



# AGILITY COMMITTEE

## POLICY & PROCEDURES

### -Clubs

**Agility procedure and policy not otherwise documented in NZKC Agility Regulations  
or Show Regulations**

updated January 2016

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## **Introduction**

This Policy and Procedure handbook has been created to provide NZ Agility clubs ,competitors and personnel, with information related to Agility matters.

It is the intention that all matters not otherwise provided for in AGILITY Regulations or other NZKC rules/regulations be provided for in this handbook.

## **Compliance**

These policies and procedures have been developed over the years as a result of the experience of many people and clubs, and have been determined to be the best practice available at the time. They will be improved and updated from time to time.

With this in mind, it is the intention that all clubs and individuals comply with the policies and procedures outlined.

Deviation from these policies and procedures is not advisable. If any person/group think the policy or procedure is inappropriate or needs to be changed/updated they must consult the Agility Committee first.

## **NZKC Agility Committee Contacts**

For any further information, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Agility Committee.

Details can be found on **[www.dogagility.org.nz](http://www.dogagility.org.nz)**

## **Provision of Grants to Clubs**

### ***Policy:***

The Agility Committee will make grants available to clubs. These will be for a variety of purposes. Full details are provided on the application forms available from the Agility Committee website.

The following grants are currently available to Clubs:-

- Club Night grant – Club night or club day, as a way for clubs to encourage new members.
- Club Training grant- The aim of the grant is to assist clubs to offer additional regular training to local agileers, at their club on a normal training night to supplement existing training classes.
- This grant is for a trainer from another club, to provide training at a nearby club for up to 4 nights of training. Each night must have at least 2 hours of training. The training is to be regular over a short period of time.
- Equipment Grant. This is a general equipment grant from the Agility Committee.
- Measuring clinic subsidy - to apply for a travel subsidy for measurers attending a Club measuring clinic.
- Promotional Club Grant (displays)- Clubs can receive a payment of \$200 (from 1st April 2014) when they publicise and promote agility during a public agility display. Criteria include providing a report for publication.
- Ribbon Trial- Judges Travel Subsidy form Clubs can apply for a subsidy when contracting judges for Ribbon trials. NB: Judge can be from any panel.
- Seminar Grant Form - Usually applies to a one or two day training opportunity.

### ***Procedure.***

The Agility Committee offers grants for a variety of purposes. From time to time it will update the list of available grants and the amount payable on grants.

Clubs will apply using the official form.

The Agility committee secretary will acknowledge receipt of the grants application form.

Payment will be made by the Agility Committee Treasurer. Payment will only be made to a Club.

## Training dogs.

### **Policy.**

Dogs under 18 months cannot compete in an agility event (even non-competitively). A policy has been formulated as regards what age dogs can be introduced to certain pieces of equipment. This is written in the regulations. A copy of the table is reproduced below.

10.1.1.2 Code of Practice for training agility dogs less than 18 months of age.					
Age of dog	Recommendations for Obstacles (maximum)				
	Where there are mixed ages the min will apply	Jumping	Long Jump	Elevated equipment	Weave poles
<12 mths		Jump height max: Carpal (wrist) height	Max number of units, all heights: 1	Slightly elevated using mini table or equivalent height.	Bending of the dog is permitted over 4 poles max.
12-16 mths		Jump height max: Elbow height	Max no. of units: Micro: 1 unit, Mini: 1-2, Midi: 2-3, Maxi: 3-4	Slightly elevated using maxi table or equivalent height	Gradually move to 12 poles in a straight line.
16 mths +		Gradual increase to competition height	Gradual increase in length of long jump to competition length.	Competition height permitted	12 poles in a straight line permitted.

## **Region Meetings and competitions.**

### **Zone Meetings**

#### ***Policy.***

Whilst the traditional Zone meetings are no longer required under the NZKC Agility structure, regulations allow for Zones to hold informal meetings as may be required to discuss NZDAC, local competition etc.

