

APPENDIX A—OBSTACLE CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

All obstacles and jumps must be of sound construction and meet the following specifications to be approved for USDAA sanctioned agility tests or events. All obstacle and jump construction specifications shall meet the following tolerances:

STATED MEASUREMENT		PERMITTED TOLERANCE	
U.S. System	Metric	U.S. System	Metric
10' or more	305cm or more	6"	15cm
2' to 10'	60cm-305cm	3"	8cm
1' to 2'	30cm-60cm	1"	2.54cm
6" to 12"	15cm-30cm	1/2"	1.27cm
1" to 6"	2.54cm-15cm	1/4"	.635cm
1/2" to 1"	12.7mm-25.4mm	1/8"	3.175mm
<1/2"	<12.7mm	1/16"	1.5875mm

Tolerance is permitted only where a measurement in the regulations is stipulated as being approximate. [Note that metric conversions are based upon 2.54cm or 25.4mm per inch and 30.48cm per foot and are included for quick reference purposes for persons residing outside the United States.]

CONTACT OBSTACLES

The contact obstacles shall be built of sturdy construction to provide stability and reliability while being performed by dogs of all sizes and weights. Ramps shall have strong supports provided stability in all directions where elevated and where coupled with other planks. Planks shall be of sufficient thickness and structural integrity that they will not flex or torque when performed with speed.

Plank surfaces shall be roughened for adequate traction under wet conditions but shall not be hazardous to dogs' pads. Non-gloss paint is strongly recommended so that traction is not compromised. Alternatively, durable, granulated rubber affixed with strong adhesive may be used to cover the ramps on contact obstacles to provide sound footing; however matting and carpeting are not permitted.

Contact obstacles shall meet the following construction specifications:

OBSTACLE	RAMP LENGTH	RAMP WIDTH	TOP ELEVATION	CONTACT ZONE LENGTH***
A-Frame	108" / 275cm*	36" / 91.44cm**	See A-Frame Table	42" / 106.68cm
Dog Walk	144" / 365cm	12" / 30.48cm	Between 48"–54" (121cm-137cm)	36" / 91.44cm
See-Saw	144" / 365cm	12" / 30.48cm	Between 24"–27" (61cm–68.5cm)	36" / 91.44cm

*Assumes planks come to a point where joined.

**It is recommended that the wall width be up to 4' (122cm) at the base to provide lateral stability.

***The bottom of each sidewall shall be designated as a safety contact zone, shall be yellow in color and must be a significant contrast to the primary obstacle color to form a distinct top line. The edge of the zone shall be on the top of the sidewall, extend a reasonable depth onto the sides and have no other banding, insignia or other markings within 12" (305mm) of the top line. White is not a permissible color, as it can create glare in certain lighting conditions.

Additional specifications for each obstacle follow.

A-Frame

Chains or other support devices shall be fastened to the A-Frame ramps on each side between 2' and 3' (app. 610mm - 915mm) above ground level to provide stability. The A-Frame ramps shall be securely hinged or anchored together on one end to form the apex of the A-frame when standing upright. The angle of the two ramps at the apex shall be adjustable as shown in the table below in order to provide a consistent angle of ascent:

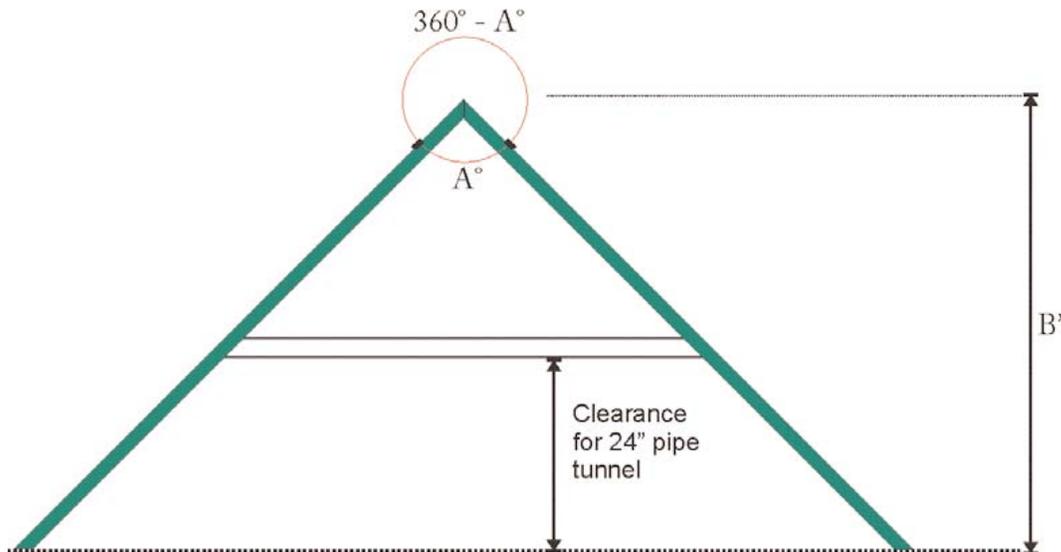
PROGRAM	HEIGHT DIVISIONS	APEX ANGLE*	APPROXIMATE HEIGHT
Championship	22" / 26" (55cm / 65cm)	98°	70.875" / 180cm
Championship	12" / 16" (30cm / 40cm)	104°	66.5" / 170cm
Performance	All Heights	104°	66.5" / 170cm
Veterans	All Heights	112.5°	60" / 153cm

