

4-H DOG AGILITY TRIAL RULES

Anne Arrington and Kristina Strakna - Co-Chairpersons
Show: Thursday, August 12th - 8:30 A.M.
Area Outside of Main Gate

Premiums: 10.00 8.00 6.00 4.00 2.00

Ribbons: Juniors, Intermediate, Seniors, and Division Champions

1. Membership in Dog Project must be on file at Howard County 4-H Office by May 1st.
2. Pre-registration required. Check in time is 8:00 A.M. Contest begins at 8:30 A.M. All dogs shall be immunized for Parvo-viral Entertis, distemper, have a Rabies vaccination, and have a Canine Identification Card on file with the 4-H Office prior to May 1st of this year. Rabies vaccination number and date shall be listed on dog registration form at time of county entries. **HEALTH PAPERS MUST ACCOMPANY CANINE EXHIBITS AT ALL TIMES OR WHILE ON THE FAIRGROUNDS.**
3. All healthy, trained dogs over twelve (12) months of age are eligible to compete in the agility trials. Handlers and dogs must have successfully completed Happy Hounds sponsored agility classes during the current or previous year prior to entry in the county fair agility competition.
4. Females in heat, lame, or blind dogs are ineligible for entry, as is any dog with a deformity that may cause a judge to not be able to reasonably assess the dog's ability to function and perform agility obstacles safely, and in a manner that is in the best interest, health and welfare of the dog.
5. Any dog that demonstrates aggression towards any person or any dog, whether inside or outside the ring, must be excused from the agility trial.
6. Any dog that the judge feels is not in enough control to perform all obstacles in a safe manner will be excused from the agility trial.
7. All agility trials shall be open to purebred and mixed breed dogs.
8. **Agility Levels:**
 - 1st Year - ON LEAD** - For beginner handler and beginning dog in their first year of showing.
 - SUB NOVICE - ON LEAD** - For experienced handler with beginning dog or beginning handler with experience dog (2nd or more year of showing). Winners of a Sub-Novice class at the county fair trial must advance to the Novice level or higher the following year.
 - NOVICE - OFF LEAD** - For experienced handler with a dog who is ready to be shown off lead. Dogs that have earned (1) qualifying score towards their title in a Sanctioned Agility Trial may NOT compete in this class. Dogs may run on leash, but will be FOR EXHIBITION ONLY (FE0).
 - ADVANCED - OFF LEAD** - For experienced handler with experienced dog who is ready to be shown off lead, is showing in AKC, UKC or other venues. Dogs that have earned one (1) or two (2) qualifying scores in a Sanctioned Agility Trial may compete in this class.
 - ELITE** - Dogs that have earned a title in a Sanctioned Agility Trial may compete in this class.
9. No Collars are allowed except for the 1st year level, which can only use a flat buckle collar. **No choke or electronic collars will be allowed.**
10. No food allowed in the ring.
11. Agility Obstacles: Dog Walk, Tire Jump, Closed Tunnel, Weave Poles, non-winged jumps, A-frame, Winged jumps, Open Tunnel.
12. Classes offered:
 - Regular Agility** - This is a standard agility course with the option all of the equipment listed above. It is a timed course with course and time faults.
 - Tunnelers** - The goal of the Tunnelers class is to demonstrate the dog's ability to respond quickly to directional commands from the handler while negotiating a course comprised of tunnels, with an option of jumps. Class will be substituted with another agility course if equipment is not available.
 - Jumpers** - The goal of the Jumpers class is to demonstrate the ability of the handler and dog to work as a fast moving, smooth functioning team. This class highlights the natural jumping ability of the dog and tests the handler for effective handling styles, while moving at a rapid pace.

13. Obstacle Faults:
Displaced jump pole, bar or tire - 5 points
Missing Safety Zone - 10 points
Running the wrong course - 10 points
Failure to Complete - 20 points

The following may be given faults at the discretion of the judge: handler contact, dragging/correcting with the leash, elimination in the ring, out of control in the ring.

14. Time Faults: The dog shall be assessed time faults for each second or fraction of a second that the dog exceeds the Standard Course Time (SCT).
15. Handlers will compete with other Handlers in their same level and age group regardless of the height of their dog. The taller dogs will have less time to complete the course than the shorter dogs. Ties will be broken with the best course time under the SCT.
16. Jump Heights: **Withers 11" & under - Jump 4", Withers 14" & under - Jump 8", Withers 18" & under - Jump 12", Withers over 18" jump 16" (may NOT jump higher in this division)**
Jump Height Exemptions: Dogs in the following list of breeds may jump 4" lower than they would normally jump as determined by their measurement. The "breed exemption" jump height becomes their accepted Standard division jump height. For example, if a Corgi were to measure into the 12" jump height group, they are allowed to enter the 8" Standard division jump height group. However, the breed exemption may NOT be used to enter a dog at the 4" height unless they are entered in the Veterans or JH divisions or the skilled category. Am. Staffordshire Terrier, Australian Terrier, Basset Hound, Bulldog, Bull Terrier, Cairn Terrier, Cardigan Welsh Corgi, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Clumber Spaniel, Dachshund, French Bulldog, Glen of Imaal Terrier, Miniature Bull Terrier, Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Petite Basset Griffon Vendeen, Pug, Scottish Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Swedish Valhund, and West Highland White Terrier.
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