

Agility

Agility is the sport whereby a handler directs their dog through an obstacle course consisting of an A-Frame, bridge, tee-ter (see-saw), jumps, tunnels, weave poles and pause table.

Any breed of dog over the age of six months can begin agility but has to be 18 months before competing.

Dogs should have a basic level of obedience as training is done off leash. If you like spending time with your four-legged friend this sport is something you should check into. Most classes run for six weeks and these classes become the social event for some dogs, as they are anxious to see classmates.

If you have any questions you can contact Ellen Jamieson: 258-2518.

The following is a testimonial from an agility dog:

“Hi, my name is Kip. I am just your happy go lucky dog that likes to sniff out new scents, take walks with my human buddy, and of course, sleep on the couch. My human thought we were both becoming couch potatoes (did someone say food?), so she enrolled us in an agility class.

At first I was a little nervous with all the strange obstacles and over a six-week period I was introduced to tunnels, jumps, a wall (called an A-frame), something called a bridge and a teeter that moves. There are even weave poles. Why anyone would want to contort their body around these still baffles me, but my human is so excited when I complete them. Anything for a treat!

I soon gained my confidence, with the help and encouragement from my human buddy, and I can now negotiate tunnels, fly over jumps and scramble up the A-frame without any problem.

I like to watch the nervous newsiest come to class and see them progress over the weeks to enjoying the sport and the teamwork they develop with their humans.

So, if you like to spend time with your human buddy, have them check out an agility facility close to you. This is just one more fun activity you can both participate in.

Got to go – the couch is calling.”