

Report on the Activities Health & Welfare Sub-Group

The group continues to meet three times per year. The last meeting was in March.

There was continued review and planning of work into the kinematics of jumping for Agility dogs. This ongoing research hopes to help provide reliable data to help the decision making process to decide on what jump heights and separation between jumps is appropriate for all sizes of dogs. Progress is slow due to funding restrictions, but the information that has emerged so far has been very interesting, and has helped with planning future research avenues.

The group is also looking at Agility contact surfaces to set some standards for any new surfaces that manufacturers may wish to bring into use. Currently there is no set standard for type of friction levels for contact surfaces. Thus no information to say what is an optimal surface type.

There will soon be published a Canine Health Code of Conduct for all competitors taking part in activities and events.

In March this year the on-line Obedience Questionnaire, circulated to representatives at the last Council meeting, was published. Over 300 responses have been received and these are now being analysed. The results will be available at the next meeting. Once known the group will decide what and if any particular, research is required for obedience competition dogs.

The responses to the Agility questionnaire provided interesting information regarding injuries to dogs and the warm up methods used. Stretching was seen as most likely to result in injury whilst play and general loosening up of muscles was best.

The next meeting is planned for 18 September at the Kennel Club Building, Stoneleigh.

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