

## Intro to Competition Hurdles FAQs

### What is Intro to Competition Hurdles?

Hurdles are a great way to help your dog develop both physical coordination and mental focus within 8 sessions. It can be part of agility training or just a fun activity to engage your dog and provide them with some exercise.

### What will a session look like?

Each session will be 30 minutes long

1st session: Introduction to the equipment, helping your dog become comfortable with the hurdles.

2<sup>nd</sup> session: Startlines, Expanding Calling to Heel and Side

3<sup>rd</sup> session: Forward focus, Lateral and Forward Sends

4<sup>th</sup> session: Front and Blind Cross, Beginning of Rear Cross

5<sup>th</sup> session: Rear Cross, Backside Send

6<sup>th</sup> session; 180s, 270s

7<sup>th</sup> session: Threadles and Serpentine

8<sup>th</sup> Final session: A “showcase” session where we record a video of your dog completing the course to share with you.

Each week they will be building upon the skills learned in the previous session.

### Explanation of hurdle types?

**Startline:** A method used to position the dog properly at the beginning, such as a circle to the side, figure-eight, or middle alignment

**Calling to Heel and Side:** The dog is positioned in front of a hurdle, with the handler beside it. After the dog jumps, it circles to the left (heel) or right (side) of the handler

**Forward Focus:** The handler directs the dog to the hurdle from the heel or side position.

**Lateral Send:** The handler is positioned beside the hurdle. After the dog jumps, it turns and moves to the handler’s right side as the handler moves right, or to the left side as the handler moves left

**Forward Send:** Similar to a forward focus, but the dog turns and navigates around the hurdle before returning to the handler

**Front Cross:** A forward send in which the handler turns around after sending the dog, causing the dog to finish on the opposite side of the handler (e.g., dog starts in a heel position, turns right, and finishes in the side position)

**Blind Cross:** A variation of the front cross in which the handler is on the opposite side of the hurdle. The handler changes sides by rotating away from the dog rather than toward it (e.g., dog starts in a heel and finishes in a side position)

**Rear Cross:** A forward send in which the handler changes sides behind the dog, typically after the dog has made a turn (e.g., dog starts in a heel, turns left, and finishes in a side)

**Backside Send:** A forward send where the dog moves around the outside of the hurdle

**180° Turns:** A transition between two hurdles where the dog executes a 180° turn to the left or right

**270° Turns:** A transition between two hurdles where the dog executes a 270° turn to the left or right

**Threadles:** A combination jump involving two side-by-side hurdles. The dog passes between the two hurdles and jumps the second hurdle in the same direction as the first

**Serpentine:** A sequence involving three hurdles arranged in a way that the dog’s path follows an “S”-shaped pattern

## **Who is the ideal candidate for this program?**

Hurdle training is suitable for most dogs; however, to ensure safety and effectiveness, dogs must be over one year old to ensure they are fully grown and able to handle the physical demands of the training. Tailored modifications are available for dogs with age-related or health limitations to prioritize their safety.

## **What if my dog doesn't pick up all the information after 8 sessions?**

If your dog needs a little extra time to absorb the training after eight sessions, that's perfectly okay! We're happy to offer additional sessions to support their learning at a comfortable pace.

## **How much does this cost and when is it billed?**

Introductory Price of \$35 per session

Billing charges occur via credit card on file every Sunday for the upcoming week. (*credit card fees may apply*) Owner has option to pay with cash, check, or gift certificate upon scheduling to avoid possible credit card fees.

## **What is the Scheduling Policy?**

Reservations are required to participate. Intro to Competition Hurdles is offered Monday through Thursday each week. You may schedule up to two sessions per week per dog, and sessions must be scheduled consecutively each week until the program is completed. Due to limited availability, all Hurdle sessions must be booked by 7:00 PM on the Friday prior to your preferred date and time.

Availability subject to change during holiday & peak season.

Intro to Competition Hurdles **MUST** be scheduled with Daycare, Grooming, Boarding, or Daycation. This program is not a stand-alone service at this time.

## **Can my dog attend Intro to Competition Hurdles only?**

No, participation in Intro to Competition Hurdles training requires your dog to be enrolled in at least one primary service (daycare, boarding, grooming, or daycation). Hurdle training is not offered as a stand-alone service, and sessions must be scheduled consecutively until the program is completed.

## **Vaccination Requirements**

We require up-to-date Rabies, Distemper, and annual Bordetella vaccinations, along with a negative annual fecal report.

**Is there a cancellation policy?**

Reservations must be cancelled by 7pm Friday for the following week. Billing occurs every Sunday for the upcoming week. Any cancellations made after 7pm Friday for the following week will still be billed & payment forfeited.

**What happens if my dog miss a session?**

Only one session may be missed due to illness, weather, emergencies, etc., with a make-up session scheduled after the final session. If a gap of two weeks or more occurs between sessions, the dog's skills will be reassessed, which may result in restarting the program from the beginning.

**What happens if my dog does not enjoy Intro to Competition Hurdles and does not want to participate?**

After three sessions, if your dog shows signs of stress, anxiety, or unwillingness to participate, we will discontinue the sessions.