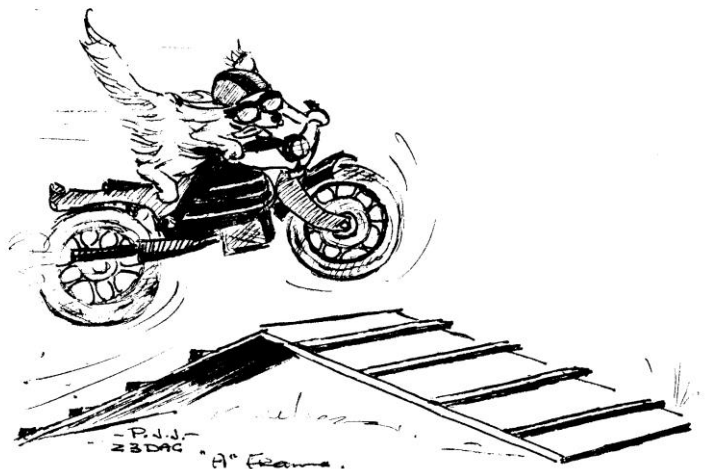




DOG AGILITY WELLINGTON GROUP

MEMBER'S BLUE BOOK 2021



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Welcome to DAWG

Membership Benefits

Training classes

Access to structured training. Further information is provided under the training section. Training goes beyond agility and flygility handling. It includes learning different aspects of running a show.

Instructors

We try to ensure every class has an instructor or two. Instructing can be very rewarding, and you can learn a lot by helping others. There are plans provided for each class, and there are online resources to help you. Give it a go.

Equipment

Access to at least two full sets of equipment. Please help to look after it by putting it away carefully, in the right place. If you notice any repairs are needed please tell a committee member or your instructor.

Shows

The Club holds a number of agility events throughout the year, both at championship and ribbon trial level. You may like to enter the shows, and we also need help with running them.

Club night

Held at the end of each term. Twice yearly, two courses are set up at starters and intermediate level, with winners receiving either the Zen or Miki trophy. Games may also be played. BYO Supper.

Seminars

From time to time members will have the opportunity to attend training sessions run by experienced instructors, including international ones if they are passing by and we can grab them.

Milestone patches

The Club presents a patch to members when they accumulate 25, 50, 75, 100, 200 clear rounds. All clear rounds at Club nights, link, ribbon events, and agility events will count. Patches are also presented to those who gain AD/ADX, JD/JDX and Flygility titles.

Uniform

The Club has a range of uniform items for sale. Once competing it is a good idea to purchase shoes with a good tread, such as touch shoes, and even rugby/soccer boots for soft ground. See the Uniform section of this book for information on what is usually available and how to order.

Expectations of Members

There are some things we would like you to do as a member. When you signed our membership form, you signed up to these expectations, which apply to all of our membership types. Most of them have to do with ensuring the health and safety of dogs and members alike, as well as ensuring we have a Club that is a fun learning environment. Not all of these are compulsory, but the Committee reserves the right to revoke membership from any member who:

- Jeopardises the health and safety of themselves, other members of the club and any dog during club activities.
- Does not train responsibly and positively.
- Does not pay fees on time.

As a member, please support DAWG by:

- Being responsible for everyone's health and safety.
- Assisting with training, Club nights and shows.
- Training positively and responsibly.
- Keeping the Club going financially.
- Getting involved.

Being Responsible for Everyone's Health and Safety

- Alert DAWG committee members of any health and safety concerns that you might have, including concerns about agility or flygility gear, training and show facilities, dog or handler behaviour. The health and safety of dogs, handlers and visitors is one of our key concerns as a club, so that everyone can have fun.

- Ensure that the dogs you listed on the membership form are sound in body and fit to participate in agility and/or flygility; by signing the membership form, you affirmed that this is the case and that you will not place your dog at undue risk because of its lack of health or fitness.
- Train your dog using an appropriate collar. Please use a strong collar, firmly buckled, and a long lead that is comfortable to hold. The collar must not have any dangling bits such as registration tags, as these can get caught in equipment. No choke chains are to be worn.
- Keep your dog on a lead unless you are training it. When setting up the equipment, or putting it away, please tie your dog up or leave it in the car. If it barks when tied up, put it in the car.
- Don't feed your dog within 3 hours of training. Toilet and warm up your dog before training and be sure to clean up after your dog. Note: male dogs often mark the tunnels so BEWARE.
- Keep a sensible distance between yourself and other dogs. We want to avoid fights or dominant, aggressive behaviour.
- Look before you cross in front of equipment.
- Ensure only one dog is using any particular piece of equipment at one time.
- Please don't put your dog at a new piece of equipment until your instructor has shown you what to do. You may shatter your dog's confidence on that piece of equipment for a long time.

