

# **CORNWALL AGILITY CLUB**

## A GUIDE TO SURVIVING YOUR FIRST SHOW



## **BEFORE YOU START....**

### **Registering your dog**

If your dog is a pedigree, then not much you need to worry about here. Just ensure that you have your dogs name, date of birth and KC number handy for completing entries

If your dog is a non-pedigree, rescue etc, then will need to be registered on the Kennel Club Activities Register

Link to the page is:

<http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/registration/how-to-register-your-dog/activity-register/>

Once you have completed and returned the form, they will check it and will usually call you if a name choice is already in use

Please note it can take several weeks for the process to be completed and the forms returned

### **Get your dog measured**

All dogs competing in Small and Medium height categories must be measured by official agility measurers before they compete at their first Agility show. A second measurement must be undertaken 12 to 24 months after the first measurement.

Dogs competing in the large height category do not need an official measure before competing. However, those handlers who are not sure if their dog is large or medium may still have their dog measured.

Please be aware that once a dog has competed in the large height category at a Kennel Club Licensed event without a measurement it cannot subsequently change to a different height. For all measurements, neither measurer must have previously measured the dog nor must the dog be owned or part owned by them, owned by a partner, member of their family or been previously entered for competition by them.

Height categories are as follows:

- Large Dogs, measuring over 430mm (1ft 5ins) at the withers
- Medium Dogs, measuring over 350mm (1ft 1.75ins) and measuring 430mm (1ft 5ins) or under at the withers
- Small Dogs, measuring 350mm (1ft 1.75ins) or under at the withers

### **UK Agility**

The other popular shows that you may want to attend are run by UK Agility(UKA)  
For these, you do need to register (although some shows offer a Try Before You Buy)

Further details can be found at: <http://ukagility.com/HowTo.aspx>

Dogs also here have to be measured on their system, unless obviously large. These sessions are arranged at many of their own shows

## **PLANNING YOUR DIARY & FINDING SCHEDULES**

Once a club has confirmed its dates for the year, and future years, these tend to be advertised on various websites, such as [www.agilitynet.co.uk](http://www.agilitynet.co.uk), Facebook (not only own pages but also the Agility Schedules page), show processing websites such as iSS, [agilityshows.online](http://agilityshows.online) and SWAP, and club websites

With the majority of shows now available to enter online through SWAP or iSS etc, entering has become much easier than the old manual entry form system

Once a schedule is out and live for entering, it pays to make a note say a week in advance of the closing date to ensure done in time – a Google or Outlook Calendar reminder usually works well! Some also create a spreadsheet listing shows, colour coded if entered, got running orders through etc....

Keep a lookout too for reminders of a show closing shortly from online processors

If camping is required – book asap! Especially at the bigger, more popular shows, camping can be full within a very short period of time!

## **ENTERING A SHOW**

**Ensure your entry is in on time, and that includes if entering online – paid for!**

Not only is it a breach of Kennel Club regulations to enter late, but as soon as a show reaches its closing date, this is when a vast amount of work begins for the show management and processors – paperwork for all the classes has to be prepared, running orders produced, ring plans done to ensure no clashes, rosettes and trophies also have to be ordered to the percentage of entries per class.

You can imagine the problems caused by for instance, a class expected to have 20 dogs entered, suddenly jumping to 40!

For Open and Limit shows, your running orders will be sent out in the post usually a couple of weeks (sometimes less) before the actual show date – do not start panicking until it gets to a few days before, then contact the show secretary who will be able to advise

Note if an agility Match, running orders are not sent out, you just collect your entry cards on the day

Normally at KC shows you can enter a maximum of 2 or 3 classes a day (apart from any size etc), however this can sometimes be more – 7 has been known!

Give some thought into do you want to enter them all?

If many various classes are available for your grade to enter, then be aware that this can often mean they will be running more than one at the same time – walking 4 courses at once first thing in the morning can cause serious brain ache if you are not used to it!

If you are having a non-competing dog present at the show (NFC) then you need to declare this when entering, or log details with the Show Secretary on the day

### **Lower Height Option (LHO)**

Kennel Club shows may or may not offer the Lower Height Option (LHO), this is dependent on many factors, including on the size, ring space available and budget of the organising club.

If offered then this could take one of two formats:

1. Results are combined – this means that the results of those competing at the lower height are combined with those competing at the full height for their category
2. Results are split – this means that there will be separate awards for those competing at the lower height to those competing at the full height
  - Both sets of heights walk the course at the same time – it is discretionary as to if the heights are changed part way through walking
  - The show will schedule on the ring plans which of the heights will be running first – please ensure that you are there in time for your height, as you will not have chance to run if you miss it before the height is changed

A link to the Kennel Club's FAQs on LHO can be found at

[http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/743024/agility\\_2016\\_lower\\_height\\_faqs\\_v3.pdf](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/743024/agility_2016_lower_height_faqs_v3.pdf)

### **Filling In Your Entry**

Most shows now offer online entry facilities.

