



## THE KENNEL CLUB

### ALC rep to the AHWSG Martin Tait

Report from the Autumn meeting 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022

There are 5 topics from the AHWSG that pertain to Agility these are

- 1, The extreme heat temperatures and the likelihood of these events becoming more common.
  - 2, Research into the A frame
  - 3, Research into the Seesaw.
  - 4 Heart rate research
  - 5 Levy
- 1, Extreme heat

There was a long debate which included a review of the procedures and protocols put in place by the KCI AF. Following a long discussion we agreed the following,

The Sub-Group was in full agreement that a document should be formulated which provided guidance for all disciplines as to the way in which issues relating to extreme temperatures (high or low) should be addressed and mitigated. It would provide a 'toolkit' which event organisers could use to ensure the welfare of all concerned. 25. Input would be necessary from a range of groups, including the Dog Health Group, the Activities Committee, and the Field Trials Committee. The views of the Press Office would also be sought.

It was anticipated that the document would include the following elements:

- Veterinary information as to the way in which dogs retain, and lose, heat
- What facilities should be provided by event organisers (e.g. shade, water, etc.)
- Options available to event organisers (start times, 'siesta' periods, postponements, cancellations) • Reporting procedures (and possible introduction of a 'Temperature Officer' role)
- Provision of veterinary cover or appointment of a suitable 'first point of contact' individual at each even

#### A frame research

At the Sub-Group's last meeting, it had noted that the results from the working trials research into the scale could not be transferred to relate to the angle of ascent onto the 'A' Ramp in agility and the resulting impact forces. It had considered a suggestion that research should be carried out to ascertain whether it would be a positive step to remove the necessity for a dog to touch the contact area on the upward part of the obstacle, thus allowing it to enter it at a different angle than was currently possible.

It had agreed that the topic would be added to the list of Opportunities for Investigation and that, once clearly defined, the research may be progressed as a project for a student at Hartpury, or as a collaborative or funded opportunity. However, as a first priority, Dr Doyle, Mr Houlton, Mrs Le Fevre, Mr MacDonald, Mr Tait and Dr Wills had undertaken to consider the formulation of the objective of the research. It noted that at present there was no further progress to report, but the Sub-Group would be kept informed.



. The Sub-Group also noted that an approach had been received from Dr Roberta Ferro de Godoy, PhD, MVetMed, PGCERT, BVetMed at Writtle University College. Dr de Godoy had expressed interest in progressing potential 'A' Ramp research. A meeting had taken place between Dr Boyd, Mr Tait, and Dr de Godoy on 29 June 2022. Dr de Godoy was keen to undertake a study covering key aspects that were discussed by the Sub-Group and had advised that she would have access to funding but would require a supporting letter from The Kennel Club noting how the project would aid the dissemination of knowledge. The letter had been provided by the office as requested, and it was hoped that the research would take place during winter 2022/spring 2023.

Dr Doyle indicated his willingness to assist with the project.

#### Seesaw Research

. At its previous meeting, the Sub-Group had discussed potential research on absorption of forces on the see-saw. It had agreed that further Private and Confidential AHWSG 15.09.2022 8 research into the see-saw should be progressed via a group consisting of Dr Doyle, Mr MacDonald, and Mr Tait, and that Mr James Amor a technical engineer, who also competed in agility and had offered his services, would also be invited to contribute. The research would examine issues relating to the consistent performance of different seesaws and as to whether cushioning would be beneficial or detrimental.

Dr Boyd advised the Sub-Group that there had been some preliminary discussion with Mr Amor, but it was unclear as to whether the project was now being carried out via the Agility Liaison Council's Equipment Panel. It was confirmed that the Panel was not able to commission its own research as it did not have its own resources to do so, and that the research and subsequent analysis would remain under the control of the Sub-Group.

It was agreed that it was necessary to formulate clear and specific objectives for the research. This would be progressed as soon as possible via offline discussions.

#### Other items

Heart rate and fitness in canines, This research is still an important topic and is on the list of topics titles for students at Hartpury university to uptake as a dissertation topic.

#### Levy.

This has been discussed and agreed that if a levy was added to agility entries that it would be controlled by the ALC however given the current financial climate it was deemed inappropriate to progress any further at this time.