

Cat Poster

Level 3 (Grade 9-12)

Alexander Walker Cat Club

IS IT SAFE ?

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), www.cdc.gov, several dogs and cats (domestic cats and tigers) in contact with infected humans have tested positive for COVID-19. In experimental conditions, both cats and ferrets were able to transmit infection to other animals of the same species. However, there is no evidence that these animals can transmit the disease to humans and spread COVID-19. COVID-19 is mainly spread through droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks.

CAT AGILITY DURING CORONAVIRUS

1. Start Simple

Don't try and jump right into teaching or setting up a full agility course. Start with an easy obstacle, or an obstacle that you can make with items that you have available to use. I recommend starting with a hoop. An inexpensive hula hoop is a good beginning obstacle. First, encourage your cat to walk through the hoop while the base of the hoop is placed on the ground. Place a treat or toy on the other side and have your cat step through. Over time, you can slowly raise the hoop higher. Eventually, your cat will be able to jump through the hoop with it completely off the ground!



2. Walk an A-frame

You can also train your cat to walk up and down a ramp. This obstacle is called an A-frame in the cat agility world. I have found that this obstacle is one that my cats seem to master quickly and easily. You can construct an A-frame out of a lot of things, even recyclables, but I use a plywood frame with my cats because I find that my cats feel secure on a plywood frame and it is durable. When working with your cat, make sure he or she doesn't step off the side- this can lead to injury.

Agility courses aren't just for dogs- cats can also learn to maneuver through obstacles.

I train my cats to go through an agility course because it provides them with essential exercise and stimulation.

Plus, it is quality bonding time for me and my cats.

I am going to explain how to start training your cat to be an agility cat by teaching you 3 obstacles that can be done in your living room!



A Frame

It is still recommended that people who are sick with COVID-19 and people who are at risk limit contact with companion and other animals. When handling and caring for animals, basic hygiene measures should always be implemented. This includes hand washing after handling animals, their food or supplies, as well as avoiding kissing, licking or sharing food.

3. Weave Poles

Teaching cats to dart around weave poles is another part of feline agility. This may sound like a simple obstacle, but I can tell you from experience, this is actually one of the most advanced obstacles that you can teach to your cat and it can take a lot of patience to learn. To begin, place two poles standing upright in a line. You can use water bottles, PVC pipes attached onto a piece of plywood, or plastic sports cones for poles. Encourage your cat to weave through the poles with a treat, favorite toy, or a laser pointer. After your cat learns to move through two poles, add a third. Continue adding poles until you have a line of 6-8.



Don't Force Your Cat:

When you are setting up an agility course in your own home, don't force your cat to do things that he or she doesn't want to do. Agility training should be fun for both of you. If your cat is tired or not in the mood, move on to something else and try again later. After your cat masters a few obstacles, you can get creative and design an agility course that is specifically tailored to your cat's skills and likes.

I hope these ideas have inspired you to set-up an agility course in your home for your cat!

HYGIENE