CHAPTER 7—PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

The Performance Program provides the opportunity for dogs and handlers to compete through three progressive competition levels at performance standards set forth in this Chapter. Classes include Performance Standard, Performance Gamblers, Performance Jumpers and Performance Snooker. Each class shall be offered at three levels—Level I, Level II and Level III—and are run on Championship courses meeting Starters, Advanced and Masters level criteria, respectively, as set forth in Chapter 2 through 6, with performance standards modified as set forth in this Chapter.

Eligibility standards for entry to these classes are set forth in Appendix E to these regulations. Through competition in these classes, the competitor may earn the following awards as more fully set forth in Appendix F of these regulations:

- Performance Dog^{SM}
- Performance Dog^{SM}
- Performance Dog^{SM}
- Performance class titles in Standard, Gamblers, Jumpers, and Snooker
- Performance Champion titles in Standard, Gamblers, Jumpers, Snooker and tournament competition
- Performance Dog Champion^{SM}
- Lifetime Achievement Awards (non-core classes)
- Performance Top Ten^{SM} Awards (Performance III classes)
- Bronze, Silver, Gold & Platinum Award designations on Performance Champion titles

SECTION 7.1—MINIMUM OBSTACLE REQUIREMENTS

The same minimum obstacle requirements shall be followed as established in Chapters 2 through 6, except that a spread hurdle of any type shall not be used.

SECTION 7.2—OBSTACLE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The obstacle performance standards shall be followed as established in Chapters 2 through 6, except that the A-frame shall measure104 degrees at the apex, and the jumping heights of dogs shall be as follows:

JUMPING/HEIGHT STANDARDS			
Dog's Height @ Withers	Jump Height	Table Height	Long Jump Span
Over 21" (53cm)	22" (55cm)	16" (40cm)	48" (122cm)
21" (53cm) & under, but over 16" (40cm)	16" (40cm)	16" (40cm)	36" (92cm)
16" (40cm) & under, but over 12" (30cm)	12" (30cm)	12" (30cm)	24" (61cm)[7.03]
12" (30cm) & under	8" (20cm)	12" (30cm)	12" (30cm)

SECTION 7.3—COURSE HANDLING STANDARDS

Course handling standards shall be the same as established in Chapters 3 through 5 in the Standard Agility classes for each level and in Chapter 6 in the Nonstandard Agility classes for each level.

Section 7.4—Standard Course Time & Fault Limits

The standard course times (SCT) and fault limits (if any) as set forth in Chapters 3 – 6 for the Starters, Advanced and Masters level in the Championship Program shall be established for Level I, Level II and Level III, respectively, in the Performance Program, except that the SCT shall be increased by three (3) seconds for the Standard and Jumpers classes and the Qualifying Course Time in the Relay class. In no event shall the SCT be greater than 75 seconds.

The course time allocated in Levels I, II and III in the Gamblers and Snooker Performance classes shall be the same as determined pursuant to Chapter 6 for the Starters, Advanced and Masters levels in the Championship Program, except that the judge may allow up to an additional (3) seconds for the gamble (or Joker) performance time and for the Snooker course time; however, the time allocated to the gamble shall not exceed twenty-two (22) seconds and the Snooker performance course time shall not exceed sixty-two (62) seconds.

Section 7.5—Standard Scoring

The same standard scoring rules as set forth in Chapters 3 through 6 for the Starters, Advanced and Masters levels in the Championship Program shall be followed in the Performance Program for Level I, Level II and Level III, respectively.

Section 7.6—Special Provisions

A dog may not be entered in a combination of Championship Program, Performance and Veterans classes at the same event, unless a group has specified in the Agility Test Schedule that this practice will be permitted for the event and that the group has made provisions to assure proper program and class height entry.[7.01]

In any case, a dog may not be entered in the same class in the Championship Program, Performance Program and/or Veterans Program at the same event. For example, a dog may not be entered in both Level I Standard and Starters Standard, or in tournament competition, Grand Prix and Performance Grand Prix).[7.02]

Other restrictions on entry in multiple programs may be established through tournament regulationis or official USDAA policy statements.