*Tolerance of plus or minus one degree (1°).

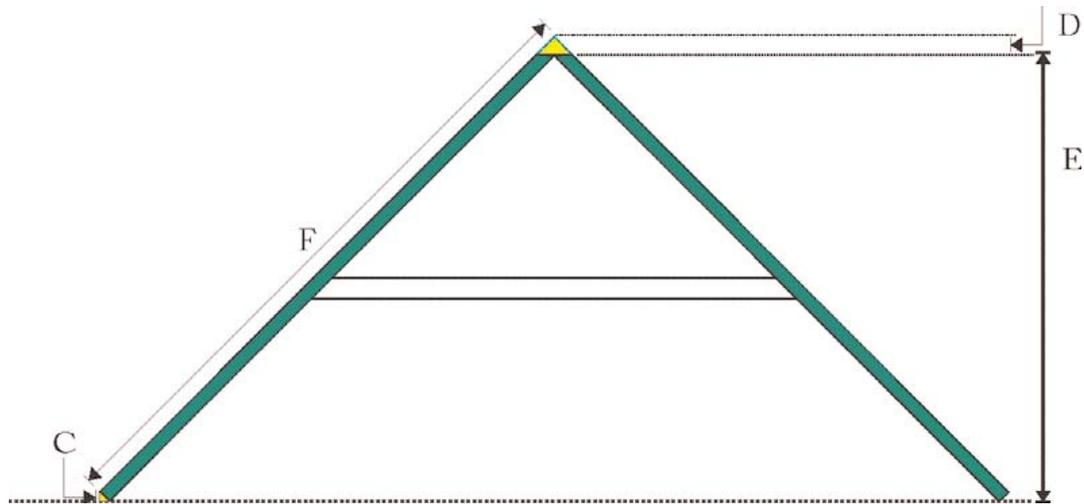
Each wall section shall have non-slip slats securely fastened to the sidewalls at intervals of approximately 12" or 305mm. Scaling slats shall be fastened such that slats are approximately 6" (152.5mm) and no less than 4" (101.6mm) from the top line of the contact zone. Slats shall measure between 3/8" and 1/2" in thickness (9.5mm and 12.7mm) and between 3/4" and 1-1/2" in width (19mm and 38mm), with no rounding of top edges.

Construction Notes

The diagram below shows a properly constructed A frame, with a surface ramp extending 9' from the ground line to the apex, and hinged at the top for a proper point. When angle "A" is set to 98°, the height "B" measures 5' 10 7/8", or approximately 5'11".



While angle determines the slope and degree of force upon the dog when engaging the ramps, other factors related to other specifications and the style of construction can impact the height when the angle is accurately set. Distances "C", "D" & "F" the following diagram all impact the height (Distance "E") in addition to the angle of the ramps. Depending on the length of these measures, the height could vary as much as 5" or more ("C" and/or "D" below). Care should be taken in construction to allow for these variances.



Dog Walk

The obstacle shall consist of one cross-plank and two ramp-planks of equal length and width. The cross-plank shall be supported above ground by two rigid supports on each end of the plank, to which the cross-plank and ramp-planks shall be securely fastened at an approximate 69° angle.

