Agility

Where Do Your Levies Go?

Levies at Work: Training, Equipment, Promotion, Progress

Every week across Aotearoa, club members turn up to train dogs, run classes, set courses, haul gear, and make Agility happen. Clubs carry most of that load themselves — financially and practically. Levies simply help support the work already being done.

A portion of levy income goes straight back to clubs through grants and subsidies. Another portion keeps the administrative backbone of Agility running: the systems, standards, and co-ordination that make the sport safe, consistent, and nationally aligned.

Clubs support themselves to a large degree, and grants and subsidies help them get over the line financially when extra costs arise. They're there to lighten the load, not replace the mahi clubs already put in. 🐾

Training Grants: Building skills and confidence

Club Training Grant If your club brings in an outside trainer for extra sessions, this grant helps cover some of the cost so members can access quality instruction.

Clubs can claim:

- Mileage at 60c/km, up to $60 per training night
- A one-off $20 for printed training material
- Trainers must be external, with three sessions minimum, each two hours or more.

Evidence of costs is required, and cancelled sessions must be refunded within 14 days. Applications are assessed twice yearly — 1 June and 1 December.

Club Train-The-Trainers Grant This grant helps clubs bring in outside expertise to upskill their own instructors, giving members clearer, more consistent teaching.

Covers:

- Airfares and/or mileage at 60c/km
- Written material costs
- Up to $200

Applications are considered in June and December.

Equipment Grants: Keeping dogs safe on course

Agility gear works hard — weave poles get broken, jump cups crack, and contact surfaces need regular attention. This grant helps clubs maintain safe, modern equipment for members and their dogs.

Clubs may apply for:

- 50% of the cost of new or replacement equipment
- Up to two grants per year, capped at $1000 annually.

It's one of the most direct ways levy funding supports the dogs you train and compete with.

Applications close 1 June and 1 December.

"Clubs already do the heavy lifting. Levies just help with the extras."

Travel Subsidies: supporting judges, measurers & COF assessors

Ribbon Trial Judge Travel Subsidy Judges give their time and expertise. This subsidy helps clubs support them.

Covers:

- Airfares and/or mileage at 60c/km, up to $200, or the contracted amount if lower
- Per judge, per show

Apply one month prior.

Measurers' Travel Subsidy For measuring clinics (not competition measuring), clubs can claim:

- Mileage at 60c/km, up to $200 per measurer.

Apply one week prior, and clinics must be pre-approved.

COF Assessors' Travel Subsidy For full COF inspections:

- Mileage at 60c/km, up to $200 per inspector
- Maximum two inspectors, once per full inspection
- If done at a show, 50% of mileage is paid.

The COF must be loaded into the AC site before payment.

Promotional Grants: Sharing Agility with the public

Club Promotional Grant When clubs take Agility out into the community — demos, displays, public events — this grant helps cover the cost of showcasing the sport.

Clubs may claim:

- $200 per event
- Up to two grants per year

One promotional grant per year may also be awarded to a non-Agility club promoting Hoopers, provided they've held at least one qualifying event that year.

Apply within six weeks of the event.

Seminar Grants: Bringing learning to your region

Club Seminar Grant For clubs hosting seminars to help handlers and dogs learn, grow, and connect.

Covers:

- Airfares and/or mileage at 60c/km
- Written material costs
- Up to $200

To be eligible, clubs must:

- Produce a flyer with club name and logo.
- Advertise at least one-month prior.
- Share with local clubs and on Dog Agility NZ Facebook
- Obtain AC pre-approval
- Provide evidence of costs.

Applications close 1 June and 1 December.

Participation Matters: Being part of the Agility whānau

To be eligible for financial assistance, clubs must participate in all structured training sessions, conferences, and club support programmes provided by the Agility Committee. This ensures levy funding supports clubs that actively engage in the wider Agility community.

Before you submit any application

Check that you have completed all of the requirements of your application before submitting and attach all necessary documents. This helps avoid delays and ensures your club receives funding as quickly as possible.

Budget limits mean we occasionally need to consider which option best supports the wider Agility community.

Administration: The part you don't see, but benefit from

Not every levy dollar goes out as a grant. A percentage supports the administrative systems that keep Agility running smoothly nationwide.

This includes:

- Maintaining COF, levy, and judge/measurer systems
- Co-ordinating structured training and development
- Ensuring national safety and equipment standards
- Supporting communication, governance, and operational oversight

It's the behind-the-scenes work that allows clubs to focus on dogs, training, and fun.

Levies at Work: The bigger picture for members

Levies help fund:

- Better training opportunities
- Safer equipment
- Skilled judges and measurers
- Stronger clubs
- Public promotion of Agility
- Regional learning
- The administrative backbone of the sport

From puppies learning tunnels to seasoned teams chasing clear rounds, levy funding helps keep Agility growing, improving, and running forward — for you, your club, and your dogs.

"In the end, levies help clubs do what they do best — keep dogs on course and the sport moving forward."

Off Course with Chris

Well, we are straight off the back of ACOD where history was made. Things went digital with the introduction of electronic voting — so much better than having to sit there and go through a roll call for every single remit… Oh yeah, and then there was that other thing.

A few months back, one of our Agility clubs put forward a nomination to EC for a Life Member candidate. Obviously, these things are kept under wraps until the actual announcement at ACOD.

When you are tasked with making sure the nominee actually shows up to the meeting while keeping them completely in the dark, it really makes you question your morals. The sheer level of deceit required to pull it off is impressive.

Oh hell, who am I kidding? Everyone knows I have no morals, so I was perfect for the job.

The one and only Mr Peter de Wit, who we all know, was invited to Wellington to give a presentation to the AC (or so he thought). He turned up on the morning of ACOD, and we casually told him we just needed to attend the opening session before getting stuck into his presentation. I mean, that bit wasn't a total lie, it was *his* presentation, just not quite the way around he was expecting.

It wasn't until I stood up at the podium, and then Karen walked in the room, that the pennies dropped, and Pete realised what was going on. He'd been completely duped. I believe there may have been some unmentionable words muttered to Wayne, who was sitting next to him, and there must have been some serious dust in the room or something because some eyes may have gotten moist.

It was a massive honour being to deliver the presentation on behalf of Dogs NZ. I want to say a huge thanks to the club that put the nomination forward.

It's worth remembering that a Life Membership to Dogs NZ is a unique beast. While local clubs run on the incredible hard work of dedicated members, this national honour is reserved for those whose vision and dedication shape the entire sport across the country. Everything Peter has done transcended club boundaries and pushed the sport of Agility forward on a macro scale.

Like I said, history was made at this ACOD: this is the first time a Dogs NZ life membership has been awarded to someone for their long-standing contribution to Agility.

Congratulations, Peter, well deserved, and I'm just thankful you don't judge any more — I was seeing a lifetime of DQ's on my cards. 🐾

Chris Richardson

AC Chair & EC Agility Representative

