



What is AKC Agility?

Agility is the fastest growing dog sport in the country and appeals to all dog lovers - from young people to seniors. It has great spectator appeal. Agility is designed to demonstrate a dog's willingness to work with its handler in a variety of situations. It is an athletic event that requires conditioning, concentration, training and teamwork. Dog and handlers negotiate an obstacle course racing against the clock.

The AKC offers three types of agility classes and a variety of titles.

- **Standard Class** which includes contact objects such as the dog walk, the A-frame, and seesaw. Each of the contact obstacles has a "safety zone" painted on the object and the dog must place at least one paw in that area to complete the obstacle.
- **Jumpers with Weaves** has only jumps, tunnels and weaves poles with no contact objects to slow the pace.
- **FAST** which stands for Fifteen and Send Time. This class is designed to test handler and dog teams' strategy skill, accuracy, speed, and distance handling (this class is not offered at Westminster).
- All classes offer increasing levels of difficulty to earn **Novice, Open, Excellent and Master titles**. After completing both an Excellent Standard title and an Excellent Jumpers title, handler and dog teams can compete for the Master Agility Championship title (MACH).

The AKC held its first agility trial in 1994 with approximately 2,000 entries total in all AKC agility trials nationwide. AKC agility is available to all dogs, purebred and mixed breeds. From tiny Yorkshire Terriers to giant Irish Wolfhounds, the dogs run the same course with adjustments in the expected time and jump height. The classes are divided by jump heights in order to make the competition equal between the different sizes of dogs.

Where did agility begin?

The first widely documented appearance of dog agility was at England's Crufts Dog show in 1978. With great success, it was originally designed as an entertainment segment between the conformation and obedience rounds. This addition immediately

intrigued dog owners because of its ability to demonstrate the speed, dexterity, and overall challenge displayed by dogs across a variety of breeds. The demonstration was so popular that it went on to grow into local, national, and eventually international competitions with standardized equipment.

Where and when will the Masters Agility Championship at Westminster be held?

The 5th Annual Masters Agility Championship at Westminster will be held at Pier 94 in New York City located at 711 12th Ave. at 55th St. on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018 from between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. This event will precede the 142nd Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, which will be held on February 12 and 13 at Piers 92 / 94 and Madison Square Garden.

How can I get tickets for this historic event?

Tickets are available at the door or online

at <https://www.tix123.com/tix123/eTic.cfm?code=WKC2018>

Admission will be **\$32 for adults and \$10 for children** under 12 years of age plus taxes and fees. Finals will begin 7 p.m. **A separate ticket will be needed for the finals; the cost of this ticket will be \$32 for adults and \$15 for children** under 12 years of age plus taxes and fees.

What breeds can I expect to see at this event?

All breeds are involved in AKC agility as the sport offers five jump heights. The most popular breeds currently are Shetland Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervurens, Border Collies, Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Cocker Spaniels, Welsh Corgis and Papillons.

Will I see All-American Dogs (Mixed Breeds) compete in this agility competition?

Yes. All-American Dogs (mixed breeds) will be eligible to compete. Dog agility is practiced as a sporting activity that demonstrates a handler and trainer's skill in working with a dog on an obstacle course. The breed of dog may pose certain challenges in training and handling, but a competitor is not restricted as to type of dog. Therefore, dog agility is a sport for all dogs.

How many dogs will be entered in this competition?

There will be 330 dogs entered in this competition. Each dog will compete in two qualifying rounds consisting of a Standard Agility course and a Jumpers with Weaves course. The 10 dogs with the highest combined scores from each height class will move on to the "Championship Round" consisting of a total of 50 dogs.

Why is it called "The Masters Agility Championship at Westminster"?

Agility dogs can achieve many titles. Our competition is open to those dogs that have achieved the higher titles and are therefore eligible to compete on a "Master" level course.

For more information visit: westminsterkennelclub.org