The ramp-planks shall have anti-slip slats fastened securely at approximately 12" (305mm) to 15" (380mm) intervals. Slating slats shall be fastened such that slats are approximately 6" (15cm) and no less than 4" (10cm) from the top line of the contact zone. Slats shall measure no less than 3/8" and no more than 1/2" in thickness (9.5mm and 12.7mm) on the top edge to provide and between 3/4" and 1- 1/2" in width (19mm and 38mm), with no rounding of the top edge.

See-Saw

The See-Saw plank shall be supported in the middle by a sturdy base that may be capable of being securely anchored or weighted to the ground and that shall be visible to the dog when approaching the ramp from the front on a straight line. The See-Saw shall not have anti-slip slats.

The plank shall tilt to the ground within 3 seconds under a three-pound weight (approximate) placed 12" (30cm) from the end of the plank.

Tire Jump

The Tire Jump shall consist of a tire suspended within a sturdy frame. The tire shall have an aperture diameter of 20" (51cm) and a sidewall width of no less than 4" (10cm). The tire shall be wrapped or filled such that a dog's paw may not be caught on the inside of the tire while jumping through, and shall be banded or striped in contrasting colors to aid visibility. If a substitute object is used for a tire, the object (e.g., molded venting pipe or life preserver) must offer similar pliability as a tire. The tire shall be adjustable to jumping heights listed in Chapters 3–10 when measured at the lowest point of the aperture equal.

The tire may be manufactured in a manner that the bottom or sides will separate when hit with no less than eighteen pounds (18#) of force, but such pieces must remain suspended in the frame and shall be easily reset in its original circular form with minimal effort. This optional "breakaway" tire must be constructed such that the dog cannot be injured or distracted by the operation of the tire. Breakaway tire jumps must be both functional and safe.

The supporting frame shall be of rigid construction and shall be designed such that it may not topple under the pressure of a large dog hitting the tire at high speed. The frame should permit the suspension of the tire from four corners, the center of the top and bottom corners, or top

corners and center of the bottom, leaving at least 8" (203mm) clearance between the tire and vertical frame support on each side with enough tension to prevent the tire from twisting or shaking should a dog hit the tire.

Suspension cables or chains shall not form a web in which a dog could get entangled. Bungee cords or similar highly pliable tethers shall not be used for supporting tires.

The frame shall not be constructed in a manner that would not permit a side entry of the frame in approaching the tire. The perimeter of the frame when viewed from the side shall not extend more than 9" (23cm) either side of the tire, except for footing supports to hold the frame safely erect. The bottom cross-piece of the frame shall not be more than 4" (10cm) above ground level.

Table

The table shall be a sturdy surface of 36" (915mm) square with a roughened or other nonslip surface supported on a stable base that shall be capable of being securely anchored or weighted to the ground. The side view of the table top edge shall be a minimum depth of 3" (75mm). The elevation of the table shall be as provided in Sections 3.2 and 7.2. Granulated rubber, rubber or similar matting may be used on the table surface to improve traction. Non-gloss paint is strongly encouraged to be utilized to permit optimum traction on performance surfaces when a roughened surface is provided. Construction of the table legs should be in such a manner that the table is stable at all heights when jumped on from any direction.

Collapsed Tunnel

The collapsed tunnel is comprised of two parts - the rigid opening and the tunnel chute. The rigid opening shall be constructed with a frame of rigid construction that may be securely anchored or weighted to the ground. The rigid opening shall be no more than 30" (762mm) in length and shall be between 20" (508mm) and 24" (610mm) in height. When the floor of the entrance is made of a hard material, a non-slip covering must be applied to provide safe footing. The edge of the tunnel entrance must be padded. It is strongly encouraged that the tunnel entrance be elongated or half-moon design with a flat floor with non-slip surface. The top surface of the base shall not exceed 4" (105mm) above ground level.

The tunnel chute shall be of non-rigid material construction, such as durable fabric or similar material not to exceed 420 denier or 6.00 ounces (170 grams) per square yard of fabric. The chute shall be between 10' (305cm) and 12' (365cm) in length when measured from the exit end of the chute entrance to the closed end of the fabric. The chute fabric shall have a circumference sufficient to snugly fit the rigid opening (no less than . The chute should flare out over the twelve-foot (365cm) distance to a circumference of approximately 96" (245cm).

