



Kennel Club ALC Governance Panel **Report of Progress to date** **May 2021**

Membership of the Governance Panel:

Sara Hawkswell (Chair), Simon Chandler, Yvonne Croxford, Jackie Gardner & Becky Sargent

In the absence of many shows and the delay in being able to discuss the results database until The Kennel Club's CRM has progressed further, little work has been achieved in the last few months, with the exception of measuring

1. Measuring

The Code of Best Practice for Measuring Agility Dog Heights previously completed by the Panel has been submitted to the Activities Committee. We are now waiting for the Kennel Club to make this available on the website and to circulate amongst existing measurers.

A review of existing measurers has been carried out by Jackie Gardner. This looked at the number of existing measurers and their distribution, the need for more measurers (including senior measurers) and what additional support is needed for measurers. A copy of this review is attached below.

As part of the review Jackie identified a significant number of errors in the existing list of measurers – these have been passed to the Kennel Club to ensure that their data are updated accordingly.

The Governance Panel asks for the ALC to endorse the findings of this review and arrange for them to be taken forward with some urgency.

In summary these are:

- New measurers to be recruited in all regions – with targeted recruitment in areas with gaps and new Senior Measurers in some regions. Agility Liaison Council members had been asked to review the details for their region to come up with a list of priority areas for new measurers. This will be done before the July ALC meeting
- An allowance to be made immediately for dogs on the Isle of Man who have not yet been measured to start competing with an unmeasured dogs. If necessary deadlines for getting dogs in Northern Ireland a second measure should be extended
- A format for regular training (every other year) for Senior Measurers needs developing along with guidelines for Senior Measurers to start running refresher courses for other measurers, which should be a requirement every 5 years
- Measurers should be required to send in an annual return, so that their details are kept up to date and we can then ensure that measurers are actually getting the information that is sent
- All measurers sent a copy of the Measuring Guidelines plus the up to date spreadsheet and asked to respond to ensure that details are up to date

2. The next priorities for the Governance Panel remain:

- Grading Review
- Reviewing Governance of Agility within the Kennel Club
- Developing a Kennel Club Agility Results Database
- Reviewing scope of guidelines and regulations.

*Sara Hawkswell
On behalf of the ALC Governance Panel
3 May 2021*

Agility Measuring Review

Prepared by Jackie Gardner, ALC Representative for the Midlands Region

Updated May 2021

Review of Measurers list

I requested a list of measurers from The Kennel Club Office which gave me a base line to start my review. They were unable to provide me with full post codes (due to their interpretation of GDPR). As this information is only being used internally for the benefit of The Kennel Club this isn't the case but it actually helped me spot that not all the information was up to date.

There are 8 measurers still listed in the information that I was provided with who no longer wish to be measurers, 6 of whom told me that they had informed the office to officially resign.

There are also measurers who have changed their name or moved address that this review has highlighted.

We have a measurers FaceBook page, so that we can all keep in touch and stay up to date with guidelines. Not all measurers are on this.

Via the FaceBook page, I informed the measurers what I was planning to do and asked for them to voluntarily give me their post code, so that I could produce visual maps of the locations of the measurers. I then used this information to produce regional maps of the measurers. A summary map of the UK showing distribution is given below. Getting the post codes highlighted that a few measurers had moved address.

I also asked Mr Jonathan Hallam to assist me by producing a National Map, showing the locations of all measurers. Jonathan, who is a Kennel Club member, was provided with a List of Post Codes and the word Measurer or Senior measurer next to them. He received no further data. This has helped identify gaps in measurers.

Coverage of Measurers

From this visual information you can clearly see that some areas are better covered than others.

The Isle of Man is one area where they have no Measurers, and with shows starting back, but travel restrictions still in place, they have dogs who are unable to be measured, but the owners would like to compete with them. Is there a way we can make it so they can compete without a measure, even if its NFC, which currently under Kennel Club rules isn't allowed?

