

Resources



Clean Run Productions is a company that caters to the unique needs of the agility community by providing high-quality products for people and dogs active in canine performance sports. They offer a wide variety of agility gear, dog supplies, items for dog training, books, DVDs, "cooling" essentials for hot temperature activity, equipment and travel products.

Their monthly *Clean Run* magazine is the largest agility training magazine in the world. It provides up to date information on training and course designs, along with great articles covering the newest trends in agility world.

Website: <https://www.cleanrun.com/>

Agility Equipment

When you are ready to take your training to the next level, here are two companies for high quality agility equipment:

MAX 200 Performance Dog Equipment

MAX 200 carries a huge assortment of equipment for the most popular dog venues: Agility, Obedience, and Flyball, and other general items.

Website: www.max200.com



"Run Like MAD with M.A.D Agility Equipment"

M.A.D. Agility is a premiere manufacturer of high quality Dog Trial Agility Equipment. AKC Approved. You can arrange to pick up your agility equipment order at agility trials. See calendar on the M.A.D. Agility

Website: <http://www.madagility.com/>

Don't forget the **JAG library** for training books and DVDs



Agility: Find Your Perfect Fit!



JAG participates and sponsors competitions (trials) in 5 of the 8 major agility venues; AKC, CPE, UKI, USDAA and VALOR. When you start to train and/or compete in agility, you'll want to choose the venue(s) that provide the best fit for you and your dog. Simply put, the best fit is where you'll have the greatest success and most fun!

To help you choose your best fit here is some information about each organization, highlighting the differences in approach and how you can join. *All the links shared can be found at our website www.jagdogs.com*



American Kennel Club

To register and compete at AKC trials, you will need to join the AKC and be issued an AKC number. The AKC has a Canine Partners program that allows mixed breed dogs and non-eligible AKC registered dogs to compete in all of their venues - AKC Rally, Agility, Obedience, Coursing Ability, and Tracking - and earn titles. Joining Canine Partners also qualifies your dog to receive AKC's Canine Good Citizen Award, AKC Therapy Dog designation, and AKC Search & Rescue titles. In addition, AKC recognizes the titles of these sports organizations: Barn Hunt Association, North America Diving Dogs and North American Flyball Association. There is a one-time cost of \$35 to join. The information is on the AKC website <http://www.akc.org>

AKC Agility Trial Class Descriptions

Standard Class includes contact objects such as the dog walk, the A-frame, and teeter. 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 Standard class also has a variety of jumps; weave poles, pause table, tunnels and a "chute" (closed tunnel).

Jumpers with Weaves has only jumps, tunnels and weaves poles with

begin at the Expert level

Levels

Beginner, intermediate, Expert and Exceptional are the levels of competition. Requirements to move up to the next level are found on the VALOR website at http://teamworksdogtraining.org/VirtualAgilityLeague/VALOR_levels.html

How it Works

Beginner level: Your dog is required to reach a skill level of competency on all obstacles. Once completed ask your instructor to submit an agility facility approval form or participate in a VALOR sanctioned trial.

Upon completion of beginner skills, you will enter a monthly Virtual Agility League test online and receive a course map.

- 3 rounds of standard, jumpers, snooker and perfect-50 courses are offered per month. You can choose the course you want to run.
- Perform the course with your dog and have the run video-taped
- Submit the video for review on your own [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) website and send the URL to Valor
- Valor reviews the video and verify that the performance meets the criteria for qualifying
- When you receive a qualifying score that is free from faults and adheres to all regulations, you will be mailed a rosette and prize for a performance
- After 3 qualifying scores at a particular level, you will receive a title certificate and title ribbon, and you may compete at the next level in the next competition.

You may also participate at the VALOR trials hosted by JAG at the Wall training site. Check the JAG website for dates.

Registration

Dogs must be registered with the USDAA in order to compete in USDAA events. Competitors with dogs 18 months of age or older are eligible to compete. You may register online at <http://usdaa.com> or by mail by obtaining a registration form on the web site. Registration is \$25.00, with a discounted rate of \$20.00 for online registration. A separate registration is required for a dog and handler under age 18 to participate in the Junior Handler Program.

For more information visit <http://usdaa.com>



Valor

The Virtual Agility League™ is a non-traditional, skills-based agility venue that allows people to submit dog agility performances for review **by video**. This offers a low stress opportunity for handlers of special needs (reactive or distracted) dogs to demonstrate their dog's agility skills and to have a certification of achievement for their training efforts.

VALOR welcomes all breeds; even dogs with physical disabilities – deaf, vision-impaired, or missing limbs. Many Valor dogs develop the skills and confidence to compete at traditional agility trials in the future.

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Requirements

Dog must be at least 12 months of age to participate.

Dogs may jump as low as 1/3 their shoulder height.

Handlers should be at least 8 years of age to participate

Dogs may wear a collar in the ring while running. Dogs may also wear a head halter and/or a Thundershirt (anxiety wrap) while running.

