

### Proposal to Change Current Jump Heights

Over the past 2 1/2yrs we have been discussing the following:-

- To consider issues relating to jump heights, including health and welfare issues, and to consider ways of determining optimum jump heights for all dogs dependent upon height and conformation. Also to consider issues related to dog heights and measuring.
- How many heights are practical for a KC Show.

This is the culmination of discussions and views that have been sought and recommendations that the council has decided to propose. The council is responsible for thinking about the majority of the dogs that compete at KC Agility Show and aiding the Clubs in their operation of a show.

Courses have become more technical and the position dogs are asked to take off from makes the current heights more challenging for a wider group of dogs. Also most other countries including the FCI have or are about to reduce jump heights and are or have reviewed height categories. Although there is no compelling argument for the KC to follow suit based on the evidence we have there is equally no strong argument for staying as we are.

The majority of countries around the world have a lower jump height. Please see Appendix 2.

If we expect to compete at a world level successfully then it would aid us if we had the same jump heights so Team GB dogs may not be at a disadvantage to other countries who are competing to different standards.

The FCI are also looking to bring in four heights and we would just be following this route.

Earlier in the year we had the research findings from Nottingham Trent University on Canine Jump Kinematics, which was undertaken on behalf of the KC Activities Health and Welfare Group.

We took on board the results found on the distances required between obstacles and changed our rules to have a minimum distance of 5m. The second part of this research was the jump height which we are now implementing as per there findings in this proposal.

This was that dogs significantly alter jump kinematics as jump height increases and one of the key changes was at 125% of height to withers.

They also suggested that our decision takes into account competition environment both nationally and internationally, competitor perception and requirements.

In Appendix 3 I have enclosed all the feedback from all the regions for this proposal.

#### Current Regulation H(1)(B)3

a. Hurdle—The height of the hurdle must be 650mm (2ft 1.6ins) (550mm (1ft 9.6ins) for Lower Height Option) for Large Dogs, 450mm (1ft 5.7ins) (350mm (1ft 1.75ins) for Lower Height Option) for Medium Dogs and 350mm (1ft 1.75ins) (250mm (9.8ins) for Lower Height Option) for Small Dogs. Width: 1.219m (4ft) minimum. The top bar or plank must be easily displaced by the dog. A wall should have displaceable units on the top. The height of hurdles in special classes may be lower than those listed above, but the height(s) must be included in the schedule.

#### **Proposal 1**

a. Hurdle—The height of the hurdle must be **600mm (1ft 11.62ins) (500mm (1ft 7.685ins) for Lower Height Option) for Large Dogs, 400mm (1ft 3.75ins) for Medium Dogs and 300mm (11.81ins) for Small Dogs**. Width: 1.219m (4ft) minimum. The top bar or plank must be easily displaced by the dog. A wall should have displaceable units on the top. The height of hurdles in special classes may be lower than those listed above, but the height(s) must be included in the schedule.

**There is no Lower Height Option for Medium or Small Dogs.**

#### Rational

1. LHO assists breeds that are obviously large but don't necessarily have the best conformation to clear the large height obstacles.
2. The new heights opens Agility to a wider spread of breeds. (even though agility is not suitable for all breeds.
3. People have the ability to compete with their large dogs at a lower height.
4. It has introduced new competitors to KC shows, were they could not compete at before.
5. The shows have a more manageable amount of heights to use.
6. The research evidence available to date has suggested that they cannot recommend to either reduce jump height or maintain status quo. The suggestion of applying the 125% rule (the Height % a dog is recommended to jump) is what the panel has applied. This covers majority of dogs.
7. New skills that the dogs are being asked to do, such as round the back of jumps, will benefit the dogs with the jumps slightly lower.

#### Impact

Current rules for LHO still valid apart from the following.

- All awards for Large and Large LHO must be separate for each class.
- Dogs can only progress to G6 (old grade). (So to progress out of G6 all wins have to be at full height.)

- **Once you compete at LHO you have to stay in that height for a minimum of a Calendar year.** ( the calendar year will be from January to December, inclusive, and whenever a dog first competes in LHO they will have to stay in LHO until the end of December.)

## **Proposal 2**

H(1)(B)3

a) Hurdle—The height of the hurdle must be **600mm (1ft 11.62ins) for Large Dogs, 500mm (1ft 7.685ins) for Intermediate Dogs, 400mm (1ft 3.75ins) for Medium Dogs and 300mm (11.81ins) for Small Dogs.** Width: 1.219m (4ft) minimum. The top bar or plank must be easily displaced by the dog. A wall should have displaceable units on the top. The height of hurdles in special classes may be lower than those listed above, but the height(s) must be included in the schedule.

This would require dogs to be measured to enter this new Intermediate height.

H(1)(B)2. Height Limit for Dogs

- a. Large Dogs - For dogs measuring over 500mm (1ft 7.685ins) at the withers.
- b. Intermediate Dogs - for dogs measuring over 430mm (1ft 5ins) and measuring 500mm (1ft 7.685ins) or under at the withers
- c. Medium Dogs - For dogs measuring over 350mm (1ft 1.75ins) and measuring 430mm (1ft 5ins) or under at the withers.
- d. Small Dogs - For dogs measuring 350mm (1ft 1.75ins) or under at the withers

Rationale

- a. The new heights opens Agility to a wider spread of breeds. (even though agility is not suitable for all breeds.
- b. People have the ability to compete with their small large dogs at the intermediate height.
- c. It will introduced new competitors to KC shows, were they could not compete at before.
- d. Takes away the stigma of the presumption of cheating by competing at a lower height, without being measured for it.
- e. The research evidence available to date has suggested that they cannot recommend to either reduce jump height or maintain status quo. The suggestion of applying the 125%

rule (the Height % a dog is recommended to jump) is what the panel has applied. This covers majority of dogs.

