

Wheelwork to Music Heelwork Positions

General wheelchair competitors' rules

In addition to the current L Regulations pertaining to Heelwork to Music the following should also be incorporated.

Judges should note, the style of wheelchairs come in many styles and forms, but all have limited manoeuvre capabilities and can not move sideways.

All bags must be removed from the wheelchair prior to entering the competition ring. Any bags which are permanently attached to the wheelchair and therefore can not be removed must be emptied (same as pockets) prior to entering the competition ring.

Safety considerations: in-addition to the current HTM inappropriate moves wheelchair competitors must not allow their dogs to jump over themselves and the wheelchair front to back or back to front, however dogs may jump from side to side i.e. when jumping over a prop such as a cane.

Dogs should also not be allowed to climb/jump onto the handler and jump over the handlers' head or from the back of the wheelchair.

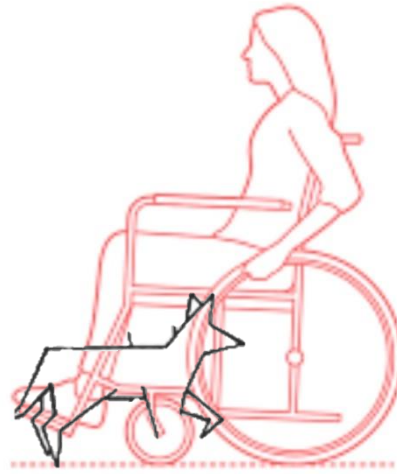
Dogs will work with a small gap between themselves and the wheelchair. This should be expected to prevent the dog from colliding with the wheelchair however, the gap should be consistent throughout the routine in all worked positions.

There are safety concerns when dogs are performing heelwork behind the wheelchair as shown below. The main concerns are that the handler is unable to see dogs working in this position and dogs with long coats or indeed tails could become entangled in the wheels of the chairs. However, as the L regulations clearly state that all 8 heelwork positions **are not expected** to be performed in any single routine, members of the Activity Committee may consider these two heelwork positions to remain in the wheelwork positions leaving it to the discretion of the handler as to whether they wish to teach their dogs these positions in the same manner as able-bodied handlers do. However, handlers **must not** move their wheelchairs backwards whilst their dogs are working in the rear heelwork positions. This is particularly deemed dangerous for all dogs.

The following was agreed to be an acceptable working position. Initially we considered the dogs working position could be assessed in association to the handler's wheelchair (in the same manner as the current heelwork positions are assessed in association to the handlers leading leg), however, as all wheelchairs are of different styles this proved too complicated. It was therefore agreed that the dogs' shoulder should be level with the handler's mid-thigh. This is because the safety of the dog is always paramount and, in this position, allows the handler to clearly see and manoeuvre the dog.



Dog working on the left facing forwards.
Dogs shoulder should be in line with the
handler's mid-thigh.



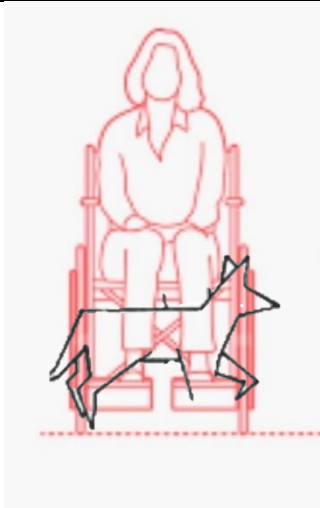
Dog working on the left facing backwards.
Dogs shoulder should be in line with the
handler's mid-thigh.



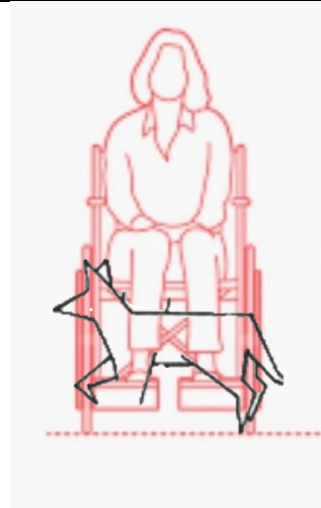
Dog working on the right facing forwards.
Dogs shoulder should be in line with the
handler's mid-thigh.



Dog working on the right facing backwards.
Dogs shoulder should be in line with the
handler's mid-thigh.



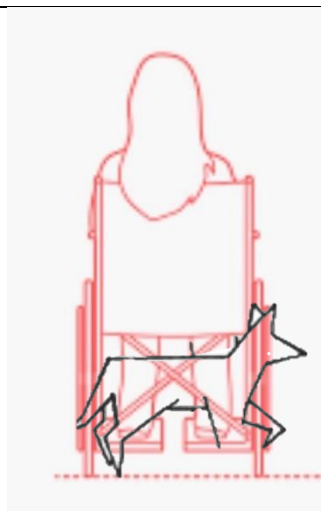
Dog working across the front of the handler's wheelchair facing left.
Dogs shoulder should be in line with the handler's left leg.



Dog working across the front of the handler's wheelchair facing right.
Dogs shoulder should be in line with the handler's right leg.



Dog working across the back of the handler's wheelchair facing left.
Dogs shoulder should be in line with the handlers left shoulder. **Wheelchairs are not permitted to move backwards whilst dogs are in this position.**



Dog working across the back of the handler's wheelchair facing right.
Dogs shoulder should be in line with the handler's right shoulder. **Wheelchairs are not permitted to move backwards whilst dogs are in this position.**