

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE REVIEW OF RULES OF TRACKING TRIALS, AND TRACKING AND SEARCH DOG TRIALS

SUBMITTED BY GRAFTON DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB INC

(1) EQUIPMENT

Current rule

(A) All Tracking tests must be conducted with the dog in a suitable harness and a lead of a minimum length of ten (10) metres. The lead must be connected to the harness.

Proposed rule

(A) All Tracking tests must be conducted with the dog in a suitable harness and a lead of a minimum length of ten (10) metres. The lead must be connected to the harness. A suitable harness must allow the dog to move freely and not restrict the dog's posture or freedom of movement in any way.

Rationale

Rather than simply referring to a "suitable harness", we believe the rules should define what makes a harness suitable or unsuitable. This still leaves a great deal of choice in design and material that the harness is made from but would eliminate any style of harness that forces the dog into a particular posture or which can be used to cause discomfort to the dog. It would also avoid the risk of a competitor coming to an event with an unsuitable harness because the rules don't specify what is deemed to be a suitable harness.

It appears that some states ban the use of the IPO style tracking harness (which attaches under the dog's chest with the lead passing between the legs). As the ANKC Tracking Rules apply to all states, it would be helpful to have this rule clarified.

(2) EQUIPMENT

Current rule

(B) All articles used must be articles of clothing, must belong to the Tracklayer, must not be larger than a work sock with the exception of the optional Finish Article, must be inconspicuous in colour and acceptable to the Judge.

Proposed rule

(B) All articles used must be articles of clothing or fabric, must belong to the Tracklayer, must not be larger than a work sock or handkerchief (fabric/handkerchief not to exceed 200 mm x 200 mm) with the exception of the optional Finish Article, must be inconspicuous in colour and acceptable to the Judge.

Rationale

The Introduction to the Tracking Rules states: "... every aspect of the track must relate to a person and, in the case of articles, must be items of personal possession."

In spite of this, the rule referring to articles states that the article "must not be larger than a work sock" and therefore socks tend to be used as articles almost exclusively in tracking trials. In reality, a lost person would be more likely to lose a piece of torn clothing than a sock, so the specific inclusion of handkerchiefs/fabric into the rules would encourage a wider variety of articles to be used.

(3) EQUIPMENT

Current rule

(F) The suitability of all tracking equipment shall be left to the discretion of the Judge.

Proposed rule

(F) The suitability of all tracking equipment *and rewards* shall be left to the discretion of the Judge.

Rationale

Including rewards under the section requiring judge's approval, allows for rewards to be inspected for suitability at the same time equipment is presented to the judge for approval prior to the running of the test.

It enables the judge to check food rewards are effectively sealed and that both food and/or other rewards are able to be fully concealed.

(4) PROPOSED NEW RULE

REWARDS

An end of track reward may be carried by the handler and given to the dog at the completion of the track. Rewards may be either food, a toy or other object that is rewarding to the dog. The reward must be carried by the handler and be small enough to be fully concealed on the handler's person during the running of the track. In the case of a food reward, it must first be placed in a sealed container before being concealed on the handler's person. Rewards must not emit noise to alert the dog to the presence of the reward whilst being carried by the handler.

Rationale

The use of end of track rewards for the dog is not mentioned in the rules. In the past this was interpreted to mean that rewards could not be used. However, now it is interpreted to mean that rewards can be used as there is no rule stating that they can't be used. As a result, different states have adopted different protocols in respect of rewards. We believe it is now time to replace these various protocols with a rule that clearly defines what can be used as a reward (type and size of reward), and who carries that reward on the track..

Different states have differing views on who should carry the rewards. Should it be the Tracklayer, the Steward, or the Handler? There are reasons for and against all of these. We believe that the decision to reward the dog at the completion of the track rests with the handler and the responsibility for carrying and providing that reward should also remain with the handler. However, this would not preclude the handler requesting the tracklayer to give the reward to the dog at the completion of the track if the tracklayer was agreeable to this.

SUBMITTED BY TRACKING AND RESCUE DOG CLUB OF NSW-

It is proposed That bitches in season MAY be allowed to Trial in both Tracking and Tracking and Search Trials.