#### ***Procedure.***

A group of clubs will call a Zone meeting.

These meetings may take any form suitable for the Zone including teleconference or by email agreement.

Any person residing in the Zone may and should be encouraged to attend a Zone meeting.

Chairperson. A member of the Agility Committee may be invited to Chair the meeting.

### **Interclub Competitions**

#### ***Policy.***

A Regional Interclub day is designed to be a fun day which allow all clubs and their members to get together in an environment that is more social and less competitive than normal Events.

the Interclub can be as formal or informal as each Region wants to make them and is to include any mini-assembly held in a region.

Interclub Days should be inclusive events and should be designed to encourage and support new handlers.

Changes to the below policy will be by way of majority vote of delegates from each Zone club.

***Procedure.***

Time, Frequency and Venue of Interclub

The Timing of any interclub is to be mutually agreed and decided by the host clubs each year. The venue is also at the discretion of the host clubs.

Rules for Interclub

Any Interclub event must be run according to the NZKC Agility Regulations.

The format for an interclub day will be set by the host club.

## Regional/Zone Awards

### **Policy.**

Regions traditionally offered a range of awards for Agility. The Agility Committee continues to support these, including financially.

### **Procedure.**

Only members of that Zone's clubs are eligible for these awards.

Zone awards are calculated during one full calendar year, and prize giving is as soon as practicable after the results are tabulated

Changing Zone Awards Policy. Changes to the below policy will be by way of majority vote of delegates after consultation with clubs.

### ZONE ONE AWARDS.

Valdemar Inter Club by Lesley & Ian Gray
Zwingburg Top Dog by Annaliese Hamilton
Zwingburg Runner Up Top Dog by A Hamilton
Zwingburg 3rd Top Dog by DATA
Marilyn Anderson Memorial Top Starter Dog by DATA
Starter Dog Runner Up by Keith Roberts
Starter Dog 3rd by DATA
Maxi Dog 1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> by DATA
Midi Dog 1st by Sandra & Paul Warner
Midi Dog 2nd and 3 <sup>rd</sup> by DATA
Santa Gray Top Mini by Lesley & Ian Gray
Mini Dog 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3rd by DATA
Top German Shepherd by APGSDL



## Veterans Trophy by DATA

For the records, points are allocated to the top 10 place getters for any agility event (ribbon or champ). These points go to the individual dog as well as that handlers nominated club (for the club award).

Points are awarded as follows: 1st – 20, 2nd – 17, 3rd – 15, 4<sup>th</sup> – 12, 5<sup>th</sup> – 10. 6<sup>th</sup> – 7, 7<sup>th</sup> – 5, 8<sup>th</sup> – 3, 9<sup>th</sup> – 2, 10<sup>th</sup> – 1

Usually presented at the Counties Easter Event...

## ZONE THREE AWARDS

The trophies are for the dogs whose handlers are members of a Zone 3 club, which have accumulated the highest number of points in Championship Events anywhere in NZ during the calendar year.

### **POINTS SYSTEM:**

First.... 5pts / Second.... 4pts / Third.... 3pts / Fourth .... 2pts / Fifth ...1 pt

The awards are calculated using the Agility Committee website “year to date” league. Where dogs are tied on points, the dog with the most number of clear rounds will be declared the winner. If they are still tied, the trophy will be shared.

### **AWARDS.**

A plaque and ribbon for the winner.

- Top Starters/Novice dog
- Top Novice/Intermediate dog
- Top Intermediate/Senior dog
- Top small dog.
- Top Jumpers dog

Additionally a ribbon for the runner-up

## Unruly or Aggressive Dogs

### ***Policy.***

At any Agility fixture, the NZKC Show regulations with regard to the exclusion of dogs unfit for exhibition due to disease or savage disposition apply. An Agility fixture is defined in the regulations as a Championship or Open Event, Agility Ribbon Trial, Interclub or Club Day.

