

KiwiDogAgility

by Karen de Wit

Foundation Agility

Foundation Agility is a combination of all that is good about having a dog – learning some good manners, but knowing how to play too, gaining confidence and skills using agility equipment and cones.

Follow the leader and get in step just like your aerobics classes. Foundation Agility offers plain running, fancy foot work and balance challenges

Below are some examples of exercises you and your dog will do in Foundation Agility class.

Run-with-me circle

Purpose: To teach your dog to **run** with you, not walk, **run!** The goal is for your dog to run with you off lead. This is not easy and will take practice, especially with 10 other dogs around training.

1. Your dog is always on the outside and the handler on the inside as they go around the circle. The dog is always faster than the handler.
2. Use a short lead, held in the hand closest to the dog.
3. Have treats ready in the other hand.
4. Focus your dog.
5. Move forward at a slow walk. Reward your dog after two or three steps (slow or stop) continue.
6. Increase the number of steps between rewards.
7. If your dog jumps up stop, get focus and continue.
8. If your dog surges ahead, stop, get focus and continue .
9. Talk to your dog.

Jump bumps

Purpose: To teach your dog to understand where their rear feet are while walking/running with you.

1. Use a short lead, held in the hand closet to the dog.
2. Have treats ready in the other hand.
3. Focus your dog.
4. Move forward at a slow walk. Reward your dog after two or three steps (slow or stop) continue.
5. Increase the number of steps between rewards.

Straight tunnel

Purpose: To teach your dog to go through a straight open tunnel.

1. Sit or stand your dog in front and very close to the tunnel entrance (nose almost in).
2. Have someone else hold your dog's lead.
3. Step forward to the end of the tunnel. Get your head into the tunnel and call your dog.
4. The person lets go of the lead when the dog tries to go in the tunnel. They do not touch the dog. No pushing the dog into the tunnel.

Ramps on the mini table

Purpose: To teach your dog run along a narrow ramp and to value the reward at the end of the ramp, thereby ensuring they do the whole ramp.

1. Use a short lead, held in the hand closest to your dog.
2. Have treats ready in the other hand.
3. Focus your dog.
4. Move forward at a slow walk. Reward your dog after two or three steps by placing a treat on the ramp, continue.
5. Increase the number of steps between rewards.
6. At the end of the ramp place a reward treat on the ramp or ground.

If dog jumps off part way along the ramp, return to the start of the ramp. Talk to your dog a lot and reward often.

MID CLASS GAMES

Play 'Musical Downs' (basic control)

1. Get everyone in a big circle. They walk clockwise around the circle. (Talk to them about training and life)
2. Instruct them to "Down your dog!"
3. Tell them the last dog to down is out, but that was just a trial run. Continue the game until only one dog, the winner is left.

The 'Stand behind your Dog' exercise

(Dog will move its head – foundation back crosses)

1. Tell the handlers to ask their dogs to sit beside them.
2. The handler then moves back one small step so they are near the dog's tail.
3. The handler then steps to the side so that one foot is on each side of the dog's tail .

The 'Walk past your Dog' exercise (lead-out training)

1. Tell the handlers to ask their dogs to sit beside them.
2. Ask the handlers to move backwards two small steps.
3. Pause.
4. Ask the handlers to move forwards four small steps.
5. Pause.
6. Ask the handlers to move backwards two small steps, so that they are beside their dog again.
7. Tell them to reward their dogs and get them out of the sit.

Repeat with the handler on the other side.

For more information about foundation classes go to

www.dogagility.org.nz

WEEK ONE LAYOUT

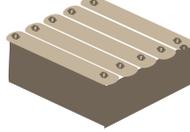
4 Flexi tunnel (straight)



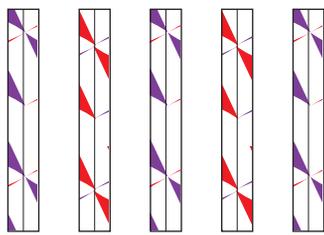
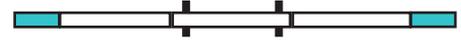
3 Hoop



