

BABA DOGS FOUNDATION 1



WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU'VE CHOSEN BABA DOGS TO BEGIN YOUR AGILITY JOURNEY



SMALL GROUPS

We keep all our foundation groups to a maximum of 5 dogs and handlers to allow plenty of time for our instructors to support you

REWARD BASED

We believe agility should be fun for both dog and handler, to help develop fast happy agility dogs we use a lot of rewarding!

HOW WE TEACH AGILITY

Thank you for choosing BABA dogs to start your agility journey.

We don't expect your dog to behave perfectly, they are learning after all!

We use a variety of positive teaching methods to assist teach our dogs agility

Shaping- is the reinforcement of successive approximations of a desired behaviour. This can be a great way for dogs to learn a

behaviour although it may take a little longer

Luring – you show the dog something it wants (usually food or a toy) and use it to encourage the dog to complete the desired behaviour. This can get quick results but it can be difficult to phase out the lure

Prompting - similar to luring except the dog can't see the food (or toy)

EXPERIENCED INSTRUCTORS

All of our instructors have competed at agility for a number of years with a variety of breeds following a programme set by a Great Britain squad member



WHAT WILL YOU LEARN

During this 6 week foundation block we will introduce you and your dog to jumps and tunnels. We keep the jumps and contact equipment at a low height initially to allow the dogs and handlers to learn the skills before asking the dogs to jump high hurdles. This can allow the dogs to develop a confident and fast jumping style. You won't be running at crufts when you finish but we hope to give you great foundations to get you started!

HOW TO REWARD

We suggest that you bring plenty (and we mean plenty) of **SOFT** treats. Soft treats are more palatable, can be cut smaller and allow the dogs to eat them on the move. Good examples are cut up sausages, cheese or liver cake.

Please see the link below for a liver cake recipe

[Liver Cake For Dogs - Liana's Kitchen \(lianaskitchen.co.uk\)](http://lianaskitchen.co.uk)

Tuggy toys and food treat toys are also a great way to reward your dogs. Being able to reward away from you (using a toy or treat pouch) can assist in building drive and speed forward



EXAMPLES OF TREATS



Liver cake



a tuggy toy



Treat pouch

BODY CONDITION SCORE

At BABA dogs we like to emphasise the importance of your dog remaining happy and healthy when training at agility. A large part of this is that your dog has a correct condition score. We recommend all dogs that are training in agility have a condition score of 3.



Condition score of 3

Waist and abdominal tuck present

1 or 2 ribs can be visible

If you're not sure how to tell your dogs condition score or what you're looking for please complete the brief presentation on the link below

[Dog body condition scoring using visual assessment: Training set](#)

HOUSE RULES (THE BORING BUT NECESSARY BITS)

As we are working with our dogs in a group situation, we ask that you follow a few simple rules

- 1- Please do not allow your dogs to approach another dog unless you have checked it is ok to do so
- 2- Please keep your dogs on lead unless instructed to let them off by your instructor
- 3- Toilet your dogs before entering the arena (all mess must be cleaned up and disposed of by the owner)
Unfortunately we don't have facilities for this onsite
- 4- Dogs to wear a flat collar or harness no choke chains etc

USEFUL PRE- AGILITY TRICKS

For those of you that are keen to get started there's lots of quick training activities you can do to help set you and your dog up to have a great time training.

If you're worried about your dogs focus – hand feeding games can really help in building value for your dogs name. Please see the video below for how to do this using both kibble and raw food.

https://youtu.be/r-W_qMO-NM8

Another great way to get your dog to focus and to get their body warmed up for agility is to teach them the leg weaving trick. Please see the link below for a video of my dogs demonstrating how you can teach this

<https://youtu.be/ht3YgzJhLXM>

There's plenty you can practice away from agility equipment, shadow handling is a great way you can practice handling manoeuvres at home.

Please see the below video of how to practice this

<https://youtu.be/ZKJIDQBOas>

AND FINALLY.....

Relax – have fun with your dogs. Remember your dog will only understand what you have taught it to do... the more you put in, the more you will get out of training your dogs.....



USEFUL DOG TRAINING LINKS

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/events-and-activities/agility/>

<https://topdogtips.com/science-based-dog-training/>

<https://www.clickertraining.com/>

<https://www.pawstrading.co.uk/>

<https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/help-advice/training/positive-reinforcement-training-with-rewards>

<https://ukagility.com/>

<https://bristolandbathagility.co.uk/>

<https://thesciencedog.com/2019/06/06/reward-based-training-and-relationship/>