



### ***So what is agility?***

Agility is a team sport where a person and a dog form a team. The handler is in charge of the strategy and the dog the athletic performance. Dogs leap over hurdles, power through tunnels, zip through a slalom of uprights and scale ramps of different sizes. (Pet Facts ABC 2011)



### ***Do I have to own a Collie or Kelpie to compete?***

No agility is open to all sizes and breeds of dogs as long as they're not obese or injured, from Jack Russel's to Great Danes! They just have to duck a bit to get through the tunnels. If in doubt over your dog's fitness liaise with your vet. Handlers can be any age as long as they are fairly fit. The amount of running involved will depend on the skill of the dog.



### ***When can I start training?***

At approximately 18 months as this is when the dog's growth plates should fuse.

### ***What are growth plates?***

Growth plates are a layer of specialized cartilage found at the end of bones that regulate the length and shape of mature bone. Starting agility too early may damage the growing bones, which in turn may lead to an early onset of arthritis, limbs growing unequally, or becoming deformed.

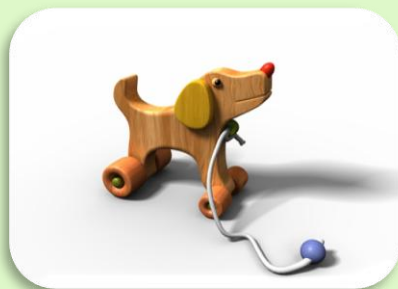


### ***Is there any training I can do to prepare my puppy for agility?***

Yes basic obedience is a great place to start, teaching your dog to sit, stay and come when called are all essential and will help to build the bond that is required to make you and your dog a successful team. It is also good to start handling your dog on both left and right sides, as unlike obedience the dog's ability to switch from one side to the other is a huge advantage.

### ***OK we've done some basic obedience and we're over 18 months old. What now?***

1. Check out the agility corner of the newsletter for the dates of the next beginner's class. They generally start in line with the school terms.
2. Or contact us via email at [Joondalupagility@hotmail.com](mailto:Joondalupagility@hotmail.com), phone Cass 0403432605, or ask for Cass, Steve or Jo at the trailer on Sundays at Lexcen Park.
3. You will need to join the agility division, as it is a separate division of Joondalup Dog Training Club Inc.
4. Membership is \$40 a year for one dog, one handler. It's an extra \$5 for each additional dog or human. There is a once off nomination fee of \$20 for those not currently a member of JDTC obedience division



***Come and join us.....***