



THE KENNEL CLUB

Making a difference for dogs

**KENNEL CLUB CODE OF
BEST PRACTICE
FOR MEASURING
AGILITY DOG HEIGHTS**

The following Code of Best Practice summarises the responsibilities of all involved in the measuring process and many of the points have been taken from the Kennel Club Regulations contained in H(1)(B).

HEIGHT CATEGORIES

Large:

For dogs measuring over 43 cm (1ft 5ins) at the withers.

Medium:

For dogs measuring over 35 cm (1ft 1.75ins) and 43cms (1ft 5ins) or under at the withers.

Small:

For dogs measuring 35cm (1ft 1.75ins) or under at the withers.

Measuring Procedure:

- All small and medium dogs **MUST** be measured before they can compete at a Kennel Club licensed agility show.
- Dogs must be registered with the Kennel Club on either the Breed or Activity Register before being measured.
- All small and medium dogs must be measured twice and must be at least 15 months old before their first measurement.
- If a dog is obviously 'large' (clearly over 43cm), it does not need to be measured.
- Dogs that are not obviously 'large' may still be measured at the owners' discretion.
- Once a dog has competed in any Class in the Large Height category at a Kennel Club Licenced event it may not change to a different height.
- For all measurements, neither measurer must have previously measured the dog nor must the dog be owned or part owned by them, owned by a partner, member of their family or been previously entered for competition by them.
- All small and medium dogs, will be required to have a second measurement recorded between 12 and 24 months after their initial measure. If the second measurement places the dog in a different height category to the first, then a third measurement must be carried out within two calendar months from the date of the second measurement. This must be conducted by two measurers, both of whom have not measured the dog previously. The dog's official height category will be confirmed by the third measurement.
- Two authorised officials must carry out the measurement together and must use a measuring device approved by the Kennel Club.
- At a measuring session, the dog must be moved at least three times on the ground between first and second readings if there is any doubt into which height category the dog should be placed. It may be handled by the owner or by a person appointed by the owner (handler). The measurer can correct the dog's position only with the owner's/handler's consent.

- All dogs should compete in their initial height category until the third measurement confirms their final height.
- The signed agility record book for the dog must be available for inspection if requested by the show management or judge on the date of the competition.
- Where a dog changes height category it is permissible, at the discretion of the show secretary, for entries to be altered to enable the dog to compete in the correct height category.
- Where a dog's height is changed, any awards gained prior to the final measurement will still be valid.
- Owners/handlers may appeal in writing to the Kennel Club within seven days of a disputed measurement taking place; this must include reasons for the appeal, which must be about how the dog was measured and must include the appropriate fee of £35.

Handler/Owner Responsibilities:

- The dog in question must be present and be physically measured (no matter how well the measurers know the dog in question or how obvious the height may appear).
- The dog must be wearing a collar and be under the control of the handler.
- Kennel Club Agility Record Book. If you do not already own one please check that there will be some available to purchase on the day since you will not be able to have your dog measured without one. Alternatively you can purchase one via the Kennel Club website's Online Shop.
- The dog's Kennel Club Registration number must be provided.
- The dog's name as shown on the registration document must be provided.
- A micro-chip as a form of identification will take precedence over a tattoo or a photograph to confirm the dog's identity.
- Dogs which are not micro-chipped must be identified by an ear tattoo or a clear photograph which must be stuck into the record book.
- The dog must be calm when it is measured. The dog must be willing to stand squarely with all four legs on the ground/table, neither stretched nor crouched. The dog's head should be in a natural position. Titbits/toys may be used. A dog can wear a muzzle when being measured, but should be of sound temperament and be used to being handled.
- If you request, you may place the measuring hoop over the dog.
- A dog which shows aggression towards the measurers will not be measured (a dog incapable of being measured will not be eligible for competition until an official measurement has been carried out).
- The fee is £4.00 per measurement.

Club/Show Society Responsibilities:

- When new people join your club/society, inform them of how to go about getting their dog(s) measured should they wish to compete.

