



PRESENTED BY



2023 FACT SHEET

WHAT:

USDAA® Cynosport® Dog Agility World Games Presented by Purina Pro Plan

WHO:

The U.S. Dog Agility Association® (USDAA) year-end championships will host hundreds of canine agility athletes and their handlers that qualified from across the nation and around the world to compete in Murfreesboro.

WHEN:

October 18-22, 2023; daily activities run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WHERE:

Tennessee Miller Coliseum
304B West Thompson Lane
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

[Click here](#) for directions and a map of the location

CAN SPECTATORS BRING A DOG?

Spectators are welcome to bring their well-behaved dogs on leashes. Tournament competition at Cynosport® is only open to previously qualified dogs.

IS THERE AN ADMISSION FEE?

Admission is free!

WHAT IS CYNOSPORT®?

Cynosport® — from “cyno,” the Latin derivative of the ancient Greek root “Keno,” meaning “of the dog” — and sport, meaning competitive physical activities. Cynosport® is a registered trademark of United States Dog Agility Association, Inc.

WHAT IS AGILITY?

Dog agility is a competitive sport in which a handler directs a dog over an obstacle course, using voice and hand signals. Dogs maneuver through a timed course designed to test agility as they jump over hurdles, race through tunnels, traverse ramps on the Dog-Walk and see-saw, scale an A-Frame, and weave through a line of poles. It is the handler’s challenge to give the necessary guidance and encouragement to direct the dog without using a leash.

WHAT KIND OF DOGS ARE SEEN IN COMPETITION?

Dogs can be any breed or mix of dog, any age, size or origin. In fact, some of the dogs are former rescue dogs. For competition purposes, dogs are grouped in classes by height, ranging from the small Papillon to larger dogs such as retrievers and Border Collies.

AGILITY OBSTACLES



Jumps



Weave poles



Ramp (A-Frame)



Tunnel



Tire



Awards podium

HOW IS AGILITY JUDGED AND SCORED?

Dog agility has an objective scoring system that is easy to understand for spectators and competitors alike.

Standard scoring

Under standard scoring, the dog runs the course against a Standard Course Time (SCT) that the judge sets for a given course based on an assessment of course distance and degree of difficulty. Penalties are assessed for time incurred in excess of the SCT. Penalties are also assessed for infractions on the course that are classified as listed below. Time penalties and course penalties are added to arrive at a final score. The competitor with the fewest penalties is the winner.

Refusal faults – signaled by the judge with a raised, closed fist

- Turning back on an obstacle to be performed
- Significantly hesitating to perform a given obstacle
- Aborting performance of an obstacle
- Running out past an obstacle
- Entering the weave poles incorrectly

Standard faults – signaled by the judge with a raised, open hand

- Displacing poles from hurdles
- Failure to touch a yellow contact zone on the A-Frame, Dog Walk or See-Saw
- Missing a weave pole
- Failure to clear the span of the long jump
- “Fly-off” from the see-saw
- Handler or outside assistance

Each fault carries a penalty of five points, except for the handler or outside assistance, which may vary according to a judge’s assessment of the nature of such assistance.

In any class, a dog and handler are dismissed from the ring and their score is marked “Elimination” for any one of the following infractions, for which the judge will blow a whistle calling for an end to the round:

- Three refusals on course
- Dog being out of control or ceasing to work
- Running the wrong course sequence
- Exhibiting poor sportsmanship
- Excessive handler or outside assistance
- Food or other training aids on course
- Fouling the ring

HOW LONG HAS DOG AGILITY BEEN AROUND?

Dog agility traces its beginning to Great Britain, where the sport was first witnessed at the Crufts Dog Show in 1978. The sport captured the interest of many dog fanciers, and in 1985 found its way to the United States where agility enthusiasts began developing the framework for the United States Dog Agility Association.

Today, the USDAA[®] is the world’s largest independent canine sports authority dedicated to promoting the sport of dog agility as a recreational, family sport that fosters responsible pet ownership.

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