

## Dog Agility Guidelines for training for competition

Dog and handler must demonstrate to 4-H leader basic obedience to include all pre-novice exercise before beginning agility training. An ability by handler to control the dog off leash must be demonstrated before being allowed on contacts or over jumps.

Dog should be free of shoulder, knee, hip, and back problems to be allowed on raised contacts or over jumps. Raised contacts consist of (a-frame, dog walk, table, and teeter)

Handlers must be at least in the junior age group to begin agility training with an appropriately obedience trained dog.

Dogs must be at least 1 yr of age to be allowed to participate in training. Large breed dogs (50 lbs or more) must be 18 months old to begin training. (Use state rules for other questions.)

All beginning training should be done in a secure enclosed area (inside or outside) with secure footing for the dogs and handlers to ensure safety. Concrete floors must be matted if jumps or raised contacts are used.

No beginning dogs on contacts without spotters present on opposite side of equipment. If large dog is being handled or if a jr member is training a beginning dog, then 2 spotters must be used with one on either side of the dog.

Beginning dogs may have collars, but collars must be non-tightening (no training collars, martingales, head collars, etc) a spotter must be present at all times and handler must do all work at a walk. Leashes may be used on contacts at low levels at a walk, but may not be used on raised contacts. Leashes must be nylon or leather, no chain leads or flexi-leads.

Advanced dogs or dogs on raised contacts at full height may not have collars or leashes on to prevent injury to the child and/or the dog should the dog become entangled in the equipment.

Handlers and dogs must have taken formal agility training to include not only contacts and jumps but also agility handling skills prior to being allowed to enter a 4-H agility competition. Agility classes may be taught by 4-H leader if 4-H leader possesses knowledge and equipment to train in agility or may be taken at any local dog training club. Proof of completion of such classes must be furnished to 4-H leader or 4-H office prior to entering first class. Certificate of completion or signed note from instructors shall suffice as proof.

Persons with a disability requiring special accommodation while participating in this program may call WSU Extension at 509-477-2048. If accommodation is not requested in advance, we cannot guarantee the availability of accommodation on site.

Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.