(5)

That the TRACKING TRIALS and TRACK & SEARCH DOG TRIALS

Rule - EXHIBITS (A) which currently read as follows ::

- (A) Bitches in oestrus or showing a coloured discharge of any sort shall not be permitted to compete in Trials, nor remain within the precincts of a Trial.

Be amended to read::

- (A) Vetting of all bitches prior to competition will mean that bitches in season MAY be eligible, and must be positioned to compete at the end of the day, also be camped in a different area.

Rationale::

Bitches in season are eligible to compete at Championship Shows and in Herding Trials.

Both are sports where dogs and bitches are in close proximity to each other, and use the same grounds and areas. Tracking Trials are held in rural areas where dogs are rarely (if ever) required to come in contact with another dog, and all tracks must have a minimum of 100m between them. At a Tracking Trial if a bitch in season is confined away from other competitors and away from the test areas, their presence won't be disruptive to the other dogs.

Also, the Tracking Season is very short, and it seems unfair that a bitch misses out because she is in season.

SUBMITTED BY Gayle Jarvis

(6)

THAT the regulation for EXHIBITS (A) which currently reads as follows –

- (A) Bitches in oestrus or showing a coloured discharge of any sort shall

not be permitted to compete in Trials, nor remain within the precincts of a Trial.

Be amended to read –

- (A) Vetting of all bitches prior to competition will mean that bitches in season shall be eligible, and must be positioned to compete at the end of the day.

Rationale –

Bitches in season are eligible to compete at Championship Shows and in Herding Trials. Both are sports where dogs and bitches are in close proximity to each other, and use the same grounds and/or areas. (It is not uncommon for an entire male to be crated alongside a bitch in season at a breed show). Tracking Trials are held in rural areas where dogs are rarely (if ever) required to come in contact with another dog, and all tracks must have a minimum of 100m between them. At a Tracking Trial if a bitch in season is confined away from other competitors and away from the test areas, their presence is far less disruptive than those at Championship Shows and Herding Trials.

SUBMITTED BY GRAFTON DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB

(7) EXHIBITS Current rule

- (A) Bitches in oestrus or showing a coloured discharge of any sort shall not be permitted to compete in Trials, nor remain within the precincts of a Trial.

Proposed rule

- (A) All entire bitches must be vetted prior to competition and any bitch in season must run at the end of the day on which they compete. In the event that the trial is held over more than one day, all entire bitches must be vetted prior to the start of competition on each day they are present at the Tracking Trial. If the Tracking Trial is run over multiple days any bitch in season or showing a coloured discharge must either be run at the end of the final day of the Trial, or be run at the end of any other day on ground that will not be used again by another dog at that trial.

Bitches in season are not otherwise permitted on the trial grounds, but are permitted to be kept confined either in the handler's vehicle or campsite in the trial camping area. Bitches in season must be exercised in an area designated by the Trial Secretary and which is not used for exercise or competition by other dogs.

Rationale

As bitches in season can be shown in conformation shows and in herding trials, they should also be permitted to trial at a tracking trial under similar rules to those of herding trials which state:

"Vetting of all bitches prior to competition will mean that bitches in season shall be eligible and must run at the end of the day in Tests and Trials."

In addition, competitors often travel long distances to attend Tracking Trials in rural areas and are required to help set out tracks, lay tracks and steward as well as compete with their own dogs. It is therefore not feasible for competitors to remove a bitch from a trial if she comes in season during the trial without causing significant disruption to the trial as the competitor would then be unable to fulfil the other duties expected of them at that trial. This is especially true if a competitor must leave the trial to return an in-season bitch home when the competitor lives several hours drive away from the trial.

At a multiple day event, competitors who arrive to help set out tracks for the first day of competition, get to run their own dogs on the second day or third day. If their bitch comes in season once at the trial, the competitor may well have assisted with setting out tracks, tracklaying and stewarding and then not be able to track their own dog.

Bitches that come into season unexpectedly during the running of a multi-day trial are unlikely to be a distraction to an entire male dog. Entire male dogs only become interested when bitches become fertile, so it is only a few days of a 3 week season that bitches in season pose a distraction

to an entire male dog. The precautions we have suggested (running an in-season bitch at the end of the trial or on ground which will not be used by another dog during the event) ensure in-season bitches at any stage of their cycle do not disadvantage any entire male dog that is also competing at the event.

