



# AKITA CLUB OF AMERICA

## SHOW COMMITTEE

### POSITION OUTLINES

#### AGILITY CHAIR

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

The agility chair is responsible for the agility event in the same way that the show chair is responsible for the show.

The Agility Chair will make all arrangements with judges, personnel, rental equipment, etc

The Agility Chair will work closely with the Show Chair on the agility section of the premium list Agility falls under the purview of the performance committee but it needs it's own chairperson because it is a separate event with it's own application. You can talk the Superintendent into acting as the secretary as far as receiving the entry, printing the catalog for submission to AKC, and the show catalog, and getting the armbands done, etc., but if we have one won't, you will need an agility secretary as well. Using the superintendent for this is highly advised. Almost all the superintendents that ACA would be using for a show will be able to accommodate the services done by the agility trial secretary, but be sure you check and make sure. Make sure that the show chair and the board, especially the treasurer, know that this has to be arranged with the super at the time the contract is signed.

None of the show superintendents have agility equipment and none of them will be the secretary at the show. Someone from the club will have to do the recording and paperwork once the show is done. Then the results can be given to the super for submission with the rest of the show results.

Ring fencing can be from the super or from the supplier, depending on where it is being held. Usually it's the supplier who has it and it's snow fencing on stanchions. Equipment will almost surely have to be rented from someone, since supers do not at this point have the agility equipment. You will also have to have a judge **BEFORE** you can do the application and the judge may have a suggestion about where you can rent equipment or you can contact a local agility judge or club for suggestions. You can find one by searching the [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) database in the judge's directory.

The superintendent will take the entries. Having a super takes a huge burden off the committee since they don't have the responsibility for catalogs, ribbons, etc. Further, the super provides armbands, score sheets, and judge's books. They also handle all the paperwork afterwards, mailing catalogs to AKC, marking the judge's book, and seeing that the fee is sent to AKC. You just have to make sure someone from the Club does all the stuff at the show.

#### Site Requirements

For Akita Only Agility: One ring at least 100' x 100' – our breed does not require anything bigger

Site **MUST** be level ground and grass mowed very short, no holes or hazards for dogs or exhibitors

#### Judge

Ideally for Akita Only Agility the judge should be local since the entry will be fairly small.

Make sure you get the judge's charges plus any expenses involved (mileage etc)

Include the judge for luncheon on the day of judging

Once the judge is secured, send the information to the Corresponding Secretary to send a confirmation letter. A signed copy of the contract should be requested from the judge and a copy sent to the Show Chair

Inform the Judges Hospitality Chair of all information and that you need a small judge's gift

Make sure when you talk to the judge that this person knows that our entry is 8-15 dogs with 10-20 runs. Inform the judge that most of the entries will be in Novice and probably mostly in Preferred. Ask the judge please to build a telescoping course, so that it doesn't have to be moved for each class.

The judge will draw up a course plan some months ahead as this has to be submitted to AKC. Once the equipment rental has been arranged, the judge will need the contact information, because she will have to give the vendor a list of the equipment she needs months ahead of time when she designs the course.

### Equipment

Ideally, the ring and equipment could be set up ahead of time. You need a course builder (Note: Barry Elliott can do this, also Dianne McCormick and her husband) someone who is experienced at this, to help with set up and you'll need at least 4-6 people to help with the agility equipment, getting it off the trailer from the vendor. They're usually very helpful, but may drive over in the morning. Allow about 30-45 minutes for set up before walkthrough. Also allow a place outside for a practice jump.

So far, we've been paying about \$200-250 for equipment, and we've had electric timers the last two shows. Make sure the vendor has stopwatches and/or timers so we don't have to bring one

Most areas have a vendor who rents equipment. The best way to find this is to start asking...call AKC and ask for contact information on any agility groups in the area of the show and get in touch with them. The judge may know someone, especially if she is in the area, or Akita people in the area might. You'll have to negotiate to hire equipment for the ring. We don't need electronic timers...can do it with stopwatches (Cell phones almost all have them as an extra function). If it's free with the package great, but it isn't always.

