



## SAGUARO SCRAMBLERS AGILITY CLUB, INC.

### PROMOTING DOG AGILITY IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA

The Saguaro Scramblers Agility Club, Inc. was founded in 1994 to promote the sport of dog agility in southern Arizona. As the only dog agility club in Tucson, we sponsor agility shows throughout the agility season.



We sponsor seminars by nationally renowned agility trainers/competitors, organized practice sessions and fun matches.

The Club sponsors six shows each year in the Tucson metropolitan area. It is the only club in Arizona to sponsor shows sanctioned by all three major agility organizations.

- 🐾 Two by the American Kennel Club (AKC)
- 🐾 Two by the North American Dog Agility Council (NADAC)
- 🐾 Two by the United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA)

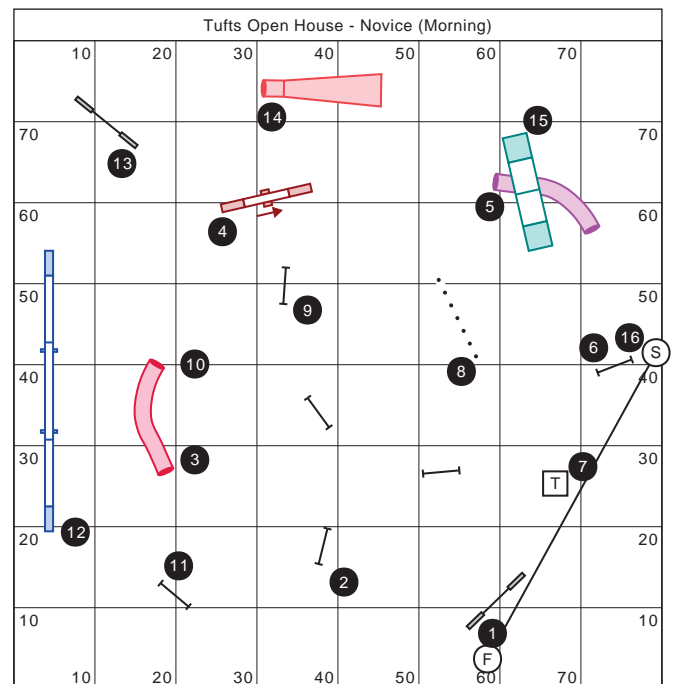
If you feel you would like to get involved in this exciting sport and make a contribution to our club to advance agility in Southern Arizona, visit our web site for contact information: [www.scramblers.org](http://www.scramblers.org).

### YOU CAN BENEFIT FROM MEMBERSHIP

As a member, you will receive access to the Members Only section of our web site at [www.scramblers.org](http://www.scramblers.org), which includes full membership contact information, newsletter archives, member For Sale page and other useful information. More importantly, by participating in club activities, you will have an opportunity to learn a great deal about the sport from a variety of perspectives.

As an active member, your contributions to club activities will be recognized in the form of Scrambler Dollars, which may be used by members in good standing towards payment of practice sessions, membership dues and limited show entry fees. Up to one half of your annual dues may be paid in Scramblers Dollars. Therefore, by redeeming Dollars, you have earned by assisting with various activities, you can save a significant amount of money.

Most importantly, as a member you will know that you are making a real contribution to the sport of agility. Without members, there are no clubs; without canine agility clubs, there are no shows; without shows, this competitive sport as we know it – the fun and excitement, the awarding of titles, the joy of working as a team with your dog – would not exist.



## OUR BEGINNING

It all started with a sheltie named Casey who lived with Michael and Sherry Porter. Casey loved to do agility and couldn't get enough of it from a weekly class. He convinced his owners to build him his own playground in his backyard.



Word of Casey's playground spread and more and more people started showing up asking if their dogs could join in the fun. So Sherry, along with Morene Brown and Terry Casey, organized Tucson's first agility club – then known as “Desert Agility Dogs” – in January of 1994. In preparing to organize its first show a year or so later, the club learned that “Agility Dog™” is a registered trademark of the United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA) and could not be used in the club name. Hence, the name was changed to “Saguaro Scramblers”.

The success of the club can be measured by its growth in terms of both membership and the number of shows it sponsors each year. Membership has increased from the original 12 to about 100 members by the end of 2005, while that single show per year has increased to six. Clearly, while the name may have changed, the club has remained true to its goal “to promote the sport of dog agility in Tucson through training and competition.”

So as you enjoy the club's many agility events and activities, as you and your dog finish each run, stop and picture a sheltie joyfully prancing along with you. While sadly Casey's death coincided closely with the club's first meeting – it was Casey's love of agility that gave this club its start.

## AGILITY'S ORIGINS

The idea of dog agility was first conceived in 1977 by John Varley, a member of the Crufts Dog Show Committee.

He was asked to organize entertainment in the main arena in the gap between the obedience championship and the group judging at Crufts. Varley imagined a canine version of horse show jumping due to his experience with horses. He asked his friend Peter Meanwell, a renowned Working Trials competitor and judge, to develop a fun dog agility event based on his working knowledge of dogs.

As it continues today, dog agility was intended to be a fun event without being dangerous, and that it would provide spectator appeal.

The dog agility event was unveiled in February 10, 1978 at the Crufts Dog Show in London, England, the first day of the show. It consisted

of two teams headed by Peter Meanwell and Trevor Jones respectively, with four handlers/dogs each. Each team also had one reserve.

The event was such a success with the crowd that it was followed up in 1979 at both Crufts and the International Horse Show at Olympia.

As soon as 1986, the sport of dog agility jumped “the pond” to the US when the United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA) was formed. In the short period of time since then, several other organizations have come into being to support this evolving, fast-growing and fun dog sport, which now encircles the globe in many countries.

As a final note, John Varley emigrated to Sydney, Australia in the 1980's, continuing in the sport until he died a few years later. Peter Meanwell later died in 2002.

