

CORNWALL AGILITY CLUB

A GUIDE TO SURVIVING YOUR FIRST SHOW



BEFORE YOU START....

Registering your dog

If your dog is a pedigree, then not much you need to worry about here. Just ensure that you have your dogs name, date of birth and KC number handy for completing entries

If your dog is a non-pedigree, rescue etc, then will need to be registered on the Kennel Club Activities Register

Link to the form is:

<https://thekennelclub.formstack.com/forms/form5>

This can now be completed online, they will check it and will advise you if a name choice is already in use

Get your dog measured

It is a Kennel Club requirement that all small and medium dogs (except those that have been competing prior to 2006) are measured – this includes those that may just be competing in anysize classes. If your dog is obviously large, then they no longer need to be measured. Measuring sessions are carried out at many shows through the year, and also sometimes on specially arranged sessions

Details of planned measuring sessions will usually be noted on show schedules

The dog must be registered with the Kennel Club on either the breed register or the activity register

You will need to have an official 'Agility Record Book' for the dog (available from the Kennel Club, although the measurers MAY have record books available to buy)

The dog must have a microchip or ear tattoo or, if it has neither, you must have a passport sized photo of the dog which clearly identifies it when you go to the measuring session.

The dog must be over 15 months of age and you will need to pay the measuring fee of £4 per measurement to the measurers.

Second and third measurements

A second measurement must be carried out not less than 12 months and not more than 24 months after the date of the first measurement and must be carried out by different measurers to those that carried out the first one. If the height on the second measurement is different from the first, a third and final measurement must be arranged within two months of the second measurement, at which the measurers are both different from the measurers who conducted the first and second measurements.

UK Agility

The other popular shows that you may want to attend are run by UK Agility(UKA) For these, you do need to register (although some shows offer a Try Before You Buy)

Further details can be found at: <http://ukagility.com/HowTo.aspx>

Dogs also here have to measured on their system, unless obviously large. These sessions are arranged at many of their own shows

PLANNING YOUR DIARY & FINDING SCHEDULES

Once a club has confirmed its dates for the year, and future years, these tend to be advertised on various websites, such as www.agilitynet.co.uk, Facebook (not only own pages but also the Agility Schedules page), show processing websites such as Agilityshowsonline, Agilityplaza, SWAP, and club websites

With the majority of shows now available to enter online through www.swap-live.com, www.agilityplaza.com or <http://agilityshows.online> plus a few more, entering has become much easier than the old manual entry form system

Once a schedule is out and live for entering, it pays to make a note say a week in advance of the closing date to ensure done in time – a Google or Outlook Calendar reminder usually works well! Some also create a spreadsheet listing shows, colour coded if entered, got running orders through etc....

Keep a lookout too for reminders of a show closing shortly from online processors

If camping is required – book asap! Especially at the bigger, more popular shows, camping can be full within a very short period of time

ENTERING A SHOW

Ensure your entry is in on time, and that includes if entering online – paid for!

Not only is it a breach of Kennel Club regulations to enter late, but as soon as a show reaches its closing date, this is when a vast amount of work begins for the show management and processors – paperwork for all the classes has to be prepared, running orders produced, ring plans done to ensure no clashes, rosettes and trophies also have to be ordered to the percentage of entries per class.

You can imagine the problems caused by for instance, a class expected to have 20 dogs entered, suddenly jumping to 60!

For Open and Limit shows, your running orders will be sent out in the post usually a couple of weeks (sometimes less) before the actual show date – do not start panicking until it gets to a few days before, then contact the show secretary who will be able to advise

Note if an agility Match, running orders are not sent out, you just collect your entry cards on the day

Normally at KC shows you can enter a maximum of 2 or 3 classes a day (apart from any size etc), however this can sometimes be more – 7 has been known!

Give some thought into do you want to enter them all?

If many various classes are available for your grade to enter, then be aware that this can often mean they will be running more than one at the same time – walking 4 courses at once first thing in the morning can cause serious brain ache if you are not used to it!

If you are having a non-competing dog present at the show (NFC) then you need to declare this when entering, or log details with the Show Secretary on the day

Filling In Your Entry

Most shows now offer online entry facilities.

If entering this way you need to register your details with the relevant show processors in order to do so (see some of the website links above)

Once this is done, it is self-explanatory and the website should guide you through it. You usually simply select the show you wish to enter on their website, check the boxes next to the classes you wish to enter (always pays to have a copy of the actual schedule printed out / open on screen whilst doing so)

If a member of the organising club, there will be a box to check to indicate this to calculate any reduced entry fees

Also you may see boxes to check if wish to offer to help at the show (if a member of the organising club then you will usually be expected to as a matter of course), boxes for NFC dogs attending, and also if available, camping

If preferring to do manually, you need to fill in the form and return to the address stated, usually enclosing an SAE for your running orders if requested to do so

An example of a manual entry form....