Get an estimate based on a very small entry from the vendor. The judge will have to draw up courses (each one is different from any others) and will provide the vendor with information on which particular jumps she wants to use. If the vendor has them available and you are off site, see if you can get extra chairs and tables, and if possible get snow fencing (orange plastic) rather than normal ropes or baby-gates. This is more secure even though it's more trouble to put up and take down

Get a contract from the vendor and have it sent to the treasurer for signature and any deposit that is necessary. Even with an electronic timer, you'll need someone with a manual timer to check in case the electronic one fails. A list of equipment you need is attached but much of it should be available from the vendor.

The Show Chair can send the Application to the AKC at the same time as the Specialty application is sent. Remember there is a minimum of 24 weeks prior to the event to get the application to the AKC. A copy of the Disaster & Emergency plan needs to be attached to the Agility application

**You must have the judge before the application will be accepted.**

Then you wait for event approval, which should come quickly. AKC will send a packet of information to the agility secretary (super). You will need a copy of the Agility Rules and you should read them and be familiar with them. It would help if you haven't been to an agility trial to attend one in your area and see how they are run. Ours is very basic with no fancy or extra classes. If you have any questions, you can call the agility department at AKC.

The minimum classes you can offer are standard and jumpers with weaves in both regular and preferred versions. Standard has Novice A, Novice B, Open, Excellent A and Master Excellent B. So, there are 10 classes for entry in the combination of Regular Standard and Jumpers with Weaves. Preferred has Novice (not divided into A&B as of 2003), Open, Excellent A, and Master Excellent B in both standard and jumpers with weaves, so this has 8 classes available for entry. This means you have a total of 18 classes for which ribbons are available.

The High in agility was dropped in 2005.

We have trophies for: High in Regular Standard and High Jumpers with Weaves, High in Preferred Standard and High in Preferred Jumpers with Weaves. We offer rosettes for each placement 1-4 in each class, a pin for each entrant, and qualifying ribbons. These can be made up when the entries are in because we won't have that many entrants: maybe 5-12. In 2003, we had 9 dogs entered and 7 competed. In 2003, we had 9 entered, but 16 entries.

A copy of the wording for the Agility section is attached here

Make sure the Show Chair has all the Agility information by the deadline for the premium list

Agility will require a LOT of helpers but Agility people expect to help. Start early to enlist helpers – you will need a minimum of about 6 people. A couple of the helpers should be “course builders”.

When you are discussing the course with the judge, explain in very emphatic terms that we do NOT have many participants and they are scattered throughout the classes. If they can “nest” their course, so that all the obstacles don't have to be redone every time, IOW build a simple course and expand or contract it using some of the same ones, then it will save a lot of time in between classes

You will need a couple of people who will sit in the ring and reset jumps. You need a couple of gate stewards to take care of the people and post the scores, walk the leash from the entrance to the exit. There has to be a timer and a scribe. These are full-time and must be careful people. Then you or the secretary or both handle the score sheets. You will have to do all the paperwork, which mostly consists of transferring the course time (which is like par in a golf game) and the distance of the course as well as the dog's time to various places. You'll have to calculate the score by the markings on the scribe sheet and record all the results

Now, the secretary/super is printing off the catalog in regular sheets and this is what gets marked for AKC/judge/records, etc. You can still use the catalog but the sheets are easier. Depends on the super. BTW, armbands are sticky and are worn on the clothes and you hand those out as well to the exhibitors. Look through the Rules to see what kind of paperwork you need and make sure you get it from the super. Each entrant has an individual score sheet which comes from the super/sec. and info is recorded on that by the scribe and by the clerk

In between each class you have to change the course. The judge will give you several sets of course drawings. Be sure you keep some for records. One is for each exhibitor. You can give one to each. Another set is for the course builders and an official one is for your records

