

I have been a member of Jumping Chollas Agility Club for two and a half years. I have been competing in NADAC trials for a year and a half. I always come to the park on Friday afternoons before the weekend trails start to help set up courses. Another reason I like to come on Friday afternoons is to participate in the fun runs. Ever since my first trial I have helped as a worker. I like to volunteer as a leash runner, scribe runner, timer, pole setter and course builder. I also helped the club when the Cholla Patch was being built. For many hours I moved big rocks off of the property so that gravel could be laid down.

I've had a few instructors who have been a big influence in my agility life. It is too hard to choose just one person. Amber Abbott, Becky Gilbert and Billie Rosen are the three people who have helped me the most. They have all helped my dog and I to do so much better. We have really improved over the past year because of the advice they have given us.

Amber was my first instructor and got me hooked on agility. She always made the training fun. One night at practice, it started to rain really hard and she let us train with our dogs in the rain. It was muddy but it was a lot of fun! Amber also made treat bags for our whole class. She was nice enough to put our names and our dog's name on the bags. When I finished my first agility class with Amber I didn't want to move up because I wanted to keep her as my teacher. She knew I was ready to go up to the next level, so she made me. Now I am very thankful that she did!

Becky was my instructor for a short time when I was in the next level of Junior Handler training. I had to switch class nights because of my sports schedule. In the short time I was in her class she helped me a lot. Becky was always encouraging me to keep trying over and over again. Becky is very generous with her time. I remember when she made leashes for all of the Junior Handlers in our class for Christmas one year. I've used the leash she gave me in all of my classes since then. Becky also helped me find my second agility dog.

Billie has influenced my life by being one of my most important agility instructors. She is the first person I would turn to for advice about agility. She has been a big help with training my stubborn but smart dog. Billie has always been very supportive of me. I have a lot of respect for Billie because she was the first person to start doing agility in Arizona. Billie gives up her own time for private lessons. I have taken a few private lessons with her and she gives me lots of training ideas to try with my dog. Billie let me run one of her dogs at two different NADAC trials last year because my dog was being difficult. It was a lot of fun! That is another reason why I admire her so much.

All three of these instructors have helped me come a long way in just two and a half years of agility training. They all have encouraged me to stay positive and to have fun with my dog. They have taught me that teamwork with my dog is very important in this sport. Their training advice has helped us to start earning more qualifying runs and a few Novice titles. I am glad that I started agility as a kid and want to keep doing it for the rest of my life!