

## Kennel Club Agility Liaison Council Governance Panel Report – November 2024

### Micro Height

It is clear that amongst those owners and handlers falling within a potential micro height there is a strong demand for jump height to be lower for small dogs. In the survey carried out in July 2024 detail of 117 dogs measuring 240mm or below were submitted. These can only compete in Kennel Classes if they jump more than 125% of their height. The highest we expect any other category of dog to compete at is 115% of their height. It is clear that these dogs are disadvantaged by the KC jump heights.

In considering the options for a micro height we have looked at the existing heights of dogs and respective jump heights and how wide the height category is and how high dogs at the top and bottom end of each category should be expected to jump.

For a micro height to fit in with the other categories with jump heights measuring 200mm micro dogs would be measured to include dogs 270mm and below

#### Suggested Jump Heights

	Micro	Small	Medium	Intermediate	Large
Max dog Height (mm)	270.0	<b>350.0</b>	<b>430.0</b>	<b>500.0</b>	No Max
Min Dogs (mm)	160.0*	271.0	<b>351.0</b>	<b>431.0</b>	<b>501.0</b>
Range of dog heights (mm)	<b>110.0</b>	<b>80.0</b>	<b>79.0</b>	<b>69.0</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Jump Height	200.0	300.0	400.0	500.0	600.0
% dogs height (min)	125.0	111.1	114.0	116.0	119.8
% dogs height (max)	74.1	85.7	93.0	100.0	N/A

*\*no actual minimum is suggested but dogs below this would be jumping considerably higher than any other dogs at K/C competitions.*

A Jump height of 200mm with a corresponding maximum height of 270mm for Micro Dogs would mean that no dogs over 160 mm would be jumping more than 125% of their height in this category. 306 dogs were identified in this survey that would fit into a micro category with these measurements.

If a micro height was to be introduced then it must be:

- a “measured” height, with all new dogs being measured including this height and a transition period for existing small dogs that might measure micro similar to that used for when Intermediate Height was introduced
- recognised that this height should be eligible for a range of KC Qualifier and Championship classes but that these would be introduced gradually and that this would have an impact on qualifiers available for other heights.
- noted that there are implications on the current Small height category. There would be a significant reduction in the number of dogs measuring into Small – with a estimated reduction of up to one third of the current dogs competing being eligible to measure into Micro.

It is important to note that proposed changes to the grading structure would have an impact on the number of different classes available and that the addition of a micro height should be considered in

these discussions. Feedback is sought from competitors, judges and show organisers on the impact of introducing a fifth height for micro dogs.

The Governance Panel would like the newly formed Health Advisory Group to consider if other issues should be considered at this stage.

### **Grading Review**

Work on a grading review has progressed and a proposal is now brought forward for further discussion.

See Annex C & D

### **Measuring – additional data stored on each dog.**

We propose that The Kennel Club measuring database is updated to include dog's microchip number. Currently the microchip number is recorded in the dog's record book but not transferred to KC in the measurers return (a spreadsheet submitted by each measurer).

There is a need for the microchip number to be recorded centrally to prevent some of the work arounds that people have used to avoid compliance with Kennel Club rules, by re-registering dogs on the activity register. There are known cases of this being done to:

- Enable a dog to restart its measuring journey (usually with the aim of getting it measured into a lower height)
- Enabling a dog that has had a warning or even ban to continue to compete at shows.

There is very little additional work for the measurer to note the microchip number in the spreadsheet whenever a dog is measured and simple checks could be made as data are imported at KC to look for any discrepancies. The only significant impact is that guidelines would need to be developed as to how to deal with a dog who needs to be re-microchipped to ensure the paper trail is carefully followed. The Governance panel will do this work ready for implementing this change as soon as possible.

It should be noted that collating this data would also help in the long term with the development of a full KC agility database.

### **Measuring – update to code of best practise**

The Kennel Club Code of Best Practice for Measuring Agility Dog Heights is being updated for January 2025 to cover the new regulations for ALL dogs to be measured. Additionally a small change has been made to clarify that measurers do have to touch dogs to check the measure is correctly positioned on the dog and what height the dog is in. This has been a point of contention with some people presenting dogs for measuring.

*Sara Hawkswell  
ALC Governance Panel Chair  
9<sup>th</sup> November 2024*