

Greetings and Welcome to Ultimate Air Dogs!!!

We're glad you took the first step towards getting into the sport of dock jumping...you'll be hooked in no time!

We wanted to tell you a little bit about what to expect the first time out...

Most times when we have a new dog, they tend to take some time to get used to all of the elements involved with a competition. The "elements" are the crowd yelling and cheering, the music, and of course, the announcer telling the dog to "get it, get it get it"... which are all things that could discourage dogs that need more "confidence building". The really high-drive toy-motivated dogs (the kind that bring empty pepsi cans to you when you're just sitting on your porch trying to enjoy your lunch!), those dogs usually get the hang of it right away. But not all dogs are high-drive, and they take more practice... and most of the time, we CAN get them to jump off the dock.

So, if this is the very first time you have signed up for a competition, or if your dog jumps off the dock at the lake all the time and you want to try this, or if you just know your dog can do this... check in with the secretary when you get there, and tell her that although you signed up online, you're not sure if your dog will actually jump. Pay for your Splash, and if after you've practiced you find that your dog won't jump, you'll come back to the secretary to request a \$5 refund.

Practice is \$10 per day/per dog and you will get a \$10 discount off of one (1) competition Splash if your dog jumps and you want to enter. If not, you can practice all day in between Splashes and hopefully your dog will get the hang of it.

On the event schedule, you will see the Splash times, and the "check-in and practice" times. If you are new, or you want to just come for practice, the slot that says "check-in and practice" is the practice time, not the Splash. The Splash is the competition round. It also states on every schedule that the schedule is subject to change... it's because we're trying to get the new people instructional dock time, and then we also have to make sure the competitors get a practice jump in before they compete. If you've been to an event and you've gotten cut-off before your turn, the key to getting dock time is to be the first person in line at the end of that competition. And by all means, please let us know if you need help. The \$10 is for the whole day of practice in between Splashes, plus some instruction if you need it. If you get there first thing in the morning, you'll have more dock time than later during the day. You will still receive the online price of \$15 per Splash should you decide to compete.

When it is your turn in line to practice, please only take 2 jumps and then get back in line. First-timers will take an extra few minutes to introduce their dog to the exit ramp, followed by their 2 practice jumps. First-timers will take their dog (on-lead) up the exit ramp, and a few steps down, unleash the dog, then throw their toy in about 4 ft. Guiding the dog back out of the pool will be the first "layer" of confidence. Next take your dog up on the dock (to the end of the dock) near the waters edge and toss the toy in about 5 or 6 ft. Encourage your dog to jump but under NO

circumstances push your dog in. We do not allow it, and you could discourage your dog from ever jumping again. Praise your dog for his jump and gradually bring him back further.

If you've been to one of our events, you'd have heard me say a thousand times to all of the "newbies", that we've all been where they are. When I first started to compete with my dog in 2004, we had to drive from where we lived in South Florida to Virginia, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Iowa... you name it. There were no close competitions, hardly any practice facilities, and absolutely nobody there to help when you got there. And at any competition, there was no such thing as practice time. My dog didn't jump the very first time and I remember that I was pretty bummed out, but then one of my dock jumping buddies took me aside and helped me out and before the weekend was over, my dog jumped! My dog is now 7 1/2 and he is one of those insanely crazy Labs... before I started doing this for a living and I was still competing, my dog had been on ESPN, NBC, ABC, Bravo & The Outdoor Channel... BUT, I was a "newbie" once... and that's why we try to help every single dog, and that's why we take our time with each one, and that's why sometimes there might not be a whole lot of time for practice because we're teaching someone's dog how to do it. But just so you know, our goal is (and you'll hear Milt say it during the show) to get every dog we come in contact with, off the couch and on the dock.

Some dogs don't have a perfect "sit-stay", so an extra holder for Fido can work miracles... and some families like to get the youngsters involved, and they LOVE it! If you register a "junior handler" they absolutely must be the person who throws, and is not the person who holds the dog. We promote a very family-friendly atmosphere and we feel that this sport is a fun sport and should not be a disciplined sport. Our goal is to get you and your dog excited about the sport so you have fun and come back!

We want you to succeed...trust me, we're not in this because we only want the high-performance dock dogs, totally on the contrary, and the crowd loves to watch the dog who has just started, jump further each time. The best part about this job is when we come back to a city and we have dogs that just started out the last time we were there, and now they have improved and are loving the sport. We don't care if your dog jumps 1ft or 30ft, we treat everyone the same...like family. We have Yorkies, English Bull Dogs, Bloodhounds, Corgies... you name it, they've been on our dock and WE LOVE IT!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email us back or ask us at the competition!

Have Fun and Be Safe!