



AAKA, INC. MAY 2021 COVID-19 GUIDELINES

AAKA, Inc. is excited to hold its May 2021 agility trials at B&D Creekside Activity Center in Latrobe PA. Unlike previous years, “New Normal” protocols are incorporated into AAKA, Inc. COVID-19 Guidelines that all of us must follow. We hope to have a safe and fun agility weekend and know that we can count on you to make sure the guidelines are followed to safeguard the safety of everyone attending our trials.

Please do NOT attend this trial: (a) if you were exposed to Covid-19 within 10 days preceding the trial and do not have a confirmed negative result from testing done after the exposure. (b) if you have COVID-19 or it's symptoms at the time of the trial. (c) if you feel ill in any way during the trials, please contact the Trial Secretary if you wish to request a full refund for any runs not yet completed due to Covid-19. At the time of the trial please go to: <https://www.pa.gov/guides/responding-to-covid-19/#Travel> to see a guide that will be kept up to date as Pennsylvania resources and information change.

The following guidelines are based on AKC Best Practices for the Well-Being of Dog Sport Participants, the PA and CDC guidelines. National, State, and Local COVID-19 requirements and recommendations are unfolding as time goes on so these Protocols may be updated at any time. Any changes will be communicated as soon as possible before the trial weekend. If you can't comply with any of the changes, please contact the Trial Secretary prior to the trial to withdraw and request a refund.

These guidelines also apply to anyone attending with you or assisting at the trials and may be asked to leave if not complying with the guidelines.

1. **MASKS:** An appropriate face covering MUST always be worn in the building, including WHILE RUNNING. Masks must be worn correctly, covering both nose and mouth at all times. No exceptions/exemptions. Bring your own face mask. You do not need to wear a mask when outside the building as long as you maintain social distancing.
2. **GLOVES:** Bring disposable gloves or some type of glove if you want gloves.
3. **CHAIRS:** Bring your own chairs. B & D chairs will not be available for general use. The normal bleachers are folded and put away. They will not be in use.
4. **FOOD:** Please do not bring food. The on-site restaurant, Dexterz, will be available for food purchases. ***Per the AKC guidelines for Covid-19 you may NOT bring in shared food, potlucks, and NO MACH CAKES. ***
5. **WASH HANDS:** Practice personal hygiene frequently and thoroughly. Use hand sanitizers positioned throughout the building and try to bring your own. Avoid touching dogs that are not your responsibility. We will clean commonly touched surfaces regularly throughout the trial and again at the end of the day.
6. **SANITIZATION:** All equipment and surfaces have been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized. Please bring your own cleaning and sanitizing supplies. There will be a limited amount available at the trial. REMOVE ALL DISHES AND WATER BOWLS BEFORE LEAVING EACH DAY!!
7. **ONE-WAY DOORS-TRAFFIC FLOW:** Doors will be CLEARLY marked “ENTER” and “EXIT” with large signs. Please respect social distancing when entering and exiting the building and navigating through the building.
8. **COURSE BUILDERS/RING CREW WORKERS:** Anyone setting up rings and changing bar heights can wear gloves, use sanitizing wipes, and/or hand sanitizer before and after setting up and while working in the ring. (Gloves, wipes, and hand sanitizer provided on scribe table).
9. **TIMER/SCRIBE/SCORE RUNNER:** The Scribe will be the only person handling the scribe sheets. The Scribe will pick up a basket of sheets with a pen from the Secretary. Sheets will be checked by the scribe against the running order prior to the class. All completed scribe sheets will be placed in the basket for the score runner, who will dump them in a basket on the secretary scoring table. Social distancing will apply between scribe and timer. At end of the class, the timer will wipe down the timer box and score runner will return the last sheets in the basket with the pen to the secretary score table.
10. **CHECK IN BOARDS/GATE STEWARD:** Verbally check in with the Worker with the run order boards at the table. This person will check your name off. The gate steward will move the check in board to the ring and continue to check in individuals who haven't already checked in. You may **NOT** touch the board or the pen used by the Worker or the Gate Steward. Please remember to maintain a 6 ft. distance from these workers.

