



AGILITY COMMITTEE

POLICY & PROCEDURES

Measuring

**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**

Measuring dogs for agility.

General

Policy.

All dogs taking part in agility events in NZ must be measured. Dogs are classified as micro, mini, medium and maxi according to their height, and are issued a permanent number based on that height.

Procedure.

NZKC Agility Committee appoint measurers to conduct official measuring of dog's heights for Agility. Types of measurers include:- Trainee, Assistant and Main. Those people listed as approved official Measurers with the Agility Committee may conduct official measuring sessions. All dogs must be measured by two official measurers, the Main measurer and the Assistant measurer. These two people will both measure the dog and come to an agreement on the height to be officially recorded (see process to follow below) . It is the Main measurer's responsibility to supply the certificate and stick, and to complete any administration requirements. Both measurers will sign the certificate. Neither measurer is to be the owner or part-owner of the dog.

Most Main measurers are issued with a certified measuring stick. All measuring sticks registered to official measurers are the same, and any request for repair, replacement or modification must be reported to the Agility Committee. No official measure is to be conducted on anything other than an official measuring stick

Measuring sessions may be organised by Clubs or measurers. Ideally these will be held at every event, and they will also be advertised so that people may attend. Additional measuring clinics may also be held at club events or on training nights. These may double as training sessions where young dogs will attend to learn to stand for measuring, and where those learning to be measurers will gain practical experience.

Handlers receive a certificate from the measurers which records, amongst other things, the dog details, its height and date of the measure.

Height information is entered directly on to the website database where the dog has a permanent number. For ribbon trial only, or interim measures a separate spreadsheet is kept.

When dogs are registered with NZKC the owner is expected to update details with the Agility Committee.

There are various documents which outline the procedure required to become a measurer, as well as the method to be followed when measuring a dog.

Dogs that change height.

Policy.

Where a dog's height decreases between their interim and permanent by 10mm or more the dog must be remeasured.

Procedure.

These changes may be picked up during the final measure by comparing it to the interim measure on the interim Measuring certificate. It will also be picked up during the administration process. An alert has been set up which is sent to the Measuring administrator when this occurs.

Review of dogs heights.

Policy.

The Agility committee has put in place a procedure whereby an owner can request a re-measure of their dog.

Procedure.

A procedure for this has been formulated and is outlined below.

Criteria for a re-measure of a dog's Permanent height measure.

Permanent measure.

The measurement of a dog attained by measurers at two years of age is the dog's measure for life. It is assumed that all dogs, at two years of age, were the height that is recorded on the height database, and that the correct procedure in place at the time was followed.

Re-measure timeframe.

A person may apply to get any dog's permanent measure repeated within six months of the original permanent measure. They may only apply to have a dog re-measured once in the dog's lifetime.

Re-measure procedure.

The application must be made on the correct form, and be accompanied by supporting evidence. The application must demonstrate beyond the balance of probability that the dog's height recorded at the time was incorrect, or that the dog's height has changed in the six months since the measure.

The evidence must prove that

- an administrative error occurred - the height written on the measuring certificate or recorded on the database is not the height the dog measured
- the dog's height has changed in the 6 months from when the permanent measure was done
- incorrect measuring procedure was followed

Evidence should include:- the original height card or records from the measurer who originally measured the dog to show there has been an administrative error. Other evidence could include changes in the dog's weight, or reference to variations from the accepted measuring protocols in place at the time. The applicant should include any other supporting evidence that they feel is relevant.

The evidence would be further investigated before any action could be taken to re-measure the dog.

Consideration of re-measure by Agility Committee.

The Agility Committee will not consider any application for a re-measure where the measure was performed more than 6 months previously, except in cases where there has been an administrative error. A re-measure will not be granted on the grounds that the dog is having trouble jumping the correct jump height, or the dog looks the wrong height. The Agility Committee will consider all the evidence supplied and decide if the database should be altered or if the request for a re-measure is valid. Where it is decided that a re-measure is required the following process must be followed.

Process for re-measure.

1. The Agility Committee will nominate two main measurers who are to perform the re-measure.
2. The dog must stand correctly and still. If it does not, then a re-measure will not go ahead and the current height will stand.
3. Correct protocols must be followed (tick sheet).
4. Correct surface and environment – Quiet, a flat surface which must be checked using a spirit level.
5. A third person (a representative of the Agility Committee, also a measurer) must be present and act as an auditor and completes the tick sheet.
6. Only those people required for the re-measure are to be present.
7. If the final measure is within 2mm of a height cut-off, and would change the height category of the dog, a further re-measure must be done (by two different measurers) to confirm the new height before any change becomes official. If there is no agreement then a third and final measure will decide.
8. A report is produced for Agility Committee.

