



# Template for verbal cues in dog agility

# How to structure your dog agility verbal cues?

In this little booklet you can find templates on how you can structure your dog agility verbal cues. Please note that the template only gives you a starting point for thinking and you should always decide on your cue system yourself. What is perfect for one handler and his dog might not work well for another.





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# Why use verbals?

The speed that modern course profiles enable requires independent skills from the dog. The goal of verbal cues is to give clear information to the dog in time.

When the dog's understanding grows, he can stay confident, relaxed and enjoy, since aspects such as where the course continues after a jump, won't surprise him. He knows when to collect and when to lengthen his stride. He knows where to push off and where to land.





# Pay attention to phonetics

We want to make agility fair for the dog and using clear verbal cues (after teaching them well) adds fairness, predictability, safety and confidence for the dog. This is why we should take a moment to decide what cues we will teach them.

Make sure to choose cue words and sounds that are easy to separate phonetically. Your dog hears well, but easily distinguished words are part of being fair.

And sometimes there's a lot of noise in the agility halls and fields, so make the dog's job easier by choosing cues that are clearly different.

We hope you enjoy the template and it helps you be consistent and fair, and that your dog can then love agility even more than before!



# Cues for jumps

Jump type	The cue
Straight	
Wing wrap	
Threadle	
Threadle wrap (lap turn)	
Backside wrap	
Backside slice	



# Cues for contacts

<b>Name of the contact/task</b>	<b>The cue</b>
A-frame	
Seesaw	
Dogwalk	



# Cues for directions

Description	The cue
Directions, system 1	
Slight turn away from me	
Slight turn towards me	
Tight turn away from me	
Tight turn towards me	
Directions, system 2	
Slight right turn	
Slight left turn	
Tight right turn	
Tight left turn	





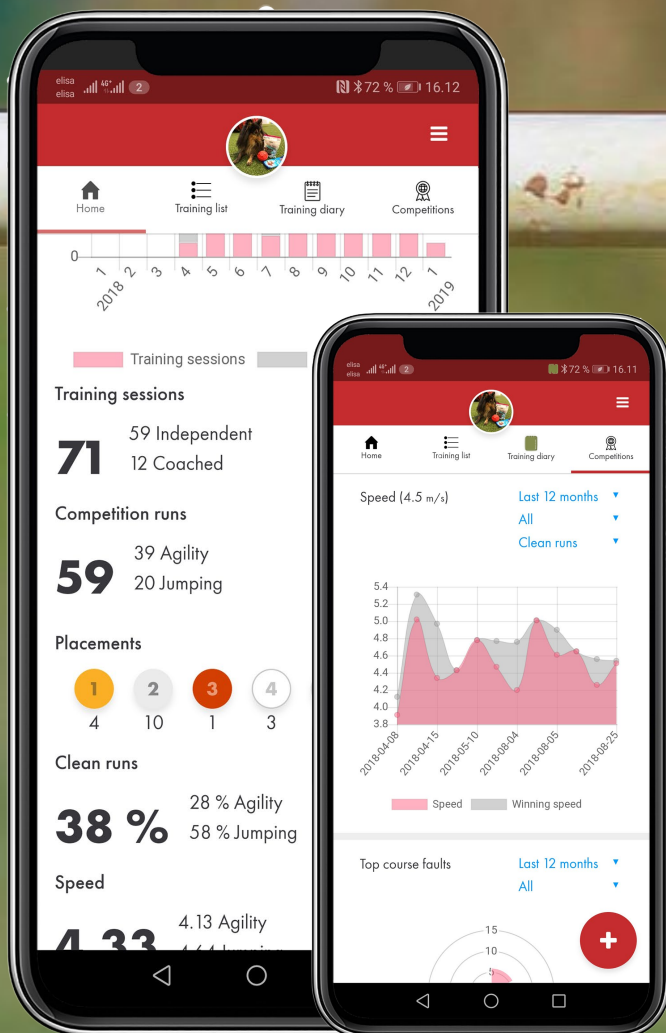
# Other cues

<b>Description</b>	<b>The cue</b>
Weaves	
Control (come to the hand)	
Go forward (take all the obstacles ahead)	



We hope you'll get some ideas from this template and that it helps you form your own system.

Make sure you yourself are clear with what each cue means and then teach it properly to your dog -this is one way to be a great teammate for him.



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