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Cornwall Agility Club April Show 2014</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">AGILITY SHOW 26th & 27th April 2014 at ROYAL CORNWALL SHOWGROUND, WADEBRIDGE.</h3>								
This form must be used by one person only (or partnership). Writing MUST BE IN INK OR INDELIBLE PENCIL . Use one line only for each dog. The name of the dog and all details as recorded with the Kennel Club must be given on this entry form. If an error is made, the dog may be disqualified by the Committee of The Kennel Club. All dogs must be REGISTERED at The Kennel Club in the name of the owner. If the registration or transfer of ownership has not been confirmed it must be applied for before the closing date of entries. In case of dispute proof of postage of such applications may be required by The Kennel Club. Dogs under 18 months of age on the day of competition cannot be entered for competition. On no account will entries be accepted without fees. If a dog is in the process of Reg Transfer at the time entry is made, add the letters TAF as appropriate after its name. Please put classes in numerical order and USE BLOCK CAPITALS throughout when completing this entry form. Not for competition entries will be accepted for dogs aged four calendar months and over. Any bank charges incurred through incorrectly completed or dishonoured cheques will be passed on to the owner concerned. The Kennel Club Authority to Compete (ATC Number) for dogs resident outside of the UK must be stated or the entry will be returned.								
PLEASE CHECK ALL DETAILS BEFORE POSTING.								
HANDLER								
Name:Jo Bloggs..... Tel No: ...01234 567890..... Mobile:07965 564646..... e-mail:jbloggs@email.com.....					Address:1 Anywhere.....NowhereSt.....Somewhere..... Post Code:K99 9DG.....			
KC Registered Name of Dog	KC Reg No/ ATC No	Breed	Dog or Bitch	DOB	CLASSES		HEIGHT	GRADE
					SAT	SUN		
Crazy Mutt	K123456	Border Collie	D	01/0 5/10	1, 11 & 22	28, 33 & 49	L	1

Dogs may only be entered in three classes per day plus pay On The Day if run EXCEPT Dogs entered in Any Size who may only enter the two classes, Plus Pay On The Day if run

<p>OWNER (Only if different to handler):</p> <p>NameJ Bloggs.....</p> <p>Address1 Anywhere St, Nowhere,Somewhere.....</p> <p>..... Post code: ...K99 9DG.</p> <p>Please tick if entries to be sent here ____/____</p>	<p>DECLARATION I/We agree to submit to and be bound by the Kennel Club Rules & Regulations in their present form or as they may be amended from time to time in relation to all canine matters which the Kennel Club is concerned. And that this entry is made upon the basis that all current single or joint registered owners of this dog(s) have authorised/consented to this entry. I/We also undertake to abide by the Regulations of this Show and not bring to the Show any dog which has contracted or been knowingly exposed to any infectious or contagious disease during the 21 days prior to the Show or which is suffering from a visible condition which adversely affects its health or welfare. I/We further declare that I/we believe to the best of my/our knowledge that the dogs are not liable to disqualification under Kennel Club Agility Show Regulations.</p>	<p><i>Signature of Owner(s) or Authorised Agent</i></p> <p>.....J Bloggs</p> <p>Date01.03.14</p> <p>A dog must at the time of entry for the competition, be registered as required by Kennel Club Rules & Regulations in the owner's name (or else registration or transfer of registration applied for)</p>
<p align="center"><u>Entries & Fees:</u></p> <p>MUST BE PREPAID and sent to:</p> <p>Cornwall Agility Club April Show c/o Ruth Clarke Rohirrim Penhallow Truro Cornwall TR4 9NB Enquiries: 01872 554498 or info@ruthclarke.com</p> <p>Or entered online via</p> 	<p align="center"><u>Entry Fees</u></p> <p>....6.. Entries @ £3.00 per class</p> <p>.....CAC Helping Member Entries @ £2.25 per class</p> <p>CAC Membership Number:.....</p> <p>Members are expected to help at the show</p> <p align="right">Total</p> <p>Entries Close: 24 March 2014</p>	<p align="center"><u>Totals</u></p> <p>£18.00</p> <p>£.....</p> <p>£...18.00</p> <p>Qualifying Date: 3 April 2014</p>
<p align="center">CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: Cornwall Agility Club</p>		
<p>I am bringing minors to the show and I understand that in relation to them, the Duty of Care remains with me Signed.....</p> <p>Dogs under 18 months of age on the first day of the Show cannot be entered for competition. If a dog is in the process of Registration or Transfer at the time entry is made, add the letters NAF or TAF as appropriate after it's name. Any dog attending the event, but not competing must be entered on this form. For these dogs enter "NFC" in the classes entered column. Please put classes in numerical order and USE BLOCK CAPITALS throughout when completing this entry form. PLEASE CHECK ALL DETAILS BEFORE POSTING.</p>		

Dont forget too to familiarise yourself with all the small print in the schedule. This is basically all the rules and regulations that competitors and show organisers have to abide to – you may need to invest in a magnifying glass to read!

