



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

Herding

Suggested Best Practices for the Well-Being of Dog Sport Participants

The AKC supports each club's informed decision to reschedule, postpone or cancel their respective events, as well as supporting clubs ready to hold events in locations that are open and permit gatherings. As events resume across the country, people need to feel safe while enjoying their dog activities. The AKC urges clubs to take appropriate precautions for the benefit of their participants. Events need to be held in a manner that emphasizes the safety of participants and event officials over efficiency.

The following is a list of suggested best practices that may be helpful when planning or attending an event. Event locations, facilities and dates will differ. With a situation that is continually evolving, it is up to the clubs to determine the guidelines that best fit their event. In order to inform participants, specific guidelines established by the club should be published in the premium, club website and posted on signage/flyers at their event.

General Practices

1. Clubs, officials and participants are required to follow state, local and facility guidelines that apply to the area and site where the event is held.
2. Practice social distancing consistent with local guidelines. Avoid congregating to the extent possible.
3. Consider wearing masks when in close proximity to others.
4. Consider wearing disposable or washable gloves.
5. Have plenty of hand sanitizers placed for people to use.
6. Wash hands as frequently as possible. Have disinfecting spray at bathroom facilities for people to spray door handles (or anything else they touch).
7. If you utilize portable toilets, please ask for a hand washing station to be delivered as well.
8. Avoid shaking hands or hugging.
9. Avoid touching dogs that are not your responsibility.
10. Avoid common use pens/pencils – bring your own.
11. Disinfect surfaces in common use areas as often as possible (tables, chairs, doorknobs, etc.)

12. Meals - Avoid or stagger group lunches/dinners if possible. It is recommended that clubs supply boxed lunches for judges and volunteers. Hospitality areas should avoid community items such as salt and pepper shakers, condiments, creamers, etc. Participants should consider bringing their own lunch/drinks.
13. Parking areas – park with sufficient distance between vehicles if possible.

Event Practices

1. For outdoor activities, consider wind conditions and practice adequate social distancing accordingly.
2. Consider having a check-in board placed away from the secretary where handlers may check in and make a note if they have any questions for the judge or committee. This station should ideally be equipped with hand sanitizer, and handlers should be encouraged to wear gloves and use their own pen.
3. Consider including information in the premium that would typically be shared at a general meeting, including details about the site and parking, class order, and refreshments.
4. Consider skipping hospitality and refreshments, and encourage handlers to bring their own coffee, snacks, and lunches.
5. Consider asking your judge to provide a handlers' meeting through email that can be sent ahead of time. A paper copy should also be posted at the check-in station.
6. If you do an in-person handlers' meeting, participants should practice social distancing.
7. Consider having a gate steward with gloves so handlers do not have to touch the gate. This steward can also keep the flow going, let handlers know when their run is close, and remind handlers to keep appropriate distances.
7. Consider handing out placements and ribbons at the end of each class so those who are finished for the day may leave. The person handing these out should be wearing gloves.
8. Trial secretary should wear gloves to handle paperwork.
9. Scribes and judges should wear gloves to handle paperwork. Consider giving handlers the option to receive a digital copy of their scoresheet instead of a physical copy.

Policies that Have Been Temporarily Suspended

1. Event Application Late Fees – Event application late fees are waived through the end of October. This provide clubs more flexibility in planning or rescheduling their events.
2. For events cancelled in 2020, AKC will apply Event Application fees to the club's next event of the same type.

Participants are expected to follow state, local government, facility and event guidelines. Clubs should be prepared to enforce the guidelines that apply to their event.

CDC - How to Protect Yourself and Others:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

These Suggested Best Practices may be periodically updated. Please check the AKC Herding website (www.akc.org/sports/herding/) for the most up-to-date version.

For questions or additional suggestions, please contact the Performance Events Department at performanceevents@akc.org.

Stay Safe – Enjoy Your Dogs