



For the information of Local Authorities – Kennel Club licensed canine activities

This letter is intended to provide Local Authorities with an understanding and reassurance that canine events held by Kennel Club registered clubs and societies proceed under a range of rules and regulations published by the Kennel Club.

We are setting out the principal facts and background to provide a context for registered clubs and societies who may approach a Local Authority to liaise and consult with over the viability of running a licensed canine event during Covid-19 pandemic.

KC licensed events provide a community activity/recreation, but are not strictly defined as a sporting activity in the Covid legislation or any of the specifically listed social events, nor the listed exempted activities such as organised sports.

However, as a fee is required to enter licensed events, this indicates that licensed events will be covered by the Covid legislation's requirements for business.

Licensed events can therefore generally take place under this classification subject to all other government restrictions and Covid secure requirements being followed.

Defra has been consulted throughout and a summary of its latest note is below:

'Whether or not a particular club or society is a business will depend upon the individual circumstances and factors including but are not limited to where it takes place, who it's organised by, who is attending, what sort of 'groups' they are attending in, who is coming in from where (i.e. are people coming from a high or very high area to a medium area) etc.'

The Kennel Club

By way of background, The Kennel Club was founded in 1873. It was established in the late nineteenth century to regularise a growing but unregulated sport of dog showing. The Patron of the Kennel Club is Her Majesty The Queen and the President is HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO.

One of the principal functions of The Kennel Club is to license and thereby regulate dog shows and a range of other competitions (dog shows – competitions where dogs are judged against the Kennel Club Breed Standard; working dog activities – competitions where dogs are required to complete a series of prescribed exercises; field trials – competitions to assess the working of gundogs in the field.)

The Kennel Club will also regulate those organisations which it licenses to run these events. All dogs taking part in these competitions also must be registered with The Kennel Club.

The Kennel Club is the canine equivalent to a sports governing body. It acts by consensus as a governing body to all those who voluntarily submit to its jurisdiction by dint of registration and/or entry to any activity licensed by The Kennel Club. Jurisdiction is contractual.

As a governing body, its rules and regulations apply to all those who register dogs, registered societies, and those who enter licensed events.

The Kennel Club is also responsible for and manages annually the 'World's Largest Dog Show' – namely Crufts held at the NEC each year.

Our advice to registered societies and clubs

We continue to receive many enquiries from clubs, societies, exhibitors, competitors and judges about running or attending a licensed event. We recognise the legislation and supporting guidance is complex, especially given the changing restrictions being announced by the governments across all regions.

It is fully understood that there are regional discrepancies and different interpretations or limits being applied locally, and therefore to organise and run a show or trial depends on a number of factors.

We advise clubs and societies to fully consider the following factors before running a licensed event during these times:

- 1. The social gathering restrictions on individuals mixing referred to as a 'qualifying group'**
- 2. Travel restriction or advice on non-essential travel**
- 3. Local Authority consultation and its view on the impact on local services**
- 4. Numbers attending (gate/entry) relevant to the size of venue and its facilities (indoor/outdoor)**
- 5. Financial risk – short notice closure**

We advise strongly that all registered clubs and societies should check directly with and liaise with the Local Authority for any local direct impact which might determine whether the event can go ahead or what further steps an LA may require.

Risk assessment and Covid secure measures

The KC has provided full guidance on how best to practically manage a Covid secure environment, template risk assessments and so on. These can be found at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/events-and-activities/resumption-of-licensed-events/.

All licensed events must carry adequate public liability insurance.

We hope this gives some assurance of the regulatory background and support for Kennel Club licensed events and that the clubs and societies will be fully cognisant of the requirements to ensure that an event will be managed in a Covid-19 secure manner.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact secretary@thekennelclub.org.uk.

Yours faithfully



Kathryn Mansfield
Kennel Club Secretary