



KiwiDogAgility

Tips to help you through your first ribbon trial

Liz Barlow from DAWG Newsletter

Before you compete

You will need to get your dog measured. That way you know what height your dog is. You may have a measurers at your Club, or maybe a measure session can be organised at your Club, or you could get it done at a local event. You can then apply for your Permanent number. <http://www.dogagility.org.nz/registerinfo.html>

Things to take on the day

- 🐾 A crate for your dog (if you've got one)
- 🐾 A water bowl
- 🐾 A full water bottle
- 🐾 Towels (always good to know where your towel is at!)
- 🐾 Treats (for you and your dog)
- 🐾 A collar without tags and a lead
- 🐾 Poo bags
- 🐾 Cash for entries, food and a raffle ticket or two
- 🐾 Your dog!
- 🐾 And depending on the weather, something to keep your dog warm or to keep the sun off the car.

Before you leave home

Check the flyer on the dog agility website www.dogagility.org.nz This will tell you when the judging starts. It pays to arrive at least half an hour before judging starts.

Give your dog a small breakfast or no breakfast at all. (Have a hearty one yourself.)

Helping your dog

Just like us, dogs can find competing stressful. It's good if they can have a space of their own where they can chill out.

The easiest way to achieve this is a covered crate in your car.

Entering the event

Once you've arrived and found a park – leave your dog in the car while you do your entries. Newbies can enter Elementary B, starters and jumpers C.

Before you run

You need to give your dog a chance to go to the toilet. Take them for a walk around to make sure!

You should also take your dog for a walk around the outside of the rings, just so they have a chance to check out all the sights and smells. Reward them for being happy and calm near the ring.

Keep your dog in the car unless you're toileting, ring-walking, warming up or cooling down. This allows them to chill out.

Walking the course

You'll be given a chance to check out the course you're going to run. Leave all food and treats outside the ring while you are walking the course.

Grab friendly, experienced club mate to walk with you to help you find the traps and make suggestions about how to run the course with your dog. It also pays to watch what others are planning and see if it might work for you.

Running order

Just before your course is run, a list of the numbers of all the dogs competing will be put up. Check where you are on the list

Psyching you and your dog up

- 🐾 Give your dog a chance to go to the loo.
- 🐾 Warm your dog up.
- 🐾 Aim to be on the start line with your dog about five dogs before you run (each run takes less than a minute).

On the start line

You're on the start line, there are only a couple of dogs in front of you and your nerves are building.

Don't worry – that feeling in your tummy is excitement and anticipation – you're about to have fun with your dog!

Try a few focus games to get your dog working with you.

Now that you're hooked

You need:

- 🐾 a permanent number for your dog
www.dogagility.org.nz/registerinfo.html
- 🐾 an NZKC membership for you to enter Championship Events
nzkc.org.nz/membership.html