If entering this way you need to register your details with the relevant show processors in order to do so

Once this is done, it is self-explanatory and the website should guide you through it. You usually simply select the show you wish to enter on their website, check the boxes next to the classes you wish to enter (always pays to have a copy of the actual schedule printed out / open on screen whilst doing so)

If a member of the organising club, there will be a box to check to indicate this to calculate any reduced entry fees

Also you may see boxes to check if wish to offer to help at the show (if a member of the organising club then you will usually be expected to as a matter of course), boxes for NFC dogs attending, and also if available, camping

If preferring to do manually, you need to fill in the form and return to the address stated, usually enclosing an SAE for your running orders

An example of a manual entry form....

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Cornwall Agility Club April Show 2014</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">AGILITY SHOW 26th &amp; 27th April 2014 at ROYAL CORNWALL SHOWGROUND, WADEBRIDGE.</h3>								
This form must be used by one person only (or partnership). Writing <b>MUST BE IN INK OR INDELIBLE PENCIL</b> . Use one line only for each dog. The name of the dog and all details as recorded with the Kennel Club must be given on this entry form. If an error is made, the dog may be disqualified by the Committee of The Kennel Club. All dogs must be <b>REGISTERED</b> at The Kennel Club in the name of the owner. If the registration or transfer of ownership has not been confirmed it must be applied for before the closing date of entries. In case of dispute proof of postage of such applications may be required by The Kennel Club. Dogs under 18 months of age on the day of competition cannot be entered for competition. On no account will entries be accepted without fees. If a dog is in the process of Reg Transfer at the time entry is made, add the letters TAF as appropriate after its name. Please put classes in numerical order and <b>USE BLOCK CAPITALS</b> throughout when completing this entry form. Not for competition entries will be accepted for dogs aged four calendar months and over. Any bank charges incurred through incorrectly completed or dishonoured cheques will be passed on to the owner concerned. The Kennel Club Authority to Compete (ATC Number) for dogs resident outside of the UK must be stated or the entry will be returned.								
PLEASE CHECK ALL DETAILS BEFORE POSTING.								
HANDLER								
Name: .....Jo Bloggs..... Tel No: ...01234 567890..... Mobile: .....07965 564646..... e-mail: .....jbloggs@email.com.....			Address: .....1 Anywhere..... .....NowhereSt..... .....Somewhere..... Post Code: .....K99 9DG.....					
KC Registered Name of Dog	KC Reg No/ ATC No	Breed	Dog or Bitch	DOB	CLASSES		H E I G H T	G R A D E
Crazy Mutt	K123456	Border Collie	D	01/0 5/10	SAT 1, 11 & 22	SUN 28, 33 & 49	L	1
Dogs may only be entered in three classes per day plus pay On The Day if run EXCEPT Dogs entered in Any Size who may only enter the two classes, Plus Pay On The Day if run								
<b>OWNER</b> (Only if different to handler): Name .....J Bloggs..... Address .....1 Anywhere St, Nowhere, .....Somewhere..... ..... Post code: ...K99 9DG. Please tick if entries to be sent here ___/___			<b>DECLARATION</b> I/We agree to submit to and be bound by the Kennel Club Rules & Regulations in their present form or as they may be amended from time to time in relation to all canine matters which the Kennel Club is concerned. And that this entry is made upon the basis that all current single or joint registered owners of this dog(s) have authorised/consented to this entry. I/We also undertake to abide by the Regulations of this Show and not bring to the Show any dog which has contracted or been knowingly exposed to any infectious or contagious disease during the 21 days prior to the Show or which is suffering from a visible condition which adversely affects its health or welfare, I/We further declare that I/we believe to the best of my/our knowledge that the dogs are not liable to disqualification under Kennel Club Agility Show Regulations.			<b>Signature of Owner(s) or Authorised Agent</b> .....J Bloggs Date .....01.03.14 A dog must at the time of entry for the competition, be registered as required by Kennel Club Rules & Regulations in the owner's name ( or else registration or transfer of registration applied for)		
<u>Entries &amp; Fees:</u>			<u>Entry Fees</u>			<u>Totals</u>		
MUST BE PREPAID and sent to:  Cornwall Agility Club April Show c/o Some Person The Kennel Canine Street Woolfstown  Or entered online via			....6.. Entries @ £3.00 per class .....CAC Helping Member Entries @ £2.25 per class  <b>CAC Membership Number:.....</b>  <b>Members are expected to help at the show</b>			£18.00 £.....   Total £...18.00		
			Total			£...18.00		
Entries Close: 24 March 2014			Qualifying Date: 3 April 2014					

## **CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: Cornwall Agility Club**

I am bringing minors to the show and I understand that in relation to them, the Duty of Care remains with me  
Signed.....

