

Sealyham Terriers in Agility

Agility was invented in England in 1979, and is now the fastest growing dog sport in North America, England and Europe. The American Kennel Club held its first agility trial in 1994. The sport is modeled on equestrian jumping competitions, but has evolved to become a unique sport designed to showcase canine agility, speed and dog-handler teamwork. Agility is entertaining to watch, and one of the most challenging activities for you and your dog. It is a sport at which small dogs can excel. Agility is the ultimate game for you and your Sealy.

The purpose of an American Kennel Club agility trial is to afford owners the opportunity to demonstrate their dog's physical ability, soundness and willingness to work with its handler under a variety of conditions. The program begins with basic entry-level agility, and progresses to more complex levels that require dogs to demonstrate higher levels of training and interaction with their handlers.

Agility Regular Classes

Class	Title Earned	Prefix	Suffix
Novice A or B Standard Agility	Novice Agility	-	NA
Open Standard Agility	Open Agility	-	OA
Excellent A Standard Agility	Agility Excellent	-	AX
Excellent B Standard	Master Excellent	-	MX
Novice A or B Jumpers with Weaves	Novice Agility Jumpers	-	NAJ
Open Jumpers with Weaves	Open Agility Jumper	-	OAJ
Excellent A Jumpers with Weaves	Agility Excellent Jumpers	-	AXJ
Excellent B Jumpers with Weaves	Master Excellent Jumper	-	MXJ#
Excellent B Standard Agility & Excellent B Jumpers with Weaves	Master Agility Champion	MACH#	-
Novice A or B FAST	Novice FAST	-	NF
Open FAST	Open FAST	-	OF
Excellent A FAST	Excellent FAST	-	XF

Excellent B FAST	Master Excellent FAST	-	MXF
Excellent B FAST	FAST Century Title	-	FTC#

Agility Preferred Classes

Class	Title Earned	Prefix	Suffix
Novice Standard Agility Preferred	Novice Agility Preferred	-	NAP
Open Standard Agility Preferred	Open Agility Preferred	-	OAP
Excellent A Standard	Agility Excellent Preferred	-	AXP
Excellent B Standard Agility Preferred	Master Agility Excellent Preferred	-	MXP
Novice Jumpers with Weaves Preferred	Novice Agility Jumpers Preferred	-	NJP
Open Jumpers with Weaves Preferred	Open Agility Jumpers Preferred	-	OJP
Excellent A Jumpers with Weaves Preferred	Agility Excellent Jumpers Preferred	-	AJP
Excellent B Jumpers with Weaves Preferred	Master Excellent Jumpers Preferred	-	MJP#
Excellent B Standard Agility Preferred & Excellent B Jumpers with Weaves Preferred	Preferred Agility Excellent	-	PAX#
Novice FAST Preferred	Novice FAST Preferred	-	NFP
Open FAST Preferred	Open FAST Preferred	-	OFF
Excellent A FAST Preferred	Excellent FAST Preferred	-	XFP
Excellent B FAST	Master Excellent FAST Preferred	-	MFP
Excellent B FAST Preferred	FAST Century Title	-	FTCP#

	Preferred		
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In agility, a dog demonstrates its agile nature and versatility by following cues from the handler through a timed obstacle course. The course has jumps, tunnels, weave poles, and other obstacles. Agility strengthens the bond between dogs and handlers, it is extremely fun, and it provides vigorous exercise for both!



The AKC offers three types of agility classes whether standard or preferred.

The first is the Standard Class or Standard Agility Preferred which includes obstacles such as the dog walk, the A-frame, and seesaw. Each of the contact obstacles has a "safety zone" painted on the object and the dog must put at least one paw in that area to complete the obstacle. The standard class is divided into four (4) class levels (Novice, Open, Excellent A, and Excellent B) which are designed and scored according to the experience of the dog and handler.



The second is Jumpers with Weaves or the Jumpers with Weaves Preferred. This class only has jumps, tunnels, and weaves poles with no contact objects to slow the pace. This class is divided into four (4) class levels as in the standard class but the classes themselves are designed for speed and handling skills.

The third is FAST or FAST Preferred (FAST stands for Fifteen and Send Time). This class is designed to test the dog and handler team strategy skill, accuracy, speed and distance handling. Again there are four classes and all classes offer increasing levels of difficulty to earn Novice, Open, Excellent, and Master Titles.

After completing both an Excellent B Standard title and Excellent B Jumpers with Weaves title, a dog and handler team can compete for the MACH (Master Agility Champion title). A dog must achieve a minimum of 750 championship points and 20 double qualifying scores obtained from the Excellent B Standard Agility class and the Excellent B Jumpers with Weaves class. Championship Points (CP's) 750 CP's required minimum

- 1 (CP) point is awarded for each full second under standard course time. (No partial points are awarded.)

- Dogs earn points from the Ex B Agility Class and/or the Ex B Jumpers with Weaves Class.

Placement Multiplier

- Dogs placing first in their class double their championship points.
- Dogs placing 2nd in their class receive 1-1/2 time their standard championship points. (All fractions of points are rounded down.)



After completing both an Excellent B Standard Preferred title and Excellent B Jumpers with Weaves title, a dog and handler team can compete for the PAX (Preferred Agility Excellent title). In order to acquire the Preferred Agility Excellent title, a dog must achieve 20 double qualifying scores obtained from the Preferred Excellent B Standard Agility class and the Preferred Excellent B Jumpers with Weaves class. Qualifying in both the Preferred Excellent B Standard Agility class and the Preferred Excellent B Jumpers with Weaves class on the same day equals one (1) double qualifying score (2Q).



In agility, the dog runs the course off-lead, and in most cases, the dog does not wear a collar. This is one reason why most organizations that teach agility require basic obedience skills before they will allow you to train your dog in agility. Most dogs, if properly introduced to the equipment, absolutely love agility and participate enthusiastically. Food and praise are used to train the dog and negative reinforcement or corrections are seldom, if ever, used either in training or in competition. Your dog must be in excellent physical condition to compete in agility.