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**Official  
Rules & Regulations  
of  
United States  
Dog Agility Association, Inc.**

*As amended March 31, 2011*

*with Effective Dates of  
June 1, 2011  
August 1, 2011  
& January 1, 2012*

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**USDAA<sup>®</sup>**

**REAL PEOPLE. REAL FUN. TRUE SPORT.<sup>SM</sup>**

# UNITED STATES DOG AGILITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## BACKGROUND

Patterned after equestrian events in Great Britain in the 1970s, dog agility combines the elements of a dog's natural agility and a handler's expertise in training and athletic ability, working together in a test over an obstacle course designed specifically for dogs. It is intended to be a fun, non-regimented sport, with spectator appeal.

Dog agility's growth is a tribute to those whose foresight has helped to conceive and shape USDAA's programs into their current form, as well as those who have toiled in training to achieve and surpass standards established through these programs. USDAA's philosophy is to strive for the betterment of the sport by maintaining the highest performance standards in the international community and providing programs to foster development of the sport at all levels. In that vein, USDAA's goal is to develop the sport first and foremost as an athletic, spectator event, and to promote the sport in the community as a recreational, family sport, promoting responsible pet ownership.

## LEGAL DISCLOSURES



USDAA®



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## USDAA ON THE INTERNET

Copies of this book may be downloaded free online or a hard copy may be purchased through the USDAA Store on the Internet at [usdaa.com](http://usdaa.com). For inquiries, contact:

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Also visit USDAA's video site at [www.cynosport.tv](http://www.cynosport.tv).

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## **FORMS**

PERFORMANCE TITLE CONVERSION CHART . . . . .	Inside Back Cover
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## ORGANIZATION HISTORY, PURPOSE & GOALS

The United States Dog Agility Association, Inc. (USDAA) was founded in 1986 for the purpose of promoting dog agility in the United States as a spectator sport. Its rules and regulations were derived from rules in practice in Great Britain and have evolved within a framework that offers multiple programs to meet the demands of a growing sport. USDAA's top program seeks to maintain and promote the highest standards for competition internationally demonstrating agility in dogs, while other programs are offered to meet the growing demands of canine sports enthusiasts at different levels. USDAA standards for competition have been proven for more than twenty years as a safe activity for dogs when properly conditioned for the demands of the sport.

In 1991, USDAA began participating in international competition and forging new relationships with other organizations. In 2001 USDAA became a charter member in the International Federation of Cynological Sports (IFCS), whose purpose is to promote camaraderie among nations through canine sports of all types without prejudice and as a competitive sport in pursuit of the Olympic Ideal. USDAA, as a leading authority in dog agility sport around the world, has almost two hundred affiliated groups throughout North America, Europe and Asia.

USDAA's motto—*"Promoting Competitive Excellence in Dog Agility"*<sup>SM</sup>—reflects its commitment to maintain the highest standards for the sport. USDAA programs accomplish these goals through a combination of tournament series and multiple certification programs that present the challenge of head-to-head competition and a test against minimum standards for performance.

A club, private training center or other organization (collectively referred to as organizations) may affiliate with USDAA or internationally through USDAA's affiliate World Cynosport Limited (WCL), through the execution of an "Affiliation Licensing Agreement" for the purpose of promoting USDAA and dog agility in their community as an athletic sporting event and to encourage family involvement in promoting responsible pet ownership. Three separate group licenses are available—Affiliated Group, Junior Handler Group, or Intro Group.

As an "Affiliated Group", organizations may apply for sanction of USDAA/WCL events for all programs covered under these regulations, and must comply with all policies and procedures established by the USDAA Competition Standards Board.

As an "Intro Group", organizations may apply for sanction of USDAA/WCL Intro Program events established through these regulations. An Intro Group must comply with policies and procedures applicable to Intro Program events established by the USDAA Competition Standards Board.

As a "Junior Handler Group", organizations may apply for sanction of USDAA/WCL Junior Handler Program (JHP) events established through these regulations. The JHP Group must comply with policies and procedures applicable to JHP events established by the USDAA Competition Standards Board.

An Affiliated Group, Intro Group or Junior Handler Group may hold itself out as being a USDAA or WCL Affiliated Group, Intro Group or Junior Handler Group, respectively, pursuant to the limited license provisions contained in the Group Affiliation & Licensing agreement. As a part of the USDAA affiliated network, a group can benefit from exposure as being associated with a recognized leading brand in the industry and have ready access to USDAA's vast experience, promotional efforts and other resources.