SUBMITTED BY TRACKING AND RESCUE DOG CLUB OF NSW-

It is proposed That an Acute Turn MAY be included in TDX Tracks 4 & 5.

(8)Existing RULE AS OF 2014::

TRACKING DOG EXCELLENT (T.D.X.)

Test 4 – Unknown Person.

The Dog is required to track an unknown person for approximately 1,000 metres. The track will have a minimum of 4 changes of direction of between approximately 90 degrees and 150 degrees (refer diagrams 1 and 2). Three articles must be placed on the Track.

The minimum time lapse for the commencement of this Track must be 60 minutes and the maximum 120 minutes, from the time the Track is laid.

A minimum of two articles must be indicated by the dog to obtain a Pass.

The Tracklayer or Finish Article must be found at the end of the Track for a dog to obtain a Pass.

BE AMENDED TO READ

TRACKING DOG EXCELLENT (T.D.X.)

Test 4 - Unknown Person.

The dog is required to track an unknown person for approximately 1,000 metres.

The Track will have a minimum of 4 changes of directions: one of these MAY be between 45 degrees and 90 degrees (refer diagrams 3 and 4) the other changes of directions will be between approximately 90 degrees and 150 degrees (refer diagrams 1 and 2). Three articles must be placed on the Track.

The minimum time lapse for the commencement of this Track must be 60 minutes and the maximum 120 minutes, from the time the Track is laid.

A minimum of two articles must be indicated by the dog to obtain a Pass.

The Tracklayer or Finish Article must be found at the end of the Track for a dog to obtain a Pass.

Rationale::

As some Clubs are struggling to find decent grounds an Acute Turn MAY be used depending on the terrain and size of the tracking ground.

(9) PROPOSAL THAT TRACK AND SEARCH TRIALS BE A SEPARATE DISCIPLINE

It is proposed that Tracking Trials and Track & Search Dog Trials be separate disciplines and the word 'livestock' be replaced with 'other animals' and that the existing Rule - **Eligibility** in the **Rules for Track & Search Dog Trials** which reads:

ELIGIBILITY

A dog must have attained the title of Tracking Champion prior to being eligible for entry into Track and Search Dog Trials.

A dog must be a minimum of twelve (12) months of age to enter in a Track and Search Trial.

Whilst there is no formal obedience assessment, it is understood that because of the possibility of livestock, pedestrian and vehicle traffic, the handler must be confident that they have complete control over the dog.

BE AMENDED to read:

ELIGIBILITY

A dog must be a minimum of twelve months of age to enter a Track & Search Trial. Whilst there is no formal obedience assessment, it is understood that because of the possibility of *other animals*, pedestrian and vehicle traffic, the handler must be confident that they have complete control over the dog.

Rationale::

Over the period since TSD Trials have been introduced the discipline has become a well supported discipline in its own right and it is no longer reasonable to have dogs gaining three titles in Tracking to make them eligible to compete in TSD.

Separating Tracking and TSD is the next step and will allow dogs & handlers to compete in either or both as they wish.

TSD is the only discipline with its own Rule Book that is dependant on a title in another discipline in order to compete. With the introduction of Rally Champion and the ability to gain a Dual Champion with the gaining of both a conformation champion and a rally champion then it is only natural that Track & Search should be treated the same way as many in the past have said that rally is the precursor to or the extension of Obedience but in the rule book it is not dependant on another discipline it stands on its merit as an independent discipline. This is how Track & Search should now be treated.

Amending the word 'livestock' to 'other animals' recognises that a dog tracking may well be distracted by animals other than those usually categorised as 'livestock'.

If the above is approved as a consequence it will be necessary to insert the following sentence into the TSD Rule Book under Titles::

The Member Body will receive applications for the title of "Dual Champion" in connection with each dog which, having gained titles of Conformation Champion and Track & Search Champion (TS CH.)

Rationale:: When Track & Search is approved as a discipline in its own right this clause is required as it is in other rule books.

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE REVIEW OF RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF ENDURANCE TEST

SUBMITTED BY Grafton Dog Obedience Club Inc.

