

FLYBALL TRAINING



Layout for basic training.



First Step – The Handler encourages his dog over 1 jump. The dog is restrained by the trainer. The handler throws ball & RUNS.



Second step – 2 jumps. The handler RUNS & must play with dog at the back.



Third Step 3 jumps



Fourth step 4 jumps



Progressively moving further back



Now held on the box.
When the dog is confident over the 4 jumps, he can go to the next stage.



Now for first time dog is held facing the box. The ball is thrown into the netted area in front of the box.



The ball should land near the box.



Gradually the dog is released further from the box.



With such enthusiasm that he is a blur!



The trainer is still throwing the ball towards the box.



The handler will turn & run, just as before.



Now the trainer stands behind the box



Next the ball is allowed to roll down the box, allowing the dog to take the ball from the front of the box. Good timing is important – release ball too early it will be on the grass, but mind your fingers!



By this stage it is clear that the dog in the pictures turns right on the box.



With some keen dogs it will now be possible to load the box. But help the dog at this stage by pointing to the ball.



The handler is still holding, & throwing another ball. NOTE some dogs will drop the ball they have collected from the box when they see a second ball. In that case the spare ball must be kept out of site until dog is over all 4 jumps.



Here we see the dog fetching the ball from the box & returning over all 4 jumps.



Now we can start to remove the netting, but not all at once.



Remove centre jump wings, one side at a time.
Most dogs will get tired before we can progress further. Flyball is VERY TIRING



Now the netting has gone but still a few wings in place. Avoid the dog going wrong.



More wings removed.



By now the handler should be releasing dog further back. (25 Feet) Not yet 35 as on the marker!



Note that the dog is running back to the side away from the place the next dog will be released from.



Last wing removed – this could be the 6th session with some dogs or even more.



Note the direction the handler is running. He is not looking at his dog.



Now the handler IS releasing from 35 feet.



At all stages it is important that the dog is rewarded with play.



Flyball is RACING, SO THE DOGS MUST ENJOY IT.



As a second dog is introduced, we see the importance of the handler releasing from the right of the lane & running back to the left of the lane.

We prefer to use an experienced dog with the new one.



This shows what happens if the handler turns anti clockwise after running up with her dog – the second handlers view is obscured.



This time the handler has turned clockwise, giving the next handler a good view of the dog in front.
Note also the timing equipment on the table.



This is a *safe* change but not close enough for a really fast team time.
Much of the skill in Flyball is achieving a good changeover, in this picture the dog coming back has crossed the line with head & shoulders, the outgoing dog has 250mm to go to the line.



Note in this picture that the outgoing dog takes off on or before the line.



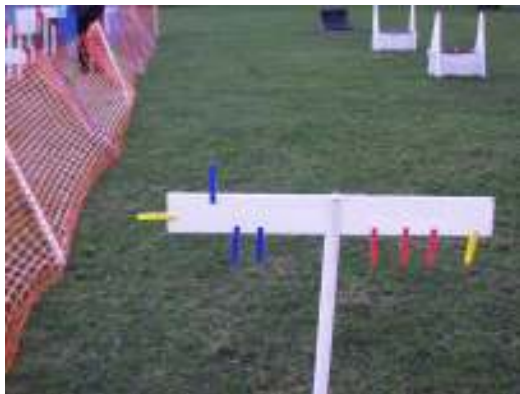
It is impossible to judge a really close change between fast dogs by eye.
The picture shows the electronic sensing equipment, this is placed on the line & will indicate if an early change occurs



The start can also be controlled by a series of lights – the third light in the centre column is the green GO light, handlers will release the dogs a long way back as the top or second light shows.

If the dog crosses the line before the green the RED light in the centre will show.

The outer coloured lights are for the line judge to indicate to the handlers the dog that has to be re run.



This picture shows the simple means that can be used to indicate the score; Races are normally best of 5.

The top Blue peg shows that the left (blue) lane has won one heat.

The Yellow peg on the end indicates an early start, in the BFA rules one false start is allowed; a second in the same heat & the dog will have to re run at the end.