6 Potty stools

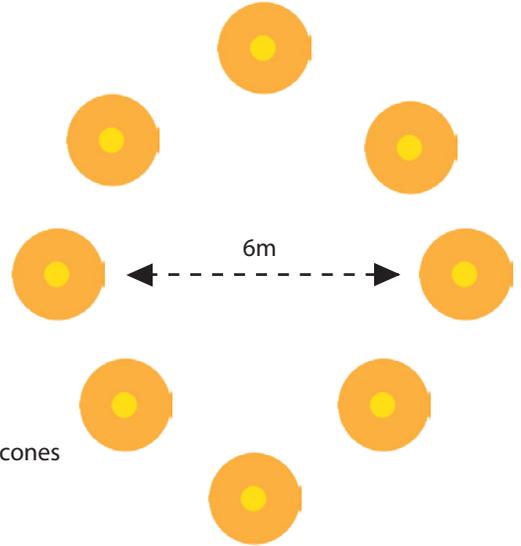


5 Dog walk ramps (on small table 400m high)



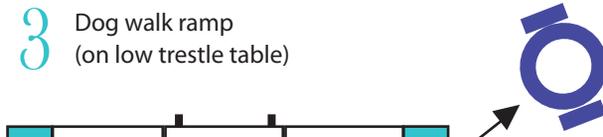
2 Jump bumps in a straight line

1 Circle of cones

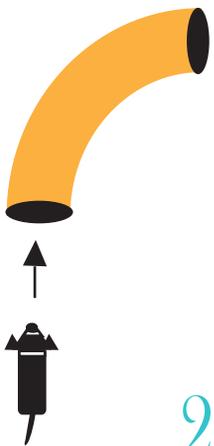


WEEKSEVEN LAYOUT

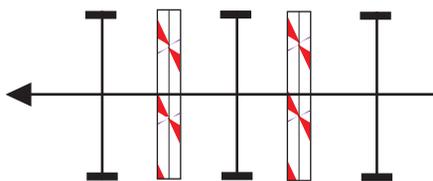
3 Dog walk ramp (on low trestle table)



4 Wait and recall practice
Sit — Down — Sit
Wait and step away and back —
Walk around dog in a small circle

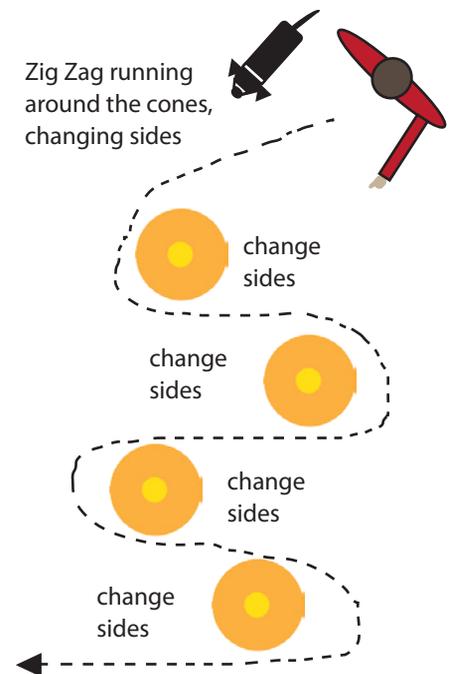


2 Self control hurdles and play



Sit — Down — Sit. Lead out one or two jumps, call dog. Run to end — Down — up and play

1 Zig Zag running around the cones, changing sides



What is Agility?

It's a fun sport for people and dogs.
It involves teaching the dog a range of different obstacles.



Weave
Hoop
Seesaw
Long jump
Jumps
A-frame
Dog walk
Flexible
tunnel
Collapsible
tunnel



Who can do Agility?

Just about any type of dog or person.

The aim of agility competition is to do all the obstacles correctly in the fastest time.

You can compete in Agility events all over the country. You might be awarded a clear round certificate, win a ribbon or a prize.

We also have a strong junior membership. But at the end of the day, Agility is fun. So come and join us!



What do you need to start?

A dog that is...

- healthy
- 12 months or older
- reasonably fit
- will come, sit, lie down when told
- a dog that will run or walk alongside you
- a collar and a long comfortable lead
- good sports shows
- a desire to have fun with your dog

Where can I do Agility?

There are clubs all over the country. To find one close to you go to www.dogagility.org.nz