### ***Procedure.***

Where there is an issue with a dog and its behaviour at other than the above agility fixture, (eg club training), the club hosting the training is responsible for any preventive or disciplinary action. The club is however encouraged to seek guidance from the Agility Committee if in any doubt as to possible corrective or preventive measures it may wish to employ.

The NZKC Agility Committee has put together a method in which investigation of any incident either on club grounds or at a club organised fixture (excluding Events under the provision of the NZKC Show Regulations) is to be done. This is attached to these Standing Orders as Appendix I

Where such action is taken, a copy of any written material should be forwarded to the Agility Committee for its records.

## **Club's complaints procedure.**

This procedure is designed to help clubs deal with "in house" complaints not arising from any NZKC sanctioned event. It is not designed to be contrary to, or take the place of, the procedures for complaints arising from an NZKC Event as defined under the NZKC Rules and Regulations.

Where possible, matters that can be resolved informally should be so resolved if all parties agree. It is preferable that matters not be allowed to escalate due to time delays in procedure.

In the event that a Club receives a formal complaint, specific action should be taken to investigate the complaint promptly, appropriately and fairly.

### Natural Justice

Clubs should observe the processes of fairness and natural justice, covered within this document. We offer you this extract from a Court judgement of Lord Justice Lawton in *Maxwell v Department of Trade and Industry* [1974] 2 All ER 122 where he said:

"From time to time ... lawyers and judges have tried to define what constitutes fairness. Like defining an elephant, it is not easy to do, although fairness in practice has the elephantine quality of being easy to recognise. As a result of these efforts a word in common usage has acquired the trappings of legalism: 'acting fairly' has become 'acting in accordance with the rules of natural justice', and on occasion has been dressed up with Latin tags. This phrase in my opinion serves no useful purpose and in recent years it has encouraged lawyers to try to put those who hold inquiries into legal straitjackets.... For the purposes of my judgment I intend to ask myself this simple question: did the [decision-maker] act fairly towards the plaintiff?"

Fairness and natural justice do NOT mean the club cannot hear a complaint, come to a decision, and impose a penalty. But the club must act fairly.

### Rules

Each club must make sure it operates in accordance with its own written rules. Those are what gives the club the power to operate. For the benefit of all involved, the rules should include the formal aspects of a complaints procedure. If a club is not sure that their rules are adequate, they are welcome to consult the NZKC Executive officer.

## Disputes Committee

Each club should have a Disputes Committee made up of the President and/or Vice-President and between 3 and 5 other members who should also be members of the club committee. However knowledgeable non-committee members may be included and in addition, an external knowledgeable person may be appointed to this committee at the time it is convened.

Any member of the Disputes Committee with a conflict of interest in a matter should stand aside for that matter. In a club where everyone knows everyone it may not be obvious when a conflict of interest exists. When in doubt, seek advice.

The President may wish to nominate an external person to chair meeting/s.

## Timing

The Disputes Committee should be convened within 21 days of the complaint being lodged with the club. In any event, all reasonable steps should be taken at the time of the alleged event, to prevent a recurrence of the behaviour on which the complaint is based prior to the Disputes Committee being convened.

The club may ask that some person/s or dog/s do not attend events (for example, weekly training) until the Disputes Committee meets.

## Investigation

The President of the Club (or Vice-President in his absence) may appoint two members of the Disputes Committee to investigate the circumstances surrounding the events reported in the complaint. If appointed, these investigators will conduct the following interviews and write up a report to be completed a minimum of 48 hours prior to the date and time of the Disputes Committee Hearing.

If appointed, the investigators will interview:

- the complainant
- the respondent (the person accused) and
- any witnesses to the event

A support person may be present with each party while they are interviewed if desired.

The investigators will advise all parties of the necessity of confidentiality and consequent breaches.

