



ACT COMPANION DOG CLUB INC.

www.actcdc.org.au

Novice Level Agility – Entry Requisites and Skills Guide

ENTRY CRITERIA		MANDATORY / OPTIONAL	
ADMIN	Current financial member of ACT Companion Dog Club (CDC)	M	
	Paid agility training fee (or CDC instructor)	M	
	Team complies with all CDC rules and policies (e.g. vaccination, agility waiting list etc)	M	
	Dog doesn't persistently disrupt class (e.g. by frequently doing "zoomies", displaying aggression to dogs or people, lunging/barking at other dogs or handlers, urinating on equipment)	M	
	FOR NEW CDC AGILITY MEMBERS (i.e. have not been promoted from a lower level): Has attended a CDC agility intake lecture in the last 2 years, or undertakes to attend the next one. The team has passed a formal Control test. The dog is not aggressive towards other dogs or people, and responds to their handler in recall and off-lead heeling, even with distractions. Handlers may use motivators (toys, food, praise) at any time during the test. We are looking for the dog being responsive to its handler, not "obedience" style formal recalls and heeling. The dog has passed a formal Physical test. Has no obvious problem such as limping or stiffness. Is easily able to jump a low hurdle, and can turn from one side to the other. Is not overweight.	M	
OBSTACLES	Team has had exposure to all the obstacles listed below and is able to perform them to the standard described (remembering this class is for dogs preparing to trial). The dog only has to demonstrate performance at the height specified, training should mostly be done at lower heights, especially with younger dogs.	M	
	Hurdle (jump)	Can confidently perform, at competition height with variations (wings, "solid", cones)	M
	Spread hurdle	Can confidently perform at competition height and width	M
	Broad jump	Can confidently perform at competition width	M
	Hoop (tyre)	Can confidently perform at competition height	M
	Flexible tunnel	Can confidently perform full length tunnel with a fairly tight radius 180 degree bend or two 90 degree bends	M
	Collapsible tunnel (chute)	Can confidently perform full length chute. Not held open	M
	Scramble (A frame)	Can confidently perform at full competition height. Team has reliable contacts without a target (90% of the time)	M
	Dog walk	Can confidently perform full height dog walk. Team has reliable contacts without a target (90% of the time)	M
	Table	Can confidently perform at full competition height. Reliable wait on the table (90% of the time).	M



Novice Level Agility – Entry Requisites Cont:

ENTRY CRITERIA			MANDATORY / OPTIONAL
	Weaving poles	Can do 12 poles. May be standard, very narrow offset channel, minimal guides or narrow V channel. Handler on both sides.	M
	See saw	Can reliably (90% of the time) perform see-saw with minimal assistance, tables etc	O
HANDLING	Recalls (here/come)	Almost always able to recall dog (95% of the time)	M
	Lead Out (wait)	Handler can usually (80% of the time) lead out at least 6 metres ahead of dog	M
	Contact Strategies	Team has reliable contacts (90% of the time) without a target on all contact obstacles	M
	Luring versus rewarding	Handler is not relying on luring at all	M
	Warm-ups & Stretching	Handler is able to demonstrate appropriate warm-ups and stretching on their dog	M
	Team has had exposure to all the following, and is able to do at least 11 at the standard described , remembering this class is for dogs preparing to trial		M
	Independent performance of obstacles	Handler able to work most obstacles with dog on either side of handler (i.e. on left or right)	O
		Dog able to perform obstacles with handler stationary and moving	O
	Hand targeting, lead hand	Handler able to demonstrate hand targeting with dog following handler's hand (e.g. Post turn, figure 8 exercise, turn away)	O
	Cues & Signals	Handler can demonstrate cues (voice/hand/body/movement) for each obstacle and turn	O
	Lateral distance	Handler can get at least 5 metres lateral distance	O
	Angled approaches	Able to perform most obstacles with approach angles of at least 30 degrees (not dog walk or see-saw). Can jump standard hurdles with an approach angle of at least 45 degrees	O
	Send dog ahead	Handler can send dog ahead at least 8 metres (use of target permitted)	O
	Sequences	Able to perform a sequence of at least 8 obstacles	O
	Targets/toys	Handler can demonstrate appropriate use of Targets and/or toys. Should be close to fading use of targets	O
	Motivators (play, food, toys, praise)	Handler can demonstrate good usage of what, when, how to use. Is able to use in training to arouse dog (if needed), increase confidence, reward good performances	O
Call-offs	Handler can reliably (90% of the time) call the dog off an obstacle if the dog isn't too close to the obstacle	O	



