



REPORT FOR AGILITY LIAISON COUNCIL FOLLOWING THE ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2020

Measuring methods

- The Sub-Group noted the Council's support for continued use of measuring hoops. It also agreed that the issue should be kept under regular review as there was potential for it to affect other disciplines such as rally.
- The Sub-Group was also asked whether it would be possible for research to be conducted into potential variations into a dog's measured height through the course of a day, and under differing conditions. However, this would not be possible until such time as there was a method of measuring the height of a dog accurately and consistently.

Working Trial research

- Data collection for the research had been undertaken at Nottingham Trent University in August 2020. A number of dogs had been filmed whilst negotiating the long jump at a range of lengths, and over the scale at a range of heights. The results of the research would be issued in due course.

Fitness/heart rate recovery

- The Sub-Group discussed a potential research project into fitness and heart rate recovery, noting that more information on heart rate during agility and during recovery may be used to help plan fitness training programs for dogs as well as establishing what was normal and what might be an abnormal heart rate as an indicator of cardiac disease.
- Due to Covid-19 it had not been possible for students at Hartpury University to carry out any research but it was hoped that that it would be carried out as soon as it became possible.
- It was also hoped that in due course, data collection may be carried out at an Agility Team GB event, subject to the agreement of the new team manager.

See-saw

- The Sub-Group was keen to progress research into the absorption of forces on the see-saw, but as above, it had not been possible for students at Hartpury to progress any such project. Once it was possible to do so, it was hoped that Mr MacDonald and the Agility Liaison Council would be able to assist in furthering the project.

Use of harnesses

- The Sub-Group discussed the use of harnesses by dog owners (not during competition), and agreed that this was an issue which warranted further discussion.
- At present it was not possible for the Sub-Group to progress a research project, but the topic of harnesses would remain on the list of Opportunities for Investigation and would be reviewed regularly.

Kinetic forces on dogs

- The Sub-Group considered a suggestion raised by the Council as to whether it would be possible to carry out research on the kinetic forces of dogs at a range of speeds as they negotiated contact obstacles such as the A frame. The Council had also suggested that research regarding the effects of acceleration and deceleration on dogs would be of interest.
- The Sub-Group agreed that both were topics of interest and would be suitable for research at Hartpury University in due course. Both issues would be placed on the Sub-Group's 'Opportunities for Investigation' document and would be borne in mind for student-led or targeted research projects when suitable opportunities arose.