



Report of Judges Sub-Group Meeting 24-11-2022

The Judges Sub Group identified discussed several items appertaining to agility at this meeting, one item was outstanding was the role of Competition or Show Manager this item was referred to the Liaison Council for input which in turn referred it to the Governance Panel. The Sub Group are still awaiting the outcome of the Governance Panel discussion.

It was suggested that updates to guidance notes are placed in a single place on the website creating a repository to improve accessibility, as in the past guidance notes have been issued but nobody could then find them as they appear to have been lost in amongst the press releases. This should improve access to relevant guidance; the office team is looking into how to achieve this.

The issue of use of 'give me space' yellow coats or leads was discussed, with the feeling from the Sub Group that this could result from owners or handlers not addressing the behavioural issues or that the dog has, This was felt to be an unacceptable approach, it is not enough just telling everybody else to take care around their dog. There is also a question of liability should there be an incident as the handler has by use of the lead or coat admitted they know of a problem. The Sub Group would like to remind the Show Manager of the rule allowing dangerous or aggressive dogs to be removed from competition.

The suitability of the level of difficulty of the course for the Grade was discussed, it was recognised that different judges have different styles and what may well suit one dog will not suit another dog of the same grade and it was felt that this is a strength of Agility, in that all judges bring their own level of interpretation as to the course suitability for the grade. The judges training emphasises that there are 3 key criteria in order of importance they are:-

Safety. Is it safe for the dog and handler.

Can it be Judged safely. Can the judge move around the course to see relevant areas without impeding the dog or handler or distracting them.

Suitability. This is highly subjective.

If however the handler has any concerns regarding poor judging the route to raising them already exists by recording them in the incident book.

The issue of judges assessments was discussed, it was decided that if you are assessing a judge the assessor or your dogs should not run in the class which is being assessed.

Chris Huckle 26-11-22