- f. New skills that the dogs are being asked to do, such as round the back of jumps, will benefit the dog with the jumps slightly lower.

#### Impact

- No LHO will be available as all dogs will have to be measured for each category, apart if they are obviously large.
- There will be a transitional period. If at the moment you compete with your dog in Large height you can continue to do this. Everyone has up to 2 years to get their dog measured for the new height - Intermediate. New dogs to the sport would be measured straight away to compete at the Intermediate Height, unless they are obviously large.
- Shows will have to allow more time for walking courses As this new height cannot be merged into large height for walking or the Show could move the jumps up and down as competitors are walking the course.
- Not all shows may schedule classes at this new height at first
- No KC qualifiers or championship are available at the moment, for this new height.

#### Appendix 1

See attached presentation Slides 19-21 done by J Boyd.

#### Appendix 2 - Other Countries Jump Heights.

FCI

a) Single hurdle

Height: L: 55 to 60 cm - M: 35 to 40 cm - S: 25 to 30 cm

#### Australia -

ANKC heights are 200mm, 300mm, 400mm, 500mm, and 600mm

Canada -

254 to 406mm, 406 to 560mm, 560 to 660mm and 660mm

Denmark -

In Grade 1 (equal to our G 1-3), the jumps are 250-300mm for Small dogs, 350-400mm for Medium dogs and 550-600mm for Large dogs. In Grade 2 (equal to our G 4-5/6), they increase the heights to 300-350 / 400-450 / 600-650 mm respectively. In Grade 3 (equal to our G 6-7), the jump heights are 350/450/650mm respectively

Finland

SX (dogs under 28 cm) 10-20 cm  
S (dogs 28-35 cm) 20-30 cm  
M (dogs 35-43 cm) 30-40 cm  
L (dogs 43-50 cm) 40-50 cm  
XL (dogs over 50 cm) 50-60 cm

France -

A – 35 cm  
B/D – 45 cm  
C – 60 cm

Germany

Use the height ranges too, so Small is 25-35cm; Medium is 35-45cm; Large 55-65cm. The height they usually use is 60 cm

Norway, Russia, Slovenia, Switzerland

Follow FCI regs: Height: L: 55 to 60 cm - M: 35 to 40 cm - S: 25 to 30 cm

Sweden

Extra Small (10-20 cm), Small (20-30 cm), Medium (30-40 cm) Large 40-50 cm and Extra Large (50-60 cm)

America

8 Inches (203mm)	For dogs 11 inches (280mm) and under at the withers.
12 Inches (305mm)	For dogs 14 inches (356mm) and under at the withers.
16 Inches (406mm)	For dogs 18 inches (457mm) and under at the withers.
20 InchesR (508mm)	For dogs 22 inches (559mm) and under at the withers.
24 Inches (610mm)	For dogs over 22 inches (559mm) at the withers.
26 Inches (660mm)	Dogs may be entered at this height at their owner's discretion.

### Appendix 3

#### **Feedback from all the Regions on the Height Proposals**

#### Height Classification

Option 3 - align with FCI Heights , 300, 400, 600 plus 500LHO  
- same but with measured 500 height.

- Option 3 voted by 47% , 26% voted for option 3 but have measured 500, nothing for LHO. (W)
- prefer another option of:300,400,500 (measured) and 600. One area felt option 3 best if it meant it could be implemented sooner with a view to all 4 heights at later date. (S&SW)
- option 3 only nothing for the others and they wanted to keep the LHO for 500. There was some support that if a dog chooses to go in LHO they should stay there for 12 months unless they attend a show were LHO is not available. There was discussion on using the 500 LHO as test for the amount of support for a 4th height and giving time to plan introduction if there is a 4th height. (NW)
- 4th height fully measure is introduced as quickly as possible, no premier events or Champ to start with.Those who want to move to the new height can do but cannot move back, the rest can stay where they are.Everyone moving to 4th height must be measured. (NW)
- more like option 3, but not all agreed on 600

50% Wanted to keep 650 for large dogs  
50% Wanted to change to 600

Medium 400  
Small 300

With 500 as LHO (or if 650 is maintained 550)

But once handlers elected to run at this height then they had to stay at that height. Older dogs would be able to come down to the height after a certain age if required, but again would stay down.

Maybe at G1/2 they could start on LHO, but once the move grade they go to full height or elect to stay in LHO.

Separate results should be given for LHO & FHO. (M)

- No real support for options 1 or 2. More people in favour of option 3. An alternative proposal was put forward for four measured heights, and this was supported by the majority of those in the room. Should have proper measured heights, with anysize for dogs that can't jump it. There was also support for a fifth micro height, although this was felt to be less of an issue if the small height were lowered to 300. (NE)
- all three meeting preferred option 3. However the majority were in favour of having four measured heights at 300, 400, 500 & 600 with some support for LHO also remaining for large dogs at 500. (SE)
- In Scotland there is a massive majority (over 95% or those who expressed a view) for there to be four jump heights, keeping small and medium height categories the same and splitting the Large dogs into two. These four heights should be equal - with dogs measured in by height and championship classes available. There is a majority for jump heights to be at 300, 400, 500 and 600 – but around 10% of people feel that jump heights should be at 350, 450, 550 and 650.