



**NZKC AGILITY COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 40438  
UPPER HUTT 5140**

## **CONTROL OF DOGS AT CLUBS AND SHOWS**

Due to recent occurrences within the public arena, dogs are once again in the spotlight in New Zealand in a less than positive way.

The NZKC Agility Committee has discussed this along with surrounding issues and has come up with the following set of recommendations. These should ensure that our shows and club training are run in such a way as to avoid issues with dogs which are not adequately controlled.

You will see that these guidelines are set up in various sections to provide recommendations for all parties involved in Agility to take responsibility to make our shows safe and enjoyable places to be.

The NZKC Agility Committee is reluctant to over-regulate our sport and would prefer that all parties within it, take responsibility to ensure the control of all dogs on club and show grounds.

If however, any incident should occur which the Show Committee or instructors feel needs to be dealt with, there are a range of options available to help. Do not hesitate to contact the Agility Committee for assistance or advice in this regard.

NZKC Agility Committee  
PO Box 40438  
UPPER HUTT 5140

## AT SHOWS

### 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.
- Have distance segregation 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 Show 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 the what is required quietly if they are at all inappropriate with the control of their dog
- Encourage ongoing training and reinforcement of basic manners and control throughout the dog's time at club

### Recommendations for Handlers

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