



## THE KENNEL CLUB

### KENNEL CLUB LIAISON COUNCIL 5 YEAR STRATEGY

#### **Ensuring the Health, Fitness, Safety and Welfare of dogs taking part in working trials<sup>i</sup>**

- Ensure that the Kennel Club understands the potential risks to dogs arising from undertaking working trials exercises and takes measures to minimise those risks;
- Ensures that rules and guidelines support the safe conduct of the sport; and
- Share good practice and learning opportunities concerning the safe conduct of tests.

#### **Increasing participation in the sport of working trials<sup>ii</sup>**

- Raise awareness about the availability of training for working trials; and
- Develop options to attract new people into working trials at the lowest levels.

#### **Ensuring standards of training and capabilities of dogs to compete in working trials<sup>iii</sup>**

- Consider options for standardising test levels and judging standards;
- Consider promoting those organisations and trainers who are capable of training potential working trials participants to compete at an acceptable standard.

#### **Modernising management of working trials<sup>iv</sup>**

- Sharing good practice to modernise the management of working trials.

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<sup>i</sup> This is about being proactive in understanding what information is available about potential risks to dogs from participating in working trials exercises. e.g -

- What effect the jumps have on dogs?
- Wearing of collars to ensure that dogs can be returned to owners if they get lost or safely secured in the event of incidents.
- Security of test areas;
- Conduct of tests (e.g. how the stays are arranged!!); and
- Conducts of Patrol rounds etc...

<sup>ii</sup> This is linked to reviewing the Intro stake, potential for Intro Tracking stake and taking account of reasonable concerns that people have about entering the sport.

<sup>iii</sup> Whenever changes are proposed concerns are often raised about making the sport easier. There are a lot of people offering training, purportedly having long experience in dog sports, whether gun dog trainers, having obedience pedigrees, long term service experience etc., who are not what they seem.. There should be an intention to improve training, standards and behaviour and protect the uninformed from being misled.

<sup>iv</sup> There are some good ideas out there for calculation of scores, prompt and efficient printing of certificates. There could be potential for introducing electronic payments, electronic entries and I/T facilities to manage bases. Is there a way that the KCLC could perform a role in sharing good practice and making the management of trials more efficient?