

Agility continues to be a very popular canine sport in the U.S. and is very popular worldwide. It is fun for both the dog and handler and promotes 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, Excellent, and Master. Dogs of all sizes from Chihuahuas to Irish Wolfhounds can participate as long as they are physically fit. Mixed breeds as well as purebreds can compete at AKC, UKC, NADAC, USDAA, Teacup, and CPE events.



The Standard 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. Another

class in which dogs can compete is called Jumpers with Weaves. This has all the usual obstacles except the dog walk, A-frame, teeter, and pause table. For both Standard and JWW, a dog that successfully completes the course, within the time and fault limits for that course, earns one leg towards the three needed for a title.

FAST (Fifteen and Send) is an AKC agility titling program that combines strategy planning with distance work.



Time2Beat is a newer AKC agility titling program. This hybrid class is unique, as each dog has the chance to set the "Time to Beat" for each jump height division.



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 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.

To view highlight videos of Shibas in action at Shiba events, please visit:
<http://www.shibas.org/agility.html> .
<http://sports.shibas.org/video/index.html>



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
 XF - Agility FAST Excellent
 XFP - Agility FAST Excellent Preferred
 MX - Master Excellent Agility
 MXP - Master Agility Excellent Preferred
 MXJ - Master Agility Jumper
 MJP - Master Excellent Jumper Preferred
 PAX - Preferred Agility Excellent
 PACH - Master Agility Champion Preferred
 MACH - Master Agility Champion

T2B - Time 2 Beat
 TQX - Triple Q Excellent

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

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

Shibas with AKC Agility Titles (as of 7/31/16)	
NA	103
NAP	28
NAJ	105
NJP	38
NF	36
NFP	13
OA	71
OAP	17
OAJ	67
OJP	20
OF	21
OFP	3
AX	46
AXP	10
AXJ	46
AJP	17
XF	9
XFP	3
MX	29
MXP	6
MXB,S,G,C	19
MXPB,S,G,C	4
MXP2-17	4
MXJ	27
MJP	6
MJB,S,G,C	19
MJPB,S,G,C	4
MJP2-15	4
MXF	4
MFP	2
T2B	7
T2BP	3
TQX	2
TQXP	1
PAX	3
PAX2-5	1
PACH	2
PACH2	1
MACH	10
MACH2	5
MACH3	5
MACH4	1
MACH8	1

AGILITY Shiba-Style



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