



Members Handbook

Welcome to Eastern Maine Agility Club

Eastern Maine Agility Club's (EMAC) mission is to help members and others on their agility journey by providing opportunities to bond with their dog(s) and each other through trials with a positive and fun environment, training, and related social events.

Thank you for joining us. We welcome both junior and senior handlers, novice, and experienced handlers. And all breed dogs.

Benefits of being a member

- Being with others that share your interest in the sport of agility.
- Having more opportunities for learning and having fun with your dog.
- Developing long lasting friendships.
- Working as a team member for five trials a year.
- Receiving discounts for training seminars and fun runs throughout the year.
- Receiving a camping discount for camping at the Skowhegan trials.

Communications

- Email will be used for communications
- If you are on Facebook, search for the EMAC members' page. A lot of information is posted there, and it is a great to connect with other members.
- The website is a source of event information along with club policies
- You will receive a newsletter a few times a year. If you have any information or brags you would like to share send them to Don_Katnik@hotmail.com
- If you have questions, please contact the member rep Cindee Young.

How to get involved with EMAC

Running five trials year takes a lot of manpower. With everyone sharing the workload trials run smoothly. Plus, it is fun! We need help with the following:

- **Leash Runners** This job is picking up the leash at the start line and dropping it off at the finish line.
- **Ring Crew:** This job is sitting in the ring during the event and to help set jump bars during the height changes.
- **Score Runner:** This job is to pick up the score sheets and take them to the Trial Secretary.
- **Timer:** This job is to start and stop the time clock for each run.
- **Scribe:** This job does take some training. You write down the judge's disqualifications and keep the score for the games.
- **Set up and Tear down crew.** This job is to help with equipment and facility set up the beginning of the trial (usually the day before the first trial day) and to help put away equipment at the end of the trial.
- **Course Builders:** Under the direction of the Chief Course Builder, you help set up courses for the different events.
- **Ambassadors** The ambassadors support new handlers at the trial.

With each of these jobs there is an opportunity to win baskets and EMAC Dollars and free snacks.

Trial Positions

Trial Positions include:

- Trial Chair
- Assistant Trial Chair
- Trial Secretary
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Scorekeeper
- Chief Course Builder
- Hospitality Committee
- Ribbon Coordinator
- Raffle Coordinator
- Ambassadors
- Fun Run Coordinator
- Camping Coordinator

Committees

Being a Committee member is a great way to help and we welcome and encourage new members to join.

- Budget Committee
- Equipment Committee
- Ad Hoc committees

Board of Directors

These positions are nominated and then voted on by members.

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Members Representative

Board Member at Large

Please check our website for descriptions of positions.

Canine Performance Events (CPE)

The EMAC club hosts CPE trials. CPE Philosophy for the dog and handler is to have FUN while competing for agility titles. This venue supports competition for the Beginner handler through the most experienced one. As a member of CPE:

- Your dog is registered for a lifetime.
- You may renew your membership yearly to receive the updated rule and regulations and access to your online records.
- You receive certificates for your achieved levels along with plaques for the championship levels.
- The website address is K9cpe.com
- Remember your dog must be at least 15 months old to register.

Ready to sign up for your first trial?

Let us get started.... You will need a CPE membership number for your dog to enter your first trial. Apply for membership (electronically or by mail) well ahead of your first trial. The CPE website www.K9cpe.com has all the information and forms you need to get registered. Once you get your dog's CPE number then you are ready to sign up for the trial. Download and print the premium entry form found on the CPE website. Fill in all your information. If your dog has not been measured (no P card) try measuring them at home with a yard stick to get an idea of their height at the withers. Put in your dog's P Card height (or estimated height). You have the option to enter your dog in the Enthusiast or Veteran level which allows them to jump one height lower. You can also enter them in the Specialist level, allowing them to jump two heights lower. You also get extra time.

Try to send in your entry so it arrives at the trial secretary's address on opening day. Some trials fill quickly. You will receive a confirmation email when you are entered. Please volunteer! There will be a link to the volunteer form attached to your entry. You can start with an easy but still an important job such as ring crew, leash runner or score runner. In Skowhegan, there are spaces for camping and crating. Please fill out this form and return it with your entry if you plan to camp or reserve a crate space.

What to bring to the trial?

Before your Trial Checklist Things to bring to the trial

- Your Dog
- Directions
- Premium copy and confirmation information
- Rule Book
- Food and drinks, unless you plan to buy them at the trial
- Footwear, rain gear and umbrella
- Water/bowl and lots of treats for you dog. It is better to bring water from home because that is what your dog knows.
- Any dog meds your dog may need.
- Dog toy, blanket, or crate mats.
- Squirt bottle or other means to cool down your dog.
- Battery operated fan for hot days
- Crate or exercise pen for your dog, check premium to see if exercise pens are allowed.
- For your crate: A ground cover, a bed sheet to cover your crate if your dog is shy and a shade cover for hot days.
- A chair for yourself
- Cash or credit cards-Sometimes there are vendors
- Shade tent and shade covers if the trial is outside
- Clean up Bags
- An easily removable leash
- Camera
- Paper and Pencil and clipboard to draw on your course map
- First Aid kit for you and your dog
- Cooler to keep water cool and ice
- Cloth to wet down yourself and dog

Off to the Trial!

Get to the trial early enough to walk your dog and get yourself acclimated to the area. If possible, plan on arriving the day or evening before, as often there will be opportunities for run-throughs or fun runs for a small fee, usually between 4:00-6:00pm the evening before the trial.