Keep a watch out online for any amendments that are being brought in – these are usually announced in the autumn and brought into force at the start of the following year

The qualifying date is the date that any wins in your current grade are taken up to. Should you win up a grade before that date, and have already entered, then you need to notify the show secretary / show processors at least 14 days before the show date

PRIOR TO THE SHOW

Footwear

Ensure got adequate footwear! Most shows summertime are outdoors, in our wonderfully unreliable weather!

Trail and Fell running shoes are very popular as known for giving good grip for running in wet conditions

Salomon Speedcross & Inov8 Mudclaws are popular higher-end versions, however there are some good more reasonably priced variants on the market such as More Miles and Karrimor

Many handlers have fallen in the ring due to inadequate footwear

Check Venue

May sound silly, but some clubs may hold their shows at different locations during the year.

Some competitors have been known to be heading to Wadebridge, when the show is at Stithians.....

Check the weather

Not only for the day, but to maybe allow for travelling time too, especially if going some distance during the winter

Make sure got everything together you need

Running shoes

Flask etc

Waterproofs and dog coat (if wet)

Sun cream for you and dog – keep in mind venues such as Royal Cornwall Showground are exposed to sea breezes, and you can burn even on a cloudy day!

Running orders

Ring Plan – highlight if need be where your classes are and when

Directions to venue

Record books – these could well be asked for on spot checks being carried out by judges or show management, to ensure small and medium dogs are measured, or if a big qualifier to check that you are eligible for it etc

Protection for dogs in cars – items such as reflective foil sheets, Gazebos, Windbreaks and Carnopys are popular

Water and bowl for dogs

Titbits

Favourite toy

Poo bags

Basic first aid bits -both human and canine – always handy to carry some Instant Ice Packs, for use in the event of minor injury to human or dog

Dogs!!

DAY OF THE SHOW

Try and relax!

If feeding your dog breakfast, make sure allow plenty of time before due to run

Try and arrive in plenty of time for your classes

At most shows, parking is generally away from the edge of the rings. If able to park ringside, then please bear in mind if your dog is easily excited, could make matters worse, not just for them, but other competitors running; likewise you would not be popular if your car alarm etc is likely to go off, or are sat eating a burger at the ringside, especially if only roping is being used!

On arrival at venue

Please take note of speed restrictions around the venue! Usually tends to be 5mph. Be aware that dogs or humans may be running around loose! On the same note, please do not let your dog off lead in the parking / camping areas – only in those areas designated to do so

Familiarise yourself with where all your rings, toilets and exercise areas are
Don't forget to take the dogs for regular walks, not just on arrival, but throughout the day!

If you see areas cordoned off, do not cross. They are done so for health & safety reasons, electric cabling etc – cabling for the PA system is in most cases, attached to fencing, covered with matting etc, but be aware too that can sometimes be some loose cables lying around

Ensure you pick up after your dog all over the venue!

If human showers etc are provided, please refrain from washing your dogs off in them

If you are down to help, you will usually find helpers sheets in the score tents at each ring (CAC will allocate you to a ring and details of this will go out with your running orders)

Fill in where you think may be able to help – in in any doubt, have a word with the ring manager at the ring

Walking Your Courses

Listen for tannoy announcements that your course is ready for walking – if camping, make sure can hear the tannoy! If in an area that is not clear, then investing in a walkie talkie that can be tuned in to the ring parties frequency can be a big help. UKA shows, and some KC shows (CAC included) run on the e-gility system, so you can also pick up what the rings are doing off smartphones through www.agilityplaza.com – very handy to put a link to the site on your homescreen (there are instructions on agilityplaza website how to do this for both android and iphones)

If a UKA show, you will need to take your dog's UKA number (5 digits) with you to enter on the tablet to say you are present and running; As UKA shows tend to be smaller, there is a chance you may be running in one ring when another you are in is coming to the end – this means the ring party will know where you are and able to put a call out for you, and wait for you

Walk the course as many times as you feel necessary in the time allowed
Sometimes, if a big class and a lot walking at the same time, it pays to stand to one side and watch for the main rush clearing

If a course is available for walking over the lunch break, then this tends to give you plenty of time – **note if a class has already started, and broken mid-way for lunch, you cannot walk it again**

If a course is not to your liking, it is NOT the done thing to publicly say so, whilst walking it or running it come to that!