- Consider organising a measuring session for your members' dogs on one of your training evenings. Contact your local measurers in advance asking them for suitable dates when they could attend your club venue. Advertise the sessions to your club membership and elsewhere if numbers are low prior to the event. Notify the Kennel Club office of your measuring session, who will help to publicise the session, to make others aware of it taking place.
- The measurement of dogs must take place in a controlled environment, e.g. in a quiet place such as a separate tent, and not in the presence of other dogs, or handlers.
- Measurement must be carried out on a level and even surface. The surface used for measuring should be of a solid substance (e.g. concrete or wood, not carpeted surfaces).
- Clubs training small /medium dogs for competition are encouraged to prepare dogs for the measuring well in advance of the actual measuring session taking place. This is to ensure the dog(s) are comfortable standing still and square for a short period of time.
- When holding an agility show, it may be a good idea to invite measurers along so that it gives agility competitors the opportunity to have their dog(s) measured whilst they are already there. Invite the measurers in advance so that the show schedule can be used to advertise the measuring session to those who live locally in the area wanting to compete or to get involved in the discipline.
- If your club agility show plans to hold a measuring session, bear in mind the above points regarding the recommended environment and facilities for the dogs.

Guidelines for Measuring Officials:

Measuring officials will be trained and should not undertake any official measuring until training has been successfully completed.

- It is the responsibility of the measurer to inform the Kennel Club of any upcoming measuring sessions they are attending. This is to ensure that the office can advertise them on the Kennel Club website prior to the event and make it easier for those seeking measuring sessions.
- It is the responsibility of the measuring officials to check that the measuring device(s) being used are of Kennel Club approved type, are accurate and that there is no evidence of tampering with the device.
- The dog must be calm when it is measured. It must stand on a smooth non-slip platform or sufficiently large table (grooming table recommended). The dog must show the correct angulations at the front and rear when standing. The dog should be standing with its head in a natural position (with its throat approximately at the same level as the top of the withers). The height is taken with the dog standing on a level surface; his front feet directly under him, with his hind feet in the accepted show stack position for the breed.
- Measuring devices will be of a fixed 'hoop' type and must be of a type approved by the Kennel Club. A separate measuring device is required for measuring each of small or medium/large dogs.

- The measuring device should be level and in contact with the ground (parallel) on both sides at the time of measurement.
- If requested, the dog's owner may place the measuring hoop over the dog.
- Food may be used to assist the dog standing calmly.
- If in the opinion of the measuring officials the dog is not fit to be measured then the measurer(s) may refuse to measure the dog, e.g. the dog is aggressive, or is incapable of standing correctly, or is incapable of standing still long enough for an accurate measure to be taken.
- At the time the dog is presented for measurement an Agility Record Book completed by the owner / handler will be required. The Agility Record Book should include identification details of the dog being measured together with a notation of any distinguishing tattoos / microchip numbers.
- Once the measurement has taken place to the satisfaction of both officials, the height category of the dog should be recorded in the record book and both officials must sign and date the notation.
- If a dog is identified by a photo, the measurers' signatures should cover the edge of the photo onto the page of the Record Book.
- After a measuring session, the records should be typed up onto the Excel spreadsheet supplied and sent electronically to the office (ideally within 14 days of the event), so that the data can be inputted to the measuring database. This allows the office to resolve any disputes and provide duplicate information to those that have lost their Agility Record Book.
- The dog's micro chip reading can be taken before or after the actual measuring element of the session.

Guidelines for Appeals/Objections:

- In the event of a dispute over the measuring procedure the Kennel Club will evaluate whether there are grounds for appeal.
- Owners/handlers may appeal in writing to the Kennel Club within seven days of the disputed measure taking place. This must be accompanied by a written statement from the owner/handler of the dog with a brief description as to the grounds for the appeal and the appropriate fee of £35.
- Appeals may be heard from third parties, however, the Kennel Club will only investigate such appeals where there are clear grounds to do so.
- Whilst the appeal is in progress the dog under appeal will be eligible to compete only in the category attested to by the measuring officials.
- In the event that an appeal is upheld, the Kennel Club will authorise the re-measurement of the dog.
- Once the re-measurement has taken place the decision will be final and no further objection will be allowed.

*If you have any other queries regarding measuring, please contact the Canine Activities Department at agility@thekennelclub.org.uk
Telephone number – 01296 318540*