

# NEAT Practice Guidelines (rev. 6/2025)

**Practices can be held on the following days/times (subject to change based on classes):**

- Monday from 4-7
- Tuesday from 4-7
- Wednesday from 4-5:15 (class at 5:30)
- Thursday from 4-5:15 (class at 5:30)
- Additional days as announced

**To schedule a practice:**

1. Post to the Facebook group (NEAT Club) and the email list ([new-england-agility-team@googlegroups.com](mailto:new-england-agility-team@googlegroups.com)) the day and time you want to practice.
2. At least one other member must attend for safety purposes.

**When you arrive at Tonry:**

- **\*\*Drive under 5 mph on the driveway!\*\***
- Park on the grass alongside the ring (the side with the large rock)
- Be courteous and do not wander around or approach the buildings. At least 3 different families live on site and the site is used for a variety of reasons (fox hunt, public events, weddings, etc.)

**Rules:**

Please remember that the Tonry family can use their property as they wish. If their dogs are roaming free in the fields, be mindful of your own dogs and how they react. Use crates or crate in your car as appropriate. Avoid engaging in any negative or confrontational way with anyone. Practicing here is a privilege - we do not want to lose this privilege.

- Adhere to the Safety Rules and Guidelines on the following page.
- If you move equipment, put it back!
- If you plan to use tunnels please leave them stacked under the A-frame (or along the fence, open ends down on each side) when finished.
- Tunnels should be bagged PROPERLY. If you do not know how to do this - make sure someone is in attendance who knows how.
- Do not attempt equipment your dog does not know how to do!
- If an instructor is there, it is not their job to provide feedback (they can if they want but remember, they are there to practice with their dog as well!)
- Priority is for general practice time. The course cannot be "reserved" during practice times for any reason. If you set up a course and use practice time for a video run (e.g., USDAA@Home!, NADAC Video Runs), others should be allowed to rotate in for their practice run.
- Clean up after your dogs - do not allow them to mark equipment. If they accidentally pee in the ring please wash that area down with water immediately and thoroughly.
- Do not use the ring as a "dog play area" - the ring is for training only.
- Dogs should be crated or restrained when not working in the training area.
- Dogs should not be left in such a way that they can lunge at other dogs (ex. Do not tie your dog up to the trailer hitch and leave it barking at dogs that walk past)
- DO NOT WANDER IN THE FIELDS - there are many areas we cannot go so just stay close to the ring.

Practices are open to members in good standing! Visitors are allowed to join a practice with their dogs but must be pre-approved by the board, sign a waiver, and pay a \$5 fee. If the visitor then becomes a member, the \$5 will go towards their membership fee.

## **SAFETY RULES AND GUIDELINES**

WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THESE RULES The club's Safety Rules and Guidelines are intended to ensure the safety and pleasure of club members, visitors, and their dogs at all NEAT practices and activities. Please read each rule and agree to abide by it.

1. All dogs must be properly vaccinated, in good health, and free from any deformity or injury that might affect physical or mental performance.
2. All dogs must be under control at all times on the training grounds.
3. All visitors must demonstrate basic leash control with their dogs before being allowed in the training area.
4. A flat buckle collar is mandatory for your dog's safety while working on the equipment. An agility lead or tab is also recommended. For dogs that are difficult to control, however, other training collars may be used in addition to the flat buckle collar.
5. All visitors must be accompanied by a club member when attempting a new obstacle.
6. A handler must work only one dog at a time in the training area.
7. Only dogs that are working/training should be present in the training area. All other dogs should be crated or restrained.
8. Any dog that repeatedly interferes with another handler/dog team while working in the training area must be leashed until sufficient voice control can be demonstrated.
9. Any dog that repeatedly shows aggressive behavior towards another handler and/or dog, or that bites or attacks any person or dog, may be asked to leave the training ground.
10. Any handler that repeatedly uses severe corrections and/or harsh punishment may be asked to leave the training grounds.
11. Cleaning up after your dog is mandatory! Come prepared with plastic bags (At Tonry, take any waste away with you when you leave. There are no trash facilities at Tonry).
12. Show kindness and respect to other members and visitors. Also respect any time allocations to ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to practice or participate in an event.
13. No alcohol or drugs are allowed on the training grounds at any time.
14. Smoking is not allowed on the training grounds.