

## **Kennel Club Agility Liaison Council**

### **Governance Panel Report – April 2025**

#### **1 Introduction of a Micro Height**

For some time, there has been ongoing discussion across the agility community for the introduction of a 5<sup>th</sup> height supporting the ongoing welfare of smaller competing dogs. A significant amount of work has been undertaken within the Governance Panel with an update provided at the last ALC including data collected.

A number of different options have been considered with the overall aim of supporting the welfare of dogs whilst ensuring fairness and not discriminating against those currently competing.

The Governance Panel are requesting Council to consider several proposals brought forward for consideration with a view of introducing a 5<sup>th</sup> height/XS category January 2026.

In summary the proposals are summarised below. In relation to the height of dogs eligible to compete within the XS category has been subject to significant discussion with pros and cons outlined for both heights suggested. It is proposed that the proposal is supported detailing two heights – 280 mm or 300 mm and to allow the wider agility community to consider both and vote via the regional reps as to their preference.

- a. Introduction of a 5<sup>th</sup> height/XS
- b. Obstacles to be set at 200mm
- c. Height of dogs to be set at either 280mm or 300mm.
- d. Dogs to be measured prior to becoming eligible to compete in 5<sup>th</sup> height/XS category.
- e. Consideration of all small dogs to be subject to a remeasure supporting health and wellbeing within a specified time.
- f. Request for prestige shows to consider introduction of championship classes and qualifications for prestige shows.

#### **2 Proposed changes to grading structure**

To facilitate the introduction of a 5<sup>th</sup> height it is felt that there needs to be a change to the current grading structure to facilitate show organisers in accommodating an additional class.

The Governance Panel request Council to consider several proposals which would support this aim.

- a. Reduce the number of graded classes allowed per day from 4 to 2.
- b. Reduce the number of grades allowed in graded classes from 3 to 2.
- c. Increase the minimum number of combines grades allowed in combined classes from 2 to 3.
- d. Grade 7 to become Championship level.

### **3 Shortening of limbo period.**

For some time competitors have asked for a shortening of the current 'limbo period' when dogs have either won out of their grade by achieving the required wins or points. The main impact on seeking to reduce will be felt by show organisers potentially affecting class sizes, number of rings, judges etc. This will be more acutely felt by smaller shows/clubs who run one show annually.

The Governance Panel requests Council to consider a proposal to reduce the limbo period to 18 days but to retain the notification period to shows secretaries/show processors to the current 14 days prior to the show opening.