

## **Dogs On Course in North America, LLC General Statements of Purpose**

### **Introduction**

Dogs On Course in North America, LLC (DOCNA) recognizes today's agility enthusiast as a versatile competitor that challenges the bounds of success by training for and competing in multiple agility venues and dog sports other than agility. This competitor chooses the classes and division or level that allows them to challenge their abilities and develop their skills at their own pace, and meet their goals. In designing our events and in our course philosophy, we have worked diligently to take these factors into account, striving to incorporate many of the techniques and challenges available, including, but not limited to, tight teamwork-oriented handling sequences, flow, distance, strategic games, and speed. The training and equipment required for the different agility venues may vary: i.e. (slatted or non-slatted contacts, A-frame height, spread jumps, etc). As such, many types of equipment are owned by clubs/groups or businesses and are used in preparation for competition. Dogs On Course in North America, LLC extends to clubs/groups or businesses the opportunity to use approved existing equipment because we believe that competitors are well-informed and can make their own choice to enter trials based on advance knowledge of equipment offered.

### **Mission Statement**

To present a multi-division agility venue that everyone can participate in from Competition, Select, Veteran, Grand Veteran and Junior Handler. In offering this agility venue, we recognize the competitor as a voice in any change to rules or achievement opportunities. Dogs On Course in North America, LLC will support an open line of communication for any proposed changes. This communication will involve solicitation and consideration of feedback and explanation of decisions.

### **Agility Philosophy**

Agility is a sport for anyone having a healthy dog capable of competing in agility. Agility is a competitive sport, and each dog/handler team has the right to achieve a level equal with their performance. It is a fun sport, but also one that requires dog and handler team to work as a team.

Competitors have voiced that they like the challenge of planning their path in strategic events such as Traditional Gamblers and Strategic Time Gamble; we offer these two events as well as additional such challenges with two new events called Snakes 'N Ladders and Trigrility.

Standard and Jumpers agility courses are traditional classes that will challenge the handler/dog team by having both work away sections and close proximity handling challenges without losing site of flow on course.

### **Purpose of Agility Trials**

Agility trials are for competing dog/handler teams to demonstrate their ability to work as a cohesive team while competing for agility merit awards. At all times handlers should be aware that agility is a spectator sport watched by adults and children and should conduct themselves in a professional manner using positive approaches.

### **Rulebook**

The Dogs On Course in North America, LLC rule book is available to read online at <http://www.docna.com> or you may print your own copy.

### **Dogs On Course in North America, LLC Entry Eligibility**

Healthy, trained dogs over 12 months or older may compete in a Dogs On Course in North America, LLC trial. Mixed-Breeds as well as purebreds are welcome and eligible for entry. Any dog 12 months old may enter the Select or Junior Handler Division. Dogs are not eligible to enter the Competition Division until they are 15 months old.

Dogs on Course believes that competitors who choose to compete with dogs 12-18 months of age have taken all reasonable precautions to ensure their safety in participating in agility and that they recognize that training and physical activity will be required by both the dog and the handler when competing in agility. In participating, the competitor also understands that this activity will involve some running, jumping, and the use of obstacles such as tunnels, scaling planks, jumps, tires, and weave poles. Some of these above precautions may include veterinarian check ups and X-rays to ensure the closure of growth plates and hip and joint correctness.

***In offering the opportunity for dogs to begin their ring awareness training at the age of 12 months, handlers should recognize that not all dogs are ready to begin competing at 12 months of age. Handlers should assess their individual dog for readiness to complete both mentally and physically. This should include a veterinary check up and X-rays to ensure the closure of growth plates and hip and joint correctness. In addition, handlers should recognize the benefits of being able to ring socialize a dog without the pressure to qualify or even complete every obstacle correctly. Some dogs are ready to weave, others are not, some dogs will lack confidence and all ring exposure needs to be very positive.***

Dogs which are not eligible to compete:

- Bitches in season
- Lamé or blind dogs (restrictions – see section on physically challenged dogs)
- Aggressive dogs

EVERY DOG ENTERING OR PARTICIPATING MUST BE IN THE CARE AND CUSTODY AND CONTROL OF HIS/HER OWNER OR HANDLER AT ALL TIMES ON THE TRIAL SITE PREMISES. BY ENTERING YOU agree to assume full responsibility and liability for any and all injury or damage caused in any way by your dog(s) or yourself.

