

Coton de Tulears and agility

This guide has been written by one of our committee members who regularly takes part in agility with her Coton de Tulears. She provides information regarding:

1. Agility – what it is;
2. Why she and her Cotons love it so much;
3. Fun for all the family;
4. How to start;
5. and Competitive agility.

Agility – what it is

Dog agility is a fun, exciting activity for dogs and owners to get involved with, reinforcing the amazing bond that Cotons and their owners already have. It involves your dog negotiating a series of obstacles on your command and you remembering the course and avoiding falling over too many times! It is so much fun because, as we know, Cotons are built to want to please their owner and will try so hard to do what you ask. There is always a lot of laughter in class.

Why she and her Cotons love it so much

There is nothing better than seeing your Coton's hair flying behind them as they leap through a tyre or over a jump. Finding your beloved dog simply loves being at the peak of the A Frame and wants to stay up there because suddenly he is higher than he's ever been and can see over the horizon as never before is just so much fun. When they finally master the weave poles, which is an activity completely alien to dogs, the sheer joy experienced by both of you is beyond explanation.

Fun for all the family

My four Coton De Tulears, now ranging in age from 5 to 12, all love agility and my grandsons have helped to run them since they themselves were very young, so it can be a great family activity too and I encourage all Coton owners to consider getting involved. It's not just terrific fun, it's a great bonding tool too.

How to start

Agility can be done by dogs of all sizes because all the equipment is adjustable to meet even the smallest dog's needs. Obviously, you need to wait until your dog's bones are well established, so agility can begin at about a year old. However, don't wait until then to find a training class, as the sport is so popular, you will probably have to go on to waiting lists and



keep in touch with the trainer regularly so they think of you first as soon as a space becomes available. Find good trainers on the Kennel Club website.

Competitive agility

Agility can be competitive if you want to go down that route so once you have started training with your Coton, you can choose. Speak to your instructor about the options.

I would definitely recommend you giving agility a go as it really is good fun!



The Coton de Tuléar Club
of the United Kingdom