



**MEETING OF THE OBEDIENCE LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT
10.30 AM ON TUESDAY 17 JANUARY 2023 IN THE BOARDROOM,
THE KENNEL CLUB, CLARGES STREET - AGENDA**

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2022 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

The Council is invited to note that the following appointments have been approved by the Board:

Mrs B Smith to represent the Midland area, following the resignation of Mr N Slater

Ms H Weaver to represent the North West area, following the resignation of Mr R Wakelin

ITEM 4. KENNEL CLUB RESEARCH PROJECT

The Council is invited to receive a presentation from Mr M Bermingham (Head of Strategy, Planning and Insight) and Ms L Smith (Education and Training Portfolio Manager) which will provide an update on the research project into 'Organisers and Participants of Dog Activities'.

ITEM 5. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Kennel Club Obedience Festival

The Activities Committee, at its meeting on 12 July 2022, had welcomed the opportunity to publicise obedience and as such recommended the concept for approval. The Board, at its meeting on 13 September 2022, noted that further information, including a business case, would be required before the idea could be progressed. The Council is requested to discuss the formulation of the business case.

b. Amendments to Regulations G(A)9.b and G(A)5

The following amendments were approved by the Board at its meeting held on 13 September 2022:

Regulation G(A)9.b **TO:**

To compete in the Introductory Class a handler or dog must not have ~~won one Introductory Class~~ **gained a 1st place in any obedience class**, ~~or have achieved a 4th place or above in Pre-Beginners or in any other class~~ **and have not elected to progress on points from Introductory.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertions in bold)



(Effective 1 January 2023)

Regulation G(A)5 **TO:**

Points required for progression on points are as follows:

1. 10 points required for progression from Introductory.

(Insertion in bold)

(Subsequent items to be renumbered)

(Effective 1 January 2023)

c. Qualifications for judges

At its previous meeting, the Council discussed issues raised by Ms D Kay, who had raised a number of concerns regarding the likelihood that many experienced judges would be retiring from judging over the next few years, and that there may not be a sufficient number of new judges coming forward to replace them. Further, there were concerns regarding the requirement for judges to have attended a two-day Obedience Test Design and Practice of Judging Seminar and to have passed the assessment. It was highlighted that there may be practical difficulties of running enough of these seminars to enable an adequate number of judges to qualify. Ms Kay was of the view that it would be helpful for the requirements for judges to make it quicker and easier for them to become qualified, whilst retaining their motivation and enthusiasm.

The Council was of the view that the development of judges was an important issue and that Ms Kay's discussion item raised some interesting points. Accordingly, it had agreed that Mrs Patrick would raise the issues highlighted by Ms Kay, and the Council's views as outlined above, at the Accredited Trainers Annual Seminar due to take place in October.

However, unfortunately the Accredited Trainers for obedience were not able to attend the seminar. A subsequent meeting took place on 4 November 2022 and the Council is invited to note a report submitted by Mrs Patrick.

(Annex A refers)

Note: a proposal regarding qualifications for judges has been submitted by Mrs Lavender and is on the agenda under item 8.

d. Use of food rewards and toys

At its meeting in January 2022, the Council had discussed the possibility of introducing food rewards into Pre-Beginner and Beginner classes. It had concluded that it would be a positive step to allow food rewards, and possibly the use of toys, in Pre-Beginners but not in Beginners. At its meeting in June 2022 it noted that Mrs Le Fevre would submit a firm proposal for consideration by the Council at its first meeting in 2023. It is requested to consider proposals as below:

Regulation G34.g.

TO:

Food and/or toys shall not be carried or given to a dog under test except in Introductory, **PreBeginner and Beginner** Classes where silent toy and food rewards may be used in accordance with the ~~Introductory~~ **relevant** class Regulations and in a Special Class if specified in the class definition. Competitors must not distract other dogs when rewarding their dog with food, toy or play. (Refer to Obedience Code of Conduct).