The investigators will prepare a report regarding the facts of the situation based 'on balance of probabilities'. The report will include:

- the basis of the complaint
- the response of the respondent to the allegation(s)
- a summary of any information provided by witnesses
- any reasons why one persons evidence is preferred over another's
- details of the investigation
- when appropriate, any recommendation to the organisation about how to prevent this type of thing happening again

#### Disputes Committee Hearing

Notice of the date and time of the hearing shall be provided to all parties no less than 7 days prior to the hearing taking place. Both the complainant and the respondent shall in addition, be given copies of the report from the investigators at least 24 hours prior to the hearing date and time.

The President of the club, Vice-President in his absence, or any other person nominated by the President, will Chair the Hearing. Meeting decorum must be strictly observed during the Hearing process with all comments/statements being directed to the Chair.

#### Rights of the Respondent

The respondent must be given the opportunity to:

- understand that the investigation/hearing is unbiased, where both sides have the right to be heard
- know what the complaint is about and who it is made by
- respond to the complaint and have their account heard

## Decision Making

The committee will:

- receive the investigators report
- consider the report
- provide the complainant and the respondent with the opportunity to respond to it and comment on what they feel is appropriate action
- determine whether the complaint is to be upheld
- determine what (if any) disciplinary action is appropriate
- determine if any changes are needed to the way the policy and procedures are put into practice

## Possible disciplinary actions

These may include:

- verbal or written apology
- a letter of reprimand
- restrictions on the freedom of dogs on the grounds
- exclusion from the grounds of dog or handler
- temporary suspension
- any other measures the disciplinary committee considers appropriate and is within their Club rules/Constitution
- a combination of any of the above

## Record keeping

A confidential record must be kept of formal complaints. This record should include a record of the investigation, the decision of the Disputes Committee and what action was taken. A copy of the record of any upheld complaint should be forwarded to the NZKC Agility Committee (and NZKC Obedience Committee if appropriate).

## Retaliation

Retaliation against an individual who has filed a complaint, participated in any procedure under the policy, or been associated with a person who filed a complaint, will be treated as harassment and will not be tolerated.

## Support for the parties involved

The Club will ensure that both the complainant and respondent has the opportunity to have access to appropriate support. The support person or people are also bound to confidentiality.

Everyone has the right to seek advice.

## Confidentiality

All parties involved in the investigation of complaints are required to keep any and all information on the complaint confidential during the course of the investigation and should be advised that ongoing confidentiality may be required.

Clubs must adopt a privacy policy. An example could be: This club collects some information about members, who have a right to inspect and correct any inaccuracies. Where a complaint is made, a record will be kept of the complaint and any decision reached. People have rights under the Privacy Act.

## Right of appeal

The club must adopt a policy on appeals. It should be worded similarly to the following example.

*Either the complainant or the respondent may appeal against a decision or penalty. An appeal in writing must be lodged within 14 days of the decision or penalty being imposed. The party lodging the appeal must write to the club and the NZKC, stating their grounds for appeal. The NZKC will consider the matter fairly and render a decision in good time.*

A club adopting this policy can take it as read from this document that NZKC agrees to be the appeal authority. A club may adopt an alternative appeal policy as long as it is fair.

## **Control of Dogs**

### **AT EVENTS**

#### Recommendations for Clubs

- Provide clearly defined entry and exit holding areas for all rings
- Ensure a minimum of 5m between adjoining rings
- Ensure callboards are placed in an area where there is as little congestion as possible
- If possible provide an second unattended callboard at a second location
- Add grounds policy to prevent dogs being tied up and left unattended
- Keep a tent-free 5m perimeter around ring edges
- Provide lead runners to ease handler exit from the rings
- Remind handlers of their responsibility to have control of their dogs at all times.

#### Recommendations for Judges

- Have a minimum of 7m between the ring edge and the first and last obstacles on courses to allow handlers to have sufficient room to set the dog up within the ring boundary and to have the dog under control prior to exiting.
- Regulations provide sufficient distance between the first and last obstacles on a course to prevent finishing dogs interfering with those about to start



## Recommendations for Handlers

Ensure that at all times all dogs are either contained in a crate/vehicle or trailer or on lead unless toileting them or warming up

Do not stake or tie out and leave unattended, any dog in any position on the Event grounds where they are able to lunge out at dogs or people.