11. **LEASHES/LEASH RUNNER:** We encourage exhibitors to tuck their leash into a pocket or wear it securely on their person (i.e. clip it like a belt around your waist so no part is hanging) when running the course. If you opt to drop your leash, the leash runner may wear gloves and pick the leash up with a paper towel or hand grabber to transport it to the exit location.
12. **ENTERING AND EXITING RING:** We encourage you to use your hip to push the gates to enter/exit the ring. The gate tops will be wiped off after each class. Hand sanitizer will be available after your run.
13. **COURSE MAPS, BRIEFINGS, RUN ORDERS, AND RESULTS:** Items will be posted in several areas to help with social distancing. You may snap camera/phone pictures of the maps and results as paper handouts will NOT be available. ONLINE MAPS, BRIEFINGS, and RUN ORDERS, barring any “technical problems” or time constraints (NOT “guaranteed”), will be posted by the Trial Secretary each evening for the next day, hopefully between 7 and 9 PM. They can be downloaded from: www.aakaagilitytrial.com.
14. **WALK THROUGHS/BRIEFINGS:** Per AKC guidelines, walkthroughs will be limited to 25 people at most. Additional walk throughs will be added as needed to keep numbers and crowding down. We encourage everyone to be mindful of others, take turns, and maintain personal distance. There will be NO obsessive walk throughs and NO Mas/Ex briefings, which may be posted on www.aakaagilitytrial.com.
15. **RIBBONS/BARS AND GIFT:** There will be no self-serve ribbons. Exhibitors must line up six feet apart to pick up ribbons and stickers. There will be a volunteer in this area to place your sticker on the Q ribbon (or give the sticker to you to put in your book if you prefer) and give you any ribbons you are to be awarded. (*So sorry, but you cannot take a ribbon for pictures and then return it.*) **GIFT:** Every dog entered in the trial will receive one complimentary gift for the weekend as stated in the premium. Using a safe distance, the handler may pick up the gift you want and touch that one gift only, no exchanges. The only ribbons/bars on display will be the MACH/PACH ribbons/bars, which you may view, but please do not touch.
16. **MEASURING of DOGS:** If there are no VMOs in attendance, then no dogs will be measured. If a VMO is present and willing to measure dogs, then entered dogs may be able to get a measurement if they follow the VMO’s directions.
17. **CRATING:** Indoor crating has not been a problem during the last few trials. But crating in the building **may be limited** based on government limits and distancing guidelines in effect at the time for the trials. The limits are under consideration and if changed by the PA Governor, we may need to restrict the number of people in the building at any one time. Six-foot social distancing will apply inside and outside for the entire weekend (including 6’ spacing between “household crating groups”). You may not always be able to sit with your dog if it is crated in the building. Please be aware that every night the equipment in the ring area will be misted with a disinfectant of water and bleach. This will be done with a handheld misting machine that will be kept pointed away from the crating area. It is your responsibility to decide whether or not to leave your crates and water bowls in the building overnight!
18. **RESERVED PARKING for CAR CRATING:** A limited number of parking spaces close to doors will be reserved ONLY for people willing to crate from their cars for the weekend & are available on a first-reserved basis. Please contact Darlene Ormsby no later than Tuesday evening 7/27 at dormsby2@atlanticbb.net. Include cell #, color and make of car, and license plate number in your email! Please be sure to take proper safety precautions with your dogs as long as they are crated inside your vehicle. YOUR DOGS’ SAFETY COMES FIRST!!
19. **TENT/EZ-Up OUTDOOR CRATING:** If weather permits, “tent crating” will be allowed **anywhere** on the grass, but not in the immediate potty area at the end of the building and not in the parking lots or concrete pad next to the equipment garage door! (Please not too close to the garage doors!) They may be left overnight at your own risk – neither B&D nor AAKA will be responsible for theft or damage due to weather.
20. **BUILDING OCCUPANCY CONTROL:** Only workers and exhibitors entered in the trial should be in the building. We encourage you to leave additional family and friends at home unless necessary to help you during the trials. We need to keep building numbers at a minimum to stay within state guidelines.
21. **COMPLETED RUNS:** Once your runs are over for the day, and if you are not scheduled to work, please take your dog/dogs and exit the building. This practice will help keep our numbers in a manageable range.
22. **VOLUNTEERS:** We are all in this together. We look forward to returning to this agility sport, and hope you will continue to “work together” and help our trial run smoothly. We **NEED** and **WELCOME** your help and thank everyone who will volunteer to assist us!