(1) OBJECT

Current Rule

OBJECT

The Endurance Test shall demonstrate the dog's ability to work after being subject to a certain degree of physical strain without showing signs of undue stress or lack of constitution.

Due to the dog's physical structure, such a test can only consist of a dog travelling at a suitable pace for a performance of some lengthy duration, which, it is known places an increasing load not only on its internal organs, such as the heart and lungs, but on many other aspects of the dog's physical structure and temperamental characteristics.

The effortless accomplishment of such a test shall be the evidence as to the physical fitness of the dog.

Proposed rule

OBJECT

The Endurance Test shall demonstrate the dog's ability to work after being subject to a certain degree

of physical strain without showing signs of undue stress or lack of constitution.

Due to the dog's physical structure, such a test can only consist of a dog travelling at a suitable pace for a performance of some lengthy duration, which, it is known places an increasing load not only on its internal organs, such as the heart and lungs, but on many other aspects of the dog's physical structure and temperamental characteristics.

The effortless accomplishment of such a test shall be the evidence as to the physical fitness of the dog.

The aim is for the dog to complete the test in optimum condition. Competitors are encouraged to optimise their dog's condition, temperature and heart rate throughout the test by strapping the dog during rest breaks, including the use of massage and stretching and the use of water to cool the dog.

Rationale

Handlers should be ENCOURAGED to manage their dogs in such a way as to maintain optimum temperature, heart rate and respiration. Cool water might be used to cool a dog while warm water might also be used to remove mud/dirt that could lead to chafing/irritation.

Owners of working sheep/cattle dogs allow their dogs to take a quick dip in dams, creeks and water troughs when working, knowing that it helps the dog to do his job more efficiently by assisting to maintain normal body temperature.

In horse endurance rides (which are competitive events unlike the dog endurance test) any competitor who did **not** take steps to optimise their horse's temperature and heart rate would be considered negligent. Using water for cooling is a key part of maintaining that optimum condition. Horse endurance rides have been around for a long time and are very tightly controlled. Endurance rides use the criteria that a horse must finish a ride "fit to go on". As a consequence there is much knowledge about what is involved in maintaining a horse's optimum temperature and heart rate and minimising stress on the horse.

Handlers should have the same opportunity to optimise their dog's condition when competing in an Endurance Test.

A coveted prize at horse endurance rides is the Best Conditioned Horse award - awarded to the horse that has been best prepared and best maintained during the ride. This encourages riders and their strapper/support team to work at having the horse start the ride in the best condition possible **and maintain that optimum condition throughout the ride**. The strapping of endurance horses in the rest breaks (including the use of water) to maintain them in optimum condition has been the subject of much research and is commonly applied knowledge in endurance riding circles.

Giving a Best Conditioned Dog award (which could be decided by vet and judge) would encourage handlers to prepare their dogs so that they were in the best possible condition (rather than merely sufficient to qualify).

Allowing dog endurance test competitors to use water to cool and/or clean their dogs would then be seen as part of a management plan and encourage handlers to learn more about conditioning and maintaining their dog in optimum condition during the test.

(2) TITLE

Current rule

(2) After qualifying for the "ET" title, it is deemed to be a domestic matter whether or not dogs with a title are allowed to continue to compete.

Proposed rule

(2) After qualifying for the "ET" title, a dog may then compete in a subsequent test to earn the title of Endurance Test Excellent ("ETX") and a dog that has earned the title of ETX may then compete in a subsequent test to earn the title of Endurance Test Master ("ETM").

Rationale

Other dog sports give the opportunity to earn increasingly higher level titles (Obedience, Rally-O, Agility/Jumpers, Tracking, Herding), so giving handlers the opportunity to earn additional Endurance Test titles for their dog brings the Endurance Test into line with other dog sports.

(3) EQUIPMENT

Current rule

(3) The handler may jog the distance, ride a bicycle or use any other form of non-motorised mechanical vehicle with the dog, provided the required speed is maintained. Motor cycles or cars will not be permitted. Should the handler ride a bicycle, a helmet must be worn. The Springer device for attachment to a bicycle is not permitted.