Assisting With Training, Club Nights and Shows

- Assist with the setting up and taking down of gear at training, club nights and at shows. Many hands make agility work.
- Learn the jobs that help a show run smoothly and help out with the running of shows. Committee members will teach you the jobs; they are not hard.
- Leave the training area so the next group can start their training. Feel free to watch other classes train and have a chat.
- Offer to train beginners or other members or at levels lower than your own, to the extent that you are able (this expectation does not apply to associate members). You will always have the support of a more experienced trainer while you learn what to do, which means that training is another fun way of learning.

Training Responsibly and Positively

- You are wholly responsible for the behaviour of your dog(s) during any club activity. The club and anyone acting officially on behalf of the club will take no such responsibility.
- Train your dog in a positive and happy manner. Bring your dog's favourite toy, and do not be shy to play with your dog during training. Our only restriction on toys is balls - we confine these to Flygility classes. Use treats where necessary – your dogs only needs a taste, so tiny treats are best. Training will be more fun if your dog understands some basic cues: sit, down, stay, wait and come and will run with you off lead.
- Train with positive reinforcement such as praise, food and toys. You may also use your clicker. Remember that mistakes made by the dog will usually be due to some mistake made by the handler or the dog's lack of understanding. As you are both learning a new sport it is unlikely that you will be perfect all the time. But you can look forward to making lots of improvements.
- Be on time for your class (if it is a training class). At the beginning of the class the instructor may pass on information regarding events that are coming up, and you don't want to miss that. They will also outline the plan for the evening's training. Listen carefully.
- Be patient and fair to others at all times.

Further on in this book, we provide a 10 point checklist on positive handling.

Keeping The Club Going Financially

- Please pay your membership fees within one month following the DAWG Annual General Meeting (AGM). Note that subscriptions for members must be paid at least 14 days before the AGM for members to have voting rights. The annual membership fee payable by any member is set at the AGM and takes effect from 1 April following the AGM.

Getting Involved

- Our club is run by volunteers with a passion for agility and flygility. Committee members tend to have day jobs and rely on the many different skills of Club members to make the club run. If you see something that could be

improved, please tell a Committee member but even better, if you know how it can be fixed, talk to a Committee member about how you can help.

- We are always looking for Committee members.
- We hold working bees 1-2 times a year to maintain our equipment and keep the gear safe and attractive. We will let club members know on Facebook and hope you can turn out and help.

How Do You Find Out What Is Going on At Club?

Committee

The Officers and Committee are elected at the AGM, held in May each year. The Officers of the Club consist of a President, Vice-President, Administration Officer and Treasurer, and up to eight committee members. These members are charged with the day to day running of the Club, training, shows and other activities. If you have any concerns don't hesitate to approach one of them, or you can put it in writing and send/give to the Administration Officer. Current Committee members are listed on the following page.

Facebook Page

The Club also has a private [Dog Agility Wellington Group Facebook page](#). You will need to request access then once your granted approval, you can ask questions and post comments. This is probably the best for of club communication.

Dogs NZ Dog World

Championship shows are advertised in the Dogs NZ Dog World, around two or three months before they are held. To receive the Dog World magazine you have to become a member of the Dogs New Zealand – see the Administration Officer for details or you can join on-line <http://www.dogsnz.org.nz> .

Noticeboard

We hope to have a noticeboard up in the club rooms (when we get club rooms.) for now the best place to check is the [Facebook](#) page.

Regular attendance

Nothing beats coming along on a regular basis and talking to fellow Club members to ensure you are “up with the play” and know exactly what is going on at club.

How Do You Find Out What Is Going on In NZ's Agility World?

