**Dogs ACT Covid-19 Agility Trials**

**General Practices for Affiliates and Handlers**

1. Clubs and officials including volunteers and participants, are required to follow ACT Government, Dogs ACT and affiliate guidelines that apply to the area and site where the event is held.

2. Practice social distancing consistent with current guidelines. Avoid congregating to the extent possible.

3. Consider wearing masks when in close proximity to others. Clubs should provide masks if desired for officials, judges and volunteers.

4. Disposable or washable gloves should be available for handlers, volunteers and committee. Bins with liners should be placed in strategic areas for disposal of gloves.

5. Hand sanitizer should be freely available and placed for people to use.

6.. Toilet facilities should have soap, disposal hand towels, sanitiser and disinfectant spray for people to spray door handles (or anything else they touch). Leave doors open if possible.

8. Social distancing should be maintained by all present at all time.

9. Avoid touching dogs that are not your responsibility.

10. Avoid common use pens/pencils – bring your own.

11. Crating should be at least 1.5 metres apart, except for “family” groups of handlers and dogs. If possible, ask handlers to crate from vehicles wherever possible.

12. Disinfect surfaces in common use areas as often as possible (tables, chairs, doorknobs, etc.) Chairs should only be provided for club officials.

13. Meals and drinks should only be provided for trial officials and volunteers. Boxed lunches for judges and volunteers could be provided to avoid handling. A separate cooler for each judge and volunteer should be provided. Participants should bring their own lunch/drinks.

14. Parking areas – Ensure parking is maintained with sufficient distance between vehicles if possible.

**Trial Planning**

1. Clubs may need to limit the number of entries based on ACT Govt and Dogs ACT regulations.

2. Clubs may choose to limit entries trials based on the number of handlers allowed in the event space. For example, 50 people (handlers, volunteers, judges, event committee) and runs not to exceed 350 for the trial. It may be necessary to run the trial in shifts in order to reduce congregating and accommodate more entrants.

Clubs may consider grouping handlers by Class and add expected start times for each Class.

**Qualifying cards**

1. Qualification cards should be set out on outside tables and only two people at a time to collect their card and ribbon. Gloves should be worn by handlers collecting cards.

2. The Trial Secretary/Manager should have a separate area for printing cards etc. A separate area should be provided for judges to sign cards.

3. Judges Table – Judges should have a separate worktable either in the ring or adjacent to the ring that is not accessible to handlers.

**Trial Planning and practices**

1. Trial secretaries should evaluate the best method of obtaining a list of all trial participants together with their phone number. For example, competitor phone numbers may be obtained from the Trial Entry system and all other trial participants should provide their phone number prior to the trial.

2. Recommend that safe practices for the handling of agility obstacles and timing gear be documented to include hand sanitising and disinfecting before and after touching the equipment, and possibly limiting the number of people who touch the equipment.

3. Surfaces need to be wiped down. Clubs will need to make sure that toilets, doors, tables, chairs, etc. are cleaned/sanitized during the day.

4. Masks should be available for judges and stewards if requested. Hand sanitizer and gloves should be available ringside and at volunteer positions.

5. The Assembly Steward should be provided with at least a 2 metre buffer. Recommend using gating or flagging tape to designate the steward’s space. Recommend they do not leave their pens or boards unattended.

6. Note: Waiting for ANKC approval - For the rest of 2020 handlers should place leads in their pockets or wear them clipped on their body when running the course.

7. Toys and treat bags should not be left on the ground outside the ring to prevent cross contamination of such items.

8. Printed Course maps should not be made available. If made available by the judge, course maps for Games events should be made available in a separate area to enable handlers to photograph the map. Alternatively, the judge may elect to post the map online the previous day on the ACT Agility Facebook Group.

9. If a Club measuring wheel is made available to judges, it should be wiped down before and after use.

10. The Scribe should sit at their own table. Scribe should only use their pens. The table, timer console and chairs should be wiped down with each change of scribe. If more than 2 people use the table, it should be large enough to allow working with proper spacing.

10. Judges should sanitise or use gloves prior to signing judging sheets. Volunteers collecting judging sheets should hand sanitise and/or use gloves. Alternatively, the scribe could place score sheets in a basket to be collected and delivered by only one person instead of having the person touch each individual sheet.

11. Briefings should be done with social distancing observed at all times.

12. Walk-through group sizes should be reduced. Suggest a maximum of 25 handlers per walk-through.

13. If a judge elects to measure a dog the measuring devices and table should be wiped down between dogs. Judges should consider wearing a mask if not required by the club and must sanitize their hands between dogs.

14. Space out handlers when lining up to run. Assembly areas should be clearly marked with signage at intervals for spacing requirements in the area.

15. Recommend that Running orders and Results sheets be placed in an open area that can be accessed by handlers practising social distancing.