Crating

Find the area where you can crate your dog. Sometimes dogs are not allowed to sit with you in the spectator area. If you are crating your dog in the car, make sure you have plenty of ventilation. Battery run fans and shade covers are recommended. Both can be found at Clean Run (<https://www.cleanrun.com>) and other dog websites. Windows should be left open. Check your car often so your dog does not overheat. On hot days, we usually do not recommend you leave your dog in the car. There will be a crating area where you can leave your dog and you can stay with your dog in that area. If your dog has anxiety about being left, we suggest you do not use a soft-sided crate. You can also cover your crate with a sheet if that makes your dog more comfortable. In Bar Harbor, you may set up a pop-up tent to keep your dog cooler. In Skowhegan, crate spots in the sheep stall areas are available for a small rental fee. We also recommend providing plenty of water for your dogs.

Measuring

If this is your dog's first CPE trial they must be measured by the judge before the trial starts. If they are under two years old, they will need a second measurement at two years old. Measuring is done once a day, before the first event in the morning, so check your premium for the time.

Check in

A check in sheet will be available. Please check your dogs in for all the events that they are registered for.

General Briefing

There will be a general briefing delivered by the Trial Chair and the Judge at the beginning of the trial each day. Announcements and the day's events will be discussed.

Course Maps

Course maps for the day will be available usually by 7:30am. You can review your courses before the walk-throughs for each event. The maps are usually by the ribbon table or volunteer snack area. We recommend that you pick up your copy of the day's course maps first thing in the morning. Due to COVID19 precautions, course maps will be emailed to participants the night before each day of the trial.

Judge's Briefing

The judge will give a short briefing before walking the course for each game. Questions can be asked at that time concerning the course.

Walking the Course

Walk-throughs are held before the beginning of each level or group of levels, for each game. You will have a limited amount of time to walk the course, usually about 10 minutes. Your dog is not allowed on the course with you before you run. No treats are allowed on the course.

At the Gate

The gate steward is usually standing near the entry gate, with a large poster displaying the running order. You need to be ready with your dog in this area about 10 dogs out from your run. The Steward will tell you when it is time to go into the ring. Sometimes dogs ahead of you will be moved or be absent so listen carefully for your name and position. If you are not on the start line when it is your turn you will hold up the trial and may miss your turn. There will be an area near the exit gate where you can leave your treats. Keep your dog a safe distance from other dogs. Not all dogs are friendly.

At the Start Line

Tell the scorer and timer your dog's name. Yell "this is ___ (dog's name)." Take off your dog's leash and collar and drop it; the leash runner will pick it up and deliver it to the exit gate. You will hear a "GO" when it is time for you to start. Your dog must run "naked". **MAKE SURE YOU REMOVE YOUR DOG'S COLLAR, OTHERWISE YOU WILL BE DISQUALIFIED!!**

At the End of Your Run

Whatever happens during the run, be sure your dog completes the last obstacle (sometimes this is the table) at the end of the run to get time. When you are finished your run, put your leash on your dog before exiting the ring. If your dog exits before being leashed, you could be disqualified.

Results

You may pick up a yellow slip of paper, found on the ribbon table, that will tell you your course time and faults at the end of your run. At the completion of the class results will be available in the results notebooks (one notebook for each Level) at the ribbon table. If you have questions about the scoring of your run, please see the Trial Chairperson or the Scorekeeper (do not ask the judge or the trial secretary).

Ribbons

Ribbons are self-serve. If you earn a Q (qualify) you pick up a qualifying ribbon and your Q sticker. Placement ribbons are awarded for 1st through 4th place for Qualifying and non-qualifying scores for all classes. If you finish a level or earn a championship, special ribbons are available, and you need to request them from the Ribbon Coordinator.

Agility Trial Etiquette

- Make sure you clean up after your dog.
- Keep your dog safe distance from other dogs. Not all dogs are friendly.
- Do not crowd the ring entrance and exits. There are usually canopies or taped/roped off areas at the ring entrances-these are for handlers and dogs on deck.
- Keep your distance from ring gating.
- Do not try to help the competitors from the sideline-they could be disqualified.
- Do not bother the scorekeepers or timers during the trial. They must concentrate on what they are doing.
- Do not give training advice to others unless they ask for it.
- Be helpful and friendly to others.

Helpful Hints

- Do not be afraid to ask questions. We all were new at one point and no question is a dumb one.
- Make sure you allow time before your event to get your dog out and pottied, you do not want to be the handler whose dog poops in the ring although accidents do happen from time to time. By making sure you potty your dog ahead of time you will avoid being disqualified and holding up the trial if an accident occurs. Accidents in the ring hold up the trial.
- A trial can be overwhelming to your dog. The arena is often larger than their training center. There are other unfamiliar dogs and large groups of people they have not met. They may not perform like they do in class. Stress can cause them to have the zoomies in the ring. Or to shut down. We all have had these problems. They may not be ready to trial but your trainer can help you through these issues. Do not be discouraged.
- Keep your dog close to you always and do not let them visit other dogs. Not all dogs are friendly.
- Volunteer! Trials cannot run without volunteers. You will be in the ring running your dog a maximum of 5-6 minutes a day. What to do with all the rest of that time? Help! It is a great way to see how other teams handle different courses and challenges, where they put in a front or rear cross or something completely different. It is also a good way to familiarize yourself with how each game is played. Plus, you get a chance to win prizes! If you volunteer to work a class, you receive tickets for raffle baskets or EMAC bucks.
- Find out if/when there is a special event after the trial. This is a great way to meet fellow competitors.
- At the end of the trial, thank the host club and the judge-they really appreciate it!