Dog Agility Wellington Group Website

www.dawg.co.nz

DAWG Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/650164265076141>

Dogs NZ (formerly New Zealand Kennel Club)

www.dogsnz.org.nz

Dog Agility New Zealand

www.dogagility.org.nz

This website enables you to easily see all of the shows a year ahead and to register for them online. It even contains graphs of your show progress. Spend time on this website and get to know your way around it, as it has all the Agility rules and regulations and information about the Agility Committee. There is an associated Facebook site.

National Agility Link Association

www.nala.org.nz

Flygility New Zealand

www.flygility.org.nz

Committee

Present committee members and their contact details can be found on the website [Committee Members \(dawg.co.nz\)](#)

Preparing For Agility

Fitness

It's a good idea for your dog to maintain fitness. An agility dog's ideal weight is LESS than for a pet dog. You should be able to feel your dog's ribs without pressing hard. The dog should have a waist and a tucked up belly. Extra weight puts pressure on joints, and ligaments, heart and lungs. It makes it harder for the dog to run, jump and climb agility obstacles.

If you have any queries regarding your dog's weight or fitness, ask your instructor for guidance.

Warming Up and Down

An essential part of exercise. Not only does it prepare muscles and ligaments for exercise it also gets the dog in a working frame of mind. The handler will work to get the dog's attention, and both partners will be ready to do the exercises set by the instructor. Check out our [website](#) for ideas.

Confidence building

- Encourage your dog to climb on, clamber over, crawl under, and jump all sorts of obstacles.
- Use benches or low walls – your dog walks along them.
- Use low park fences as jumps.
- Wobbly planks. Throw sheets and towels over the dog in preparation for collapsible tunnels.

Practice

- Teach your dog to walk/run on your right as well as the left - practice this on walks.
- Teach your dog the meaning of left and right, or run straight ahead, as cued.
- Jumps may be purchased or hand made. Electric fence stakes make good jumps (add a bar) or weave poles.
- Scaffold planks, old doors etc. can be set up as A frame, dog walk or seesaw.
- Tunnels - use sheets and chairs. Throw a sheet over your dog when making the bed. This builds up confidence.
- Toys and games - have fun with your dog, teach it to retrieve. This helps a lot with sendaway exercises, weave and contacts during training.

DAWG Agility Training

Philosophy

Our training philosophy is that the dog and owner should have fun and bond through an enjoyable sport in a safe, structured and positive training environment. Individual trainers will have different levels of experience and will have different theories that they practice. We encourage this diversity as it enables you to learn a range of techniques and to discover what is best for you and your dog. There are also a lot of websites you can visit that provide courses. Whenever we can, we will organise seminars from New Zealand and international expert practitioners.

We also encourage people to learn through teaching. We hope that you will feel confident enough as you go through the grades to put time into teaching people at grades lower than you. We will always pair you with an experienced trainer to help you build confidence.

Foundation

Entry requirements: This class is held for dogs that are at least 12 months old. At the very least it is expected that handlers can control their dogs and dogs have a sit and wait on cue. When we have more applicants than spaces available we will give priority to those dogs who have passed domestic obedience 2.

Aims:

- To introduce agility as a fun sport for dogs and owners.
- Dogs/handlers will be introduced to basic agility obstacles and handling cues.
- Dogs will also learn the basic behaviours that are required for the more the more advanced obstacles.

Level 1

Entry requirements: The dog can complete a row of jumps and drive into a tunnel independently of their handler's motion. Dogs with persistent recall problems will not be admitted to this class.

Aims:

- Dogs must be capable of being under the control of their handler at all times while off leash.
- During these lessons the dog will learn to negotiate short sequences of obstacles.
- Handlers will learn more technical handling skills.
- Dogs will continue to learn the behaviours required for contact obstacles.
- The tyre, blind and long jumps will be introduced and included in handling sequences.

Level 2

Entry requirements: Dogs are able to successfully negotiate a sequence of obstacles with confidence, independence and speed. Handlers are able to demonstrate a variety of handling cues.

Aims:

- Handling sequences will get longer and more complex.
- Handlers will develop a greater array of handling skills and their understanding of which handling skills are most appropriate for the design of the course and their dog.
- A low dogwalk will be introduced and the end behaviour will be developed.
- Dogs will learn to weave using three poles.
- Teams will be encouraged to enter Elementary classes at Ribbon Trials

Level 3

Entry requirements: Dogs will have independent obstacle performance, this includes 3 poles weaves and a stopped contact behaviour. Handlers are able to choose appropriate handling options when walking sequences and are able to complete a front cross, K-turn, blind cross, and rear cross.

