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Aggressive Dog

Incident process for show managers

In August 2023, the Agility Committee held the inaugural 'Agility Clubs' Conference' in Auckland (see NZ Dog World October 2023). The conference provided valuable resources and information on many topics, including the 'dogs on report' process. Here's a step-by-step process for managing reports of aggressive dog(s) at a dog Agility show:

1. Access the form: Visit www.dogagility.org.nz, the Agility website and locate the 'Report an aggressive dog incident' (the link is in the list to the right of the home page).

2. Notify the Deputy Show Manager and your club's Disputes Committee: If the event occurred at a Championship Show, inform the disputes committee about the report received, seeking advice and assistance in gathering any necessary information.

3. Notify the Deputy Show Manager and your club's committee: If the event occurred at a Ribbon Trial, the Show Manager may choose to inform the club committee about the incident to seek advice and assistance in gathering any necessary information.

4. Complete the form:

- Fill out all sections of the form.
- Obtain a written statement from the complainant.
- Inform the owner of the accused dog(s) about the complaint as soon as possible.
- Obtain a written statement from the owner of the accused dog(s) and inform them of Show Regulation 20.13.4.3 (<https://dogsnz.org.nz/pdfs/regs-show.pdf>).
- Obtain written statements from any witnesses.

5. Email the report form: Email the completed report form to the email address provided at the bottom of the form within 48 hours.

6. Enforce Regulation 6.7: Under Agility Regulation 6.7 (<https://dogsnz.org.nz/pdfs/regs-agility.pdf>), the Show Manager has the authority to exclude or remove any dog from the competition if it is deemed unfit due to disease, menacing

disposition, or any other cause.

7. Regulation 20.13.4.3: The owner of the aggressive dog(s) must be informed of Show Regulation 20.13.4.3 (<https://dogsnz.org.nz/pdfs/regs-show.pdf>) as soon as possible, before the next run of the accused dog(s). This regulation states that any dog(s) excluded from a competition is ineligible for exhibition at any recognised fixture for seven days from the date of exclusion, until permission is granted by New Zealand Kennel Club (Dogs New Zealand).

8. Communication: If the Show Manager is unable to inform the owner of the accused dog(s) during the show (the owner may have left after the incident), they must contact the owner via phone after the show has concluded and before any following show that weekend. If no statement was obtained earlier, it should be taken at this time or emailed to the Show Manager. The owner must be informed of Regulation 20.13.4.3, emphasising the situation and the implications for their dog(s) as per New Zealand Kennel Club regulations. Additionally, they should be notified that the complaint will be emailed to Dogs New Zealand for further review following that weekend's show. We would expect this to be within 48 hours. Being timely, accurate and having clear communication is essential to ensure transparency and fairness in handling the complaint.

Once all the above has been completed, the Show Manager's responsibilities have concluded. The report will now be handled by the New Zealand Kennel Club. 🐾

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