Dogs that have a Novice or Starters Level Title in AKC or USDAA may begin at the Intermediate level

Dogs that have at least an Open or Advanced or CPE Level 3 Title may

no contact obstacles or a pause table to slow the team's forward momentum.

FAST (Fifteen And Send Time) The FAST class uses fifteen (15) point-valued obstacles and/or obstacle combinations. The course will include a 'Send Bonus' or distance element that will award a bonus of twenty (20) points if completed successfully. This class is designed to test handler and dog teams' strategy skill, accuracy, speed and distance handling and demonstrate a dog's athletic ability and willingness to work with its handler in a fast-paced atmosphere over a variety of agility obstacles.

Time 2 Beat (T2B) is meant to challenge the handler/dog to set a clean efficient line with an emphasis on speed and accuracy. The dog that sets the quickest time in each jump height will set the time to beat for that jump height.

All classes offer increasing levels of difficulty to earn progressive titles - Novice, Open, Excellent and Master. To move to the next higher level, you must have three qualifying runs (also called Qs) from two different judges. After completing both an Excellent Standard title and an Excellent Jumpers title, handler and dog teams can compete for the MACH - Master Agility Championship title.

Levels of competition

There are three levels of competition in agility (this applies to all venues):

Novice – for the dog that is just starting in agility. There are 14 to 16 obstacles on this course. The focus of the Novice class is on performing the obstacles with minimal handling technique.

Open – for the dog that has completed the Novice level. There are 16 to 18 obstacles on this course. The focus of the open class is on more difficult obstacle course performance with more handling skill required.

Excellent/Master – for the dog that has completed the Open level. There are 18 to 20 obstacles on this course.

The focus of the **Excellent** class is to provide the opportunity for dogs and handlers to demonstrate their superior skills in moving quickly and effi-

ciently with close communication and teamwork through challenging agility courses.

The **Master** level is the class where dog/ handler teams can earn the title, Master Agility Champion (MACH)/Preferred Agility Champion (PACH), from the Regular or Preferred Classes.

How Agility is scored

Agility is a time and fault sport where the qualifying requirements are more challenging as the competition class levels get higher. There are two types of faults: time and penalty. Time faults are given for every second a dog goes over the Standard Course Time as set by the length of the course.

Penalty Faults that a judge may assess a handler and dog include:

- Taking an obstacle out of sequence
- Missing a contact zone
- Displacing a bar or panel on a jump
- Jumping off the pause table before the judge is through counting
- Running around or refusing the next obstacle
- Exceeding the amount of time set by the judge for running the course
- Touching either the dog or any obstacle by the handler while running the course
- Handler failure to control the dog may be penalized

Agility Jump Heights

The classes are divided by jump heights in order to make the competition equal between the different sizes of dogs.

Regular Class

8" Class – dogs up to 11" at the shoulder

12" Class – dogs over 11" and up to 14" at the shoulder

16" Class – dogs over 14" and up to 18" at the shoulder

20" Class – dogs over 18" and up to 22" at the shoulder

24" Class – dogs over 22" at the shoulder

26" Class – dogs may be entered at this height at their owner's discretion.

Gambler's choice, where competitors accumulate points on course by handlers creating their own course strategy within the context of the regulations

Team relay, where handlers team up to strategize how best to apply their talents in running a course

Jumpers, where competitors demonstrate their training and handling expertise with their dogs performing a fast course comprised of various styles of jumps and hurdles

Snooker agility, where handlers strategize in calculating their route on course following the principal strategy rules of the billiards game of snooker

Events: USDAA host two principal types of events.

Agility Trials measure a competitor's level of expertise achieved in training and handling a dog. Titles include *Agility Dog*[®], *Advanced Agility Dog*[®] and *Master Agility Dog*[®] in USDAA's Championship Program, as well as titles offered through the USDAA *Veteran Program*, *Junior Handler Program*, *Intro Program* and *Performance Program*. Titles are offered for both standard and nonstandard classes—standard agility, gambler's choice, snooker agility, jumpers and relay. After earning the *Agility Dog Champion*[®] title, competitors can progress through bronze, silver, gold, platinum and diamond level designations in each class. Similar titles are offered in USDAA's Performance Program.

The **tournament series** challenges competitors to be the best of the best. These tournament series include the *Grand Prix of Dog Agility*[®] World Championships, the *\$10,000 Dog Agility Steeplechase*[®], the *Dog Agility Masters*[®] International Three-Dog Team Championship, and the *Masters Challenge Biathlons*[®]. The *Dog Agility Masters*[®] team championships is a pentathlon event, and the *Dog Agility Steeplechase*[®] championship features speed in jumping competition. The Biathlon features technical handling challenges on a standard agility course and a jumpers course, with the sum of their scores determining the biathlon champion.

Online registration is \$12 per handler plus \$12 per dog. To become a UKI registered member, sign up online at <http://www.ukagilityinternational.com>

Levels of Competition

UKI has four competition levels – Beginners, Novice, Senior and Champion. The number of points needed to progress to the next higher level is provided on the website, along with sample UKI course maps for each level and program.