Ireland only has 4 measurers and no Senior Measurers, but sadly one of those 4 measurers is currently unable to measurer due to personal reasons, so they do not have enough people to do a first and second measure, let alone a 3rd.

The Midlands have 13 Measurers, but I know 2 of these have been inactive, one of whom was made a measurer only because she was the Vet for Team GB.

The North East only have 7 measurers who are all quite active measurers. They have no Senior Measurers. They have big gaps in the region where they have no measurers.

The North West, which covers the Isle of Man, have massive gaps where there are no measurers, especially Cumbria and Derbyshire. They also have 2 measurers who have been inactive

Scotland have 10 measurers and 2 Senior measurers, all of these are quite active, but they are mainly grouped in one area, with a couple up in the North, with big gaps where there are no measurers at all.

South East & East Anglia with 25 measurers looks the healthiest for Measurers, but they do have 2 measurers who seem to be inactive. They also have a cluster of measurers to the South of the Region, with Hertfordshire, Essex, Kent and Norfolk being sparsely represented.

South & South West seem to have a small cluster of measurers in Cornwall, but the rest of the region is a bit sparse of measurers. All the measurers in this area do seem to be active.

Wales have at least one inactive measurer, and they have a problem where they have a few in the South and a few in the North of the Regions, but most of their measurers are nowhere near each other.

We Currently have 92 Measurers, of which 26 are Senior Measurers the number split out through the regions as follows:

REGION	TOTAL NUMBER OF MEASURERS (Including	SENIOR MEASURERS
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	Senior Measurers)	
Midlands	13	4
North East	7	0
North West	13	3
Northern Ireland	4	0
Scotland	10	2
South East & East Anglia	25	7
South & South West	13	6
Wales	8	4

Support for Measurers

After initial training measurers have received no direct support or training other than through the FaceBook Group. While the FaceBook group is valuable it isn't used by all measurers and is limited in what practical support can be offered.

In discussion with measurers whilst doing this review, they are not happy that they have received no training for over 5 years. Therefore, a measuring seminar for all measurers to attend is much needed

As well as ensuring regular communication with measures about guidelines and rules measurers need practical support. An effective mechanism for doing this would be to use a pyramid structure with Kennel Club providing Senior Measures with regular training sessions (every two years) and they asking Senior Measures to host refresher workshops for the measurers in their region. Each measurer could be required to attend a refresher workshop every 5 years (this follows the same frequency as Judges Regulations exam).

A simple annual return would help make sure that the communication between Kennel Club is effective allowing for updating changes in the measurers database. The receipt of the annual return should be a fundamental requirement for measurers to continue in the role.

Conclusions

- I passionately believe we need new measurers in all Regions, but if we advertise for new measurers, we need be smarter and only advertise for the areas that are struggling. ALC members are compiling a list of the counties / areas with significant gaps to help with targeting recruitment which needs to start urgently and provide training for new measurers.
- An allowance should be made immediately for dogs on the Isle of Man who have not yet been measured to start competing with an unmeasured dogs and, if necessary, the deadlines for getting dogs in Northern Ireland a second measure extended. This extensions should be continued until new measurers are in place in both these locations.
- A format for regular training for Senior Measurers needs developing along with guidelines for Senior Measurers to start running refresher courses for other measurers.
- Measurers should send in an annual return, so that their details are kept up to date and we can then ensure that measurers are actually getting the information that is sent. This return should be monitored and chased. If after chasing no return is received the measurers should be removed.
- In the mean time we need to urgently send all measurers a copy of the Measuring Guidelines, Along with the Covid Guidelines, plus the up to date spreadsheet. It may be prudent to get the measurers to do a return to this email. Something as simple received, read and understood. Anyone who does not respond should be chased up via another method, email, Whatsapp, Messenger. Their details need to be checked and updated if required.

Jackie Gardener
3rd May 2021

ALC Regions

- Wales
- Scotland
- Northern Ireland
- North East England
- Midlands
- South East/East Anglia
- South/South West England
- North West England