The application form is available on the website.

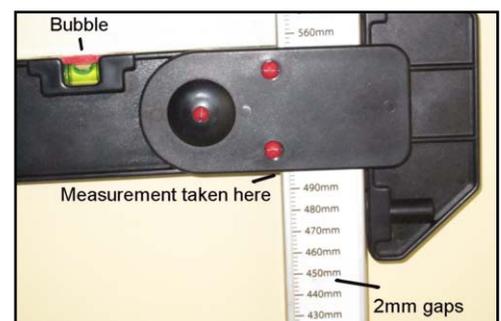
P1002 Protocol for measuring dogs for NZ agility

Policy.

The Agility Committee has formulated a procedure for the measuring of dogs. This can be downloaded from the website.

Procedure.

1. A standard procedure has been established. This is to ensure everyone follows the same processes, and uses the same equipment to produce a consistent result.
2. **Choose a suitable quiet location and flat surface.** The measurement of dogs must take place in a suitable quiet location such as a separate tent, and not in the presence of other dogs, or handlers. Measurement must be carried out on a solid and level non-slip surface. A concrete or wooden floor is ideal, and a table may be used. A wobbly table is not suitable, nor is a grass surface.
3. **Stand the dog correctly.** The handler may hold the collar or head of dog, reward it and talk to it, but must not physically hold the dog in position. The dog must stand in a natural stance, with its weight placed squarely on all four legs. Front feet parallel and vertical, with the head held naturally by the dog – the chin will be approximately level with the back. Back feet should also be parallel, with a vertical line from the hock to foot. Wait till the dog is relaxed before measuring. Beware dogs that sag by dropping the shoulder or angling the elbows outwards. You may need to spend some time talking to the owner and the dog, giving the dog some treats or touching it gently before commencing the measuring process. Do not even consider measuring when the dog's stance is unsuitable or the dog is moving around. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure their dog will stand to be measured, and a process for teaching this is available (Handout is available)
4. **Identify the place where the measure will be taken.** Feel for the top of the shoulder blades and be sure the blade sits flat across this part of the dog. The shoulder blades must both be the same height if the dog is standing correctly. Dogs with differing structure or carrying some weight might carry their shoulder blades less prominently. If the stick is placed in front of or behind this area the measure will be incorrect.
5. **Take the measure.** The crossbar should be sitting well above the dog's back. Do not take a measure from the very end of the stick. To ensure the crossbar is horizontal view the bubble from the top window. Bring the measuring stick in towards the dog, with the stick close to the dog's foreleg. Ensure the stick is also vertical and not on a lean. Slide the crossbar down carefully until it makes gentle contact with the shoulder blades, whilst ensuring the bubble remains in the window. Ensure you do not upset the dogs stance. Remove the stick from the dog and record the measure. Measure to the nearest 2mm.
6. **Repeat the measure.** Repeat #3 and #4 above. If the dog moves between measures, repeat the process from #2 above. The dog can be measured six times/measurer.



- 7. How to decide on the measure to be recorded.** Each measurer will evaluate their measures of the dog based on the criteria above. They then choose the three which best meet the criteria and average them, without consultation with the other measurer. Both measurers will then compare their averages. Where the averages differ by **2mm or less**, the average of those two measures will be recorded as that dog's official measure. Where the range is **more than 2mm** the measuring process will end at that time. The dog can be re-measured later during the same session, or at another date.

Administration by Main Measurer. Write out a height certificate for the dogs measured. Record all details for transfer to the official spreadsheet provided by the Agility Committee, retaining a copy for your own records. The owner receives the height certificate, and the Main measurer forwards all details to the Agility Committee (ideally within 14 days of the measure). Interim certificates are issued to dogs under 2 years of age. Certificates are marked Ribbon trial only where dogs are not registered with NZKC. Once these dogs become registered with NZKC all data should be forwarded to the NZ Agility Committee (there is no requirement to remeasure unless the dog is under 2 years). Give the Permanent number information card to owners.

