

## About Us

The Newfoundland Athletic Dog Association, Inc. (NADA) is a not-for-profit volunteer-based group which was founded in 2007. We promote dog sports, especially agility and flyball. Our training techniques are based primarily on positive reinforcement methods, which build and strengthen the relationships between people and their dogs, and create an enthusiasm in handler-dog teams for working and playing together!

NADA, Inc. is a member of the Agility Association of Canada (AAC) and the North American Flyball Association (NAFA). We hold AAC-sanctioned agility trials at least twice per year, at which members and other competitors can earn points towards their dogs' agility titles. We also host dog sport training workshops in our training facility in Logy Bay, and have been able to bring in nationally- and internationally-renowned instructors, including Susan Garrett, Kim Anderson, & Cheryl Bartlett.

Our competition trials, as well as many of our regular classes and special seminars, are open to the public. Visit our website to find out more, or contact us at [inquiry@nfdathleticdog.com](mailto:inquiry@nfdathleticdog.com)!



# A Spectator's Guide to

# Agility



**NADA, Inc.**

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Agility is a fun team sport for people and their dogs! Its foundation is good communication between handler and dog, and lots of practice. In an agility trial, teams are timed as they make their way through an obstacle course. Here is a quick guide to what competitors do at each obstacle.

# Obstacles

Photographs by Kirk Sooley



## CONTACTS

There are 3 pieces of “contact” equipment in agility: the dog walk, the A-frame, and the teeter. On each obstacle the dog has to put at least one paw on the yellow area when coming off the equipment. For the teeter, the dog must do this also when getting on. In demonstrations, handlers may ask their dogs to pause on the contacts before running to the next obstacle.



## TABLE

The table is an obstacle where the dog must stop, lie down, and hold that position for a 5 second count. If the dog gets up from a down position before the 5 seconds are over, the count starts again! In this obstacle, dogs are demonstrating self-control and attention.



## JUMPS

Jumps can have single or double bars, or bars that ascend up the standards (the posts). Some jumps are “winged”, meaning they have decorative standards. The dog must jump over the bars without knocking any down. How high the bars are placed depends on the dog’s height at the shoulders. Small dogs may jump only 6 or 10 inches, while taller ones jump up to 26 inches!



## TIRE

The tire is a special jump that dogs must pass through. It is placed at the same height as the other jumps. Like many other agility clubs, we use a “break away” tire that, as a safety measure, will open if the dog hits it too hard.



## TUNNELS

Tunnels are long flexible tubes, that can be bent into “U”, “C”, or “S” shapes, or run straight. The Chute is a special type of tunnel with light nylon fabric that closes on one end, like a windsock.



## WEAVE POLES

Weave poles are just what they sound like—poles that dogs have to weave or zig-zag through! Dogs must enter the weave poles to the left of the first pole. They cannot skip any poles. Usually, there are 6 or 12 poles in a straight row.