Novice Level Agility – Entry Requisites Cont:

ENTRY CRITERIA			MANDATORY / OPTIONAL
	Attention	Handler can almost always (95% of the time) get dog's attention when asked to do so	O
	Obstacle discrimination	Handler has started to train this, and has some ideas on how to progress	O
	Proof against distractions	Handler is aware of some of the issues and some ways to train this	O
TURNS / SIDESWITCHES	Post Turn (pivot)/180/Pinwheel	Handler can demonstrate a post turn, a 180 turn, and a pinwheel with up to 2 metres lateral distance to the middle jump	M
	Here/Come	Dog reliably comes towards handler (90% of the time). Handler can demonstrate	M
	Rear Cross	Handler is aware of the concept and can demonstrate on jumps as well as while dog is in tunnel. Use of target permitted	M
	Front Cross/Lead-out Pivot	Handler is aware of the concept and can demonstrate on jumps as well as while dog is in tunnel. Use of target permitted.	M
	Team has had exposure to all the following, and is able to do at least 2 at the standard described, remembering this class is for dogs preparing to trial		M
	Out (Increased lateral distance)	Diverging paths. Handler can demonstrate in an easy sequence. Use of target permitted	O
	Turn Away	Dog turns away from handler. Handler can demonstrate in an easy sequence. Use of target permitted.	O
	Left/Right	Handler is aware of the concept and can demonstrate a simple version. Use of target permitted.	O
	Blind cross	Handler is aware of the concept and of the advantages and disadvantages of this turn.	O
	RFP	Reverse Flow Pivot, Pull-back, Fake-out. Handler is aware of the concept and can discuss training strategies	O
	Lead out push	Handler is aware of the concept and can demonstrate a simple version.	O
	Serpentine	Handler is aware of the concept, has chosen a clear cue, and has started to train this	O
	270	Handler is aware of the concept and has started to train this	O

Agility sub-committee can chose to promote/not promote/admit any team to any level after consideration of all relevant facts



Skills Guide – Novice Level Agility

SKILLS GUIDE		Mandatory/ Optional	
<i>These are the skills that teams should expect to acquire at Novice level and which they should have before leaving this level.</i>			
ADMIN	Current financial member of ACT Companion Dog Club (CDC)	M	
	Paid agility training fee (or CDC instructor)	M	
	Team complies with all CDC rules and policies (e.g. vaccination, agility waiting list etc)	M	
	Handler understands they are required to help set up and pack up equipment. This includes setting up from a course map	M	
	Dog doesn't persistently disrupt class (e.g. by frequently doing "zoomies", displaying aggression to dogs or people, lunging/barking at other dogs or handlers, urinating on equipment)	M	
	FOR NEW MEMBERS TO CDC AGILITY (i.e. have not been promoted from lower level classes): Has attended a CDC agility intake lecture, or undertakes to attend the next one. The team has passed a formal Upper level Control test. The dog has passed a formal Physical test. Has no obvious problem such as limping or stiffness. Is easily able to jump a low hurdle and a narrow broad jump, can turn from one side to the other. Is not overweight.	M	
OBSTACLES	Team can demonstrate capacity to confidently perform all the obstacles listed below at competition standard The dog only has to demonstrate performance at the height specified, training can be done at lower heights, especially with younger dogs.	M	
	Hurdle (jump)	Can confidently perform, at competition height with variations (wings, "solid", cones)	M
	Spread hurdle	Can confidently perform at competition height and width	M
	Broad jump	Can confidently perform at competition width	M
	Hoop (tyre)	Can confidently perform at competition height	M
	Flexible tunnel	Can confidently perform full length tunnel with a fairly tight radius 180 degree bend or two 90 degree bends	M
	Collapsible tunnel (chute)	Can confidently perform full length chute. Not held open	M
	Scramble (A frame)	Can confidently perform at full competition height. Team has reliable contacts without a target	M
	Dog walk	Can confidently perform full height dog walk. Team has reliable contacts without a target	M
	Table	Can confidently perform at full competition height. Reliable wait on the table.	M
	Weaving poles	Can confidently and reliably perform 12 weaving poles. Handler on both sides.	M
	See saw	Can confidently and reliably perform see-saw	M



