

November 2023

Five-year strategy

Current topics

	Topic	Action points	Action By	Action Date and Status
a.	To ensure the health, fitness, safety and welfare of dogs taking part in WT are at the forefront of the sport, specifically researching the scale and long jump.	Jump Research Panel set up in January 2023 and have submitted an amended research proposal. The aim of this research is to quantify kinetic and kinematic parameters for the obstacles traversed in WT to conduct a risk-based analysis and ascertain if there are any concerning ground reaction forces or joint stress. The objectives of the study are to quantify the effect of jump type (clear vs long jump vs scale) on kinetic and kinematic parameters.	Jump Research Panel	November 2023 – 6 universities known for biomechanics studies were approached. Business case for KC funding and application to KC Charitable Trust both submitted in August 2023 in respect of research by Dr. Roberta Ferro de Godoy and Scott Blake MVetPhys at Writtle Uni. KCCT application unsuccessful. Ongoing
b.	To update and improve the information available about working trials on 1. Kennel Club Beginners Guide to WT leaflet 2. KC Website 3. KC Academy highlighting the nosework and other elements and encourage more interest and participation.	KC to engage and assist with progression.	E&P Panel Kennel Club	November 2023 update - 1. Further liaison with KC re progressing leaflet. Ongoing 2. Agreement from KC to update website re WT section in Events & Activities in respect of photos and text changes. Ongoing 3. Link to KC Academy now on WT section of Events & Activities (Judging WT section) - closed

c.	To create a leaflet to promote WT specifically targeting those doing UK Tracking and UK Dog Sport	Leaflet to be created for sending online (potentially using UK Dog Sports WT supplement). UK Tracking & UK Dog Sport to be approached for including shorter version of leaflet to participants with their certificates.	E&P Panel	November 2023 - Kennel Club Beginners Guide to WT leaflet revamped and submitted. Further liaison with KC to progress. Ongoing
d.	To consider the set-up of an online entry system.	With Your Dog online booking system is used successfully by other dog sports. Polls on social media WT sites indicate support to look into this further. Liaison has taken place with Trials Managers and Secretaries for feedback/questions.	E&P Panel	November 2023 – Feedback being collated. Ongoing
e.	To consider ways in which WT could progress and develop in the future, in light of concerns over low entry numbers.	Agreed at WTLC that members of the Council submit to the E&P Panel, a list of positive suggestions in light of concerns raised over the number of entries received at working trials.	Council members	November 2023 – Email sent to all Council members from E&P Panel– very little response. Due to lack of interest from most WTLC Reps - closed
f.	To create more channels of communication with a wider audience, using social media and canine newspapers to promote WT events and news.	Contact made with Dog Sports UK magazine (digital and paper) and WT now included. All WT Societies / Clubs invited to receive free digital version for their members. Crufts Marketing team approached to consider inclusion of WT article in their show guide.	E&P Panel	November 2023 – completed & closed.
g.	To update the Kennel Club “Find a Club” function so it is effective and current on the website.	Link to be shown on KC website in WT section for Find A Club. KC to contact clubs to ascertain if they actually do include WT.	SATS/E&P Panel	November 2023 – Link now on the KC website in the “New to WT” subsection. KC have contacted Clubs re their involvement with WT; some removed accordingly. Closed

h.	Improve WTLC engagement with grass roots competitors to encourage wider participation in Council matters.	Discussed at July WTLC meeting. It was accepted that there was an existing WT Facebook page group, however it did not facilitate fair and open communication and was not specifically for Council matters. Facebook groups being used for the Agility and Obedience Liaison Councils worked well and efficiently in a different format. It was felt that a similar format could work for better engagement for the WTLC. It was agreed that the discussed action be progressed by Council and all Reps.	Council members	November 2023 –An email was sent to all Reps to discuss this further and request feedback. 3 Societies engaged positively, 2 negatively and no response from others. Insufficient interest or participation from WTLC Reps to progress this further meantime. Closed.
i.	To look at the feasibility of small dogs being able to progress to TD Stake with their reduced jumps.	Proposal to permit small dogs their reduced jumps to TD level rejected by the WTLC. Feedback sought from reps.		Little feedback from Reps to allow further discussions. Closed.