Proposed rule

(3) The handler may jog the distance, ride a bicycle or use any other form of small non-motorised mechanical vehicle or electric powered vehicle (including bicycles, scooters and mobility scooters) with the dog, provided the required speed is maintained. Motor cycles or cars will not be permitted. Should the handler ride a bicycle, a helmet must be worn. The use of a Springer device or other similar bicycle leash attachment is permitted.

Rationale

Electric powered vehicles are silent and do not emit fumes and therefore would cause no problem to other handlers and/or dogs during the running of the Test. As it is the dog, not the handler that is being tested, allowing the use of electric vehicles would give those competitors who are unable to pedal 20 km the opportunity to compete with their dogs. The current rules discriminate against competitors with a disability.

Springers and other bicycle leash attachment devices have been developed for the safety of dog and handler. These devices keep dogs back from the front wheel and out from the rear wheel reducing/eliminating the risk of a dog being severely injured by becoming entangled in the spokes of the wheel, especially when the bicycle is moving. From the handler perspective, with the dog safely attached to the bicycle, the handler is then able to ride safely with both hands on the handlebars.

The current rule provides no safe options.

Riding with **both** hands on the handlebars while also holding the dog's leash in one hand is extremely dangerous as the handler is at great risk of a fall should the dog suddenly lunge forward, sideways or stop, pulling the handlebars and turning the front wheel sharply to the side.

Choosing to ride **one** handed to avoid the risk of the dog suddenly pulling the handlebars and wheel to one side is equally risky. Very few modern bicycles have a back pedal brake and bicycles are factory set so the rear wheel hand brake operates via the left handlebar and the front wheel hand brake via the right handlebar. With the leash in the left hand and the right hand controlling the handlebars, there is a very real risk of an accident as the rider applies the right hand brake only (which operates the front wheel brake) causing the front wheel to lock up and the rider to be thrown from the bicycle.

Bicycle brakes are intended to be applied to both the front and rear wheel at the same time to safely bring the bicycle to a stop. There is no safe way to do this with both hands on the handlebars and the leash in the hand, or with the right hand only on the handlebars.

Bicycle leash attachments eliminate this risk. Also, when using a bicycle leash attachment, in the event of a fall, the dog is far enough away from the bicycle to prevent injury to the dog.

This change would also affect:

Current rule

(2) The leash must be long enough to be held in either hand so that the dog may adjust itself to the cyclist or runner. The dog shall travel at a suitable pace on the leash on the left hand side of the handler or bicycle.

Proposed rule

(2) The leash must be long enough to be held in either hand, or attached to a bicycle leash attachment, so that the dog may adjust itself to the cyclist or runner. The dog shall travel at a suitable pace on the leash on the left hand side of the handler or bicycle.

SUBMITTED BY GAYLE JARVIS

(4) THAT the regulation for EQUIPMENT (3) which currently reads as follows –

(3) The handler may jog the distance, ride a bicycle or use any other form of non motorised mechanical vehicle with the dog, provided the required speed is maintained. Motor cycles or cars will not be permitted. Should the handler ride a bicycle, a helmet must be worn. The Springer device for attachment to a bicycle is not permitted.

Be amended to read –

(3) The handler may jog the distance, ride a bicycle or use any other form of non motorised mechanical vehicle with the dog, provided the required speed is maintained. Motor cycles or cars will not be permitted. Should the handler ride a bicycle, a helmet must be worn. The Springer device for attachment to a bicycle is permitted.

Rationale –

Tethering the dog by Springer to the bicycle reduces the risk of the dog colliding with the front wheel of the bicycle. The spring mechanism also alleviates any sudden unbalancing of the bicycle allowing rider to remain upright when the dog may be distracted. Springer attachments stabilize the bicycle and allow the rider to avoid mishaps. So if the rider in front of you stops for the dog to toilet, or skids on the uneven surface, or slows in pace unexpectedly, or another competitor zooms passed you in order to catch back up in line or at times when rabbits/birds are in view of the dogs – all these things disrupt the flow. All these things can easily lead to accidents - the safety of both dog and rider must be considered.

SUBMITTED BY GRAFTON DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB INC

(5) THE TEST

THE WILLINGNESS TEST

Current rule

(2) Prior to the commencement of the 20 km run, a short Willingness test will be conducted (to include a recall) on or off the lead. At the completion of the run and after the final 15 mins rest period, a short Willingness test will be conducted (to include a recall) on or off the lead.