(Insertions in bold. Deletion struck through)

Regulation G(A)10. Pre-Beginners **TO:**



- a. To compete in Pre-Beginners a handler or dog must not have won two first places in either Pre-Beginners or Beginners nor gained a third place or above in any other Obedience class (Introductory Class excepted) and have not elected to progress on points from PreBeginners. **In this class only incentives in the form of a toy or rewards are allowed to be carried by the handler in the competitive ring and may be given to the dog at the end of an exercise or in between exercises. Rewards include food which must be carried in a small closed container during the exercises. The judge will designate an area in the competitive ring where food may be given to the dog by the handler.** (Insertions in bold)

Regulation G(A)11. Beginners **TO:**

- a. To compete in Beginners a handler or dog must not have won a total of two or more first places in Beginners class or one first place in any other Obedience class (Introductory class and Pre-Beginners excepted) and have not elected to progress on points from Beginners. **In this class only incentives in the form of a toy or rewards are allowed to be carried by the handler in the competitive ring and may be given to the dog at the end of an exercise or in between exercises. Rewards include food which must be carried in a small closed container during the exercises. The judge will designate an area in the competitive ring where food may be given to the dog by the handler.** (Insertions in bold)
- e. Area revision for Obedience Liaison Council (OLC) and Inter Regional teams The Activities Committee considered the Council's wish for a review of the designated geographical areas relating to the Council and to Inter Regional teams, as there were currently some inconsistencies in the designation, with some competitors finding themselves in a different area for the purposes of the Council to that applying to the Inter Regional team, as a result of which there was some confusion.

The Council is invited to note that the matter has been referred to the strategy review group, and its views will be taken into account as part of ongoing strategic and operational development work. The Show Executive Committee has also been advised of the Council's views, and the Crufts Committee will also be advised.

ITEM 6. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mr McCartney following the Sub-Group's meeting held on 24 November 2022. **(Annex B refers – to follow)**

ITEM 7. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mrs Le Fevre following the Sub-Group's meeting which took place on 15 September 2022.
(Annex C refers)

ITEM 8. YOUNG KENNEL CLUB

The Council is requested to note a written report from Mrs Lavender.
(Annex D refers – to follow)



ITEM 9. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

Mrs D Lavender Proposal for change to judging qualification regulations

The Council is requested to consider the following amendment to regulations:

Regulation G31.c.

TO:

On first appointment judges must satisfy the show committee that they: G 10

- (1) Have judged a minimum of four appointments within at least two years at a lower level including limited/companion obedience shows and matches/club or fun competitions.
- (2) Have won out of Beginners at a licensed championship, premier or open obedience show as a handler, and have acted as a caller, scribe or marker steward on six occasions at licensed shows; and
- (3) Have completed and passed an Obedience Regulations and Judging Procedure examination on the Kennel Club Academy.
- (4) Have attended a Kennel Club Obedience Test Design and Practice of Judging Seminar and passed the assessment **or alternatively: have accompanied/ shadowed a qualified judge (who has fulfilled at least 6 judging appointments) at a Kennel Club licensed show to oversee the judging procedure, test design and marking techniques. Class Novice, A or B can be chosen to fulfil this task.**

(Insertion in bold)

Rationale

There are a large number of judges on the circuit who are retired people in their sixties and early seventies who will be ceasing to judge over the next few years. This will create a serious problem as the number of new younger judges coming forward at the moment will not compensate for this loss.

Part of the current judging qualification criteria is not straightforward to complete for many across the UK. Because of this we are creating barriers, demotivating potential candidates and failing to recruit valuable new people. Therefore to make sure we succeed in replenishing our judges, it would be prudent to add in a motivational alternative to the current regulations. This will ensure becoming a judge can be easily obtained by everyone across the UK, in a reasonable timeframe, regardless of family/work commitments, financial situation, travel commitments or location.

To explain further: the judging seminars to be run by an Accredited Trainer are not workable for the whole of the UK. There are six trainers in the UK and two in Ireland. To provide seminars for the whole of the UK, travel and overnight accommodation will be required for trainers to reach many regions. This coupled with venue hire means a number of around ten attendees would be needed to make the seminar affordable which could result in new people waiting a considerable amount of time to finalise their qualification criteria, by which time their enthusiasm is lost. Organising a date for ten attendees, venue, trainer, accommodation, meals etc for a 2-day event over a weekend is a task few would be able to take on especially in areas where no dog training clubs exist. We must remember work, travel, family commitments and cost all come into play here.

