



AHWSG – 19TH SEPTEMBER 2019 FEEDBACK REPORT

1. There was an announcement of the partnership between the Kennel Club and Hartpury College and Hartpury University, which opens up opportunities for research projects. It is anticipated that the sub-group will be able to suggest topics.
 - a. The members of the sub-group have been requested to suggest any behavioural issues within their discipline. Suggested topics include;
 - i. General arousal in agility dogs in agility, with particular reference to behaviour in queues
 - ii. Dogs lunging from parked cars
 - iii. Stress in crated dogs
 - iv. Use of body language in dogs
 - b. Fitness/Heart Rate recovery was suggested as a potential research project
 - c. Further research into the absorption forces may be suitable. Feedback from the previous research will be provide to the sub-group.
2. Methods of measuring dogs competing in agility;
 - a. Report on the study comparing use of digital measure versus traditional stick not yet available
 - b. A comparison into the accuracy of the different measuring methods identified that measuring hoops were reasonably accurate, to within 2mm for different hoops of the same size. It was acknowledged that for the majority of dogs this was fine, but may cause issues for borderline dogs. It was identified that the introduction of Intermediate would increase the number of borderline dogs due to additional boundary.
 - c. It was suggested a two-tier measuring system could be introduced whereby measuring hoops may be used in the majority of cases, with a more accurate measure being used for 'borderline dogs'. It was agreed that although there maybe logistical difficulties in doing so, it may be possible to incorporate an option for such a facility into an appeal process, whereby a number of accurate measures would be available on a regional basis for use by senior measurers trained in their use.
 - d. A report on the comparison of measuring methods is to be presented to the group, which is to include suggestion of an option for more accurate measure. This is to be discussed by the ALC during its meeting on 16 January 2020.
3. The Kennel Club Academy
 - a. 'Warming up a dog' film now called Pre-competition preparation, is still in development.
4. Colour Recognition in Dogs
 - a. It was agreed that the matter of colour recognition is an interesting one and warranted further consideration
 - b. The ALC is to consider issues within our own discipline and to feed back into the AHWSG
5. Veterinary Checks
 - a. It was confirmed that veterinary checks at Olympia were proving to be effective. However carrying out checks at other events was still under consideration. It was noted that checks at some events maybe problematic due to numbers and logistics.
6. Education film for Activities Judges
 - a. The sub-group discussed the development of a educational film providing guidance on identifying visible health and welfare issues, but agreed it was outside the remit of the group, and therefore has referred it back to the activities judges sub-group
 - b. The group were generally in support of the principle and suggested it would be helpful if film contained details of the process by which a dog may be excluded from competition.



7. Health Symposium 2020
 - a. The Health Symposium will take part in May/June 2020. The sub-group have been requested to suggest any suitable topics and speakers

8. Next Meeting – 13th January 2020
 - a. Relevant feedback from this meeting will be discussed at the ALC Meeting on 16th January 2019

Iain MacDonald