Aims:

- The dog is able to independently and safely complete the dog walk and A frame.
- Complete 12 weaves independently
- Handler and dog are able to confidently complete a JC and novice style course.
- Teams will be encouraged to enter JC, starters and novice courses at Ribbon Trials and Agility Champion events.
- Handlers will be encouraged to join the club as a member.

Competition class**Entry requirements**

Dogs/handlers will be able to complete all obstacles in a simple course. (NB. Seesaw, may be assisted). Dog is under complete control.

Aims:

- To work on modules/courses as practice for competition. Encourage to become regular competitors.

Further information

For further information and help with training go to the [Training page](#) on the DAWG website

Flygility Training

A game for dogs using tennis ball, Flyball box, flyball jumps and agility equipment. Training may be available at Club during summer months. We are members of the NZFDA (NZ Flygility Dog Association) as Wellington Hurricanines and hold Flygility Tournaments throughout the year.

Uniforms

We encourage members to wear club gear at shows to create a feeling of unity and support between handlers. Ask a committee member if you are interested in purchasing gear.

Entering Agility Events**Prerequisites**

There are things you need to have done before you can enter shows and club events.

Club Events

These are Club Nights where agility, flygility and novelty/games classes may be held. You need only be a member of the DAWG to enter these events.

Ribbon Trials

These are held by Agility Clubs. You can pre-enter online at the Dog Agility website or enter on the day with cash. You need to belong to a dog club, but do not need to be a member of Dogs NZ.

Championship Agility Events

These are held regularly by clubs throughout the country. They are open to members of Dogs NZ only. Show schedules are advertised in the Dogs NZ magazine; *Dog World* and on the [Dog Agility website](#). The schedule appears approximately two months before the show date. There is a closing date for entries (up to one month before the show date) as well as information regarding venue, start time, judges, cost etc. Most events can be entered online at the [Dog Agility website](#).

These pre-requisites can be confusing. If you intend to compete at Championship events, you need to complete the following:

1. Join DAWG (which you have done or else you would not be reading this).
2. Want to only participate in Club Nights? If yes, **don't** read on. If no, read on.
3. Want to only participate in Ribbon trials? If yes, go to step 6. If no, and you want to participate in both Ribbon Trials and Championship events, go to step 4.

4. Register yourself as a handler and owner with [Dogs NZ. www.dogsnz.org.nz/dogsnz/join-online](http://www.dogsnz.org.nz/dogsnz/join-online)
 - You get a membership number and access rights to the Dogs NZ website. Membership is annual and there is a membership fee. Go to the Dogs NZ website for all the details and forms.
5. Register your dog(s) with Dogs NZ. Dogs may be registered on Part I (the purebred register), or Part II (the Dog Training register). You can only access the form through the membership section of the Dogs NZ website, so you have to be a member first. www.dogsnz.org.nz
 - Your dog gets a separate number. It does not get access rights to the Dogs NZ website.
6. Register yourself and your dog with Dog Agility New Zealand. Your dog will be allocated a permanent number (more on this below, as this can also be a tad confusing). www.dogagility.org.nz
 - The first letter of the permanent number indicates the dog's year of birth, and the first number indicates its size (0 = 240; 6+ = 600). To get your size (or height) your dog has to be measured (see next section). If you have not had your dog measured before doing this step you can enter 999 as the height in the interim, until you measure has been completed.
7. Get your dog measured (more on this below, as this can also be a tad confusing...).
8. Now that you are all numbered up(,), you can enter the events of your choosing on the Dog Agility NZ website.

Measuring: What Size Dog Are You?

All dogs need to be measured by an official measurer. The reason for this is so that you and your dog can be assigned to a height category.

There are five height categories:

- 240 – dogs not exceeding 325mm
- 320 – dogs exceeding 325mm but not exceeding 380mm
- 380 – dogs exceeding 380mm but not exceeding 430mm
- 500 – dogs exceeding 430mm but not exceeding 520mm
- 600 – all other dogs

Ask a Committee member instructor how to go about getting measured, but generally measuring only occurs when we are able to organise 2 official measurers and there are a few dogs ready for measuring. The process of measuring can take a bit of time because the measurements need to be checked constantly against a wriggling dog. So you can help prepare for measurement by teaching your dog to stand (ask your instructor or google it) and once it is standing, holding a rod next to it (or a tape measure).