Therefore to ensure we have a logical system in place to capture everyone across all regions of the UK we need to add in an alternative to the seminar as part of the qualification criteria. Therefore I propose the above changes to the regulations which will ensure everyone, regardless of their personal situation, has a doable way to easily fulfil the judging qualification process.



ITEM 10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Eligibility for Beginners Mr D Moxon

Mr Moxon notes that competitors are finding they win out of Beginners and then are unable to win out of Novice. In some cases, this is happening with their first dog and the jump from Beginners to Novice is then seen as a major hurdle to progress any further and is disheartening. It also means with their next dog, a handler must start at Novice, alongside more experienced handlers, and feel at a disadvantage. A request has been received to see whether a provision could be made to allow handlers that have not won or progressed out of Novice, or gained a first place in Novice, to compete with subsequent dogs in Beginners, providing such dog(s) had/have not won out of Beginners.

To achieve this, it would need the eligibility for Beginners to be changed.

Regulation G(A)11 currently states:

To compete in Beginners a handler or dog must not have won a total of two or more first places in Beginners class or one first place in any other Obedience class (Introductory class and PreBeginners excepted) and have not elected to progress on points from Beginners.

It would be necessary for this regulation to be changed as follows (amended sections shown in italic):

Based on not eligible for Beginners if win one first place in Novice or above:

To compete in Beginners a dog must not have won a total of two or more first places in Beginners class or one first place in any other Obedience class (Introductory class and PreBeginners excepted) *and the dog not progressed on points from Beginners; plus, the handler must not have a first place in any other Obedience class (Introductory class and Pre-Beginners excepted) and have not elected to progress on points from Novice.*

OR

Based on not eligible if won two first places in Novice or above (i.e. have won out of Novice):

To compete in Beginners a dog must not have won a total of two or more first places in Beginners class or one first place in any other Obedience class (Introductory class and PreBeginners excepted) *and the dog not progressed on points from Beginners; plus, the handler must not have two first places in any other Obedience class (Introductory class and Pre-Beginners excepted) and have not elected to progress on points from Novice.*

The Council is requested to discuss the suggestions above.

b. Mrs S Cotton

Mrs D Cox

Eligibility for Beginners

Mrs Cotton wishes the Council to consider possible changes to the criteria included within regulations G(A)11 and G(A)12 regarding winning out of Beginners and having to enter Novice as the lowest/first class with a subsequent inexperienced dog, for handlers that have won out of Beginners with a previous dog, but remain inexperienced as handlers at Novice level.

Mrs Cotton notes that there is an opinion expressed by inexperienced handlers that have won out of Beginners with a first dog, who are not prepared to venture into an obedience ring again, when having to start in Novice with a subsequent dog, because they feel they have no chance against the more experienced handlers. These are handlers that although they have won out of



Beginners with their previous dog, have not been successful in Novice with that previous dog (placed 1st, or won out, or progressed out on points, or have had any places - level to be discussed).

There is a view that there are often low numbers in Pre-Beginners and Beginners, meaning that teams can win out of those classes with hardly any experience of competition, and when they are not really ready for the higher classes either.

For those that do not go on to win out of Novice with that 1st dog, a suggestion could be for those handlers to be able to go back into Beginners with a subsequent dog.

Novice can be a daunting class for inexperienced handlers, and Mrs Cotton is of the view that changing this ruling may be a way of encouraging those handlers, to remain within the discipline.

c. Ms D Cox Review of Introductory Class

Ms Cox wishes the Council to conduct a review of the Introductory Class, based on her knowledge and experience of the class through having judged it, and as both a pet dog training instructor and via involvements within the Kennel Club's Good Citizen Dog Training scheme (and its Special Pre-Beginner Obedience Stakes) as well as in judging a variety of other classes within Obedience.

Ms Cox notes that the stated aim of the class is 'introduce and support newcomers to obedience competition' i.e. for both handlers and dogs to have a positive experience that will motivate them to want to continue to train and compete within the discipline.