Difficulties. If the dog appears stressed or if a measurer cannot get three good measures out of six attempts, cease measuring and rest the dog. If a measurer gets heights that differ vastly, check that the stance of the dog is correct. There is no point continuing with the measuring process if the dog does not stand correctly. The dog might be more co-operative if the handler stands back or goes away, take the food away, or move other dogs/people further away. If dog is still not co-operative halt the process and advise the owner to try at another time or on another day. Give them advice about teaching their dog to stand/accept the measure stick. If the dog shows signs of extreme nervousness or aggression the measurers may refuse to measure the dog and must advise the Agility Committee. If there is any dispute over any measure do not issue a certificate and report the matter with all accompanying detail to the Agility Committee for a decision.



Any queries regarding the measuring process, must be addressed to: NZKC Agility Committee

Photo – An example of a dog standing straight and square. Note the vertical lines showing good front and rear leg position (Note: the dog's head is slightly higher than ideal)

Policy on becoming a measurer.

The measuring of dogs for agility is a very important task that needs to be carried out with precision, sensitivity and impartiality. The Agility Committee has adopted a protocol on the measuring of dogs (P1002A). Two measurers are required for each official measurement of a dog, a Main measurer and an Assistant. The roles of each are outlined in the protocol on the measuring of dogs.

This outlines the process of becoming a measurer. Application will be considered on an individual basis and preference will be given to applicants from areas where there is more need.

The process.

1. Complete Part one of Application form and send the information to the Agility Committee. A list of approved measurers is available on the website and you should liaise with them to organise measuring sessions.

2. Complete Part two
 - a. Attend two practical sessions, which are verified on the application form. This may be in a real or simulated session. During the practical session an approved measurer will discuss operation of the stick, ideal environment for measuring dogs, the correct stance, correct procedure for measuring, the administration of measuring and the regulations that relate to measuring. During this time the applicant should also be given the opportunity to touch the correct place on the dog's back for placement of the measuring stick.
 - b. Pass a short oral test on the measuring protocols and any regulations applicable to dog heights and measuring. This is to ensure the applicant has read the documents "2011 getting dog ready to be measured for agility" and the "P1002.A Measuring of Dogs Protocol Oct 2011"
 - c. Assist with the measuring of at least 10 dogs at one or more measuring sessions with approved measurers. The number of dogs measured and the dates of the measuring sessions are verified on the application form. This can be either in a real or a simulated measuring situation. Dogs used may have already been measured, be too young to be measured, be Club member's dogs, or even the measurer's dogs. In a real situation there will also be a Main and assistant measurer present. In a simulated session only one Approved measurer needs to be present.

3. Once these criteria have been met, send your application to become an assistant measurer to the Agility Committee. Once this is approved you may assist with measuring dogs.

4. Once a further 20 dogs have been measured in real measuring situations you may apply to the Agility Committee to become a Main measurer. The following will be considered when a person applies to become a Main measurer:- the opinions of existing main measurers that you have measured with in regard to your techniques and attitudes to dogs, clubs and owners, as well as the need in a particular area.

5. The Agility Committee reserves the right to seek opinions of the Main measurers that have attended the sessions, and also to distribute measuring sticks and therefore appoint Main measurers and assistant measurers depending on need in an area.

Policy on Use of muzzles.

The Agility Committee advises that muzzles may be used on dogs if the measurers decide it is appropriate. All other protocols regarding the measuring process, dog stance etc still apply (May 2016)

Getting your dog ready for measuring.

Policy:

The agility committee decided owners may need information on how to train their dogs for measuring.

Procedure.

A pamphlet outlining the various requirements of the dog has been published, and can be downloaded from the website

sniff the stick, and reward. Then, holding the stick in front of him, position him correctly and treat. Move the stick slowly down one side, across his back and down the other side, reward. Move the stick again and stop it, reward. Add a little bit of pressure and reward him for staying put. Once your dog is comfortable then ask others to measure him. Organise a practice measure at club where many dogs may get "pretend" measures by strangers.

The finer points of measuring.

Ensure your dog has done some exercise prior to being measured. A dog that has just gotten out of the car is often very excited, stand on the tips of his toes and very unlikely to stand still. Play with the ball a bit or let him work off that full head of steam before bringing him in to be measured. This may mean that you need to be at the venue well ahead of time, so plan your time accordingly.

The measurers should have organised a measuring location that is away from the hustle and bustle of the event. There may however be others lined up nearby getting ready to be measured. If you have a male dog ensure that he is not overly attracted by attractive girl dogs nearby. If he is feeling sexy he will stand on his tip-toe to impress the girls and the measure will be taller. Ask the owners of the girls to move off a little and refocus him. If your dog is shy try to ensure he is not crowded by other dogs and any more people than required. Just ask them nicely to move a little. It may help if the measurer gives your dog some treats, tickles him in his favourite spot, or plays tug with him before the

measure - anything that might help relax your dog.

