

Rules for agility training

The ACT Companion Dog Club has adopted the following rules to ensure the safe and equitable provision of agility training on the club grounds. The rules are divided into sections for ease of reference but are generally applicable to all members participating in agility at the Club.

Unless otherwise noted, the term “training” includes formal classes, informal practice sessions, mock trials and other agility activities.

General

These rules are to be read in conjunction with the *Club Rules* of the ACT Companion Dog Club. Handlers must be current financial members of the ACT Companion Dog Club and must have paid the agility fee for each dog taking part in agility training.

Fees entitle handlers to attend only one training class per week, although additional practice sessions and other activities may be offered from time to time.

Members who wish to begin agility training or resume training (below trialling level) after a break of more than one session must contact the Agility Subcommittee member responsible for Class Management or the Convenor regarding class availability.

Dogs

All dogs must be 14 months of age or older to attend training. To compete in ANKC sanctioned events on the Club grounds, dogs must be 18 months of age or older.

Dogs under the age of 14 months can participate in private training sessions as long as the dog has passed an Intake assessment and is a financial member in terms of agility training.

Prior to starting agility training, all dogs (regardless of pre-existing competencies in agility) must undertake a fitness assessment and an off-lead control test conducted under the direction of the Agility Subcommittee.

Handlers are responsible for ensuring that their dogs are fit and healthy and are an appropriate weight and temperament to participate in agility training. Handlers may be asked to submit a veterinary certificate by the Agility Subcommittee or an agility instructor. Handlers may not continue training until the completed certificate has been submitted and approved by the Agility Subcommittee.

Bitches in season or in whelp are not permitted to attend training.

Training is to be carried out using an approved non-slip collar or no collar at all.

Dogs must be kept on lead at all times, except when carrying out training under the direction of the instructor.

Handlers

Handlers are responsible for ensuring that they are fit and healthy to participate in agility training. Handlers may, at their discretion, advise the instructor if they have any medical condition that may affect their ability to participate.

Handlers must not allow their dogs to exercise off-lead in the agility rings before or after training.

Agility equipment must be handled, erected and used in the manner directed by the instructor to minimise risk to handler and dogs and to avoid damage to the equipment.

Handlers are under the direction of the agility instructor during training. Handlers may be directed to remove themselves and/or their dogs from the training rings if necessary. Handlers are expected to help with the setup and pack up of equipment. If a handler has any limitations in regard to this he/she needs to notify the instructor of this before class begins.

Instructors

Agility instructors should also read these rules in conjunction with the club's *Instructor's Code of Conduct*.

Instructors are required to record class attendances in a manner approved by the Agility Subcommittee.

Agility Sub Committee Policy Document
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