The trial chairperson makes a report as well as the secretary/super. You will need to include the drawings for each course with this. Also, any changes that might be necessary because of terrain, etc. will be marked as changed on the drawings

You need to be sure that the super has the wicket in case a dog has to be measured. And if there isn't a super present, you also need to be sure you have ALL the forms that AKC has sent including the disqualification form for biting. You should also have the Rules for Discipline and the Event Trials handbook as well as all the forms for a protest just in case

Remind the show chair about scheduling. You'll need at least 2 hours set up time. 9 dogs took about 2-1/2 hours. This would have been easier if the course had been nested. **START FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!!!!**

If you are offsite make sure you have refreshments available and light snacks

At the end, everything has to be broken down and loaded into the vendor trailer. All the paperwork needs to be bundled and the results certified by the trial secretary and the judge. The judge gets a copy of the scores and a catalog.

Get the judge's gift from the judge's hospitality Chair and present it to the judge at the end of judging

Send thank you notes to all your helpers

Equipment:

- ❖ Wipe board w/marker/eraser--goes at the gate with the run order printed on it...
- ❖ Stop watches and whistle.
- ❖ Clip board
- ❖ Pencils
- ❖ Pens
- ❖ 3 catalogs--judges book, AKC, ACA records
- ❖ Rubber qualified stamp—Sherry has and will bring (REMIND HER) but super will have it if they are doing trial.
- ❖ Trial committee--at least 5 club members must be here.
- ❖ Scoring table--should be provided by equipment supplier
- ❖ Trophy Table & catalog sales
- ❖ Chairs--at least 10

Workers:

about 10 to unload and set up/tear down equipment and at least 4-6 to change course

- ❖ Coursebuilder
- ❖ 3 during runs to reset poles
- ❖ 1 person to walk the scribe sheets one at a time over to the score table
- ❖ 2 scorekeepers at the table - one to calculate the score, one to check for accuracy
- ❖ 1 timer
- ❖ 1 scribe
- ❖ 1 gate steward
- ❖ 1 leash runner (takes the leash from the person as they enter the ring, and has it ready at the finish exit)

While this sounds like a daunting list, everyone pitches in and it works out. It helps a lot to have an experienced person as a course builder, a scribe and to help with scoring. The rest can learn as they go. It's a lot of fun. Also everyone but the judge can show, so the chair can too

NOTE: We have a ton of ribbons from Hodges. Dianne McCormick has them

**AGILITY TRIAL**  
**AGILITY CLASSES UNDER AKC RULES & REGULATIONS**

**AGILITY CLASSIFICATION**  
**REGULAR CLASSES**

**NOVICE AGILITY & NOVICE JUMPERS WITH WEAVES CLASSES** - The Novice Agility Class and the Novice Jumpers with Weaves Class are divided into Division A and Division B. Division A is for dogs that have never acquired any AKC Agility Title. Additionally, a dog entered in the Novice A Class must be handled by a person that has never put an AKC Agility title on any dog, and the handler must be the owner, co-owner, or a member of the owner's household. Handlers that co-own a dog and have never put an AKC Agility title on a dog may enter the Novice A Class regardless of the other co-owner's AKC Agility accomplishments. Dogs eligible for Novice A may be entered in the Novice B Class at the discretion of the owner. Division B is for dogs that have acquired the Novice Agility Title, or the Novice Jumpers With Weaves Title, or for persons who have handled a dog to any AKC Agility Title, and for dogs being handled by someone other than the owner, co-owner or household member subject to the restrictions listed above. A dog may continue to be shown in the Novice B Class until they have acquired a qualifying score towards their Open title. Whenever the Novice Class is offered, both Divisions A and B must be offered.

**OPEN AGILITY CLASS** - Open to dogs that have acquired the Novice Agility or Open Agility titles, but which have not acquired a qualifying score towards their Agility Excellent title.

**OPEN JUMPERS WITH WEAVES CLASS** - Open to dogs that have acquired the Novice JWW or Open JWW titles, but have not acquired a qualifying score towards an Excellent JWW title.

