

Potential measures to prevent incidents include some or all of the following:

1. Queueing

Introduction of a minimum spacing (suggest 2m) between handlers in queue, marked out to avoid any confusion, and a maximum number of dogs (suggest 10) in marked queue.

2. Area between rings

Introduction of a 'no loitering zone' between rings in walkways at shows, and an exclusion zone (suggest 2m) around rings.

3. Fencing

Fencing of all rings as a visual barrier – can be done inexpensively e.g. with netting. Netting doesn't fix the problem but may slow a dog down who has intent. Dogs who show intent through netting can then be treated

4. Handler behaviour and guidance

More handler education - KC to supply a document or provide small online mandatory course on competition readiness covering e.g. competitor etiquette, code of conduct, behaviour required of your, what happens on the day etc.

Proposed yellow / red card system – ideas include:

1. Management of incidents on the day:

The addition of an "Out of control dog" option on tablets would enable the judge to flag up incidents instantly and block the dog from running again on that day (yellow card) if the judge deems that dog was responsible for causing an incident. The judge should be able to apply an incident where a dog in their ring was at fault OR if their ring was impacted by a dog from another ring. The show management should also be able to apply a yellow card to a team but not overrule a judge decision.

2. Repeat offenders:

If a dog receives a second yellow card within a set period (suggest 3 months), the dog is awarded a red card and disqualified from Kennel Club shows for a period of time (could be 6 to 12 months depending on the details of incident). Entries could potentially be blocked via processors, which would require integration of the proposed agility database with show processors to share information about dogs involved in out of control incidents and also possibly the integration of microchip data with show entry data.

3. Reporting of incidents:

Competitors should be able to flag concerns about a particular dog's suitability or a specific incident to show organisers without fear of bias or prevention of reporting. An online system would help with this, with the possibility of uploading supporting photo/video evidence and of other people logging in as witnesses. KC need to provide a timeline of when incidents would be reviewed and what measures will be taken to ensure safety while the investigation is pending.