

## 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. "Flat" paint shall be used on all contact equipment and table to permit adequate traction. [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.]

### A-Frame

The A-Frame shall be of sturdy construction consisting of two sidewalls, each being approximately 9' in length and a minimum of 3' in width (275cm in length and 92cm in width). Construction such that the width at the top is 3' (92cm) and at the bottom is 4' (122cm) is strongly encouraged for lateral stability. The sidewalls shall be securely hinged together on one end such that when standing upright in the "A-Frame" position with the two sides at a 90 degree angle, the apex shall be 75" (187.5cm) from the ground

Each wall section shall have non-slip slats securely fastened to the sidewalls at intervals of approximately 12" or 30cm. Scaling 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 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.

Chains or other support devices shall be fastened to the sidewalls on each side between 2' and 3' (app. 60cm - 90cm) above ground level to provide stability. The bottom 42" (1067mm) of each sidewall shall be designated as a safety contact zone, shall be painted yellow 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 twelve inches of the top line. White is not a permissible color.

Sidewall surfaces shall be roughened for adequate traction under wet conditions but shall not be hazardous to dogs' pads. Rubber or similar matting shall not be permitted. Flat paint is strongly recommended so that traction is not compromised.

### Dog Walk

The Dog Walk shall be of sturdy, rigid construction sufficient to support large dogs safely. The obstacle shall consist of one cross-plank and two ramp-planks, each measuring approximately 12' (365cm) in length and measuring between 11" (28cm) and 12" (31cm) in width. The cross-plank shall be elevated between 48" (122cm) and 54" (137cm) above ground by two rigid supports on each end of the plank, to which the cross-plank and ramp-planks shall be securely fastened.

The ramp-planks shall have anti-slip slats fastened securely at approximately 12" (305mm) to 15" (380mm) intervals. Scaling 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 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.

The bottom 36" (915mm) of each ramp-plank shall be designated as a safety contact zone, shall be painted yellow 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 ramp, extend a reasonable depth onto the sides and have no other banding, insignia or other markings within twelve inches of the top line. White is not a permissible color.

Plank surfaces shall be roughened for adequate traction under wet conditions but shall not be hazardous to dogs' pads. Rubber or similar matting shall not be permitted. Flat paint is strongly recommended so that traction is not compromised.

#### See-Saw

The See-Saw shall consist of a sturdy plank measuring approximately 12' (365cm) in length and measuring between 11" (28cm) and 12" (31cm) in width. The 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 elevation at the plank's pivot point shall be between 24" (61cm) and 27" (68cm) above the ground.

The last 36" (915mm) of each end of the plank shall be designated as a safety contact zone, shall be painted yellow and 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 ramp, extend a reasonable depth onto the sides and have no other banding, insignia or other markings within twelve inches of the top line. White is not a permissible color.

The plank surface shall be roughened for adequate traction under wet conditions but shall not be hazardous to dogs' pads. Rubber or similar matting shall not be permitted. Flat paint is strongly recommended so that traction is not compromised.

#### Cross-Over (to be removed from the list of approved obstacles July 1, 2004)

The Cross-Over shall consist of four ramp-planks measuring approximately 12' (365cm) in length and measuring between 11" (28cm) and 12" (31cm) in width. The ramp-planks shall be securely fixed to each side of a sturdy table frame at an elevation of between 48" (122cm) and 54" (137cm) with a top surface measuring 32" x 32" (81cm x 81cm). The obstacle shall be of rigid, sturdy and balanced construction such that the obstacle will be safe whether two, three or four ramp-planks are used.

The ramp-planks shall have anti-slip slats fastened securely at approximately 12" to 15" (305mm-380mm) intervals. Scaling 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 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.

The bottom 36" (915mm) of each ramp-plank shall be designated as a safety contact zone, shall be painted yellow and be a significant contrast to the obstacle color to form a distinct top line. The edge of the zone shall be both on the top of the ramp, extend a reasonable depth onto the sides and have no other banding, insignia or other markings within twelve inches of the top line. White is not a permissible color.

The plank surfaces and the cross-table shall be roughened for adequate traction under wet conditions but shall not be hazardous to dogs' pads. Rubber or similar matting shall not be permitted. Flat paint is strongly recommended so that traction is not compromised.

