

Instructions for reporting a dog's behaviour



Approved by the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club on 27 May 2022.

Valid from 1 January 2023.

These instructions apply to all trials, competitions, shows, inspections, tests and other activities of the Finnish Kennel Club

events. Events under the control of the Finnish Kennel Club are organised in accordance with the rules and guidelines of the Finnish Kennel Club and the Finnish Kennel Club is notified of their organisation.

The purpose of reporting a dog's behaviour is to prevent an aggressive dog from participating in an event to ensure the safety of the event.

Actions and consequences in events

The Finnish Kennel Club is always notified when a dog is excluded from an event, its participation is interrupted or its result is rejected due to aggressive behaviour.

If the dog has been awarded the quality grade 'disqualified'/'excluded' due to behaviour, the result will not be deleted. Other results previously obtained by the dog in the event in question may be deleted on a case-by-case basis.

The Finnish Kennel Club records the report in its systems and can exclude the dog from participation, the duration of which is determined on a case-by-case basis. When determining the duration of the period of exclusion, the consequences of the incident and their severity are taken into account.

The exclusion from participation is visible in the breeding information system under the dog's details for as long as it is in effect.

Controlled aggression of the dog (e.g. protection test) that is part of the nature of the event is not reported.

Actions and consequences outside events

A report can also be made regarding a dog that has behaved aggressively towards a person or another dog in the event area or its immediate vicinity, regardless of whether the dog has been registered for the event in question.

Results previously obtained by the dog in the event in question may be deleted on a case-by-case basis.

The Finnish Kennel Club records information about the report in its systems and can exclude the dog from participation based on a report made in these situations. The length of exclusion is determined on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the consequences of the case and their severity.

The exclusion from participation is visible in the breeding information system under the dog's details for as long as it is in effect.

The person making the report

The report is primarily made by a person who themselves or whose dog has been the object of aggressive behaviour.

Secondarily, the report is made by the trial's chief judge/steward, the show judge/ring official, the show instructor, a member of the trial or show committee, the event's veterinarian, or a representative of another event organiser.

Reporting procedure

The report must be made on a Finnish Kennel Club form before the end of the event organised by the Finnish Kennel Club. The person reporting signs the form. Efforts must be made to also obtain a statement for the report from the individual whose dog's behaviour is being reported. The report should describe as clearly as possible the aggressive behaviour and the situation that led to it. The completed and signed form must be submitted to the event organiser before the end of the event.

The organiser of the event is required to keep report forms available. Immediately after the event has ended, the event organiser's representative must check the reports made during the day and submit them directly to the Finnish Kennel Club without delay.

Temporary exclusion from participation

By filling out and signing a report of aggressive dog behaviour, the judge/show instructor/chief judge in charge of the trial/junior handler judge places the dog under a temporary five (5) day participation ban, effective from the event day.

Decision-making process

The Aggressive Dog Behaviour Working Group may, at its discretion, exclude the dog from participation, which will take effect on the day of the working group's decision. The working group's exclusion from participation replaces any temporary exclusion from participation. The exclusion from participation issued by the working group is valid until the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club has reviewed it.

The Board of the Finnish Kennel Club will make a decision on the final duration of the exclusion on the basis of the working group's proposal. The handling of the matter by the Finnish Kennel Club is not prevented by the fact that the person whose dog's behaviour has been reported has not used the opportunity given to them to give a response in the matter. The sanctions imposed by the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club will take effect on the date of the Board's decision.

The Finnish Working Dog Association (SPKL), the Finnish Sighthound Association and the Finnish Agility Association each have their own procedures for handling reports of aggressive dog behaviour. The decisions made by the aforementioned associations may be taken into account in the Finnish Kennel Club's decision-making.