**DOGSNT rule review submission/proposals – May 2024**

Rule 4.3

Height Card Prior to a dog competing in a trial for the first time, an Official Height Card, signed by TWO (ANKC) Agility Judges or other persons approved by the Canine Control specifying the height or the height category of the dog must be obtained. The height of the dog is to be measured at the highest point of the withers no more than two months before that trial. The Height Card is valid for the life of the dog if they are over 2 years old or the dog is measured at the 600 Height Category. If the dog is under 2 years old a temporary height card will be issued and the dog will be required to be remeasured when the dog is 2 years of age. A permanent Height Card would then be issued. Any pass cards issued to the dog during the period of the temporary height card will remain valid.

4.4. Vetting Exhibits may be required to be inspected or vetted.

4.5. Measuring Dogs The height of the dog at the withers is to be measured as follows: Height

Category 200 Up to and including 270 mm 300 271 mm up to and including 365 mm 400 366 mm up to and including 455 mm 500 456 mm up to and including 545 mm 600 546 mm and over 5 The Judge may check at random the height of the dog by requesting to sight the dog's Official Height Card and/or utilize an ANKC approved measuring device on a hard level surface. This includes the use of measuring hoops. The dog will be required to compete under this rule in all classes in which it is entered during the current competition. The handler may challenge the measurement for future competitions undertaking the formal measurement process conducted by authorised persons as specified in the ANKC Rules for the conduct of Agility Trials and obtaining an official Height of Shoulder Card duly signed at that measurement.

Proposed change

Rule 4.3

Height Card Prior to a dog competing in a trial for the first time, an Official Height Card,

signed by TWO (ANKC) Agility Judges or other persons approved by the Canine Control specifying the height or the height category of the dog must be obtained. The height of the dog is to be measured at the highest point of the elbow no more than two months before that trial.

The Height Card is valid for the life of the dog if they are over 2 years old or the dog is measured at the 600 Height Category. If the dog is under 2 years old a temporary height card will be issued and the dog will be required to be remeasured when the dog is 2 years of age. A permanent Height Card would then be issued. Any pass cards issued to the dog during the period of the temporary height card will remain valid.

4.4. Vetting Exhibits may be required to be inspected or vetted.

4.5. Measuring Dogs The height of the dog at the elbow is to be measured as follows: Height

Category 200 up to and including 200mm; category 300 201mm up to and including 300mm; category 400 301mm up to and including 400mm; category 500 401mm up to and including 500mm; category 600 501mm and over. The Judge may check at random the height of the dog by requesting to sight the dog's Official Height Card and/or utilise an ANKC approved measuring device on a hard level surface. Can’t use hoops to measure elbows. The dog will be required to compete under this rule in all classes in which it is entered during the current competition. The handler may challenge the measurement for future competitions undertaking the formal measurement process conducted by authorised persons as specified in the ANKC Rules for the conduct of Agility Trials and obtaining an official Height of Shoulder Card duly signed at that measurement.

Rationale

Measuring dogs to the withers puts dogs with deeper bodies and shorter legs at a disadvantage. Measuring to the elbow and working out new measurements would make it much fairer.

4.5. Measuring Dogs

The height of the dog at the withers is to be measured as follows: Height Category

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 200 | Up to and including 270 mm |
| 300 | 271 mm up to and including 365 mm |
| 400 | 366 mm up to and including 455 mm |
| 500 | 456 mm up to and including 545 mm |
| 600 | 546 mm and over |

Proposed Change

4.5. Measuring Dogs

Dogs must not jump a height higher than the length of their withers. The height of the dog at the

elbow is to be measured as follows: Height Category

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 200 | Up to and including 200 mm |
| 300 | 201 mm up to and including 300 mm |
| 400 | 301mm up to and including 400mm |
| 500 | 401mm up to and including 500mm |
| 600 | 501mm and over |

Rationale

Jumping at a height that is lower than or equal to the dog’s withers promotes longevity in the sport for dogs. It is safer for dogs and enables them to participate in the sport longer. This change would reflect recent changes in international programs such as AKC and UKI.

7.2. Entering and Exiting the Ring

On the Steward's call of the dog's catalogue number, the Handler will enter the ring via the entry point, with the dog on lead either carried or walked and follow the Steward's and/or Judge's instructions. The lead and harness or head collar must be removed, the collar may be removed and all items handed to a Steward or may be placed on the ground behind or in a provided nearby receptacle. The steward will remove items after the dog/handler team commences their run.

Proposed change

7.2. Entering and Exiting the Ring

On the Ring Steward’s call of the dog's catalogue number, the Handler will enter the ring via the

entry point, with the dog on lead either carried or walked and follow the Lead Steward's and/or

Judge's instructions. The lead and harness or head collar must be removed. The collar may be

removed. At the discretion of the affiliate club, a Lead Steward may be provided to take the lead

and other items from the Handler, which should be removed and all items handed to a the Lead

Steward or may be placed on the ground behind or in a provided nearby receptacle, or as directed by the Judge. The steward will remove items after the dog/handler team commences their run. The lead and/or flat collar may, alternatively, be carried on the Handler’s person (not in their hand) for the duration of the run. If the lead or related items fall to the ground before the end of the run in a manner that is deemed to have assisted the dog, or that pose a safety hazard, this will result in a disqualification. Leads are not to act as toys or will be judged in accordance with Rule 9.16-i.

Rationale

The option for handlers to carry their lead during a run is particularly useful for remote and rural clubs that do not have enough volunteers to include another role of Steward that needs to be filled and managed. Having Handlers carry leads was demonstrated to work effectively for three years during the temporary change to the rule due to COVID-19 restrictions.

**Amendment to rule in "Guidelines for Judges" Agility trials**

**6. Rates for Classes**

With consideration given to the design of the course, weather and ground conditions, the following rates should be applied:

**Proposed change**

That rates to be made slower to accommodate smaller dogs who are not physically capable of meeting the speeds of larger dogs but are still demonstrating excellent agility skills and teamwork with their handlers.

**Rationale**

Currently there are dog/handler competitors that are not super-fast due to physical size, but are skilled and consistent, who are missing out on qualifications due only to time faults. It becomes disheartening to the competitors who have trained to high levels of the sport, but will never see their dogs reach higher speeds as their bodies are not capable of reaching them.

This proposal will not impact the already fast dogs or their rates of qualification, but we feel a slower rate will allow competitors to have more chances to qualify in their classes. This will encourage more to stay within the sport and continue to move through the class levels.

We understand this is a guideline only and some judges do put a lower rate when considering different aspects of a course, but we believe this should be made a rule for a more equitable sport overall.