#### Tire Jump

The Tire Jump shall consist of a tire suspended within a sturdy frame. The tire shall have an aperture diameter of no less than 17" (43cm) and no greater than 20" (51cm). The tire shall

have a sidewall width of no less than 4" (10cm) and shall be wrapped or filled such that a dog's paw may not be caught on the inside of the tire while jumping through. The tire shall be banded or striped in contrasting colors to improve visibility. If a substitute object is used for a tire, the object must offer similar pliability as a tire.

The 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. Tires should be staked outdoors when any risk to stability is in question.

The frame should permit the suspension of the tire from four corners or the top, leaving at least 8" (20cm) clearance between the tire and vertical frame support on each side with enough tension to prevent the tire from twisting unduly should a dog hit the tire. The frame shall not be constructed in a manner that would significantly impede performance on a reasonable, angled approach or permit a side entry of the frame. 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. The tire shall be adjustable to heights of 8", 12", 16", 22", 26" and 30" (20cm, 30cm, 40cm, 55cm, 65cm and 75cm) at the lowest point of the aperture.

#### Table

The table shall be a sturdy surface of 36" (91cm) square with a roughened 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. Rubber or similar matting may be used on the table surface to improve traction. Flat paint is strongly encouraged to be utilized to permit optimum traction on performance surfaces. Construction of the table legs should be in such a manner that the table is stable at all heights.

#### 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" (75cm) in length and shall be between 18" (45cm) and 24" (60cm) 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 base shall not exceed 4" (10cm) in height.

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 (170grams) per square yard of fabric. The chute shall be approximately 12' (365cm) in length and shall have a circumference sufficient to snugly fit the rigid opening. 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 (91cm) and four feet (121cm) in length. They shall be spaced between 18" (45cm) and 21" (53cm) apart on center. A minimum of 5 and maximum of 12 poles shall be used, with a minimum of 10 poles in sequence required for the Standard Championship and Standard Performance Agility titling classes.

The poles shall be held upright by rigid or semi-rigid standards 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" (2.54cm) in height and no more than 3 1/2" (8cm) wide. This base should be supported in a reasonable manner that 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" (60cm) in diameter and the length shall be no less than 10' (305cm) and no more than 20' (610cm). 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.

### Hurdles and Jumps

Hurdles and similar jumps shall be of sturdy construction with displaceable planks, rails or poles of no less than 48" (120cm) and no more than 60" (150cm) in length. 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. The height of the planks, poles or bars to be jumped shall be adjustable to 8" (20cm), 12" (30cm), 16" (40cm), 22" (55cm), 26" (65cm), and 30" (75cm).

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" (15cm) higher, with 12" (30cm) 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 18" (45cm) in order to be considered a winged jump.

### Spread Hurdles

Hurdles may be 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. 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".

For dogs jumping 22" (55cm) or more, a spread of any type shall not exceed 24" (60cm) or be less than 12" (30cm) in span 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" (44.45mm), this will provide a maximum jumping span of 25-3/4" (64.45cm). A spread must be set "parallel" when the spread is 15" (38cm) or less when measured on center. A spread of greater than 15" (38cm) when measured on center must be "ascending". A spread of 20" (51cm) or more when measured on center shall be termed an "extended spread".

For dogs jumping 16" (40cm) or less, a spread shall not exceed 12" (30cm) or be less than 10" (25cm) 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" (44.45mm), this will provide a maximum jumping span of 13-3/4" (34.45cm). All spreads must be "ascending". A spread set at 12" (30cm) when measured on center shall be termed an "extended spread".

### Long Jump

The Long Jump shall consist of between two and five planks, being no less than 36" (91cm) and no more than 60" (150cm) in length and between 5" (125mm) and 10" (250mm) in width. The planks shall be mounted to side braces or legs such that the plank will have a slight increase in elevation. Elevations of all planks shall be no less than 2" (51mm) and no more than 10" (250mm). Marker poles of approximately 48" (120cm) in height shall be placed at the four corners of the jump. The maximum possible number of planks based on the plank width should be used for each jumping distance. When using fewer than the maximum number of planks available, the lowest height planks shall be used for dogs jumping 12" (30cm).

### Wishing Well

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 bumped by a dog.

A roof top covering an area not substantially more than the base unit shall be fastened securely to the pole supports at an elevation of no less than two (2) times the dog's jump height. The roof top shall be engineered or supported such that it will not fall over in gusts of wind if it is to be used outdoors. The obstacle should be balanced such that a dog cannot knock it over if hitting the base or side supports with force when jumping.

### 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.