Rationale

Ms Cox suggests that, whilst supporting inexperienced handler and dog teams in having a go in the competitive ring environment, the limited content of the class is so far removed from PreBeginners, that it does not fully promote the leap from training into Pre-Beginners and upwards within Obedience competition. It is therefore suggested that the Council discuss how the class content may be widened to make for a more seamless transition from training to competition.

If agreed, this review would also be in line with the review of classes planned within the Council's 'Five year strategy'.

Outlined below are the differences between Introductory and Pre-Beginners, together with suggestions as how the exercises could evolve:

1. Use of Food and Toy Rewards

- a) Introductory G(A)9.a states: 'In this class only incentives in the form of a toy or rewards are allowed to be carried by the handler in the competitive ring and may be given to the dog at the end of an exercise or in between exercises. Rewards include food, which must be carried in a small closed container during the exercises. The judge will designate an area in the competitive ring where food may be given to the dog, by the handler'.

G34.g (competing) states:

'Food and/or toys shall not be carried or given to a dog under test except in Introductory

Class where silent toy and food rewards may be used in accordance with the



Introductory class Regulation and in a Special Class if specified in the class definition. Competitors must not distract other dogs when rewarding their dog with food, toy or play. (Refer to Obedience Code of Conduct)

G35.f (practice rounds) states:

'Excessive exuberance from the handler or dog will not be permitted if the judge considers that it could interfere with the chances of winning of dogs and handlers working in adjacent rings.'

When food and toy rewards are used in a ring environment, factors such as the size of the ring, and the siting of it within the venue need to be considered, and perhaps some advice to organisers along those lines, needs to be included.

b) Pre-Beginners

No toys or food are allowed within the working environment. Play is usually allowed by judges between exercises, but only with the handler and/or the lead.

A discussion item, introduced at the meeting in January 2022 by Mrs Le Fevre, is due to be brought back to the Council as a proposal, and would address this anomaly, and is a proposal that Ms Cox would wish to support.

(Note: a proposal from Mrs Le Fevre relating to the use of food rewards into PreBeginner and Beginner classes is included on the agenda under item 4.d.)

2. Play with the Dog

- a) Introductory G(A)9.e(1) states: *'Play with dog for 15-30 seconds on or off lead at the handler's choice. Handlers may use a silent toy 10 points'*

G35.f (practice rounds) states:

'Excessive exuberance from the handler or dog will not be permitted if the judge considers that it could interfere with the chances of winning of dogs and handlers working in adjacent rings.'

Some dogs, depending on their breed/breed type, background experience, handler ability and handler nerves, struggle with tuggy or retrieving type play with a toy, or in playing with their handler, but can be taught to be playful around food – food chases/food circuits, retrieving or tugging games with toys that contain food. There is currently a ring area designated by the judge where food may be used to reward the dog (Regulation G(A)9.a refers) and therefore the Council is requested to have a discussion around the use of that area by handlers that may choose to demonstrate their ability to be playful with their dogs through food. This would need consideration by show organisers to enable the size of the ring to be large enough to accommodate an area where handlers can play with their dogs with food, as well as reward them. It is also suggested that many dogs find food rewards much more rewarding if there is an element of play around them – rather than just a treat being delivered with a 'good dog' and a stroke.

b) Pre-Beginners

Play is not scheduled in this class.

3. Recall

- a) Introductory G(A)9.e(3) states: *'Recall with a finish on lead, off lead or long line, at the handler's choice 10 points'*



It is suggested that in order to judge this fairly, all recall distances would have to be limited to a lead's length – to make it a level playing field. With a short recall, and then so much control - at the start in the 'wait', for the 'present' and again for the 'finish', this may well be to the detriment of motivation – the motivation that gets the desire and therefore the speed to return to the handler, required in the higher classes. The Council is requested to have a general discussion regarding the recall, but it is suggested that in the first instance the on lead option is removed, and that a minimum long line length is introduced instead, or that it is done off lead, but the ring then should be enclosed.

The Council is also requested to discuss the idea of the judge being able to drop elements of the control at their discretion, or to separate elements out to judge as separate exercises, but still part of the overall 10 points – the 'present' to the 'finish' for example, or a 'wait' and return.

- b) Pre-Beginners
Full Novice Recall – with no min/max distance stipulated.