If your dog is between 18 and 24 months it will receive an Interim Certificate of Measure and will need to be re-measured at two years of age (or two weeks before second birthday to 27 months), when a Permanent Certificate of Measure will be issued.

A dog with an interim certificate is still able to compete in Championship shows.

Types of Agility

There are three main streams of agility in New Zealand:

1. Standard Agility
2. Jumpers
3. Games.

Standard Agility

Standard agility consists of five levels, increasing in difficulty:

- **Elementary** – a simple course of 10 to 15 obstacles, which are the easiest for the dog to master.
- **Starters** - a reasonably simple course of 13 to 18 obstacles, which will always include a set of 12 weave poles (12 poles in a straight line which the dog must weave in and out of).
- **Novice** - a slightly more complex course of 15 to 18 obstacles, including weave poles and “contact equipment” (raised obstacles which the dog must run over, touching the “contacts” (touch-points) at the entry and exit of the obstacle).
- **Intermediate** - a complex course of 15 to 20 obstacles with additional obstacles being introduced at this level.
- **Senior** - the most complex course, 15 to 25 obstacles with all equipment able to be used and many handling opportunities for handler and dog.

New to agility? If you or your dog are new to agility, you may want to start off by entering Elementary classes, which are usually offered at ribbon trials only. This is a great class to start out in. There are 3 types of Elementary classes, of which you can enter only one.

- **Elementary C** - Open to new handlers who are handling experienced dogs. A new handler is defined as the handler never having won an Elementary class on a clear round or having received a clear round in any other standard agility.

- **Elementary B** - Open to new handlers who are handling new dogs. A new handler is defined as the handler never having won an Elementary on a clear round, placed 1st to 3rd in any other standard agility class on a clear round or attained the title of AD or JD with any dog. Open to dogs that have never won an Elementary class on a clear round, placed 1st to 3rd in any other standard agility class on a clear round or attained the title of AD (Agility Dog) or JD (Jumpers Dog).
- **Elementary A** - Open to any handler with a dog that has never won an Elementary A class on a clear round, placed 1st to 3rd in any other standard agility class on a clear round or attained the title of AD or JD.

At any show, a handler is eligible to enter 2 levels of agility classes. This means you can enter Elementary and Starters, or Starters and Novice, or later, Novice and Intermediate, or Intermediate and Senior. Therefore, you cannot enter Elementary and Novice in the same event.

In order to compete in a higher level a dog must qualify out of each level through a combination of class wins, placings and/or Agility Dog qualifications. Further information about this can be found on the Dog Agility NZ website.

Jumpers

Jumpers consists of three levels, increasing in difficulty:

- **Jumpers C** - a reasonably simple course of 15 to 18 obstacles, consisting only of jumping obstacles and tunnels.
- **Jumpers B** - a slightly more complex course of 15 to 20 obstacles, again consisting only of jumping obstacles and tunnels.
- **Jumpers A** - a complex course of 15 to 25 obstacles, again consisting only of jumping obstacles and tunnels though with additional jumping obstacles able to be introduced at this level.

Jumpers C is the entry level class. In Jumpers classes you are able to enter only one level. Information on how to graduate into the next level can be found on the Dog Agility NZ website.

Games

If you are interested in competing in Games you should visit the [Dog Agility NZ website](http://www.dawg.co.nz) and look at the rules and regulations to find out more about these. While DAWG does not train Games formally, we will occasionally introduce them at Club Nights and competitions.

Types Of Competition

Ribbon trials

You can enter on the Dog Agility NZ website or pay in cash on the day. Our preference is online entry as it limits the amount of cash we have to hold and it also speeds up the running of the day.

Championship Events

These must be entered online on the Dog Agility NZ website. You select events from the menu. This will give you the year's schedule. Find the event you want to enter. During the entry period there will be a link you can click on. Click on this and an automatic form will appear. It will automatically fill out all of the events you are eligible for and the cost of those. You opt out of the events you don't want to do by removing the relevant ticks.

