

DALMATIANS AND AGILITY

Agility is a comparatively new form of dog competition having been introduced to the UK in 1978. The structure of the competition is where the animal's fitness and handler's ability to train and direct the dog over and through certain obstacles are tested. It is a fast, furious and great favourite with competitors and spectators alike. Your dog does not have to be a pedigree dog to take part but must be registered with the Kennel Club on either the breed register or the Activity Register.

Requirements for competing at Kennel Club Shows are quite simple: -

- Competitors taking part in any Kennel Club Licenced event; of which there are 300 held annually, must familiarise themselves with the Kennel Club Rules and Regulations beforehand, these can be found in the agility and flyball regulation booklet.
- Dogs can only enter agility shows when they are 18 months of age or older and have been officially measured and placed in the correct height category.
- You will need an agility record book (available from the Kennel Club online bookshop) in which to record your dog's height, category and all your competition wins and clear rounds.

Preparing your dog to compete successfully will take a little longer than the formal requirements above. It is essential that your dog is fully socialised, and you have effective control at all times, especially as your dog will be competing off lead. For safety's sake it is recommended that dogs do not start training on equipment until they are at least one year old.

There are thousands of clubs offering agility all over the country and further information can be obtained from the Kennel Club Website.