**AGILITY EXCELLENT "A" CLASS** - Open to dogs that have acquired the Open Agility title, and to dogs that have acquired the Agility Excellent title but that have not acquired a qualifying score towards their Master Agility Excellent title.

**EXCELLENT JUMPERS WITH WEAVES "A" CLASS** - Open to dogs that have acquired the Open JWW title and to dogs that have acquired the Excellent JWW title but have not acquired a qualifying score towards their Master Excellent JWW title.

**MASTER AGILITY EXCELLENT "B" CLASS** - Open only to dogs that have acquired the Agility Excellent title, and to dogs that have acquired the Master Agility Excellent title.

**MASTER EXCELLENT JUMPERS WITH WEAVES "B" CLASS** - Open only to dogs that have acquired the Excellent JWW title and to dogs that have acquired the Master Excellent JWW title.

Whenever the Excellent classes are offered both Division "A" and "B" must be offered.

**PREFERRED CLASSES**

All dogs entering the Preferred Classes for the first time must enter the Novice level in both the Preferred Standard Agility Class and the Preferred Jumpers with Weaves Class regardless of their previous title level in the Regular Classes (Standard & JWW). There is no grandfathering of titles from the Regular Classes to the Preferred Classes or from the Preferred Classes to the Regular Classes. These classes are separate titling programs and in both cases the dogs must start at the Novice level.

**NOVICE AGILITY PREFERRED & NOVICE JUMPERS WITH WEAVES PREFERRED CLASS** - The Novice Agility Preferred Class and the Novice Jumpers with Weaves Preferred Class ARE NOT divided. A dog may continue to be shown in the Novice Preferred Class until they have acquired a qualifying score towards their Open Preferred (OAP) title.

**OPEN AGILITY PREFERRED CLASS**- Open to dogs that have acquired the Novice Agility Preferred (NAP) or Open Agility Preferred (OAP) titles but which have not acquired a qualifying score towards their Agility Excellent Preferred (AXP) title.

**OPEN JUMPERS WITH WEAVES PREFERRED CLASS** - Open to dogs that have acquired the Novice JWW Preferred (NJP) or the Open JWW Preferred (OJP) titles but have not acquired a qualifying score towards an Excellent JWW Preferred (AJP) title.

**AGILITY EXCELLENT “A” PREFERRED CLASS** - Open to dogs that have acquired the Open Agility Preferred (OAP) title and to dogs that have acquired the Agility Excellent Preferred (AXP) title but that have not acquired a qualifying score towards their Master Agility Excellent Preferred (MXP) title.

**EXCELLENT JUMPERS WITH WEAVES “A” PREFERRED CLASS** - Open to dogs that have acquired the Open JWW Preferred (OJP) title and to dogs that have acquired the Agility Excellent JWW Preferred (AJP) title but have not acquired a qualifying score towards their Master Excellent JWW Preferred (MJP) title.

**MASTER AGILITY EXCELLENT “B” PREFERRED CLASS** - Open only to dogs that have acquired the Agility Excellent Preferred (AXP) title and to dogs that have acquired the Master Agility Excellent Preferred (MXP) title.

**MASTER AGILITY EXCELLENT JUMPERS WITH WEAVES “B” PREFERRED CLASS**- Open only to dogs that have acquired the Excellent JWW Preferred (AJP) title and to dogs that have acquired the Master Excellent JWW Preferred (MJP) title. Whenever the Excellent Preferred Classes are offered both Divisions “A” and “B” must be offered.

**ATTENTION:** The owner may choose to enter the Preferred STD Agility Class and Preferred JWW Class in lieu of entering the Regular STD Agility Class & the Regular JWW Class at any trial. The dog must be entered only in Preferred Classes or in Regular Classes, with no crossover between them being allowed at the same set of trials.