Dogs under 18 months of age on the first day of the Show cannot be entered for competition.

If a dog is in the process of Registration or Transfer at the time entry is made, add the letters NAF or TAF as appropriate after it's name. Any dog attending the event, but not competing must be entered on this form. For these dogs enter "NFC" in the classes entered column. Please put classes in numerical order and USE BLOCK CAPITALS throughout when completing this entry form. PLEASE CHECK ALL DETAILS BEFORE POSTING.

Dont forget too to familiarise yourself with all the small print in the schedule. This is basically all the rules and regulations that competitors and show organisers have to abide to – you may need to invest in a magnifying glass to read!

Keep a watch out online for any amendments that are being brought in – these are usually announced in the autumn and brought into force at the start of the following year

The qualifying date is the date that any wins in your current grade are taken up to. Should you win up a grade before that date, and have already entered, then you need to notify the show secretary / show processors at least 14 days before the show date

## **PRIOR TO THE SHOW**

### **Footwear**

Ensure got adequate footwear! Most shows summertime are outdoors, in our wonderfully unreliable weather!

Trail and Fell running shoes are very popular as known for giving good grip for running in wet conditions

Salomon Speedcross & Inov8 Mudclaws are popular higher-end versions, however there are some good more reasonably priced variants on the market such as More Miles and Karrimor  
Many handlers have fallen in the ring due to inadequate footwear

### **Check Venue**

May sound silly, but some clubs may hold their shows at different locations during the year. Some competitors have been known to be heading to Wadebridge, when the show is at Stithians.....

### **Check the weather**

Not only for the day, but to maybe allow for travelling time too, especially if going some distance during the winter

### **Make sure got everything together you need**

Running shoes

Flask etc

Waterproofs and dog coat (if wet)

Sun cream for you and dog – keep in mind venues such as Royal Cornwall Showground are exposed to sea breezes, and you can burn even on a cloudy day!

Running orders

Ring Plan – highlight if need be where your classes are and when

Directions to venue

Record books – these could well be asked for on spot checks being carried out by judges or show management, to ensure dogs are measured, registered etc

Protection for dogs in cars – items such as reflective foil sheets, Gazebos, Windbreaks and Carnopys are popular

Water and bowl for dogs

Titbits

Favourite toy

Poo bags

Basic first aid bits -both human and canine – always handy to carry some Instant Ice Packs, for use in the event of minor injury to human or dog

Dogs!!

## **DAY OF THE SHOW**

Try and relax!

If feeding your dog breakfast, make sure allow plenty of time before due to run

Try and arrive in plenty of time for your classes

At most shows, parking is generally away from the edge of the rings. If able to park ringside, then please bear in mind if your dog is easily excited, could make matters worse, not just for them, but other competitors running; Likewise you would not be popular if sat eating a burger at the ringside, especially if only roping is being used!

### **On arrival at venue**

Please take note of speed restrictions around the venue! Usually tends to be 5mph. Be aware that dogs or humans may be running around loose! On the same note, please do not let your dog off lead in the parking / camping areas – only in those areas designated to do so

Familiarise yourself with where all your rings, toilets and exercise areas are  
Don't forget to take the dogs for regular walks, not just on arrival, but throughout the day!

If you see areas cordoned off, do not cross. They are done so for health & safety reasons, electric cabling etc – cabling for the PA system is in most cases, attached to fencing, covered with matting etc, but be aware too that can sometimes be some loose cables lying around

Ensure you pick up after your dog all over the venue!

If human showers etc are provided, please refrain from washing your dogs off in them

If you are down to help, you will usually find helpers sheets in the score tents at each ring (CAC will allocate you to a ring and details of this will go out with your running orders)  
Fill in where you think may be able to help – in any doubt, have a word with the ring manager at the ring

### **Walking Your Courses**

Listen for tannoy announcements that your course is ready for walking – if camping, make sure can hear the tannoy! If in an area that is not clear, then investing in a walkie talkie that can be tuned in to the ring parties frequency can be a big help

If a UKA show, don't forget to tick yourself off on the sheet at the ring as being present

Walk the course as many times as you feel necessary in the time allowed  
Sometimes, if a big class and a lot walking at the same time, it pays to stand to one side and watch for the main rush clearing

If a course is available for walking over the lunch break, then this tends to give you plenty of time – note if a class has already started, and broken mid-way for lunch, you cannot walk it again

If a course is not to your liking, it is NOT the done thing to publicly say so, whilst walking it or running it come to that!