Proposed rule

(2) Prior to the commencement of the 20 km run, a short Willingness test will be conducted where the dog will be asked to trot in a triangle with its handler, similar to that required in the show ring, to demonstrate that the dog is willing to go with and remain with the handler. At the completion of the 20 km run and after the final 15 mins rest period, a second short Willingness test will be conducted to demonstrate that the dog is still willing to go with and remain with the handler.

This change will also require a change in the GUIDE TO JUDGES:

GUIDE TO JUDGES

Current rule

(1) The Willingness test is to be conducted in groups of approximately four (4). The test is to consist of heeling forward a short distance, followed by a right about turn and continued heeling for a short distance before coming to a halt. It is not necessary for the dog to sit. The dog must show a willingness to remain with and obey the handler. The heeling is to be followed by a short recall, on or off the lead. The judge shall keep in mind that this is a test of the dog's willingness to work and to obey the handler, not an obedience test. The standard of the work after the 20 kms must be similar to that before the start of the test. If the dog works on or off the lead for the Willingness test prior to the 20 kms, it is to be the same for the second Willingness test.

Proposed rule

(1) The Willingness test is to be conducted individually. The dog will be asked to trot in a triangle with its handler, similar to that required in the show ring, to demonstrate that the dog is willing to go with and remain with the handler. At the completion of the 20 km test and after the final 15 mins rest period, a second Willingness test will be conducted to demonstrate that the dog is still willing to go with and remain with the handler. The standard of the work after the 20 km must be similar to that before the start of the test.

The Veterinarian is also to observe the dog during both Willingness tests. This allows the Veterinarian to comprehensively observe any gait abnormalities or lameness when the dog is moving - from the rear, side on and from the front.

Rationale

Whilst the name of this test has been changed from "Obedience" to "Willingness", the test remains the same. The test normally requires the dog to heel and come when called. Most show dogs are not trained to carry out these exercises and it is a significant deterrent for show dog handlers wanting to earn an ET title for their dog.

Asking the dog to demonstrate willingness by trotting a triangle allows both the Judge and the Veterinarian to observe the dog. It allows the Judge to see that the dog is willing to go with and remain with the handler and also allows the Veterinarian to comprehensively observe any gait abnormalities or lameness when the dog is moving - from the rear, side on and from the front. Abnormalities of gait are also more easily detected at the trot.

Show dogs will be able to do this test, which is a normal part of showing, and obedience and other performance dogs will simply be asked to heel at fast pace in a triangle, making it a test that is accessible to all dogs.

(6) THE TEST

Current rule

(3) The test shall be a 20 km run to be covered in three legs 8 kms, 6 kms, and 6 kms,

Proposed rule

(3) Dogs with a height of 400 mm or less shall be required to complete a 14 km test covered in two legs of 8 km and 6 km. Dogs over the height of 400 mm shall be required to complete a 20 km test covered in three legs of 8 km, 6 km and 6 km.

Rationale

All other dog sports make allowance for the size of the dog with jump heights, etc. In the Endurance Test a Chihuahua is asked to complete the same test as a German Shepherd Dog. A 20 km test shouldn't be very demanding for a German Shepherd Dog, Kelpie, Border Collie or other active dog, but is a major test for a small dog.

It has been observed that dogs under approximately 400 mm height need to run to maintain the 10 kph average speed required in the test, whereas dogs over approximately 400 mm are able to trot at that speed. As the trot is an energy efficient gait, the test disadvantages those dogs that must run to complete the test.

The test could be 14 km (to utilise the current distances and breaks) or 20 km depending on the size of the dog (dogs 400 mm or under to complete 14 km and dogs over 400 mm to complete 20 km). That way a Shetland Sheepdog completing a 14 km test, for example, would be on a more equal footing with a German Shepherd and Border Collie which could be expected to complete 20 km.

Dogs would be required to be measured and issued with a height certificate as is currently required in Agility/Jumpers and Rally-O and the dog's height given on the entry form.

