competition equal between the different sizes of dogs. For more about agility, click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQNI1irWGJY&feature=player>

Basic requirements for participation in agility classes at TCKC are:

1. The dog should be in good health, at least one (1) year of age, and under the handler's control in an off-lead situation.
2. The dog must not show signs of aggression towards other dogs or people.
3. The applicant must present proof of current immunizations (or titers) for their dog by the first class for each session in which they are enrolled.
4. The applicant must read, sign and date the TCKC registration form, read and sign TCKC's liability waiver, read and initial the Refund Policy and include payment of class fees.
5. A slip lead is recommended; however, a six-foot leather or nylon lead is acceptable.

Each handler will be responsible for bringing the proper equipment and training aids to class with them each week. Treats, toys, leads and crates will NOT be provided for class participants.

Here is a list of items to bring with you each week to class:

1. A buckle collar or quick release collar free of any tags. Choke collars and pinch collars are not allowed.
2. A 4" or 6" tab lead (optional).
3. A 6' obedience lead or 6' British slip lead.
4. Tennis shoes for the handler. (Sandals or flip-flops are NOT permitted.)
5. Lots of your dog's favorite treats. String cheese, micro waved hotdogs, liver, etc., are especially good choices.
6. A toy motivator (tug toys are best). Balls or other rolling toys should not be used.
7. A hungry dog! It is recommended you delay your dog's dinner until after class. Their motivation will be greater if they're working for that treat on an empty stomach.
8. Dog crates (for Intermediate, Advanced and Competition classes).