Program Offerings

The *International Program* consists of **agility, jumping** and **games** classes (gamblers and power & speed). This Program allows dogs to progress through the levels by gathering the required number of points in each of the classes.

The *Speedstakes Program* consists of courses designed with **only jumps and pipe tunnels** for a fun, fast and smooth flowing run. The Program also allows dogs to progress through the levels by gathering the required number of points in each class.

For more information on UKI visit <http://www.ukagilityinternational.com>



Organized in 1986 to introduce and "Promote International Standards for Dog AgilitySM"; USDAA's primary function is to promote dog agility as an international

competitive, athletic sporting activity. This involves development and promotion of dog agility certification tests and tournament events.

USDAA sponsors challenging events for highly competitive handlers.

Classes : USDAA offers a variety of competitive classes in addition to the standard agility class:

A dog may jump in a jump height class higher than his/her shoulder measurement, but never lower.

Preferred Class

Handlers have the option to enter the preferred classes with modified standards of lower jump heights and five additional seconds on the course. They must compete at the required jump height.

Qualifying Performance

A perfect score in any class at any level is 100. A dog must earn 3 qualifying scores under two different judges. The minimum score to qualify is 85 in all classes except in the Master class where the minimum score is 100. The minimum time allowed to run the course and the number of obstacles to complete successfully, increase as the level of difficulty increases.

For a comprehensive list of AKC event in our area and easy registration visit **Fast Times Agility**



Website: <http://www.fasttimesagility.com>

CPE Canine Performance Events

CPE's Basic Philosophy is for the dog and handler to have FUN while competing for agility titles. CPE is more relaxed than AKC and offers Games classes in addition to the standard agility classes.

- Membership is open to all purebred and mixed-breed dogs, 15 months of age or older
- Veterans 6 years or older compete at lower jump heights
- Enthusiast and Specialist compete at lower jump heights
- 6 Levels of Titles (from Beginners to Extraordinaire)
- Junior's and Physically Challenged Handlers are welcomed!

To compete, you need to become a member. Cost is \$27 per dog. Download the application on the CPE website - <http://www.k9cpe.com>

Recommended entry levels for first CPE Agility Trial:

Level 1 – recommended for beginning dogs OR handlers, who have not shown at an agility trial, or who may want additional ring experience at an easier level. The course has fewer obstacles, and does not include the Teeter-Totter or Weaves in Standard. Any dog OR handler may begin showing in CPE in Level 1 regardless of their past experience.

Level 2 – recommended for dogs who may have earned the first title in another agility organization, or for a handler who has previously titled another dog in agility. Any dog OR handler may begin showing in CPE in Level 2 regardless of their past experience.

Level 3 - recommended for dogs who may have earned at least the first title or higher in one or more other agility organizations. Once a handler has chosen a level to begin with in CPE, the dog must be entered in the same level for all classes at the first show they are entered in.

Dogs entering their first CPE Agility Trial may begin showing at no higher than Level 3

The fun of CPE is designing your own course and developing a strategy to earn a maximum number of points. The games you choose from are Colors, Wildcard, Snooker, Jackpot, Full House, and Jumpers. For more information and the rules for each game please visit <http://www.k9cpe.com>



(those measuring no more than 17"). TDAA offers course challenges that are comparable to the traditional agility venues, but with obstacles that are scaled down to a size more appropriate to smaller dogs. Jump heights range from 2" to 16", with adjustments for long-backed and short-legged dog, and shorter running distances.

Dogs can earn titles by competing in standard agility and jumpers courses, along with a wide array of games. When you register for a trial,

the premium provides a brief overview, (but not the details) of the games to be played at a trial. At the trial, the judge will provide a more comprehensive explanation of the games (Briefings), to be played at the TDAA event. For more information about game offerings check out <http://k9tdaa.com/index.php>

Dogs wishing to compete in TDAA trials must either register or become a member of TDAA.

Registration is \$12; Membership is \$25. Forms are available online at <http://k9tdaa.com/forms.php>

There is a local TDAA affiliated club in Millstone, NJ called "Pawsable K9 Events". For more information, access their website: www.pawsk9events.homestead.com



UK Agility International is the North American division of UK Agility, which was founded in England in 2004. UKI was established due to the demand from the North American agility population for another option in agility competition. UKI's goal is to provide agility dog competitions that are designed with all competitors in mind; enabling all dogs to achieve a level of success, and promote the growth of agility in a safe and fun environment. UKI also encourages the advancement in training using reward based training methods.

Registration

To compete in UKI, you will need to become a registered member. All new members that have been competing in AKC, USDAA, and/or CPE must transfer their dogs into the equivalent UK Agility International level at the time of HANDLER registration. Check on the UKI website under "transfer levels" to determine your UKI equivalent.

Dogs that have no competition history with a UKI member or that are under competition age at the time of handler registration will start in the Beginners level.