4. Heelwork

- a) Introductory G(C)4.d(1) Tests states:

'Heelwork to be on lead and will be a large circle or straight line'

- (i) There is only one lot of heelwork (heel on lead in the Introductory class compared with currently two lots, both heel on lead and heel free in Pre Beginners. Discussion items brought forward to recent Council meetings by both Mrs Le Fevre and Mr Moxon, around the exercises scheduled in Pre Beginners, Beginners and Novice, and the potential removal of one lot of heelwork, possibly to be replaced by another exercise, may well be expanded upon at some point in the future, and therefore may address this.

As heelwork makes up such an important part of obedience competition, having such a small amount - as one straight line or a circle - seems very limiting as well as little/no preparation for Pre- Beginners.

- (ii) No turns are currently allowed, but would smooth changes of direction in an arc shape, to allow a greater length of heelwork be worth considering? So at least then, the straight line could be double the distance.
- (iii) Heelwork in a large circle – this allows a greater amount of heelwork to be performed, but without a change in direction, it could bias those dogs that perform better on a right hand circle, or those that perform better on a left hand circle, dependent on which direction the judge sets their pattern.

Would a large figure of eight, two semi circles in different directions, or an 'S' shape, therefore be worth considering? This would require a reasonable size of ring to enable a comfortable and smooth performance.

- b) Pre Beginners G(C)4.d(2) Tests d(2)
HOL and HF are two separate exercises, that include turns as detailed - *'Pre-Beginners and Beginners Classes. In these classes the only permissible turns are turns of 90 degrees to the left or right and 180 degrees about turns to the right'*, and there are no restrictions on length of heelwork or the amount of turns.



d. Ms D Cox Promotion of Obreedience

Ms Cox requests that the Council discuss Obreedience and ways in which it may be improved and promoted, noting that the discipline does not currently have its own working party or council, and therefore lacks the support as a competition enjoyed by other disciplines.

Ms Cox wishes to suggest that Obreedience should potentially be included within the remit of the Council, noting that the exercises are a mix of the Good Citizen Dog Training scheme exercises and traditional obedience exercises.

Further details and suggestions are included in the attached annex paper. **(Annex E refers)**

e. Mrs S Hyde 25 Day Rule

The 25 Day rule was implemented with effect from 1 January 2022 and has been successful in that it does do what was intended by limiting the number of wins. However, this does mean that additional administration work is required.

Mrs Hyde has a Facebook Group for Show Secretaries and Printers and there are concerns about some of the wordings for this Rule. The 14 day limit is causing administration delays in compiling the running orders and subsequent printing. General thoughts from secretaries and printers are that they would like this to be amended

Current wording: It is the competitor's responsibility to notify the show secretary or the show processor at least 14 days before the date of the show.

Suggested amendment: It is the competitor's responsibility to notify the show secretary or the show processor **in writing, either by email or 1st class post, to be received 20 days before the date of the show.** (Additional wording in bold)

At present competitors are generally leaving it until the last minute to inform secretaries of amendments, and tend to do this by telephone. This is not always convenient and contact in writing would be much more advisable to avoid amendments being missed - 1st class post, email, text, messenger etc. Online entries via With Your Dog can be amended by the competitor prior to closing date.

Under the current regulation, Mrs Hyde has been advised that it is acceptable to add a page to the catalogue with any amendments. That would be confusing to both judges and competitors:

- There is no requirement for a catalogue so not many shows produce them
- Currently the advice is that if the running order has already been prepared then a gap is left if someone moves up a class. This could have the effect of completely decimating the running order
- It would mean that we had informed the judge of the incorrect number in their class
- Class lists would have to be amended/reprinted

Note: the Council is invited to note that the following regulation amendments relating to championship classes were approved by the Board at its meeting on 13 September 2022

Regulation G.29.e.

