

**For  
additional  
information,  
or to  
schedule a  
demonstratio  
n, please call**

**Abbie  
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**Or**

**Donna  
DeVoist,**



**STRAIGHT**

Donna DeVoist instructor  
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## Who are the Straight Chuters?

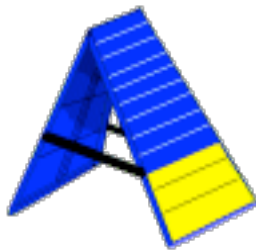
We are a group of individuals who enjoy the sport of canine agility. Through the presentation of agility demonstrations we hope to encourage positive dog training and to make people aware of just how much fun owning a well-trained dog can be!

## Introduction to Canine Agility

Agility is a sport in which a dog negotiates an obstacle course following signals from a handler regarding which obstacle to take next. It is truly a team sport.

Spectators watching agility think the dogs are doing all the work, but in reality the handler is working just as hard to "move" the dog smoothly around the course. This requires speed and self-control from the dog, and clarity and focus from the handler. Working together to develop those skills creates an extraordinary bond between dog and handler.

Agility can be done just for the fun of it, but often as teams progress in training they become interested in competition, and then they must deal with a few more rules. In



competition there are standards for the performance of each obstacle and time limits based on the length of the course and the number of obstacles. The height of the jumps and the time allowed for the course are determined by the dog's height at the shoulders. Groups of dogs of similar heights—within 4" intervals—compete against each other, and first through fourth place ribbons are awarded for each height division.



There are many agility organizations, each with different rules. Generally there are three levels of competition at trials, with courses and rules becoming more complicated as one progresses.

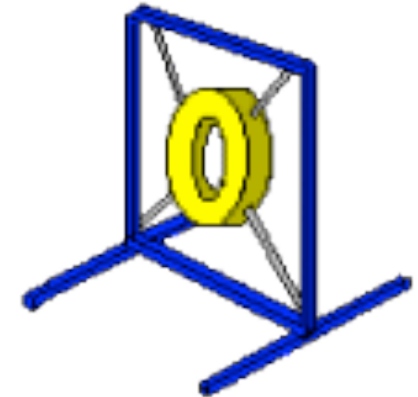
Often after watching dogs perform, people ask how we train dogs to do these things. It's not always easy, but it is fun! We need to train ourselves as well as our



dogs, and both of us benefit from doing that. All of the training we do relies on

positive reinforcement involving treats or playing with toys, and a clicker to mark the behavior that we want to encourage. The methods we use are based on operant conditioning.

There is always more to learn, which is one reason why this is such a fascinating sport! We hope that you will enjoy our demonstration. If you like what you see and hear, we encourage you to read more about it, watch it being done, and consider contacting an instructor about taking lessons with your dog. The following contacts may be helpful:



Abbie Tamber  
instructor 607-843-6271