

ACT Pre-Briefing

Congratulations on all the training you've done with your dog to be ready to enter an Agility Course Test! We will hold a general briefing and answer questions before the first class of this event, but here are some tips in advance:

- Your dog must be on leash when you enter the ring and on leash when you leave the ring. Even if you carry your dog, the leash must still be fully attached to the dog.
- Your dog may wear a flat or rolled buckle or snap collar — or no collar — while running. Nothing can be attached to or dangling from the collar while the dog is running — no tags! Your dog can wear a different type of collar or harness or a slip lead while entering and leaving the ring, but not while running, for safety reasons. Your dog may only wear one collar during a run, so if your dog wears a flea collar, that is your one collar.
- When you remove your dog's leash, drop it near your dog, and a volunteer will move the leash to the end after you start. OR you can put the leash in your pocket (all of it must fit!) or tie it securely around your waist when you run.
- You cannot bring treats into the ring. You cannot bring a toy into the ring unless you plan to compete For Exhibition Only (meaning no ribbon or title). If you will be running For Exhibition Only, you may carry a non-audible, non-food-containing toy that cannot leave your hand.
- For each class, handlers will get to walk the course for eight minutes (without dogs!). Then, after a five-minute break, the evaluator will tell the first team to enter the ring. This time can be shortened only if it's clear that all handlers are done walking the course and the first few teams are ready to go.
- Once your dog has finished the course, put the leash back on and then leave the ring, closing the gate behind you. At an ACT event, the next team cannot enter the ring until the previous team has exited and the exit gate is closed.
- Before celebrating with your human friends, reward your dog for doing their best!
- [Here](#) is AKC's official ACT page, if you want to learn more about ACT before this event.

Above all, get ready to have fun with your dog!

Tracey Dooms

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