Weave Poles

The weave poles shall consist of poles approximately 1" (2.54cm) in diameter and between three (915mm) and four feet (122mm) in length. They shall be spaced approximately 22" (55cm) when measured center to center, with a tolerance of plus or minus 2" (5cm). *Weave poles shall be no less than 21.65" (55cm) after 2012.* A minimum of 5 and maximum of 12 poles shall be used, with a minimum of 10 poles in sequence required for the Standard titling class in the Championship, Performance and Veterans Programs. A set of 5 or 6 weave poles shall be utilized in the Intro and Junior Handler Programs.

The poles shall be held upright by rigid or near-rigid supports permitting the poles to stay upright if bumped by the dog while weaving through the line of poles rapidly. If the weave poles are to be supported with a continuous base extending the full length of the line of poles, the base support should be no more than 1" (25.4mm) in height and no more than 3 1/2" (88.9mm) wide. This base should be supported and constructed in a manner that stabilizers or footings shall not interfere with a dog's performance.

Pipe Tunnel

The pipe tunnel shall be a rigid tunnel being fully enclosed except for the openings on each end, capable of being curved such that it is not possible to see through the tunnel from one

end to the other. There shall be no obstructions or other hazards within the tunnel. The tunnel shall be approximately 24" (610mm) in diameter and the length shall be no less than 12' (3650mm) and no more than 20' (508mm). The spacing of wire (called pitch) or other material that holds the tunnel material open throughout the length of the tunnel shall be no more than 4" (10cm). Metal or other rigid holders (or supports) used to anchor the tunnel must be padded and shall be constructed in a manner to prevent protruding into the side of the tunnel.

Hurdles and Jumps

Hurdles and similar jumps shall be of sturdy construction with displaceable planks, rails or poles of no less than 48" (1219mm) and no more than 60" (1524mm) in length. Construction shall provide for performance standards as listed in Chapter 3.

The side standards holding the planks, rails or poles shall be constructed so as to not topple if bumped by a dog while running and should include "wings" similar to those used in equestrian events.

Planks, rails & poles shall be positioned parallel to the ground at the proper jump height. For pole-style hurdles, a minimum of two poles are required in the Starters and Advanced level classes in the Championship Program and in Levels I & II of the Performance Program. A pole may be used to indicate a ground line by positioning it at an angle to the ground. All poles, rails and planks must be displaceable. Poles and rails shall be no less than 1-1/4" (31.75mm) and no more than 1-3/4" (44.45mm) in outside diameter or width. If PVC pipe is used, only Schedule 40 - 1" (25.4mm) or 1-1/4" i.d. (31.75mm) pipe may be used.

- All poles and rails shall be marked with contrasting colors through striping or banding. Pole supports may not exceed the width of the poles, must generally follow the contour of the pole and shall not be more than 1/8" (3.175mm) in depth. When pegs are used for pole supports, the peg and pole "stop" on the peg must conform to these requirements. When a flat rail support is used, the support shall not exceed 1-1/2" (38.10mm) width.
- Side wings or other support standards should be free of sharp or other hazardous edges and be a minimum of 6" (153mm) higher, with 12" (305mm) encouraged, than the hurdle height at the point where the wing joins with the cross plank, rail or pole, so that a safe and clear indication of the jumping path is visible to the dog.
- A majority of jumps and hurdles shall be "winged" and clear of supports beneath the bars. A "wing" must measure no less than 16" (405mm) in order to be considered a winged jump.
- Pole and rail supports shall not protrude into the jumping space by more than 2" (5cm).

Spread Hurdles

Spread Hurdles shall follow the same construction standards of Hurdles (above), and consist of hurdles aligned to form "spreads", being either two or three like-kind hurdles placed closely together to be jumped as a single hurdle, or a single obstacle that simulates a spread. Construction shall provide for performance standards as listed in Chapter 3. Poles or rails used on spread hurdles shall be approximately 5' (1525 mm) in length.

A spread that has the front and back hurdles set at full jumping height shall be termed a "parallel spread". A spread that has the height of the front hurdle set at least 4" (10cm) lower than the jumping height of the back hurdle shall be termed an "ascending spread".

All measurements of span shall be determined when measuring the line on the ground from the center of the front pole to the center of the back pole. With a maximum pole width of 1-3/4" (44.5mm), this will provide a maximum jumping span of 25-3/4" (654mm), if measuring the line on the ground from the front of the first pole to the back side of the back pole. A spread must be set "parallel" when the spread is 15" (381mm) or less when measured on center. A spread of greater than 15" (381mm) when measured on center must be "ascending". A spread of 20" (508mm) or more when measured on center shall be termed an "extended spread".

