



Beginner Recreational Agility



Obstacle Names

Consider now what name you are going to give each of the obstacles in agility. Obviously you can't use the same word or name for two different obstacles and they shouldn't be words that sound similar (or rhyme). "Table", "Tunnel", "Tire" and Teeter" all begin with T and may be too similar for some dogs. Think about the words or cues your dog already knows and don't use ones that sound like that either.

Be as creative as you want...as long as YOU can remember the name, that's what's important...the dog really doesn't care WHAT you call it!

Here are some examples:

Bar Jump: jump, over, up, hup



Tire Jump: tire, hup, over, up, jump, round, hoop

Weave Poles: weave, wiggle, poles (some people make a 'rrrrrrr' with the tongue)

Flexible Tunnel: tunnel, through, in, flexi



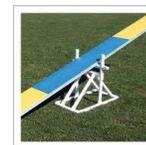
Chute: chute, through, push, tunnel, cloth

Table: table, hup, rest, bench, pause, box, on

A Frame: climb, frame, A-Frame, scramble, wall

Dog Walk: walk it, walk, dog walk, ramp, climb, bridge

Teeter: teeter, see-saw, T, bang



Contacts

In agility, your dog must touch the yellow 'contact' on the downside of the Aframe and Dogwalk and the up AND downside of the teeter. It only needs to be a toenail, but it MUST touch it. Missing a contact is a 'fault' and results in a non-qualifying score. This is, in reality, a safety issue since once the dogs are excited, they may well jump over the yellow in an attempt to get to the next piece of equipment as quickly as possible. I have seen dogs jump from the top of the AFrame when it was 6'3" (no longer this high)...it is scary and they can hurt themselves badly. For this reason many of us teach the dog to stop with 2 feet on the equipment and 2 feet on the ground. We teach them a word that means 'run as fast as you can to that position and wait there for further instructions'.

Suggested words: zone, spot, touch, target, park, park-it, ground, floor

