

## Amendment to Aggressive Dog Regulations

CRR recommends that the current Aggressive Dog Regulations be amended.

*Rationale: Some time ago the Management Committee established a Working Party to investigate the need for a review of the Aggressive Dog Regulation 3.5.6. It was felt that unruly and disruptive behaviour could not be dealt with under the existing regulations as it did not constitute aggressive behaviour, however if it was not addressed then such behaviour could lead to aggressive behaviour in the future. Unruly and disruptive behaviour can lead to dissent amongst exhibitors in all forms of dog sport. The current regulations make no provision for ensuring that unruly and disruptive behaviour is addressed and therefore prevented from becoming a more serious behavioural problem.*

*Additionally, competitors need to understand that other competitors have a right to compete with their dogs without being disadvantaged by the unruly and disruptive behaviour of other competitor's dogs.*

*The proposed amendments provide a means whereby unruly and disruptive behaviour can be addressed in a way that will encourage more a responsible attitude by the dogs owners / handlers, whilst still providing an effective procedure for aggressive dogs. It also establishes a necessary two tiered structure for aggressive dogs, and a broader more flexible penalty regime.*

*Replacing the bulk of the regulations with a procedure enables the procedure to be dynamic and easily updated as use leads to recommended changes.*

The proposed amendment is as follows:

**Delete Regulation 3.5.6, including the Checklist For Aggressive Dog Incidents and the VCA Aggressive Dog Incident Report, and replace with:**

### 3.5.6 Dog Incidents

These Dog Incident Regulations govern the management of Dog Incidents at fixtures and members and club officials are to be fully conversant with them. Attached to Part 3 of the Regulations is a Dog Incident Checklist and Report form, which must be lodged together with reports and statements in the event that an enquiry is conducted into a Dog Incident.

The Levels of Disruptive or Aggressive behaviour that comprise a Dog Incident are:

- Level 1** Unruly behaviour not affecting the performance of another dog or handler.
- Level 2** Unruly behaviour that significantly affects the performance of another dog or handler.
- Level 3** Threatening or intimidating behaviour [not aggression] towards another dog or handler.
- Level 4** Aggression towards another dog.
- Level 5** Aggression towards a person.

- 3.5.6.1 It is the obligation of each owner, exhibitor and handler at a VCA approved activity to take all such steps as may be necessary to ensure that any dog under that person's care or control or for which that person is responsible does not behave in an unruly, disruptive or aggressive manner. Where a dog is dismissed from the ring for unruly or disruptive behaviour or aggression and is the subject of a Dog Incident Report, the owner, exhibitor, handler or person responsible for the dog as the case may be, is to immediately secure the dog and is to remain at the venue until otherwise advised by the Committee.

- 3.5.6.2 It is the obligation of any person at an activity who observes a dog behaving in an unruly, disruptive or aggressive manner to report the incident either orally or in writing to a member of the Committee as soon as possible after the incident.
- 3.5.6.3 The official to whom an alleged incident involving unruly, disruptive or aggressive behaviour by a dog is first reported is to immediately instruct the owner/handler of the dog to secure the dog and remain at the venue until the Committee has inquired into the incident. The Committee shall meet as soon as practicable on the day to consider the matter in accordance with the procedures for dealing with Dog Incidents.
- 3.5.6.4 If the Committee is satisfied that the incident comprised or included the dog behaving in an unruly, disruptive or aggressive manner, the Committee may officially warn or suspend the dog.
- 3.5.6.5 Any suspension applied to a dog by a Committee shall apply to Dogs Victoria activities and the activities of all other ANKC Member Bodies. Any suspension applied to a dog by another ANKC Member Body shall be upheld by Dogs Victoria.