CHAPTER 7 FOOTNOTES

[7.01] *Such provisions should include an entry form designed to ensure that the dog is only entered in only one program for a single class, or alternatively a group may require that a separate entry form be utilized for each Program and that they be submitted together at time of entry. Other restrictions on entry, if any, shall be set forth in the Test Schedule pursuant to USDAA policies and procedures.*

[7.02] *A separate entry form should be utilized to assure entry to the proper height class when also entering Championship Program classes (including tournaments when possible) if the entry form does not provide for designating different heights for each class.*

[7.03] *Span effective June 1, 2011. Span prior to June 1 is 20" or 50.8cm. See Appendix A for obstacle construction notes.*

CHAPTER 8—JUNIOR HANDLER PROGRAM

The USDAA Junior Handler Program is for children eighteen years of age and younger. It was designed to encourage youth involvement in the sport of dog agility as a fun, recreational family sport and to promote responsible pet ownership. Four progressive levels of competition are offered to foster advancement in training and to provide recognition for junior handler accomplishments in dog agility – the Beginners, Elementary, Intermediate and Senior levels.

SECTION 8.1—PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

USDAA sanctioned junior handler agility tests may be held by USDAA® member groups or by approved children's dog training organizations upon filing of application for license of an Agility Test under the Junior Handler Program. These tests may be judged by a USDAA® approved judge; however, due to the more simplistic nature of the junior handler program, these classes may be judged by a USDAA "approved" person who has sufficient experience to enable them to competently perform judging responsibilities in this program, but who is not listed on the USDAA Approved Judges List. Such persons should –

- be active in USDAA events for a period of three years or more
- have titled in the regular agility program at one or more levels
- have attended a USDAA judge's clinic, or
- have such other experience that would indicate a working knowledge and ability to fulfill judging responsibilities.

Dogs and junior handler may compete in the Junior Handler Program without regard to their accomplishments in other agility classes. A junior handler need not be the owner of the dog; however, a dog and junior handler must be registered as a team in order to participate in the Junior Handler Program. A dog may be registered with more than one handler, but only the handler who has entered the dog under their team registration number may handle the dog, since accomplishments are measured and awarded to the dog and handler as a team. A dog shall not be permitted to be entered on the same day in the same class with two different handlers.

Scoring in the Junior Handler Program follows the schedule of faults as approved for the Starters class in Chapter 5 of these rules and regulations, which include faults for displacing poles from hurdles, failure to touch yellow zones on contact obstacles, jumping on and off of the table and failure to clear the span of the long jump. A description of course handling rules is included in Section 3.3 and 5.3 of the rules. In addition, the following rules will apply:

- Dogs may compete on leash, using a "buckle" collar in the Beginners class. The election to use a leash must be designated on the entry form for the test. In the Elementary class, the dog is required to be shown off leash, but may wear a buckle collar. Dogs must be shown off-leash and without a collar in the Intermediate and Senior classes.
- Five fault points are assessed in the Beginners class for each occurrence of pulling, tugging or otherwise aiding or hindering the dog's performance with the leash. Excessive use of the leash shall result in elimination and immediate dismissal from the ring.
- Jumping heights are the same as set forth for the Performance Program in Chapter 7 (i.e., 8", 12", 16" and 22" or in metrics, 20cm, 30cm, 40cm and 55cm). Beginners competing on leash shall jump a maximum height of 16" (40cm). All jumps shall have poles or planks that shall be fully displaceable. The handler shall not be permitted to jump over the jumps with the dog.
- In the event there are three (3) refusals at any obstacle, the judge shall direct the handler to go on to the next obstacle.
- To assure that junior handlers have a clear understanding of the rules, the USDAA® Junior Handler Representative shall give a detailed briefing regarding performance, scoring practices and ring sportsmanship.

Official USDAA junior handler entry forms are required to be signed by the child's parent or legal guardian. Junior handlers entered in the Beginners class must complete an eight to ten

question examination, and items missed on the examination must be reviewed prior to or during the judge's briefing. The examination may be included with the entry form, or alternatively, the examination may be given the morning of the agility test.

Performance awards shall be awarded at three levels –

- the gold level, for performances yielding five or fewer faults
- the silver level, for those with fifteen or less, but more than five faults
- the bronze level, for those with more than fifteen faults

Zero fault rounds shall be awarded the maroon qualifying ribbon or rosette as provided in Section 2.7 of these rules and regulations. Competitive placement awards shall not be made.

SECTION 8.2—CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Beginners Class
Dog and handler teams that have not previously earned the JH Beginners Agility℠ certificate are eligible for entry into this class. Completion of one round in this class within the stipulated time without fault shall earn the USDAA's JH Beginners Agility℠ certificate of accomplishment.

The obstacle course shall be comprised of ten (10) obstacles set in a simple horse shoe or "M" design. The following Standard Agility obstacles and related modifications shall be used as follows:

- A-Frame (apex at 120 degrees or approximately 4'6" or 137cm)
- Table at 12" (30cm) for all dogs (to be performed in the down position for five cumulative seconds)
- Pipe Tunnel
- Collapsed Tunnel
- Six Hurdles (wings, if any, should be no more than 18" or 46cm in width)

The standard course time shall be 60 seconds.

