

## **Agility community survey for review of the heights and split class regulations**

**Note: This survey will be made available for completion online in February 2012**

New regulations relating to dog height classes and a split height competition were introduced to our sport in July 2010. At this time the Agility Committee undertook that a review of these regulations would be carried out on or around July 2011. In October 2011 the Agility Committee released a Terms of Reference for how this review would be carried out (<http://www.dogagility.org.nz/news.html>). This survey is the first phase of formally seeking feedback from the agility community on their views on the heights and split competition regulations now that they have been in effect for 18 months. There will be several other consultation opportunities to follow.

The survey is intended to seek the opinion of all agiliteers on the aspects of the heights and splits regulations that they are happy with, and those (if any) that they think need reviewing. It will guide the heights review sub-committee on the areas on which they focus their attention moving forward.

We would value the participation of as many agiliteers as possible in the survey. Even if you are completely happy with the existing competition format it is very important that this is expressed. The heights review sub-committee does not intend further reviewing areas of the regulations where the agility community does not indicate review is required. Please note – **you do not have to answer every question** in the survey if you do not want to.

As outlined in the Terms of Reference document, the three areas that have been identified for initial review are 1) Dog height classes and jump heights, 2) Split classes and 3) Graduation and titles.

We welcome any additional comments you may have at the end of the survey.

Thank you for your time!

## **PARTICIPANT DETAILS**

**Name** (in order to ensure that each person completes the survey only once):

**In which zone do you reside?**

- a) Zone 1
- b) Zone 2
- c) Zone 3
- d) Zone 4
- e) Zone 5

**What height class of dog do you predominantly handle?**

- a) Micro
- b) Mini
- c) Midi
- d) Maxi
- e) Mini/micro
- f) Midi/maxi
- g) A different combination of heights

**How long have you been involved in the sport of dog agility?**

- a) Less than 1 year
- b) 1 to 2 years
- c) 2-5 years
- d) 5-10 years
- e) More than 10 years

## **DOG AND JUMP HEIGHTS**

**Thinking about the safety of dogs in agility, which statement best reflects your level of satisfaction with the current jump heights?**

- a) Very satisfied – I think jump heights are now safe for all dogs and no further review is required.
- b) Quite satisfied - there will always be some dogs that struggle, but I think jump heights are now safe for the majority of dogs and no further review is required
- c) Somewhat dissatisfied – jump heights are safe for dogs in some height groups but unsafe for others and therefore further review is required
- d) Very dissatisfied – the majority of dogs are still jumping an unsafe jump height and therefore further review is required
- e) I do not feel qualified to comment
- f) Other

**Thinking about fairness and equity of competition in agility, which statement best reflects your level of satisfaction with the current jump heights?**

- a) Very satisfied – I think the current jump heights provide for a fair and equitable competition for all dogs and no further review is required.
- b) Quite satisfied - there will always be some dogs that struggle, but I think the current jump heights provide a fair and equitable competition for the majority of dogs and no further review is required
- c) Somewhat dissatisfied – the current jump heights have improved fairness and equity of competition for some height groups, but made it worse for others and therefore further review is required
- d) Very dissatisfied – current jump heights make competition unfair and/or inequitable for the majority of dogs and therefore further review is required.
- e) I do not feel qualified to comment
- f) Other

**If there were to be changes to the height regulations to address safety and/or equity and fairness of competition, what area do you think these should focus on?**

- a) Changes to the heights of dogs in each height group
- b) Changes to the height of jumps
- c) Both a and b
- d) I do not feel qualified to comment
- e) Other

**If there were to be changes made to the heights of dogs in each height group which of the following scenarios would you prefer to see?**

- a) No dog should jump higher than it does currently
- b) Dogs at the upper end of the current height groups could jump higher
- c) A gradual change – new dogs entering the sport could jump higher
- d) Height groups revised completely – this may require large numbers of dogs to jump higher or lower.
- e) I do not feel qualified to comment
- f) Other

**If there were to be changes made to the height of jumps, which of the following scenarios would you prefer to see?**

- a) Use existing lugs only
- b) Modify the lugs on the jumps
- c) I do not feel qualified to comment
- d) Other

## **SPLIT HEIGHT COMPETITION**

**Thinking about fairness and equity of competition, which statement best reflects your level of satisfaction with the current split height competition regulations?**

- a) Very satisfied – I have no issues relating to fairness and equity of competition under the current split height regulations and no further review is required
- b) Quite satisfied - there will always be some dogs that are disadvantaged but fairness and equity of competition has been improved for the majority of dogs. No further review is required.
- c) Somewhat dissatisfied - fairness and equity of competition has been improved for some dogs OR for some shows, but made worse for others and therefore further review is required
- d) Very dissatisfied – competition is not fair and/or equitable for the majority of dogs and further review is required.
- e) I do not feel qualified to comment
- f) Other

**If there were to be changes in the split height competition regulations, which of the following scenarios do you prefer?**

- a) All heights compete against each other for one set of prizes
- b) All classes at all competitions must be split regardless of entry numbers
- c) Decrease the number of dogs required for splitting a class
- d) Increase the number of dogs required for splitting a class
- e) I do not feel qualified to comment
- f) Other

**Even where competition is split do you think mini and micro dogs should compete together as one group?**

- a) Yes – always compete together regardless of entry numbers
- b) Only compete together if there are small numbers of each height
- c) No – competition should be split for mini and micro regardless of numbers
- d) I do not feel qualified to comment
- e) Other

### **QUALIFYING THROUGH CLASSES AND OBTAINING TITLES**

**Thinking about the existing split height regulations and how dogs graduate through the classes, which of the following statements best reflects your views?**

- a) The current regulations for graduating are appropriate
- b) It is now too easy to graduate through the classes
- c) It is now too difficult to graduate through the classes
- d) It is now too easy for some height groups and too difficult for others to graduate through the classes
- d) I do not feel qualified to comment
- e) Other

**If the way that dogs graduate through the classes were to be reviewed, which of the following options do you favour? (You may select more than one option)**

- a) Increase the number of wins required to graduate
- b) Using clear rounds, rather than wins, as a method of graduation
- c) Using a combination of wins and clear rounds for graduating
- d) Wins to count for graduation only if a set rate of travel (metres per second) is achieved
- e) Restricting the number of events/classes available in a year
- f) I do not feel qualified to comment
- g) Other

**In a split height competition which statement best reflects your views on the ability of dogs to gain champion titles?**

- a) The current regulations for gaining champion titles are appropriate
- b) It is now too easy to gain champion titles
- c) It is now too difficult to gain champion titles
- d) It is now too easy for some height groups and too difficult for others to gain champion titles
- e) I do not feel qualified to comment
- f) Other

**If there is support for the methods for gaining champion titles to be reviewed, which of the following options do you favour? (You may select more than one option)**

- a) Increase the number of challenge certificates required
- b) Increase the number of clear rounds required
- c) Award challenge certificates to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place getters only if a set rate of travel (metres per second) is achieved
- d) Award qualifying certificates to every dog that achieves a minimum rate of travel (metres per second) which might mean more than two challenges are handed out per class.
- e) I do not feel qualified to comment
- f) Other

**Other comments:**