

**Agility I
Training Instructions**

These instructions are very basic guidelines to help you achieve the objectives on your merit badge check-off sheet. They are not intended to supercede any of the information your instructor gives you at the Orientation & Safety Lecture or Field Session.

Instructions for all obstacles for Agility I will be found in the instruction sheets for Obstacle Courses 1, 2, and 3. To have your dog flow smoothly from one obstacle to the next, you will need to perfect more distance control, directional cues, and handling techniques. You will also need to gradually raise the jump heights until you are at your dog's competition height.

Useful Cues/Behaviors:

"Here" (get in) - have your dog move toward you in relation to the course.

"Get Out" - have your dog move away from you in relation to the course.

"Walk On" - have your dog keep moving forward at a walk.

"Run On" (go on) - have your dog keep moving forward at a run.

Combining Obstacles:

After your dog has learned all of the obstacles, you can put them together as part of a course. To help your dog learn to do more than just 3 obstacles at a time (as you did for the first 3 badges) you'll want to gradually add in an extra obstacle from time to time before you let the dog know he's finished and you reward your dog. Gradually work up to having the dog do a full course.

Changing sides:

As you combine obstacles into a course, you will find it is easier to handle from the right in many situations. Sometimes, parts of the course would be better handled from the left, and other parts would have a right hand advantage. To best take advantage of these circumstances, you will need to learn to smoothly cross over from one side to the other. You can cross in front of the dog, behind the dog, or while the dog is hidden inside a tunnel. Start by making sure your dog is comfortable with you on either side of him for each obstacle. Then try to change sides while the dog is stopped (on a contact or on the pause table). Next try sending the dog to do a straight line of obstacles while you practice changing sides. Work your way up to being able to change sides on a curve or while the dog is between obstacles.