Pay attention to your dog while walking them on lead and keep the lead short enough to prevent them causing problems for people/other dogs passing

Take care with the use of flexi-leads to ensure that they do not extend to the point where they pose a hazard to others.

When dogs are off-lead ensure that they are directly and visually attended at all times

Show courtesy in the warm-up ring and do not stand talking or walk through the warm up area unnecessarily with dogs (either on or off lead)

Muzzle any dogs which have given or may give cause for concern in terms of biting or rushing at other dogs or people

Bring your dog into the ring on lead. Have your dog under control (ie on lead) prior to leaving the ring. Do not allow your dog to charge out of the ring under any circumstances

Do not throw toys for your dog in congested areas or into a group of other dogs. Do not leave toys and food unattended around the ring edge

## **AT CLUB AND TRAINING**

### Recommendations for Clubs

Provide sufficient room for all classes without having them interfering with each other for space

Educate all handlers of their responsibilities re control of their dogs in general

Have clear grounds policy regarding the tying up of dogs and when/where on the grounds dogs may be off-lead. This policy should discourage handlers from staking or tying out and leaving unattended any dog that is not involved in the training class in a situation where they are able to lunge out at dogs or people, or be otherwise disruptive.

Ensure all instructors know the grounds policy and pass it on to their students

Encourage all instructors to lead by example in their own control and containment of their dogs

Foster good relationships between all club members to enable open discussion of potential problem areas/issues

Welcome input from all members on the safety and control of dogs on the grounds

#### Recommendations for Instructors

Set a good example in the way you control your own dogs

Be clear with your students as to what is expected in terms of off-lead areas/time before, during and after class

Remind any student of what is required quietly if they are at all inappropriate with the control of the dog

Encourage ongoing training and reinforcement of basic manners and control throughout the dog's time at club

#### Recommendations for Handlers

Seek help from your instructor if you have any issue with regard your dog in and around others

Ensure that your dog is under control in accordance to your club's grounds policy at all times

Pay attention to your dog while walking them on lead and keep the lead short enough to prevent them causing problems for people/other dogs passing

When dogs are off-lead ensure that they are directly and visually attended at all times

Show courtesy to other classes

Bring your dog into class on lead and have it on lead when it is not actually working

Teach your dogs excellent basic manners

Do not throw toys for your dog in congested areas or into a group of unknown dogs

Take care with the use of flexi-leads to ensure that they do not extend to the point where they pose a hazard to others

## **Mini Assembly (Agility)**

### **Introduction**

A Club runs the Mini Assembly on behalf of the Region.

### **General Format**

The Club runs the Assembly and it must be conducted along the general lines agreed to. Any radical departures require the approval of a consensus of Regional clubs.

The rules and regulations of the NZKC shall be upheld at all times during the Mini Assembly.

### **Essential Elements**

The Assembly has the following essential elements

The Inter-Club Agility competition

The Inter-Club Obedience and Agility combined competition

### **Host Club and Venue**

The honour of hosting the assembly is on rotation through the Regional clubs. The host club will select a suitable venue.

### **Judges**

A Mini Assembly is classified as an Inter-Club event. These regulation state that an Inter-Club event may be judged by any person not being a disqualified person under the Rules and Regulations of the NZKC.

Historically, the Mini Assembly has had the same consideration as would a CAE. Therefore the host club should endeavour to contract Senior Agility Panel Judges.

### **Team Entries**

Club teams shall be submitted by the club secretaries to the host club for entry into the Inter-Club competitions on official NZKC entry forms as is the requirement for CAE, with the entries closing on the Friday of the weekend 3 weeks prior to the date of the Mini Assembly.

### **Catalogue**

#### **The catalogue will include:**

- Agility Inter-Club score sheets for each class and a summary score chart standard layout.

