

Record Books for Dog Sports

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by Marie Logue
mclogue@tampabay.rr.com

Tip Sheet #6 — How To Use Your Record Books

When you are at a trial, establish the habit of taking your Agility Competition Record Book to the score board with you and record your dog's time and placement, course yardage and course time and times for dogs who placed. That way you only have to write it once. While you're sitting around waiting for your next run, fill in the date, trial information, judge, etc. Then figure your dog's yps (as well as that of the other competing dogs), number of title points, and total legs and points. By doing so you don't have to make time after you get home to do those things. You may lose the paper you wrote it on anyway. Also this is a good time to record comments you'd like to make while they are fresh on your mind. Be sure to note the weather and surface conditions, too.

Record ALL runs, whether qualifying or not and in both cases, use the comments section to record any particular challenges you encountered.

(For further information, see Tip Sheet #4: Yards Per Second Matter.)

For Obedience, take your book to the score board and write down your score, placement, etc. Ask to see the judge's score sheet for your run so you can learn your score for each exercise. This will help you know what you need to work on. Often the judge will tell you what your weaknesses are and you can record this in your book while it is fresh on your mind.

Once you've established the habit of doing this "paperwork" while you're at the trial, you'll find yourself referring to it over and over and wondering how you ever got along without it!

Your Agility and Obedience Competition Record Books are flexible and you can easily adapt them to suit your specific needs, for example:

1. Some people have a separate book for each dog.
2. Some people have a separate book for each dog and several venues in that dog's book.
3. Some people keep a couple of dogs in the same book by putting a tab halfway through for the second dog. One friend keeps three dogs in one book. She divides the book into thirds with a tab for each dog. Another friend puts one dog's results in the top record on the page and the other dog's results in the bottom record.
2. If you run in several venues and want to keep them all in the same book, you can separate each venue with a tab. Another option is a chronological record where you highlight qualifying runs with different color markers (for example, USDAA yellow, AKC Blue, UKC pink, etc.).

I have a separate book for each dog and keep all venues in one book. I highlight important information (qualifying legs, for example) in blue for AKC, yellow for USDAA and purple for UKC. My trial "history" is by date and I can flip through and quickly locate AKC, USDAA and UKC information. In addition, at the bottom of the applicable pages, I highlight those runs that qualify us for national competitions with an orange marker (Orange? Well, it was available.).

Look for ways, maybe a combination of the above, to adapt the book to meet your specific needs.