We all come across courses from time to time, that may not suit our particular dog, or have an element in not comfortable with; Best tactic is to go in, give it a shot and take away the positives from the good bits you can do, and ideas to work on

Judges, like show management, give up a great deal of time free of charge, for our enjoyment – without them, there would be no shows

Should you however, whilst walking a course, spot something dangerous, such as weaves pegged the wrong way, tunnels not strapped correctly, then please have a quiet word with the ring manager or judge, so they can rectify

Going for your run

Make sure both yourself and your dog are adequately warmed up!

Listen out for tannoy announcements / watch ring boards for running order numbers calling up to / e-gility updates – if in doubt, check with the ring party at the ringside

Ensure there are no dangly bits from your dog's collar as you will be eliminated if your dog runs with them on!

Be aware if you have more than one dog in the same class, they must run in the order of their running orders, you will be eliminated if found to have done otherwise. The author remembers well walking what seemed like miles from their camping pitch to the ring, only to get there and find they had the wrong dog!

Book in for your run with the caller at the ring side. This should be a person stood or sat near the end of the queue (at CAC shows they should also be wearing a hi viz vest with Caller on the back).

Note however this is not always the case – sometimes they can be found near the ring entrance etc. If this is the case then please take care booking in to not disturb dogs that are already queueing and maybe excitable

Join the queue

If your dog needs space, then there is no issue normally with advising those in front or behind you of such, and perhaps standing slightly out of the queue, or have someone queue for you. Some dogs like to play tuggy etc whilst queueing – again if you do, then best to stand out of the queue so not to interfere with others

As you reach the head of the queue, you will be asked for your running order number, so they can get your judging slip ready if on a manual system.

If e-gility is being used then you will need to give your dog's running order number. Very important here to double check that they do have the right person and dog, and unless requested by the ring party, do not move out of your place in the queue as this would mean someone else could run under your name!

They will normally tell you when to make your way to the startline – eg as the previous dog reaches jump 14 for example. Please try and abide by this, so that the class can be kept moving. Obviously if you feel there could be a safety issue (ie start and finish close together, nervous dog etc) then please mention this to them at the time

Some shows (CAC included) try where possible to have a small area set off from the start and finish as collecting areas)

If it is a UKA show (not kennel club) you may go in NFC (not for competition) and train your run, using a silent toy – please advise the ring party if doing so. Please note you cannot do this at a Kennel Club Show, apart from at some limit shows if has been stated

Make your way to the startline and remove lead (and whatever else!) when ready

Please pass lead, any toys, titbits etc to the leads person, or place on ground if they are not there

Please do not throw your lead at them, for obvious reasons!!

Very important to listen to the Scime telling you they are ready for you to run and checking your name - they will announce this usually with a call of “When you are ready” or “In your own time”

Some judges however prefer to start the competitor themselves, by use of a whistle. If this is the case then best to check the Scime has the right name, and listen for the whistle from the judge

Please note you will be eliminated if you commence before instructed to do so

Ok, so not everyone has reliable startline waits in the ring!

If you need to go back to our dog and re-sit them etc, then you can do so. However please try and not take the mickey by spending too much time doing so.

On completion of your run

Your lead etc will usually be left for you close to the exit of the ring

Please ensure you clear the exit area as quickly as possible, so not to intrude on the next dog finishing their run

Don't forget, if it goes wrong, do not blame your dog, you are the one who is directing them and has trained them!

Presentations

Taking it that you have had a good run, keep a listen out for announcements when your class results will be presented – these can be done at various times of the day

Once a presentation has been done, then most shows will have the results in folders outside, or just in, the main marquee; You can also view through agilityplaza if the e-gility system is being used

Don't forget if you have gone clear, to note down the details to fill in your record book!

Should you miss a presentation, and realise you are due a rosette then please see the show management and they can sort for you. However please do this when things are quiet, and not whilst they are in the middle of another presentation!

Likewise, in the event of a query with your results, please have a quiet word with the show management, and they can have a look for you

End of the show

Don't forget to give your dog a last run, especially if a long journey!
If it is your own show, and expected to help, don't forget the day doesn't end as soon as the
last class is done – equipment has to be packed away
Many hands make light work, and as soon as this is done then everyone can go home for a
much needed bath and drink!

Above all

**ENJOY &
GOOD
LUCK!!!!**