PLEASE NOTE: entries for Championship shows normally close up to 6 weeks in advance of the event.

Once you've submitted your entry, the entry list for the event automatically updates. However, your entry is only valid if you have paid by the closing date. You will receive an email that contains payment instructions.

If there are any problems with entering, talk to a Committee member.

What To Enter If You Are Starting Out

If you are starting out, we suggest you enter Elementary B (if available) and/or Starters and/or Jumpers C at your first few shows. There is no contact equipment in any of these classes. If Elementary is not available, you can enter Novice, which contains contact equipment.

AD/ADX Trials | Agility Dog and Agility Dog Excellent

AD (Agility Dog) is a qualification class held at Agility Events. They are allocated by Zone. There are five zones in New Zealand, DAWG is in Zone 3. The dogs run a Novice level course, with standard obstacles including the seesaw. Dogs that go clear within a set standard course time (SCT) receive an AD Trial Clear Round Certificate. When two are collected the dog is qualified AD (Agility Dog) and when four are collected the dog qualifies **ADX** (Agility Dog Excellent). Dogs attaining AD are ineligible for Starters at Championship Agility Events.

ADX courses are set at intermediate level. Two clear rounds within the SCT qualify the dog for Bronze, two more for Silver, and a total of six for Gold.

On The Day of The Show

Walking the Course

After the course has been set up, you will be given the opportunity to walk the course. If you are new, ask your instructor or an experienced club member to walk the course with you. Use the time to find out where the course goes and to work out how you will handle your dog. Look for changes of side, difficult approaches to a piece of equipment, and where you can make up time.

Checking in

There will be a running order board by the entrance to the ring that will indicate when you are running. Try to register with the call steward at least 5 or 6 dogs before you are due to run.

If you are running more than one dog across more than one ring you may have to talk to the call steward about altering your running order to give you time to move between one ring and the other.

Once you are in the ring, make sure the scribe has your number before you run, and that you acknowledge the judge before starting, to check they are ready for you. Failure to do this will result in disqualification.

Helping Out with Our Shows

We ask that all members who are competing (and even those who are not) help out with running our shows. The Committee will appoint a Show Manager and individual Ring Managers. The Show Manager will allocate jobs across the rings. This can be a challenging task because people run more than one dog across more than one grade. Where you end up with clashes between your responsibility and a competition, please find someone else to do your job (failing that, let the Ring Manager know).

The jobs are:

- **Scriming** – watching the judge and recording faults and time (which is on a timer in front of you). Sounds frightening but actually easy.
- **Pole picking** – sitting to the side of the ring and running into the ring when the dog has finished to put up any poles that were knocked off jumps. Changing equipment when heights change.
- **Course set-up** – responding to the call of the Ring Manager to assist taking down the finished course and putting up the new one.
- **Call steward** – calling the handlers to the start of the course and recording their presence. Allowing some shifting around of the order when there are clashes between rings. Yelling out to call different grades to the ring early, so that the competition can run smoothly.
- **Lead runner** – taking the lead from the handler (and anything else they give you) and placing it at the exit point. Buckets may be used.
- **Results runner** – getting results pages from the scrimer and taking them to the person entering the results into the computer.
- **Catering** – managing the money and ensuring the food is laid out. Possibly running a BBQ or kitchen (if we use one).
- **Raffle** – selling raffle tickets. Organising the draw.
- **Generally helping out** – especially at the starts of days and ends of days as there is a lot to do to set up and take down rings.

Checklist For Positive Handling

DAWG encourages positive handling. If you follow this checklist it will help you go a long way to being a positive handler.

- I have given my dog at least 10 warm fuzzies before class.
- I have with me a clicker, toy, some food or all of them.
- I frequently praise my dog and even use a silly voice when I do it.
- My dog wears a collar at Club.
- If I get frustrated during class, I take time out to get rid of negative feelings before I take a look at what went wrong and why.
- When things go wrong, rather than come down on my dog, I know it is mostly my fault and I will ask my instructor for help in doing it better.
- When my instructor suggests something I happily give it a go so I can have lots of tools in my toolbox.
- I have taught my dog how to play and have games with him/her often, even during training.
- I know Agility is Fun and I try not to lose sight of that, no matter what.
- I loved my dog before class and so will love my dog during and after class.