

GETTING YOUR DOG MEASURED AND GETTING A HEIGHT CARD

GETTING HEIGHT CARDS

In order to get an AKC Height Card, your dog must be measured at a trial where there is an AKC Rep or Volunteer Measuring Official (VMO). They only need to be measured once, unless your dog is less than two years old. In that case, the card will expire at age 2, and you will need to have the dog measured again for a permanent one. The AKC rep or VMO will have the forms available for you to fill out; there is no cost. Keep the yellow copy of the AKC form until you get your official one; it will suffice as official until you do. You can send in copies of that or of the official card with future agility entries, to save a little time at check-in. Your dog does not have to be entered in a show to get measured, so watch for upcoming trials in your area, and ask if they will have official measuring people there. It is a good idea to get this done before you enter an AKC trial.

In order to get a Permanent Height Card from NADAC, a NADAC supervisory judge must measure your dog. Three measurements from three different measuring judges, on three different trial weekends are required, and the dog must be at least two years old. The club may have the necessary forms at the show site, or, to be sure, you can get it from the NADAC website and bring it yourself. There is a small charge for this height card, but it is free if the owner is a NADAC Associate.

GETTING MEASURED

For all classes except AKC Preferred, if you need to 'guess' your dog's jump height for the premium, guess on the low side. If your dog measures taller than your guess, the trial secretary will move it to the higher jump height. In Standard or Regular agility, a dog is allowed to run and qualify at a higher jump height. However, if your guess is too tall and your dog measures below the cutoff for a lower jump height, it cannot be moved down. You may not be able to make changes to any other trial that you have entered, either, if it is past the closing date for that show.

In Preferred agility, your dog can only run in the correct jump division for its height. Unlike Regular agility a dog cannot run in a jump division higher than its correct division (the rationale being that if a dog is able and the owner willing for him to jump higher, he should be entered in Regular).

Here is where it gets dicey: if there is a VMO at your first trial, and your dog needs to be measured, only the VMO can do the measuring. Since they have often entered their own dogs in that trial, they may not always be available to measure your dog before its run. Then, if you have entered Preferred, and guess the wrong jump height, your run will not count, no matter how nice it is. So, if you want to enter Preferred in AKC, and do not yet have a Height Card, the best bet is to get your dog measured before your first trial. VMOs enter most of the local trials, and you can get your dog measured even if you are not entered in that trial. That is your best bet.