All dogs entering the Preferred Classes for the first time must enter the Novice level in both the Preferred STD Agility Class and the Preferred JWW Class regardless of their previous title level in the Regular Classes (STD & JWW). In Preferred Classes the Jump Height is 4 Inches lower plus 5 Seconds Added Time for each class.

**PLEASE NOTE:** You may enter Preferred or Regular classes at the same trial but may not enter both. Thus you may not enter Preferred Novice & Regular Jumpers with Weaves Novice, you must enter one or the other. This does not apply to trials on other dates. You must also begin with Novice in Preferred regardless of your dog’s titles in Regular Agility.

### **Course Familiarization & Warm-ups**

Handlers in all classes are permitted to walk the course, without a dog prior to the start of the class. The walk-through allows handlers to plan their strategy for

running the course. A walkthrough period will be held prior to each class, following the judge's briefing.

Novice A & B dogs and handlers only will be given a familiarization period prior to the start of judging during which they may perform each of the contact obstacles. Dogs may work on or off lead and will perform contact obstacles one at a time. Food, Training Devices and Toys are not permitted in the course area.

A warm-up area consisting of a regulation agility jump shall be provided for all exhibitors. Exhibitors may not use the warm-up area to relieve their dogs.

**HEIGHT DIVISIONS REGULAR CLASSES**

16 Inches                      20 Inches                      24 Inches

**PREFERRED CLASSES**

16 Inches                      20 Inches

All owners/handlers are responsible for entering their dog(s) in the proper height class. Judge reserves the right to measure dogs entered in this trial. Handlers may opt to run at a higher height division, but not in a lower division. Dogs that run in a height division lower than proper height will be eliminated.

**OBSTACLES**

**The following obstacles will be used in all Standard Classes:** Dog Walk • A-Frame • See-Saw • Pause Table • Open Tunnel • Closed Tunnel - Bar Jump • Double Bar Jump • Panel Jump • Tire Jump/Window

The Dog Walk will have 12 Ft planks.

In Addition: Novice: Broad Jump

Open: Weave Poles • Broad Jump • Triple Bar Jump

Excellent: Weave Poles • Triple Bar Jump • One Bar Jump

Other obstacles as allowed in the regulations

**The following obstacles will be used in all JWW Classes:**

Weave Poles • Bar Jump • Double Bar Jump

**In Addition:**

Excellent: Triple Bar Jump • One Bar Jump

Other obstacles as allowed in the regulations

Bitches in season are not eligible to compete.

Ring Size: 100 Ft x 100 Ft, Surface Grass

***IMPORTANT NOTE ON MOVE-UPS***

Dogs may be moved up to a higher class at the request of the owner, as a result of qualifying for an agility title, provided that the request is made in writing to the Superintendent not later than **INSERT DATE**. Such move-up entries shall be accepted subject to the availability of the class (*i.e.*, that it is offered in the premium list & the entry limit, if any, will not be exceeded) & payment of any difference in entry fee.

Dogs so moved up will be entered at the end of the running order. Qualifying score required for all prizes.

A Dark Green Qualifying Rosette will be given to each dog attaining a Qualifying Score.

**PLEASE NOTE:** We will not refund entry fees for bitches entered in Agility that come in season after entries close.

**Highest Scoring Dog in Regular Standard Agility**—Rosette &— offered by  
**Highest Scoring Dog in Regular Jumpers With Weaves**-- Rosette &— offered

by

**Highest Scoring Dog in Preferred Standard Agility--** Rosette &— offered by  
**High Scoring Dog in Preferred Jumpers With Weaves--** Rosette &  
**First in each class—**Rosette, & 2-3/4” Medallion with show logo suspended on  
a neck ribbon

**Second through Fourth in each class—**2-3/4” Medallion with show logo  
suspended on a neck ribbon

**Standard Regular Novice B Class** – offered by

**Standard Regular Open Class** – offered by

**Excellent “A” Class** – offered by

**Preferred Standard Novice Class** – offered by

**Preferred Standard Open Class** – offered by

**Preferred Jumpers w/weaves Novice Class** – offered by