TO:

Where the entry for Championship Class C exceeds 60, it will be reduced to 60 by a ballot based on a system of merit ~~conducted by the Kennel Club~~. To calculate the merit score for the dog, points are allocated for places gained at previous shows on the following scale:-



	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Open Class C	5 points	3 points	2points	1 point
CH. Class C	20 points	12 points	8 points	4 points
Crufts Obed	30 points	18 points	12 points	6 points

Points are calculated for placing between the date on which previous wins are calculated for entry to the show (i.e. ~~seven days before the closing date for entries~~ **up to and including 25 days before the start of the competition**) and the same date ONE year earlier. Competitors not having given a merit score will be considered as having none. The merit score for all competitors in Championship Class C will be on display at the show. Competitors claiming an incorrect merit score must be reported to the Kennel Club

(Deletion struck through)
(Effective 1 January 2023)

Regulation G.29.f(1)

A draw for the running order in Championship Class C must be made prior to the show. ~~The Kennel Club will conduct the ballot for this running order and show secretaries must forward the names of the exhibitors and dogs involved, together with their merit scores, to the Kennel Club by recorded delivery, registered post or e-mail within seven working days of the closing of entries~~

(Deletion struck through)
(Effective 1 January 2023)

f. Ms E Guiney

Mrs K Russell

Exercise Modification Forms

Ms Guiney wishes the Council to consider the introduction of an Exercise Modification Form similar to that used in Rally.

The form is used where a handler has an issue with walking, running and/or any other sort of disability/illness which prevents them from undertaking an exercise in the conventional manner. Under such circumstances, the form would be completed in advance of the show so that accommodation may be made for the handler's ability.

Ms Guiney states that there are many handlers wishing to compete in obedience who cannot or do not because of some form of disability.

g. Wirral Alsatian Training Society

Mrs K Russell

Exhibitor numbers

Wirral Alsatian Training Society would like the Council to discuss Regulation G34.d, which states:

'Nothing may be carried, worn or displayed by a handler or a dog during judging which is capable of indicating the identity of the dog or owner nor must anything be said or any action taken which identifies the dog other than by exhibit number. '

The society wishes the Council to discuss whether the requirement to wear an exhibit number remains necessary, or whether it is custom and practice which could be updated.

Rationale

- Since covid and the practice to limit multi-handling of equipment etc., most clubs now request that competitors bring their own ring number and pencil to the show. The ring number can be any size or shape.
- When a handler enters the ring to compete in an obedience test, they give their ring number verbally to the judge, often along with their name and the dog's name.



- Working trials do not require the handler to display their number.
- In agility the scribe asks the handler to confirm their name and may also ask for the dog's pet name to ensure the correct person is running. The handler is not required to display any ring number.

The society is of the view that there does not appear to be any reason for the handler to display their number other than for spectators to see it.

h. Ms S Tooley

Mrs J Le Fevre

Qualifying for the Obedience Championships at Crufts

Ms Tooley requests the Council to discuss the merit of introducing a policy whereby, should the winner of an Obedience Certificate have already qualified for the next Obedience Championship competition at Crufts, the winner of the Reserve Obedience Certificate should be invited to compete at the next Crufts assuming they have not qualified in their own right.

Rationale

This would increase the number of competitors on each day of the Obedience Championships therefore making the rounds more realistic from a timing and length point of view and encouraging more enthusiasts to attend and support their friends. This would make the event more interesting and better attended.

ITEM 11. STRATEGY DOCUMENT

Representatives are invited to review the Strategic Plan, which has been updated in line with requests from the Council made at its previous meeting, and to discuss how the items may be progressed. It is also invited to propose further items.

(Annex F refers – to follow)

ITEM 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Council's next meeting will take place on 20 July 2023. Any items for the agenda must be submitted by 21 April 2023.

NOTES:

1. The Kennel Club will reimburse standard rail fares to all representatives attending the meeting, from their addresses as recorded at The Kennel Club. Claim forms will be available at the meeting.
2. Those resident in Northern Ireland or Scotland may apply in advance for authority to substitute shuttle air travel for standard rail fare, although it is requested that tickets are booked well in advance to take advantage of any reduction in fares.



THE KENNEL CLUB

3. Please give advance notice of matters to be raised under Any Other Business. This assists the Office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Council Chairman.

4. Kennel Club Liaison Council Regulations state that The Kennel Club will bear the cost of all reasonable and externally incurred costs connected with a Council, if agreed in advance. Therefore, representatives should apply to The Kennel Club for approval of any costs they may wish to claim prior to the expense being incurred.