The Trial Club or group official, Show Judge of record, or any Dogs On Course in North America, LLC staff has the authority to dismiss a dog or handler from the ring area or show grounds. At the time of dismissal, those being dismissed will be given a reason for this dismissal. Any dog the show judge of record deems aggressive or out of control (on course or on site), will be excused from the agility trial. The show judge of record must include information about such dismissals in their judge's report and the trial club/groups must include the same information in their show report. The information to be reported should include handler's name, dog's name and registration number and an unemotional account of the circumstances. A fair review will be done within 14 days, with consideration given to input from those dismissed, to determine if the dog may show again at a future trial. During this 14 day period or until the review is complete, the dog in question may not compete in a Dogs On Course in North America, LLC trial.

### **Exhibitor and Spectator Dogs/Children at the Show Site**

Any person's whose dogs and/or children create unnecessary disturbances or repeatedly engage in unsafe or disruptive behavior may be asked to leave the site.

For the safety of a puppy, please do not bring puppies under the age of 8 weeks to the show site.

Any agility ring that is not in use is out of bounds for exhibitor's or spectator's children and/or their dogs. Any exhibitor not following these rules may be excused for the balance of the trial without refund of entry fees. Spectators may be excused from the immediate trial site.

### **Collars in the Ring**

Dogs On Course in North America, LLC leaves it up to the exhibitor as to whether or not they would like to leave a collar on their dog during competition. For the purposes of safety, DOCNA strongly recommends that dogs run WITHOUT a collar. There have been documented cases of dogs getting collars stuck on jump stanchions or contact equipment hinges. If you choose to run with a collar, you do so at your own risk. This policy will be evaluated from time to time to determine if there are any safety implications associated with competing while wearing a collar.

For those who choose to run with a collar, a quick release collared is suggested. Acceptable collars may be flat or rolled collars with a buckle or plastic release clasp. A collar may have an attached info plaque riveted onto it, or information stitched into it. It is also acceptable to keep tag bags that contain license tags and owner information on a collar as long as it fits securely on the collar. Collars with dangling tags, martingale type loops, halti's, gentle leaders, harnesses, and any electronic training devices (shock, bark, pinch, citronella, etc) will not be allowed in the ring. Should a judge feel that a collar does not fall within DOCNA standards or is otherwise unsafe, they will have the authority to request that the exhibitor remove it from the dog or not run.

#### **COLLARS IN THE RING - Purpose of the rule**

- Allowing collars in the ring was designed to assist the handler should a dog escape or wander off from the agility trial; the dog would have identification to assist the handler in finding their dog.

#### **Faults - Infractions**

- At no time should this collar be used as a training device at the start line, nor should the dog be dragged to the line by the collar or from the course.
- At no time should this collar be purposely used to hold up the dog's front feet while entering or leaving the course
- The handlers hand should be free and clear of the collar prior to starting the run.
- Competitors that use the collar as a holding device, bowling the dog to start by holding the collar shall receive a minimum of a 5 fault penalty.
- In trigility, once the dog is finished, you are welcome to hold this collar in a positive manner.

#### **Training Devices**

The following devices are not allowed at the trial site: shock collars, bark collars, pinch collars, electronic training/collar devices.

#### **Registering your Dog with Dogs On Course in North America, LLC**

In order to compete in Dogs On Course in North America, LLC events, you must register your dog. **Dog registration is now available online at <http://www.docna.com>.** Please follow the instructions in the Headline News document to complete the registration. The registration fee if you register online is \$10/dog. To register, you must first register yourself as a member and then register your dogs. Please note that the member and dog information that you provide will be used to print and mail title and award certificates and may be needed in the event we need to contact you. Please enter complete and correct information and remember to keep it up to date. You must send payment for your dog registration within 15 days or you may be deleted from the DOCNA database. Payment instructions are provided in the confirmation email you receive when you register a dog; you may pay via a personal check or online with Paypal. Please note, you will not receive any registration cards in the mail, only the email confirmations. Also, member registrations with no attached dog registrations will be deleted within 30 days as well.

If you do not have computer access, you may instead mail a printed registration form (obtained in the forms library) to register your dog at a cost of \$15/dog registration. You must also include payment for all registrations and a self-addressed stamped envelope and so that we can communicate your registration number(s) to you. **It is strongly recommended that you use the online registration process, even if you need to find a friend to help you do it.**

#### **Transfer of Dog Ownership**

Dog Registrations are associated in the DOCNA database with member registrations. If you would like to transfer ownership of a dog to another member, please email your request to [info@docna.com](mailto:info@docna.com).

#### **Names and Mailing Addresses for Award Certificate Generation**

Award certificates are generated automatically using the information provided by the DOCNA member in the DOCNA Dog Registration Database. Certificates are mailed to the address listed in the database. The owners name as is listed in the database and the dog's registered name as is listed in the database is what is put on the certificate. There will be a \$5 per certificate reprinting cost to correct misspellings or replace lost certificates due to an incorrect mailing address. Please make every effort to keep your database information up to date.