AGILITY TRAINER

4-H Dog Project

TEACHING THE OBSTACLES BY MARTHA DIEDRICH 3-5-14

IMPORTANT:

- All 100% positive training. --- Use food, toys, petting, and praise to make agility a fun and positive experience for the dog.
- The dog has to decide to do the obstacle. --- Absolutely no forcing, pushing, pulling, or dragging; instead, be patient and use the above to encourage and coax the dog to comply.
- Break down the obstacles into easy steps to success. --- For example: lower the A-frame and raise with success a little every week.
- Use clear body, hand, and voice signals. --- Teach the students and make them aware of how the dog perceives their signals.
- Work toward an off leash dog. --- The leash is always loose. Think of it as a safety net. Don’t let the leash become a crutch. Work toward off leash habits from the beginning.

JUMPS

- Start with the jumps low.  
- Call the dog over the jump.  
- Jump with dog on left.  
- Jump with dog on right  
- Run and jump.  
- Send dog over jump to a reinforcement.

NOTES

- ________________________________
- ________________________________
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OPEN TUNNEL

- Tunnel straight and shortened  
- Tunnel straight and lengthened  
- Slight curve, opening still visible  
- Curved, opening not visible  
- Curved in a U shape  
- Curved in a J shape  
- Curved in an S shape  
- Curved in a Z shape  
- Special leash instruction

CLOSED TUNNEL (CHUTE)

- Chute completely rolled up  
- Unroll ¼ and hold open  
- Unroll ½ and hold open  
- Unroll ¾ and hold open  
- Full length held open  
- Drop on dog when over ½ way through chute

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• Drop on dog when just starting through chute
• Dog pushes through by itself
  Leash instruction

A-FRAME
• Start as low as you're A-frame goes.
• 2nd week start at 2'6".
• Raise 6" a week until full height at 4'6" or 5'
• Control slow speed especially down.
• Optional contact work

PAUSE TABLE
• Dog on table
• On table and lay down
• On table lay down and wait (2 sec)
• On table lay down and wait (5 sec)
• On table lay down and wait while handler moves
• Run to table and down for full count (5 4 3 2 1 go)
  Speed to table

TIRE (Intermediate & Jumpers II)
• Start one jump height below normal.
• Focus on opening (block other space) and call through.
• Send through with dog on left.
• Send through with dog on right.
• Run and jump.
• Raise to normal height.
• Slowly remove blocking material.

LONG JUMP (Intermediate) (no angles before or after)
• Start short and work up to full length.
• Add low jump to middle to help teach jump.
• Run with dog on left.
• Run with dog on right.

DOGWALK (Intermediate)
• Start at end contact.
• Walk end board to contact.
• Walk middle plank to end contact.
• Walk from beginning to end contact.
  Be careful of placement.
WEAVE POLES (Intermediate-6, Advanced-12)  
- Start with 3 or 4 poles and guide with a treat.  
- Be very aware of body language forward.  
- Add 2 poles at a time.  
- Accuracy first, speed later.  
- Alternate methods

SEE SAW (Senior)  
- Control the dog and the plank.  
- Control the plank’s speed and tip from the back.  
- Control the dog’s speed and tipping point.  
- Slow until the dog understands control of the tilt.  
- Run with the dog pausing at the tipping point.  
- Alternate methods