If your dog is overweight, a fat pad might sit just above and around the scapulas and this will mean that your dog could measure taller than if he was skinny and the fat pad was not there.

If your dog is unwilling to stand do not prop him up. By lifting him up from the chest between the front legs, or by lifting him up by the head and neck, you will raise his whole front end and thus raise the measure. A gentle touch of the chin may be all that is required, and some encouraging words.

How can clubs help?

- Ensure handlers know the regulations regarding dogs that are 18 months old and two years old.
 - Ensure foundation training includes
 - Handling by strangers
 - Standing and Stay stands on ground and raised surfaces such as table.
 - Correct position and Foot placement by handlers
 - Organise practice measuring sessions for young dogs
 - Organise measure clinics at clubs or at events
- Clubs could contract measurers and schedule a measuring clinic before the event begins.

by Karen de Wit 873c

Article inspired by "Measuring: what's the big deal?" Alison Bryant - Clean Run April 2007

AGILITY COMMITTEE
JULY 2011

Getting your dog ready to be measured for agility

Your dog will need to be measured for agility before it starts to compete at 18 months old, and again at 2 years old, for its final measure.

The measure is important as it will dictate how high your dog will have to jump.

Some dogs may obviously be macros or micros, but others may be border-line and it is important that your dog is measured correctly so that it doesn't jump too high or too low.

www.dogagility.org.nz

So your dog needs to be measured for agility...what should you do?

How dogs are measured.

A measuring stick is placed over the dog's withers (that point of the dog's back over the top of the shoulder blades, which is the highest point of the front leg). The withers are stationary even when the dog's neck moves up and down. If the measure is taken from the neck in front of the wither the measure could be tall and if taken from the back below the wither the measure could be short. Two measurers will measure your dog. They will each take 3-6 measures and then will record your dog's height, give you a certificate and send the details to the NZAC database.

How should the dog stand?

The dog should be placed square/rectangle ie. if a line was drawn on the ground between the four feet it would look like a square or rectangle. The forelegs should be directly under the dog, straight and perpendicular to the ground. The hindlegs are placed under the hindquarters, and the hocks should be straight and perpendicular to the ground. The head is about level with the line of the back. You can hold your dog's head but don't force your dog to stand up, he must support his own weight evenly.

What does your dog need to do?

If your dog is comfortable with the measuring process the measure will be more accurate. Your dog needs to:-

- stand still for a reasonable period of time, up to a few minutes.
 - maintain the correct stance with all four legs square.
 - be comfortable with strangers touching him
 - be comfortable with a stick being placed nearby and touching him
- If your dog is not comfortable during the measuring process, it will be more difficult for the measurers to get an accurate measure. Your dog might lean away or fiddle with his feet, go tense and stand tall, cringe and measure short. This will result in a protracted and difficult measuring session. A relaxed dog will measure accurately and the measuring session will be short and easy.

As an owner it is helpful if you:-

- Teach your dog that strangers touch are Ok (hand targeting may help)
- Have a variety of people touch your dog from the time it is a puppy
- Ensure handling is fun, providing lots of food rewards
- Practice standing your puppy from an early age and rewarding him for keeping still
- Ensure the introduction of a stick etc is not scary but something that precedes a food reward. Take lots of yummy food and use it during the measure process.

ing the measure process.

A relaxed dog will only need a few measures, as the measurer will get similar/exact measures whereas a stressed, poorly trained dog will require more measures. This will take longer, the measures may vary greatly and the measurer will find it difficult to work out what is your dog's true height. If the measurer has made six attempts and is still not satisfied, they should advise you to take your dog away and bring it back when it is more relaxed and able to stand.

Teaching a stand.

If the dog is sitting show him a treat and move it away from his nose parallel to the ground. The dog should follow the food and stand up. Click and give him a reward. After some practice the simple act of moving your hand will encourage him to stand. Once he will stand when asked, teach him to allow you to place his feet correctly. Take the foot, pick it up, gently place it and say "stand stay". If the dog doesn't move the foot then click and treat. Practice this for all 4 feet. Once he will stand you can teach him to stand in different places - on the deck, on a table etc.

Once he can stand nicely then ask him to rest his head in your hand. Ideally the head should be about the same level as the back, so that should guide you as to where to hold your hand. Using a clicker this will be easy to teach (it is a hand targeting exercise)

The next step is to add a measuring stick or something similar (a ruler solotaped at right angles on to a stick for example). Let the dog

