

What is Dog Agility?

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For those of you who are asking "What is Dog Agility?", here is a definition that adequately describes the sport of Agility:

"Dog agility is a sport or competitive event that involves a handler directing a dog off-leash through a specially designed obstacle course originally based loosely on equestrian style jumping competitions."

This is not our definition but one that was obtained from the internet. If one uses a search engine to search the words "dog agility," a wealth of information becomes available, and we encourage you to do that if you are unfamiliar with the sport.

All breeds of dogs, including mixed breeds, can participate in dog agility. Some breeds are more suited to run agility courses than others, but all dogs can succeed if they are trained and are willing. Golden Retrievers seem to enjoy the sport immensely, and many are very successful. In order to participate in agility trials, the dogs generally must be at least 18 months of age.

The courses are made up of many obstacles. These include a dog walk, an A-frame, a seesaw, tunnels, single bar jumps, double bar jumps, spread jumps, a chute, a table, and weave poles. The obstacles are placed in a large area subject to certain rules, and they are numbered. The dogs are expected to go under, go over, or go through each obstacle in numerical order. The dogs must complete the course in a specified time. They must successfully complete each obstacle according to the rules for that obstacle.

Agility is a great activity for both the dog and the handler. It is a lot of fun and a wonderful opportunity for the dog and handler to work together as a team and to develop a very strong bond. And who needs a gym when you do agility?

Running courses and hauling equipment around becomes a way of life once one is hooked, and getting hooked is incredibly easy to do. Give it a try – you will love it.