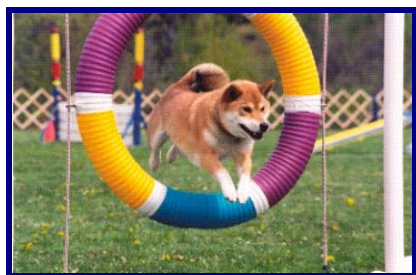


Agility is one of the fastest growing canine sports in the U.S. and is very popular worldwide. It is fun for both the dog and handler and develops a strong bond between the two of them. Using a combination of voice commands, hand signals, and body language, the handler directs the off-leash dog to correctly navigate an obstacle course in the time allowed. The number of obstacles and the



complexity of the course vary with the level at which the team is competing. For AKC, these levels are Novice, Open, and Excellent. Dogs of all sizes from Chihuahuas to Irish Wolfhounds can participate as long as they are physically fit. While only purebred dogs can compete in AKC trials, mixed breeds as well as purebreds can compete at UKC, NADAC, USDAA, Teacup, and CPE events.



The obstacle courses consist of high and spread jumps, open and closed tunnels, a tire, weave poles, an A-frame, a teeter-totter, a pause table, and a dog walk in AKC. Other organizations sometimes have additional obstacles. AKC offers an additional class in which dogs can compete called Jumpers with Weaves. This has all the usual obstacles except the dog walk, A-frame, teeter, and pause table. A dog that successfully completes the course, within the time and fault limit for that course, earns one leg towards the three needed for a title. FAST (Fifteen and Send) is the newest AKC agility titling program and combines strategy planning with distance work.



Most agility venues now offer titling programs for senior or long, heavy bodied dogs. In these, the dogs jump lower and have longer times to complete the courses.

After proper training, with a naturally athletic dog such as a Shiba, the hardest part of running the course can be for the handler to remember it once he or she has left the starting line. Of course, Shibas always have the potential to be a little

creative in how they run the course so a sense of humor is a must for the handler.



For more action photos, please visit www.shibasports.com

For more specific information, check the American Kennel Club website: <http://www.akc.org/events/agility/index.cfm>. To order the Agility rules and regulations pamphlet, contact the AKC order desk at 919-233-9767, (fax) 919-816-3627 or email orderdesk@akc.org.



AKC TITLES

NA - Novice Agility
NAP - Novice Agility Preferred
NAJ - Novice Agility Jumper
NJP - Novice Agility Jumper Preferred
NF - Agility FAST Novice
NFP - Agility FAST Novice Preferred
OA - Open Agility
OAP - Open Agility Preferred
OAJ - Open Agility Jumper
OJP - Open Agility Jumper Preferred
OF - Agility FAST Open
OFP - Agility FAST Open Preferred
AX - Agility Excellent
AXP - Agility Excellent Preferred
AXJ - Agility Excellent Jumper
AJP - Agility Excellent Jumper Preferred
MX - Master Excellent Agility
MXP - Master Agility Excellent Preferred
MXJ - Master Agility Jumper
MJP - Master Excellent Jumper Preferred
PAX - Preferred Agility Excellent
MACH - Master Agility Champion

The MX, MXP, MXJ, and MJP titles require 10 qualifying scores to earn.

As of 9/1/06, dogs qualifying 20 times in both EX B preferred classes on the same day earn a PAX title.

The MACH title, which goes before a dog's registered name, requires that the team qualified in both EX B standard and jumpers with weaves on the same day twenty times plus have accumulated 750 points.

Shibas with AKC Agility Titles (as of 12/31/09)	
NA	76
NAP	14
NAJ	71
NJP	21
NF	14
NFP	2
OA	43
OAP	6
OAJ	41
OJP	9
OF	5
OFP	1
AX	26
AXP	3
AXJ	24
AJP	5
XF	1
MX	13
MXP	2
MXP2	1
MXP3	1
MXP4	1
MXP5	1
MXJ	13
MJP	2
MJP2	2
MJP3	1
MJP4	1
MACH	3
MACH2	2
MACH3	1

AGILITY Shiba-Style



MACH3 Kirinji Kashushibaso, CD
(5/29/90 – 8/9/05)
and Ken Fairchild