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**Dog Agility – From Easiest To Hardest Training Equipment**

**By Brad Carlson**

Ohhh watch that border collie weave through those poles at full speed without missing an entry. Just

like an olympic slalom skier weaving around the sticks. Ohhh watch that border collie fly thru the jumps without knocking over bars, or how about perfect contacts on A-frame, dogwalk, and teeter. Aren't they the most incredible animals on earth, huh? You must have seen them on Animal Planets channel, or Great Outdoors games in ESPN. Its amazing how easy it looks for the border collies to breeze through all the dog agility equipment and obstacles on course. Hey now, its time to wake up, look at your dog. You think "Hmmm, if that border collie can do it, I think my dog can do it too". Whoa, hold your horses! Get this, every dog is different. Dogs have different reasons for enjoying agility. Some like the reward either for the food or toy, or some dogs just want to run and jump. Remember this, border collies, most of them anyway, are made for agility, the speed, circular courses and quick turns fire them up. A labrador retriever is made for hunting and retrieving ducks and birds, working in linear patterns, and coming back to you. These are good skills to have in agility. Know your breed strengths and utilize these in training agility. Any dog can do agility, but some dogs, for instance, a basset hound will never do what a border collie can do. Get this? Lets move on to the next paragraph on size of the dog.

There's a saying that a small size border collie will perform better on the agility course than a medium or big size border collie. Size determines which height category your dog is placed in, but does not indicate level of performance. Lets not forget it goes back to the trainer or handler. The question you need to ask is how much training will it take for my dog to go through the weave poles, make contacts, or run the way I want it to.

Some will say that training weaves is the hardest obstacle to teach, others will say giving commands, yet others the contacts. No matter where you and your dog start first, you as the trainer and handler will need to set a goal. Keep training fun, short, and simple. One simple method of training your dog is to reward with food or toy. Every dog has a desire to please you to some degree, but not every dog understands what you expect. If your dog is driven by food, reward it with a small treat after a short exercise, continue after every task. If your dog is driven by toy such as ball or frisbee, use it as a reward also.

## Dog Agility – From Easiest To Hardest Training Equipment

You might think getting start in the agility sport is expensive. As the cost of raw materials goes up, so does the equipment. One way to cut down on cost, is to join an agility club. However, it costs to join also. Others might prefer to purchase a few pieces of dog agility equipment at a time for their own backyard training. Still others might want to purchase equipment for day care, just set up as doggie playground. Regardless, it costs money. You will need to ask yourself, do I want to invest in money and time? Or do I want to do it just to have fun, as a hobby? Will my doglike to run and jump?

Every trainer has a different philosophy and approach to agility training equipment, which is hardest and which is easiest, which takes the longest and which takes the shortest to learn. Every dog is different, has a different desire and perspective to agility. It does not matter how small or big your dog is, its how much you and your dog enjoy the training and playing. And to top it off, start with an exciting and positive attitude and have lots of fun.

Brad Carlson is a dog trainer at Agility by Carlson. For more training details, visit our website at

<http://www.carlson-agility.com/>

### **Pit Bull Terrier Dog Agility Training**

**By Tim Amherst**

Entertaining your American Pit Bull Terrier with dog agility training is an excellent activity that can be fun for both you and your Pit. It is something that both of you can do together that will strengthen the dog-owner bond.

Pit Bull agility training is one of the more advanced types of dog training, but it is certainly quite enjoyable. Dog agility is an activity that has become very popular in England, Australia, and the United States. It consists of a main event with multiple dog courses set up to compete in. All of the courses contain roughly 26 obstacles. In order for your dog to win, he must finish the course without any faults in the fastest time. This is an activity that certainly takes patience and a lot of practice.

Many of the obstacles that are included agility courses need extensive training in order to master. There are two basic types of courses, jumping courses and agility courses. Jumping courses are full of obstacles which your dog must clear, such as jumps which your dog has to make it over without knocking down, and weaves which your dog must stay in until the very end. In dog agility courses there are contact points on the obstacles which your dog must touch with his paws.

Dog clubs do not allow puppies under the age of one year to participate in agility exercises. A great many agility enthusiasts actually own their own equipment so that they can begin training with their dog at a much earlier time. Jax is a company which makes training obstacles in case you are interested in doing this.

Much of your dog's agility training must be done before you enter the very first show and your dog should have no trouble running the entire course. It is an extremely exciting and challenging activity and can certainly improve the bond between you and your best friend.

To learn all about owning, raising, and caring for American Pit Bull Terriers, visit

<http://www.PitBullsRevealed.com/>

today!



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