- Combined discipline Inter-Club score sheets for each test/class and a summary score chart standard layout

### **Catalogue distribution**

A copy of the catalogue will be provided free to:

- All Judges
- All competitors
- Team captains
- Club Presidents

Sufficient catalogues should be produced for sale.

### **Ribbons and Sashes**

- Ribbons for 1<sup>st</sup> place in all classes, stating:  
Mini Assembly (*year*), Winner (*name of the/class*), Sponsors name or logo if any
  
- Ribbons for winning team members in all three competitions stating:  
Mini Assembly (*year*)  
Agility or Combined Obedience & Agility  
Winning Team  
Sponsors name or logo if any

### **Perpetual trophies**

Inter-Club agility shield

Inter-Club combined discipline shield

## **Scoreboard**

Scoreboards should be provided of sufficient size to show the score of each separate class, as well as to show the running totals of clubs in the teams event

## **Disputes Committee**

A disputes committee must be appointed prior to the Assembly to hear any disputes arising.

## **Announcer**

The host club should provide an announcer (ideally using a P.A. system) to introduce each competitor on entry to the competition ring and to announce the winners.

## **Inter-Club format**

- Team photos - allow 1/2 hour
- Shields to be placed in the ring and team sashes (if requested by the sponsor) to be arranged for the presentation.
- Teams to be assembled ready to enter the ring.
- Agility teams enter the ring led by the trophy holders (teams to consist of 4 agility members only) followed by the host team with the order of the remaining 3 teams decided by the host club.
- Inter-Club trophies received by a representative of the host club
- Team sashes presented by sponsor representative and host club representative (if requested by the sponsor)
- Speeches if any
- Teams file out of the ring, order the same as entry.
- Competition to start no later than 30 minutes later.

## **Agility Judging Order**

Start with Starters, then Novice, Intermediate, Seniors

Starters - host club first, then the remainder in geographical order south from host, then north to south. The sequence is regardless of dog size. The club that ran last in the previous test runs first in the next, with the remainder in the same sequence

- Starters team members and judge enter ring for introduction
- At completion of Starters class the winner is presented with a ribbon by the judge, the winner does a lap of honour round the ring.
- Novice introduction, competition, winner presentation
- Intermediate introduction, competition, winner presentation
- Senior introduction, competition, winner presentation

### **Trophy Presentations**

- Teams to be assembled ready to enter the ring in finishing order and line up behind flags or shields.
- Trophies presented.
- Club representative from the host club for the following year issues general invitation to club presidents to attend the next Mini Assembly.
- Thanks to the organising committee, and sponsor
- Teams leave the ring after a lap of honour by the winning teams
- Sponsors product (if any) to be handed out to team members as they leave the ring, by the sponsor representative or their nominee.

### **Rules for conduct of Inter-Club Agility Competitions**

Inter-Club competition shall be scored on a scale of points awarded on placings.

### **Allocation of points**

Points will be allocated to each handler according to their placing in the nominated class i.e. 1st = 1 point, 2nd = 2 points etc.

### **Equal individual scores (Agility)**

In the case of equal faults and equal time for first place there will be a run off.

If dogs are tied on equal faults and equal time for places other than first, they will receive a formulated ranking by adding the rankings and dividing by the number of dogs (e.g. if 2 dogs are tied in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, both dogs receive a ranking of 2.5)

### **Team total**

The points gained by each of the handlers are added to form a team total.

### **Winning team**

The winning team is the team with the lowest total of points.

### **Tie**

In the event of a tie between 2 clubs at the conclusion of the competition the club with the lowest accumulated number of faults will be the winner, if still tied the club with the fastest accumulated times will be the winner.

### **Composition of teams**

Agility: The teams shall each consist of 4 handlers and 4 dogs, selected to compete in the four approved agility classes. Minis, midis and maxis are eligible.