Similarly, for dogs jumping 16" (40cm) or less, a spread shall not exceed 12" (305mm) or be less than 10" (254mm) in span when measuring the line on the ground from the center of the first pole to the center of the back pole. With a maximum pole width of 1-3/4" (44.5mm), this will provide a maximum jumping span of 13-3/4" (350mm). All spreads must be "ascending". A spread set at 12" (305mm) when measured on center shall be termed an "extended spread".

Long Jump

The Long Jump shall consist of between one and five planks, and shall meet the following specifications based upon the Program utilized:

Championship Program

CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM LONG JUMP PRESENTATION			
Jumping Height	# of Planks	Plank Height at Back Edge	Overall Span
12" 30cm	2	7½", 6" 19cm, 15cm	20"* 50cm
16" 40cm	3	9", 7½", 6" 23cm, 19cm, 15cm	36" 91cm
22" 55cm	4	10½", 9", 7½", 6" 27cm, 23cm, 19cm, 15cm	48" 122cm
26" 65cm	5	12", 10½", 9", 7½", 6" 30cm, 27cm, 23cm, 19cm, 15cm	60" 152cm

*The Overall Span for the 12" class is 20" to accommodate the wide range of small dogs that may compete in that class.

Performance Program & Junior Handler Program (Effective June 1, 2011**)

PERFORMANCE PROGRAM LONG JUMP PRESENTATION			
Jumping Height	# of Planks	Plank Height at Back Edge	Overall Span
8" 20cm	1	7½" 19cm	6"-8"* 15-20cm*
12" 30cm	2	9", 7½" 23cm, 19cm	24"*** 61cm
16" 40cm	3	10½", 9", 7½" 27cm, 23cm, 19cm	36" 91cm
22" 55cm	4	12", 10½", 9", 7½" 30cm, 27cm, 23cm, 19cm	48" 122cm

*Note that only four boards are used in Performance, with the smallest being 7½" in height. The span for 8" class will vary slightly between 6" and 8", depending on the actual dimension of the single plank.

**Span is 20" until June 1, 2011.

Veterans Program

VETERANS PROGRAM LONG JUMP PRESENTATION			
Jumping Height	# of planks	Height at Back Edge of Planks	Span of All Planks
4" 10cm	1	6" (15cm)	6"-8"* 15-20cm*
8" 20cm	2	7½", 6" 19cm, 15cm	12" 30cm
12" 30cm	3	9", 7½", 6" 23cm, 19cm, 15cm	24" 61cm
16" 40cm	4	10½", 9", 7½", 6" 27cm, 23cm, 19cm, 15cm	36" 91cm

*The overall span for 4" class will vary slightly between 6" and 8", depending on the actual dimension of the single plank.