Novice Level Skills Guide Cont:

HANDLING	Recalls (here/come)	Able to recall dog	M
	Lead Out (wait)	Handler can usually lead out at least 6 metres ahead of dog	O
	Contact Strategies	Team has reliable contacts without a target on all contact obstacles	M
	Luring versus rewarding	Handler is not relying on luring at all	M
	Warm-ups & Stretching	Handler is able to demonstrate appropriate warm-ups and stretching on their dog	M
	Team has had exposure to all the following, and is able to do at least 11 at the standard described , remembering this class is for dogs preparing to trial		M
	Independent performance of obstacles	Handler able to work most obstacles with dog on either side of handler (i.e. on left or right)	O
		Dog able to perform obstacles regardless of handler position	O
	Cues & Signals	Handler can demonstrate cues (voice/hand/body/movement) for each obstacle and turn	O
	Lateral distance	Handler can get at least 5 metres lateral distance	O
	Angled approaches	Able to perform most obstacles with approach angles of at least 30 degrees. Can jump standard hurdles with an approach angle of at least 45 degrees	O
	Send dog ahead	Handler can send dog ahead at least 8 metres (use of target permitted)	O
	Sequences/courses	Able to perform a sequence of at least 8 obstacles, and courses of at least 12-16 obstacles	O
	Motivators (play, food, toys, praise)	Handler can demonstrate good usage of what, when, how to use. Is able to use in training to arouse dog (if needed), increase confidence, reward good performances	O
	Call-offs	Handler can reliably (90% of the time) call the dog off an obstacle if the dog isn't too close to the obstacle	O
	Attention	Handler can almost always (95% of the time) get dog's attention when asked to do so	O
	Obstacle discrimination	Handler and dog have ability to perform simple obstacle discrimination exercises while running a course	O
	Proof against distractions	Dog is able to perform with distractions	O
	Course walking	Handler is able to demonstrate ability to walk a course & work out the best handling strategies for their dog	O



Novice Level Skills Guide Cont:

TURNS / SIDESWITCHES	Post Turn	Handler can demonstrate post turns while running a course.	M
	Here/Come	Dog reliably comes towards handler. Handler can demonstrate while running a long sequence	M
	Rear Cross	Handler can demonstrate a Rear Cross while running a long sequence	M
	Front Cross	Handler can demonstrate a Rear Cross while running a long sequence	M
	Team has had exposure to all the following, and is able to do at least 3 at the standard described, remembering this class is for dogs preparing to trial		M
	Out (Increased lateral distance)	Diverging paths. Handler can demonstrate in an easy sequence.	O
	Turn Away	Dog turns away from handler. Team can demonstrate while running a long sequence.	O
	Left/Right	Handler is aware of the concept.	O
	Lead out push/Lead-out Pivot	Handler can demonstrate at the start of a sequence	O
	Blind cross	Team does not need to demonstrate but handler is aware of the advantages and disadvantages of this turn.	O
	RFP	Reverse Flow Pivot, Pull-back, Fake-out. Handler is aware of the concept and has started to train	O
	Serpentine	Dog and handler can demonstrate in an easy sequence	O
	Pull-through	Handler is aware of the concept, has chosen a clear cue, and has started to train this	O
	270 degree turn	Handler can demonstrate a 270 while running a sequence	O
	Push-through	Handler is aware of the concept, realises it require the same cue as a 270 (take the back of the jump), and has started to train this	O