Elementary Class
Dog and handler teams having earned the JH Beginners Agility℠ certificate but not having earned the JH Elementary℠ certificate are eligible for entry to this class. Completion of two rounds in this class in the stipulated time without fault shall earn the JH Elementary Agility℠ certificate of accomplishment.

The obstacle course shall be comprised of ten obstacles set in a simple horse shoe or simple "M" design. The same agility obstacles and related modifications shall be used as in the Beginners class, except that the A-frame shall measure 112.5 degrees or approximately five (5) feet (155cm) at the apex.

The standard course time shall be the same as in the Beginners class, set at 60 seconds.

Intermediate Class
Dog and handler teams having earned the JH Elementary Agility℠ certificate but not having earned the JH Intermediate℠ certificate are eligible for entry to this class. Completion of three rounds in this class in the stipulated time without fault shall earn the JH Intermediate Agility℠ certificate of accomplishment.

Intermediate class courses shall be of simple design, being slightly more challenging than a figure of "8", and shall include twelve (12) to fourteen (14) obstacles as follows:

- A-Frame (apex at 104 degrees or approximately 5'6" or 170cm)
- Dog Walk (a standard dog walk as described in Appendix A, or alternatively, a dog walk with elevation of no less than 3'0" (92cm) and planks of no less than 7'0" (214cm) in length)
- Pipe Tunnel
- Collapsed Tunnel
- Short set of weave poles (five or six)

- Table at 12" for dogs jumping 8" and 12", and at 16" for dogs jumping 16" and 22" (or in metrics, 30cm for dogs jumping 30cm and 40cm, and at 40cm for dogs jumping 40cm and 55cm); the table to be performed in the down position for five consecutive seconds
- Long Jump (see Appendix A for presentation using Performance Program standards)
- Tire Jump
- Four to six hurdles

The standard course time shall be 75 seconds.

<u>Senior Class</u>

Dog and handler teams having earned the JH Intermediate Agility℠ are eligible for entry to this class. Completion of three rounds in this class in the stipulated time without fault shall earn the JH Senior Agility℠ certificate of accomplishment.

The courses shall be of simple design, being slightly more challenging than a figure of "8", and shall include thirteen (13) to fifteen (15) obstacles with modifications as follows:

- A-Frame (apex at 104 degrees or approximately 5'6" or 170cm)
- Dog Walk (a standard dog walk as described in Appendix A, or alternatively, a dog walk with elevation of no less than 3'0" (92cm) and planks of no less than 7'0" (214cm) in length)
- See-saw
- Pipe Tunnel
- Collapsed Tunnel
- Short set of weave poles (five or six)
- Table at 12" for dogs jumping 8" and 12", and at 16" for dogs jumping 16" and 22" (and in metrics, at 30cm for dogs jumping 20cm and 30cm, and at 40cm for dogs jumping 40cm and 55cm); the table to be performed in the down position for five consecutive seconds
- Long Jump
- Tire Jump
- Four to six hurdles

The standard course time shall be computed at the rate of two yards per second not to exceed 75 seconds

SECTION 8.3—SPECIAL PROVISIONS

When desired, the obstacles may be set up in a sequential pattern at the test site prior to the time needed to construct the test course to permit dogs entered only in the beginners and elementary junior handler classes to become familiar with obstacles to be used in the test. This familiarization period must be under supervision of ring personnel. In no circumstance shall more than eight obstacles be permitted.

During familiarization the handlers and dogs shall be admitted to the obstacles one at a time to maintain an orderly progression. Handlers shall progress through the sequence, being permitted to take no obstacle more than twice. No training shall be permitted by competitors during this period. The obstacles shall not be set up in the agility test course sequence or such sequence that may resemble the test course attributes. Such period shall conclude a reasonable time prior to the announced starting time of the first scheduled class in the ring in which the familiarization is conducted to enable the ring to be set for competition and to remain on schedule.

When Junior Handler Program classes are offered on more than one day of an event, entrants who complete a level by earning a qualifying score on one day should be permitted, though not required, to move up to the next level of the class on the following day.

CHAPTER 9—VETERANS PROGRAM (EFFECTIVE 3/1/2011)

Purpose: The Veterans Program is designed to allow continued participation in the sport for healthy dogs as a means of remaining physically active in their senior years. Performance standards in the Veterans Program are based upon those in USDAA's other programs with adjustments to equipment configuration and course times appropriate for a canine athlete of advancing age.