An exception to this would be if a club can show evidence that there are insufficient competing members able to attend the mini assembly in that discipline to field a full team. Under these circumstances the club may put forward a team consisting of less handlers and multiple dogs or select a dog from the pool.

### **Pool dogs**

The host club will take names of handlers prepared to offer their dogs as replacements if needed. If two or more clubs require dogs for the same class, the pool dogs will be selected by ballot for each club.

### **Eligibility to enter**

Dogs must be eligible to compete in the appropriate class on entries closing date.

### **Replacement dog**

If a team dog is unable to compete, a replacement may be chosen from any eligible dog, from the same club, present at the Mini Assembly or a dog may be chosen from the Pool. The Team Captains and Event Manager are to be consulted before any replacement takes place.

### **Reasons for withdrawal**

Dogs may not be withdrawn from the teams competition for any reason other than the following:

Sickness and/or disability of the dog certified by a veterinary certificate, which should be presented to the Event Manager.

Sickness and/or disability of the handler

### **Scoring**

Scoring/Judging will be as per NZKC rules.

### **Scoring elimination (Agility)**

The scoring will be as for a standard agility event, except that eliminated dogs must complete the course with additional faults added and receive 50 faults for each elimination.

### **Posting Scores**

The completed test scores will be posted prior to the next competitor being announced to enter the ring.

### **Rules for the conduct of Inter-Club Combined Discipline Competition**



## **Scoring**

The allocation of points taken from the final team placings from the two individual discipline events i.e.:

1st Team in Ob or Ag = 1 point, 2nd Team in Ob or Ag = 2 points, etc.

## **Winning Club Teams**

The combined total of the two disciplines points will determine the winning Club.

The winning team is the team with the lowest total of points.

## **Tie**

In the event of a tie between 2 or more clubs at the conclusion of the competition the club with the highest placings in both disciplines will be declared the winner.

In the event that this still results in a tie the Trophy will go to the club with the highest combined total of Team Obedience Scores minus Team Agility Faults.

## **Policy on Kennel Cough.**

“Kennel cough” or “Canine cough” symptoms (usually coughing, unusually more severe) can be caused by many different organisms, each with its own epidemiology, onset of clinical signs, time for resolution, etc. Because of this variability it is very difficult to ascertain with absolute certainty if a dog has been exposed to an infectious agent and poses a risk to other dogs or not. There are vaccinations which will protect against some of the organisms, but not all.

Based on feedback received from the NZ Veterinary Association (Companion Animal section) the Agility Committee advice is:

- If your dog is coughing you should assume it is infected and could infect others.
- Dogs that are old or non-vaccinated are most at risk.
- To minimise the chance of a dog becoming infected ensure adequate ventilation, reduce stress, ensure
- good nutrition and give vaccination boosters during periods of risk.
- Dogs that are not coughing and have not had direct contact with a coughing dog, can be assumed to be clear and not infected.
- Actions you can take to minimise the spread:-
  - Don't take coughing dogs to events/training until at least 2 weeks after signs have gone.
  - Keep your dog away from coughing dogs.
  - Don't let dogs share toys, balls, food bowls etc (saliva) .
  - If your dog has been in direct contact with a coughing dog, but shows no symptoms, you should be cautious about allowing contact with other dogs for 2 weeks.
- Vaccinate dogs to give them some protection.

## **Recognised Qualifications of the New Zealand Kennel Club**

Only the following prefixes and suffixes relating to agility can be used in catalogues and certificates for New Zealand Kennel Club events:

- Agility Dog (AD), ADX, ADX Advanced Bronze (ADXAB), ADX Advanced Silver, ADX Advanced Gold
- Senior dog (SN), SNX , SNB, SNS, SNG
- Ag.Ch, Ag.Gr.Ch
- Jumpers Dog (JD), JDX, JDB, JDS. JDG
- Jumpers A Excellent (JAX), JAB, JAS, JAG
- JCh, JGrCh
- Games dog (GD), GDX, GM