

Class Rules for the Building (please read carefully)

- ☉ **CLASS CANCELLATION/EMERGENCY/INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:** A decision will be made approximately 3 hours before the start of your class. EACH WEEK, before making your trip to class, please check Agility Cues For You's Facebook page . . . or Facebook message, or text me at 502-767-4064. If a class is canceled by the instructor, then your session will be extended a week to make up the missed class.
- ☉ **Group Agility Class Absence Policy:** If you need to miss a class, no refund or class credit will be issued. There are no make-up classes. If a class is canceled by the instructor, then the class will be extended a week to make-up the missed class.
- ☉ All class fees are due on the **FIRST** night of each new session. For each week late your class fees are paid, a **\$5 late fee** will be charged (i.e., pay on night 2 of the class, you pay \$5 extra - pay on night 3 of the class, you pay \$10 extra). If you aren't going to make the first night of class, you can pay the week before . . . or we can bill you through Square.
- ☉ Please arrive to your first class of a new session a few minutes early to do any required paperwork.
- ☉ To avoid accidents on the flooring, please potty your dogs well before coming into the building. Also, feel free to take your dog outside to potty anytime during your class. No need to ask permission. Just go. **If your dog soils the turf, there is a \$15 fee.** If an accident happens, use the supplied cleaning solution and clean the accident up according to the instructions provided. Anyone caught not cleaning up after an accident, will be asked to leave and will NOT be welcome back. If we find the same person's dogs are soiling the turf over and over, you will NOT be welcome back.
- ☉ Dogs MUST be kept crated except while working in the ring. If you don't want to use the provided crates, please bring a crate or ex-pen for your dog to stay in while waiting. No dogs are allowed on the course during walk thrus or teacher/student discussions. Please do not let your dog go out of the building off leash.
- ☉ Please pick up after yourselves and your dogs inside and outside. Anyone caught not picking up after their dogs, will be asked to leave and will NOT be welcome back. We have cameras.
- ☉ **PLEASE DO NOT LET YOUR DOG** pee on anything that a human will have to pick up or touch later . . . that includes anything outside . . . trash cans, other people's cars, etc.
- ☉ **NO** smoking in the building.
- ☉ For safety, please do not allow your dog to play with other dogs. Be considerate of other handlers and their dogs. You are responsible for your dog's behavior, so please keep an eye on your dog at all times.
- ☉ For safety reasons, dogs cannot be on the equipment while wearing head collars, pinch collars, choke collars, martingales, harnesses, or doggie clothing (including coats). The only exception is bitches in season wearing panties or a dog who needs to wear a belly band. A flat collar with no tags is recommended - or better yet, no collar at all. Electric collars are not allowed on the grounds or in the building.
- ☉ Please help change jump heights during class. More help means quicker jump height changes. Quicker jump height changes means YOU get more time on the equipment.

- ☺ Bitches in season can play, but must wear panties. NO exceptions!
- ☺ We offer multi-dog, multi-class, and junior handler discounts. Ask for details.
- ☺ Please arrive early to class so you have ample time to walk your dog and get them settled in. If you're even 5 minutes late to your class you will miss your first walk-thru and possibly your first run. This could leave you feeling quite rushed and not getting the most out of your class. Your class start time is when the first dog will start running or your instruction will begin. (The first walk-thru will be over by your class's start time.)
- ☺ Make checks payable to **Agility Cues For You or AQ4U**. The returned check fee is \$35 and from that point forward you must pay cash, money order, or cashiers check for all future classes. We also take all credit cards, debit cards and we can bill you through Square.
- ☺ In order to assure each handler has plenty of opportunity to work their dog, please watch for "your turn" and be ready to begin the sequence when the handler before you has completed their turn. This practice will get you prepared for agility trials where you must be aware of the running order and be at the gate and ready to run when your number is called.
- ☺ The *entire* class time is your opportunity to learn. Working with the instructor is only one way to improve your skills. Another is to watch how the other participants handle their dogs and listen to any suggestions the instructor has for them. Many times, we all make the same mistakes and therefore, a suggestion for one person will also work for another. Classes are just 1 hour - put your phones away and enjoy and learn from your class.
- ☺ Don't hesitate to ask questions or make suggestions. Keep in mind that our sessions can be flexible & that any special requests can be incorporated into a future class course layout. Your class is what you make it!
- ☺ Agility lessons don't have to end when you walk off the field! You are encouraged to set up some jumps at home to practice your handling. Your instructor can help you with some ideas for different sequences. You are also encouraged to purchase or make a set of weave poles, which is one piece of equipment that everyone who is serious about agility should own.

Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to working with you!

Introduction to Agility – First Class Information:

Things to bring:

- 4-6 foot leash
- Flat buckle or snap-type collar
- Comfortable running shoes
- Dog Potty Bags for Clean-up
- Your dog's favorite toys and treats (**Recommend:** soft treats such as cut up hot dogs or cut up string cheese)
- A hungry dog (**Recommend:** do not feed your dog a meal before coming to class; it's easier to keep them focused if they are a bit hungry)

We believe that agility should be fun for both the dog and the handler and strive to make sure that each step of training is fun. When you arrive at the building, please walk your dog well and allow it to potty. This will hopefully keep them from having accidents in the building. PLEASE remember to clean up after yourself and your dog. Please DO NOT allow your dog on any of the equipment until your instructor has given you permission.

Frequently asked Questions

Does my dog need obedience to start agility classes?

Basic obedience is very helpful. The Intro to Agility class is initially worked with dogs on leash to help keep the dogs focused. However, we do quickly transition to dogs off leash. It really helps to have had your dog in a group obedience class before jumping into a group agility class. Therefore, we DO REQUIRE a formal obedience or manners class before starting agility classes, and your dog needs to know and reliably perform sit, down, and have a decent come and the start of a stay.

How old must my puppy be to start agility?

Many puppies do not stop growing until they are 10-18 months old. Therefore, we are cautious when it comes to activities that may stress their bones and growth plates. We prefer dogs to be at least 10 months old to begin agility. If you want to start your dog younger than that, we recommend taking classes that offer flatwork skills.

Can my child work our dog in class?

We welcome junior handlers, as long as a parent remains in the training area at all times. The junior handler MUST be able to control their dog. Ask us about junior handler discounts.

How long before we're ready to compete?

On average, most dogs and handlers need at least 6 months before they are ready to get their feet wet at agility show-n-go's and matches. These are events that carry no titles, awards, or prizes, but are a great warm-up before actual competition. We have found that teaching the dog the agility obstacles is the easy part. The really tough part of agility training is teaching the handler how to communicate the signals in a timely fashion. As with most things, there are exceptions to every rule. Some teams are not ready nearly that soon and others are ready sooner.

How can I tell if my dog will like agility?

We start all of the dogs on equipment that is low, so we can spend most of our time having fun with our dogs. Training methods that build on positive reinforcements mean that the dog has lots of opportunities to earn rewards, such as toys and treats. Why wouldn't they like agility? New students are also encouraged to visit classes first (do not bring your dogs) and watch our training in action.

Can both my spouse and I work our dog in class?

This really depends on the dog. Some dogs are more responsive to one spouse than the other. If this is the case, then it can be frustrating and difficult for both the dog and the handler to maintain focus in the training. If your dog is equally responsive to each of you, then switching back and forth isn't a problem. Keep in mind though that you will only be given the working opportunities for one dog, not two people.

My dog is six years old. Is that too old for agility?

It is almost never too late to start training a dog. However, common sense tells us that if our dog has health problems, then care must be taken to assure the dog is not pushed beyond their limits. The older the dog, the more care we must take in maintaining their good health. Please talk with an instructor about any health concerns you may have for either you or your dog.

My dog is overweight. Can we do agility with him/her?

The Intro to Agility class is all done on low equipment. However, agility can be strenuous activity for a dog. To continue to the next class your dog may need to lose some weight. If in doubt, please talk with your instructor about your dog's weight. It's best to keep your dog very fit in order to do agility. For most dogs, you should be able to see a tuck in your dog's waist area and feel their ribs and/or hip bones with light pressure.