# KC ALC GOVERNANCE PANEL REPORT OF PROGRESS TO DATE NOVEMBER 2019

## Membership of the Governance Panel:

Sara Hawkswell (Chair), Simon Chandler, Yvonne Croxford, Jackie Gardner, Iain MacDonald & Becky Sargent

## Summary of priority issues currently being considered by the ALC Governance Panel

### 1. Governance of Agility within the Kennel Club

The decision making structure for Agility within the Kennel Club is rather convoluted for such a large (and still growing) activity. Whilst the Agility Liaison Council tries to act as a central point for discussion and decision making this often proves difficult as many important decisions are made out with the ALC and conflicts and confusion do arise.

Considerable effort is made by ALC members to retain an overview of all issues, mainly through representation on other committees but priority matters can get dwarfed in larger forums. ALC is working within the KC structure to see how improvements can be made. We also hope that this issue will be looked at in detail by the Kennel Club's Governance and Organisation Review Group.

### 2. KC Agility Results Database

There is no record of results in KC Agility. Handlers are required to ensure that they collect from results from each show they enter and relies on the fully understanding the progression system and being honest in moving their dogs up between grades. The creation of central database remains a priority for ALC.

### 3. Measuring

At the ALC meeting in July it was agreed to include work relating to measuring under the remit of the Governance Panel rather than create an additional panel to address these matters. This work will be led by Jackie Gardner and Becky Sergeant (both of whom are Senior Measurers) supported by the rest of the Governance Panel, and other measurers as appropriate.

Priorities are:

- Ensuring effective communication with measurers and identifying problem and issues, if necessary producing FAQ for either measurers or owners. A key mechanism for this will be through the KC Measurers Facebook group.
- Monitoring standards amongst existing measurers. To enable this to happen effectively any reports in incidents books or other reports relating to measuring made to the Kennel Club need to be copied to the Governance Panel to enable an oversight of any matters that may need addressing. Part of this may also result in additional training for existing measurers being carried out.
- Identifying the need for new Measurers or Senior Measurers – by analysing demand both through existing measures and reports from clubs.
- Update the existing Kennel Club Code of Best Practise for Measuring Agility Dogs Heights to ensure it correctly covers the four heights (to be completed for January 2020) and remove any confusing areas.

### 4. Restriction on licensing shows on same day

At the previous ALC meeting its was agreed that the Governance Panel would define how any

restrictions on licensing should be structures. This would be implemented with the KC's CRM in a

second stage of development.

**Purpose:**

- To support KC registered clubs
- To restrict number of small shows offering classes with small entries as discussed within the Grading panel review previously
- To improve overall status of KC Shows

**Proposed solution:**

1. Licenses should so that no two shows hold a KC Licensed event within a 30 mile radius of each other on the same day, unless by prior agreement of both the KC and the clubs applying for the licenses.. In Scotland the current restriction of no two shows within the country being permitted on the same day will be retained, with the same proviso for consent as the rest of the UK.
2. Licenses to be issued on a first come first served basis, with the following timescales on license applications:
   - Premier and Champ shows - no time restrictions
   - Open shows by full KC Registered Clubs – up to 18months
   - Open shows by Listed status clubs – up to 12months
   - Limited shows – no change to current ruling
   - All shows to apply for license a minimum of 6 months in advance as per current rules.
3. Should a second club request a license for a show within 30 miles of another show on the same date, then both secretaries should be contacted to see if they have any objections to the second show running. They should be allowed 30 days to raise any objections; otherwise it should be deemed that they have none. This system should also apply across the Scottish / English border.
4. No more than two shows within a 30 mile radius of any type (apart from Limited shows) will be permitted.

**Development of Computer System for implementation:**

1. Needs to allow for input of show location, either by post code or co-ordinates
2. Needs to identify type of club status
3. Needs to be able to identify when license application is for a show within 30miles of an existing application, and raise a warning prior to license being issued. Similarly applications within 30 miles of the Scottish English Border need to be identified and raise a warning that collaboration between KC and SKC is needed.
   - Once identified, either automatically or manually, show secretaries need to be contact to raise any objections.
   - If there are objections, then second show application needs to be rejected, provided the First show has applied within the appropriate time frames for its registered status.
4. Ideally the computer system would allow:
   - Search facility for show secretaries to check for clashes when applying for a license
   - Allow applications outside of appropriate timeframes, but only put them active and accept licenses once within the correct time frame e.g a listed status club could apply for a license 18 months before the show, but isn't granted until 12 months before the show, providing no fully registered clubs have applied for a license on that date.

5. **Course Times**

   Previously the ALC has discussed the need to review and potentially revise the Course Time matrix, and indeed considered whether it should be mandatory. It is clear that before any further work can be done on this there needs to be considerable data collection and analysis. The Governance Panel will ensure such data are collected in 2020.

   In the interim we propose that the existing course time matrix is updated so that the Intermediate dogs use the same times currently used by Large dogs.

6. **Review scope and relationship between Regulations and Guidelines**

The Governance Panel is retaining an overview of the updating of guidelines. Currently the following are being reviewed and updated:

- Guide for Agility Judges & Stewards – which needs to include additional section relating to the roles of Show Managers and use of the Incident Book
- Judges Guide to Agility Equipment – to cover changes to equipment and improved advice
- Kennel Club Code of Best Practise for Measuring Agility Dogs – to include all aspect relating to Intermediate dogs and best practise.

The Governance Panel will then review the KC Agility Competitors Code of Conduct to see if any changes are needed.

Once these are up to date a rolling process of updating should ensure that there is no need for additional FAQ relating to agility. However if there is the ALC will ensure these are produced and then relevant guidelines updated to cover these issues as soon as possible.

In parallel The Governance Panel is starting a review of the H regulations to identify improvements needed in language, layout, duplication etc. This is not to introduce new regulations but to clarify and issues arising in the existing regulations. Any improvements in wording or layout will be bought to the ALC in plenty of time to be agreed during this three year tenure.

Sara Hawkswell

On behalf of the ALC Governance Panel

15 November 2019