SUBMITTED BY GAYLE JARVIS

(7) THAT the regulation for THE TEST (3) which currently reads as follows –

(3) The test shall be a 20 km run to be covered in three legs 8 kms, 6 kms, and 6 kms

Be amended to read –

(3) The test for dogs up to and including 365mm in height shall be a 14 km run in two legs 8km and 6kms, for dogs 366mm and over in height shall be a 20 km run in three legs 8 kms, 6kms, and 6kms

Rationale –

Smaller breeds should not be disadvantaged by expecting them to travel the same distance as the larger breeds. Many small breed owners fail to consider attempting the Endurance trial when they realise that their smaller statue dogs are expected to do the same distance and the same rate of travel as much larger breeds. By reducing the distance, but leaving the rate of travel as is – will afford these members the opportunity to compete, with little or no disruption to the other dogs.

SUBMITTED BY GRAFTON DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB INC

(8) THE TEST **THIS IS A CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE IF CHANGE TO OBJECTS IS APPROVED**

Current rule

(16) A dog will have failed the test if it:

- (a) lacks physical condition, or
- (b) shows signs of undue stress or tiredness, or
- (c) fails to complete the distance within the allotted time, or
- (d) requires artificial means to reduce its body temperature, or
- (e) fails to complete the Willingness exercises.

Proposed rule - delete 16 (d)

(16) A dog will have failed the test if it:

- (a) lacks physical condition, or
- (b) shows signs of undue stress or tiredness, or
- (c) fails to complete the distance within the allotted time, or
- ~~(d) requires artificial means to reduce its body temperature, or~~
- (d) fails to complete the Willingness exercises.

(9) INSPECTION

Current rule

(1) A veterinary certificate, issued within fourteen (14) days immediately prior to the date of the test, must be submitted, for each dog on the day. It shall cover such things as the general fitness, temperature, standing heart rate, condition of the pads and muscle tone of the dog. (For bitches the certificate is to state also that the bitch is not in whelp).

Proposed rule

(1) The owner of an entire bitch must provide a Statutory Declaration stating that the bitch is not in whelp.

Rationale

These same checks are carried out before the start of the test, so the veterinary certificate represents an unnecessary expense to handlers and serves no purpose. Dogs would have been in work for some time in preparation for the test, so this requirement does not protect unsound dogs from being prepared for the test. As the current cost of a veterinary certificate is in the vicinity of \$60 - \$75, it adds significantly to the cost of entering an Endurance Test, without there being any benefit in relation to the health and welfare of the dog.

(10) JUDGING **THIS IS A CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE IF USE OF ELECTIC POWERED VEHICLES IS APPROVED**

Current rule

(2) The judge shall judge no more than twenty (20) dogs and shall travel with the dogs, either walking, bike riding, jogging, or using any other form of non-motorised mechanical vehicle.

Proposed rule

(2) The judge shall judge no more than twenty (20) dogs and shall travel with the dogs, either walking, bike riding, jogging, or using any other form of small non-motorised mechanical vehicle or electric powered vehicle (including a bicycles, scooter and mobility scooter).

(11) GENERAL RULES

Proposed new rule - SAFETY STEWARDS

(8) Safety Stewards must be appointed so that either:

- (a) competitors are visible to a Safety Steward at all times during the test.
- (b) a Safety Steward must accompany the dogs during the test

Safety Steward/s should carry a 2-way radio or mobile phone that enables them to remain in contact with the Trial Secretary or other nominated club official at all times. The Safety Steward's role is to prevent incidents or accidents where possible, to render assistance to handlers and dogs where required during the test and to seek first aid, medical, veterinary or other assistance if required.

Rationale

Clubs set out their Endurance Test course in a variety of ways. Some have a fixed course that involves riding a number of laps of the same course with stewards placed around the track so that the competitors are visible to a steward at all times during the test. Other clubs run their tests utilising public roads and cycleways and incorporate long loops (eg a 8 km loop for the first leg and a 6 km loop for the remaining two legs) which makes it virtually impossible to have sufficient stewards to supervise the whole of the track.

The option of either a number of Safety Stewards strategically placed around a fixed course or a Safety Steward who accompanies the riders ensures there is a Safety Steward available to render assistance and/or contact other club officials for assistance at all times if needed.