

Competing in Agility from Home

By Christy Gammage
Practice Makes Pawfect

Dog Agility is fun at home or in your local agility class. Competing in Agility trials away from home is fun as well. What if you could have the best of both worlds and “compete” from your home field? Some organizations allow you to do just that with Virtual runs or League competitions. You get a course map, set it up, video your run, then upload your video or score to earn ‘qualifying scores’ or actually compete against other people doing the same.

One of the first organizations to offer virtual runs was NADAC, North American Dog Agility Council. Each month they post a collection of course maps for the different types of classes. They have courses for full sized fields as well as smaller dimensions. All classes & courses for all the levels are available each month. On the honor system, you video your first and second attempt at the course. Contacts must be clearly visible from the camera angle and the entire run must be clearly visible from start to finish. Normal rules apply for collars and coming to the ring on leash. If you think you have a qualifying run, upload it to the NADAC website and pay \$10 for a video review. If they review and agree your run had no problems, you get a Qualifying score (a Q) just as if you competed at a regular event. If you don’t feel you had a qualifying run, then you just don’t submit it. You can continue to practice on that course or reset for a different course and try again. These are some of the most ‘cost effective’ Qs you can get. You can earn the normal titles and qualify to go to the NADAC Championships with these Qs.

<https://www.nadac.com/video-runs/>
USDAA (United States Dog Agility Association) came out with USDAA@Home when COVID hit. There are some significant differences in their program. You are required to pay for ‘entering’ upfront. Then the courses are then made available for you to run & video. They offer full courses, small courses, skills courses or segments and Hybrid courses that are Full or Small with required handling skills to be completed correctly for points. Points are earned towards USDAA@Home! special awards and titles in a variety of ways. There is no cross over to Qs earned at normal competitions.

<https://www.usdaa.com/athome/rules.cfm>
UKI Home Trials also started during COVID. They currently run every two weeks and last for 10 days. There are 3 course sizes available, with 2 classes of Agility, 2 classes of Jumping and 2 classes of Speedstakes plus

a Gamblers & Snooker class available for some ring sizes. You enter online like a normal UKI trial, \$9 per class or \$12 if entering late. Course maps are emailed to the competitors on the morning of the “trial”. Participants then have the 10 days to join a Facebook page and post videos of their runs which will then be judged for a Clear round. You can practice the course before recording a run for uploading. At Home Q’s can count like regular trial Q’s for getting into bigger trial classes without going through qualifying rounds.

<https://ukagilityinternational.com/events/uki-at-home-trials>

Bud Houston started the National Dog Agility League, which is now the International Dog Agility League (IDAL). You compete as a team of at least 5 dogs or can compete individually for Lifetime Performance Points. You are competing against other ‘squads’ of players for a 4 month season. The top 5 scores for each squad are used to calculate the rankings each month. Points are used for earning titles, whether you are on a squad or not. And ‘experienced’ person is designated as the judge for determining points or faults of the team runs and the captain submits the squads scores. IDAL offers standard agility numbered courses as well as a variety of games. The costs are \$10 to register the dog and \$1 for submitting runs.

<https://www.ultimuttds.com/idal>

AKC recently started a League program similar to IDAL’s. Teams of 3 or more people can compete at different levels: Elementary, Freshman, Sophomore, Senior and P.H.D. They offer regular sized courses and smaller ‘limited’ courses. Each ‘season’, a different type of course is offered every 2 weeks for a total of 6 Rounds. Anyone with a Masters title can be the ‘judge’. The team captain uploads the scores. Videos of each run are encouraged so if there is a challenge you have proof of your run. You can practice and run the course as many times as you want to get the best score. Scores and rankings are posted after each Round. Cost is \$62 to register each person/dog on the team for a season.

<https://www.akc.org/akc-agility-league/>

Whether you are looking to earn some ‘real’ Qs, compete head-to-head with other competitors or be a part of a league team, there are lots of options for competing without leaving your home field. Even if you are not the competitive type, these are still great ways to challenge yourself on trial-like courses. Better Practice!

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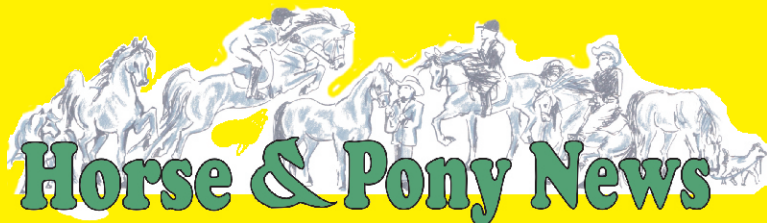
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