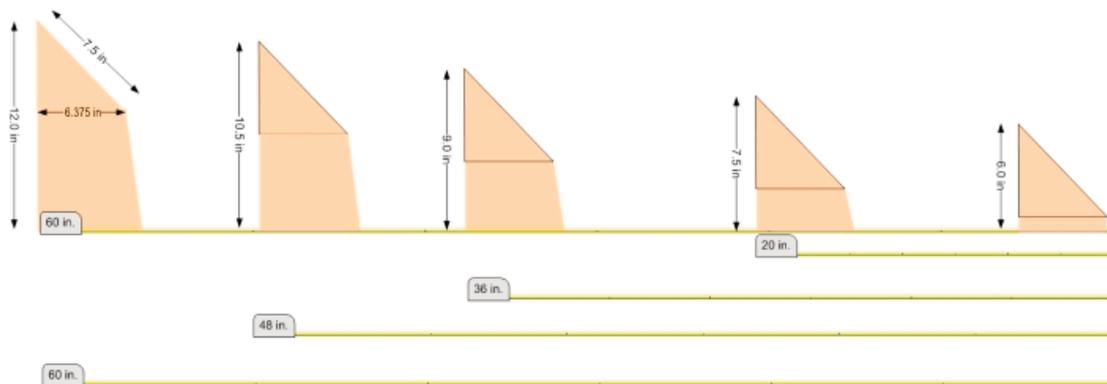
Intro Program

INTRO PROGRAM LONG JUMP PRESENTATION			
Jumping Height	# of Planks	Plank Height at Back Edge	Overall Span
4" 10cm	1	6" 15cm	6"-8"* 15-20cm*
8" 20cm	2	7½", 6" 19cm, 15cm	12" 30cm
12" 30cm	3	9", 7½", 6" 23cm, 19cm, 15cm	24" 50cm
16" 40cm	4	10½", 9", 7½", 6" 27cm, 23cm, 19cm, 15cm	36" 91cm
22" 55cm	4	10½", 9", 7½", 6" 27cm, 23cm, 19cm, 15cm	48" 122cm
26" 65cm	5	12", 10½", 9", 7½", 6" 30cm, 27cm, 23cm, 19cm, 15cm	60" 152cm

*The overall span for 4" class will vary slightly between 6" and 8", depending on the actual dimension of the single plank.

- All planks shall be 7¼" (185mm) wide and measure in equal lengths between 48" (122cm) and 60" (152cm) and have a pitch measuring no less than 33 degrees nor more than 45 degrees from the plane parallel to the ground, resulting in a 4" (10cm) drop in height on each plank from back to front. The planks shall be equally spaced over the span for each jump height class.

Long Jump (viewed from side)



Bases are shown here slightly flared for support. Note also that boards are normally set equally spaced from the first board to the last.

- Planks may be in increasing lengths from front to back in increments in order that they may be nested; when this is done, a 45" (115cm) minimum length is permitted, provided the back two planks are no less than 48" (120cm) in width. A minimum width of 48" is strongly encouraged for all planks.
- Corner marker poles measuring no less in height than 48" (app. 120cm) and between ¾" (19mm) and 1½" (38mm) in diameter (or width) shall be placed at the four corners of the jump even with the front and back planes.

- The poles shall not be attached to the planks. The space between poles and edge of the planks shall be no more than 4" (10cm) from the side edge of the front plank and no more than 2" (5cm) at the back plank. A minimum distance of 48" (122cm) between the front poles is required.

Viaduct/Wall Jump

The Viaduct jump shall meet the height requirements of winged hurdles and consist of a "wall" cut with archways below the top of the base and have two columnar supports.

- The base shall be topped with blocks or other displaceable bars or poles.
- The base unit shall be no less than 48" (122cm) in width between the columns.
- The archways shall be at least 4" (11cm) below the jumping height. The depth of the base shall be no more than 6" (15cm) at the top.
- The blocks or pole shall rest on the top of the wall base and shall be easily displaced when bumped by a dog.

A Wall Jump shall meet these specifications except that there are no archways.

Other Hurdles and Jumps

Any of a number of hurdles of varying design may be used provided they meet the basic standards and specifications of hurdles and jumps included in these regulations. Hurdles and spreads of any design shall have displaceable poles or planks. No unnecessary hazards shall be permitted to be used in connection with hurdles; however, this shall not prevent decoration of wings with trees or shrubs. In no circumstances shall fire or similar hazards be tolerated.

Discontinued Obstacles

The Wishing Well has been removed from the principal list of obstacles described in Chapter 3, as it has not been used for more than ten years due to design and function issues for different heights of dogs. In the origins of the sport only one jump height existed, but its adaptability to a variety of heights made it impractical. The jump could still be utilized under the regulations of "Other Jumps and Hurdles", but must clearly conform to the following provisions:

- The wishing well shall consist of a base, pole support and pole, and roof top. The base unit shall be no less than 32" (81cm) in width between the roof supports.
- The base shall stand at a height and be no greater in jumping span than would be reasonable for a dog to jump considering the principles of spread hurdles. A pole shall be positioned at the stipulated jump heights and shall be displaceable when contacted by a dog.
- A roof top cover an area not substantially more than the base unit shall be fastened securely to the pole supports at an elevation of no less than 30" (75cm) above the pole. The roof top shall be engineered or supported such that it will not fall over in gusts of wind when used outdoors. The obstacle must be balanced such that a dog cannot knock it over if hitting the base or side supports with force when jumping.

The performance standards for the wishing well as removed from Chapter 3 are included for reference.

Wishing Well

The dog must jump in the direction designated by the judge beneath the rooftop and over the pole without displacing it and shall not touch the well base when passing over the well. A maximum of 5 faults may be assessed for improper performance (i.e., displacing the pole and/or banking the base). Jumping the obstacle in the wrong direction (i.e., backjumping) shall constitute running the wrong course.