Eligibility: A Veterans level class is open to a competitor with any dog that is at least eight (8) years of age.[9.01] Once a competitor has earned a qualifying score with a dog in a Veterans class, the dog is no longer eligible to enter that class in the Championship or Performance Programs when a Veterans class is offered.

Titles & Awards: The Veterans Program provides for title certification in a single level of competition in standard, gamblers, jumpers and snooker. Five (5) qualifications[9.02] in each class will count toward the following individual class Veterans titles and a Veterans versatility title (earning all four individual class titles):

TITLE	QUALIFYING SCORES REQUIRED	REQUIRED NO. OF JUDGES
Veteran Standard Dog	5	1
Veteran Jumpers Dog	5	1
Veteran Gamblers Dog	5	1
Veteran Snooker Dog	5	1
Veteran Versatility Dog	Each individual class title earned	1

Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum designations shall be awarded in the Veterans classes for earning 15, 25, 35 and 50 qualifications, respectively, in each class.

Qualifications shall all count toward non-core Lifetime Achievement Award requirements (i.e., total number of qualifications only).

SECTION 9.1—MINIMUM OBSTACLE REQUIREMENTS:

The Veterans class, when offered, shall be conducted on a Masters level course with the following modifications:

- Obstacles shall be set according to the following levels:

DOG'S HEIGHT @ WITHERS	JUMPS/HURDLES*	LONG JUMP**	A-FRAME	TABLE
12" (30.48cm) or less	4" (10cm)	6"(15cm)**	112.5° (app. 5'0" or 152cm)	12" (30cm)
16" (40.64cm) or less	8" (20cm)	12" (30cm)	112.5° (app. 5'0" or 152cm)	12" (30cm)
21" (53.34cm) or less	12" (30cm)	24" (60cm)	112.5° (app. 5'0" or 152cm)	12" (30cm)
Over 21" (53.34cm)	16" (40cm)	36" (91cm)	112.5° (app. 5'0" or 152cm)	12" (30cm)

If a jump or hurdle does not accommodate setting of a 4" (10cm) bar, then the bars may be set with one end of each pole at 8" (20cm) and the other end resting on the ground, to form crossing bars wherein the mid-point of the bars is approximately 4" (10cm); the tire jump should be set at the lowest height possible or may be replaced with a single hurdle (or removed) at the discretion of the judge.

**The presentation of the Long Jump shall follow the standards set forth in Appendix A.

- Spread hurdles shall be set as if a single hurdle, or may be replaced with a single hurdle at the discretion of the judge.
- Dogs must jump the height designated for their classification in this program.

SECTION 9.2—OBSTACLE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
The obstacle performance standards shall be the same as in the Masters classes (see Chapter 3).

SECTION 9.3—COURSE HANDLING STANDARDS
Course handling standards shall be the same as in the Masters classes (see Chapter 3).

SECTION 9.4—STANDARD COURSE TIME AND NON-STANDARD CLASS TIME STANDARDS
- The Standard Course Time (SCT) in Standard and Jumpers classes shall be set at six (6) seconds more than the SCT set for the corresponding height class in the Championship Program (see Chapter 3).

- In Gamblers, the number of qualifying points shall be reduced by three (3) points in the 1-3-5-7 point system and two (2) points in the 1-2-3-5 point system, as follows:

COURSE TIME	MINIMUM POINTS REQUIRED	
	1-3-5-7 Point System	1-2-3-5 Point System
25 Seconds	15 Points	11 Points
30 Seconds	18 Points	13 Points
35 Seconds	22 Points	16 Points
40 Seconds	25 Points	18 Points
45 Seconds	29 Points	21 Points
50 Seconds	32 Points	23 Points

Up to six (6) seconds may added to the joker time period as allowed in the Championship program for the corresponding height class; the maximum allowable time for the joker/gamble is twenty-five (25) seconds.

- In Snooker, the total time allowed shall be six (6) seconds more than time allowed in the Championship Program for the corresponding height class; the maximum course time allowable is sixty-five (65) seconds.

SECTION 9.5—STANDARD SCORING
The Veterans classes shall be scored pursuant to Masters class rules (see Chapter 3).

CHAPTER 9 FOOTNOTES

9.01 *Previous experience in the sport sufficient to establish proficiency and confidence in performance is strongly encouraged, as the Program is based upon the Masters level.*

9.02 *There is no multiple judge requirement for these titles.*

United States Dog Agility Association, Inc.