We all come across courses from time to time, that may not suit our particular dog, or have an element in not comfortable with; Best tactic is to go in, give it a shot and take away the positives from the good bits you can do, and ideas to work on

Judges, like show management, give up a great deal of time free of charge, for our enjoyment – without them, there would be no shows

Should you however, whilst walking a course, spot something dangerous, such as weaves pegged the wrong way, tunnels not strapped correctly, then please have a quiet word with the ring manager or judge, so they can rectify

### **Going for your run**

Make sure both yourself and your dog are adequately warmed up!

Listen out for tannoy announcements / watch ring boards for running order numbers calling up to – if in doubt, check with the ring party at the ringside

Ensure there are no dangly bits from your dogs collar that you are likely to forget to remove!

Be aware if you have more than one dog in the same class, they must run in the order of their running orders, you will be eliminated if found to have done otherwise. The author

remembers well walking what seemed like miles from their camping pitch to the ring, only to get there and find they had the wrong dog!

Book in for your run with the caller at the ring side. This should be a person stood or sat near the end of the queue (at CAC shows they should also be wearing a hi viz vest with Caller on the back).

Note however this is not always the case – sometimes they can be found near the ring entrance etc. If this is the case then please take care booking in to not disturb dogs that are already queueing and maybe excitable

### **Join the queue**

If your dog needs space, then there is no issue normally with advising those in front or behind you of such, and perhaps standing slightly out of the queue, or have someone queue for you. Some dogs like to play tuggy etc whilst queueing – again if you do, then best to stand out of the queue so not to interfere with others

As you reach the head of the queue, the Pads person will ask you for your running order number, so they can get your judging slip ready. Please note this will be your running order (R/O) in the class NOT your Dog's number

Very important here to double check that they do have the right one!

They will normally tell you when to make your way to the startline – eg as the previous dog reaches jump 14 for example. Please try and abide by this, so that the class can be kept moving. Obviously if you feel there could be a safety issue (ie start and finish close together, nervous dog etc) then please mention this to them at the time

Some shows (CAC included) try where possible to have a small area set off from the start and finish as collecting areas)

*If it is a UKA show (not kennel club) you may go in NFC (not for competition) and train your run, using a silent toy – please advise the Pads person if doing so. Please note you cannot do this at a Kennel Club Show, apart from at limit shows as from January 2015*

Make your way to startline and remove lead (and whatever else!) when ready

Please pass lead, any toys, titbits etc to the leads person, or place on ground if they are not there

Please do not throw your lead at them, for obvious reasons!!

Very important to listen to the Scrimmer telling you they are ready for you to run (not the judge!)

They will announce this usually with a call of “When you are ready” or “In your own time” usually followed by your name. *Important to listen here as a final check that they do have the right ticket!*

**Please note you will be eliminated if you commence before the Scrimmer has indicated to you that they are ready**

Ok, so not everyone has reliable startline waits in the ring!

If you need to go back to your dog and re-sit them etc, then you can do so. However please try and not take the mickey by spending too much time doing so. There is no time limit on KC shows, however UKA have now brought in a rule that a maximum of 45 seconds can be spent on the startline

### **On completion of your run**

Your lead etc will usually be left for you in a bucket close to the exit of the ring. Please ensure you clear the exit area as quickly as possible, so not to intrude on the next dog finishing their run

Don't forget, if it goes wrong, do not blame your dog, you are the one who is directing them and has trained them!

### **Presentations**

Taking it that you have had a good run, keep a listen out for announcements when your class

results will be presented – these can be done at various times of the day  
Once a presentation has been done, then most shows will have the results in folders outside,  
or just in, the main marquee

Don't forget if you have gone clear, to note down the details to fill in your record book!  
Should you miss a presentation, and realise you are due a rosette then please see the show  
management and they can sort for you. However please do this when things are quiet, and not  
whilst they are in the middle of another presentation!

Likewise, in the event of a query with your results, please have a quiet word with the show  
management, and they can have a look for you

#### **End of the show**

Don't forget to give your dog a last run, especially if a long journey!  
If it is your own show, and expected to help, don't forget the day doesn't end as soon as the  
last class is done – equipment has to be packed away  
Many hands make light work, and as soon as this is done then everyone can go home for a  
much needed bath and drink!

**Above all.....**

**ENJOY &  
GOOD  
LUCK!!!!**