



# AGILITY DOG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA LTD

ABN 83 070 415 040

## CANINE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES POLICY

### **Introduction:**

ADAA believes that Dog Agility should be a safe and enjoyable activity for all Members and their Dogs. This Policy reflects that belief. It aims to reduce the risk and spread of canine contagious disease when it does occur, whilst at the same time minimising the impact on competitions, training and other ADAA activities. In order to be effective, the Policy relies on Members to take due precautions for the health of their Dogs, and to be honest with reporting and quarantining.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidelines for Members whose Dogs have contracted a contagious disease or whose Dogs have been in contact with an affected Dog.

### **Policy Statement:**

This Policy covers the specific requirements of quarantining for Kennel Cough and Parvovirus. Other contagious or potentially contagious diseases are less specifically addressed by this policy.

ADAA and the ADAA Board of Directors do not give veterinary advice or make veterinary decisions for Members' Dogs. Therefore in some instances, veterinary clearance will be required before Dogs that have been affected or exposed to contagious disease are able to return to ADAA events and competitions.

### **Definitions:**

Dog – a Dog registered on ADAA's International Programme Register or Regular Programme Register.

Canine Contagious disease – An infectious disease that is spread through contact with infected dogs. This can be direct contact or contact with the bodily secretions, or with objects that the infected dogs have contaminated.

Incubation period – The period of time from first contact with a contagious disease and the onset of clinical signs of that disease.

Primary contact – In the context of this policy document, primary contact with an affected Dog is deemed to have occurred if a Member's Dog is at the same location as a Dog affected with or subsequently diagnosed with contagious disease, whether or not there was direct contact with the affected Dog at any time.

Quarantine – This is a physical separation and isolation of potentially infectious/contagious dog(s) from other dogs.

Quarantine Period - Determined by the length of time the Dog is likely to be unwell and also for the length of time the Dog is likely to be shedding after it has recovered. In some cases (see policy), veterinary clearance may be required at the end of the quarantine period. (In terms of this policy, quarantining is only in respect to ADAA Dogs and events).

Secondary contact – In the context of this policy document, secondary contact is deemed to have occurred if a Member's Dog is in the same location as a Dog that has had primary contact with a Dog affected with or subsequently diagnosed with contagious disease, whether or not there was directed contact with the primary contact Dog at any time.

Shedding – This is the process where infective organisms such as viruses and bacteria are released from an animal and may infect another animal. Shedding can occur in secretions such as saliva and nasal secretions, and in urine and faeces. Even when a Dog has fully recovered, it can still be shedding and thus still be contagious to other Dogs.

### **Responsibilities:**

Members – Take appropriate health care measures for their own Dogs (as advised by their own veterinarian), report any occurrences of suspected or confirmed contagious disease in their own Dogs, comply with any quarantine requirements, be aware and up to date with current ADAA policies and procedures.

Board of Directors – Ensure that ADAA Members are promptly advised of incidents of contagious disease, track the cases of infectious disease and any spread of such disease, continue to monitor the effectiveness of current contagious diseases policies and update or amend promptly as indicated, promptly enforce the requirement to cancel or postpone ADAA competitions or events in the case of significant disease outbreak or risk.

### **Procedure:**

#### **1. Reporting**

- 1.1 The ADAA Chairman and Secretary must be advised as soon as possible (and certainly within 24 hours) from onset of clinical signs of contagious disease. If specific veterinary diagnosis is made subsequently, the Chairman and Secretary should be contacted again with that information.
- 1.2 There are several reasons why reporting is very important:
  - 1.2.1 ADAA can advise Members, and advise the places where the Dog has been, Members may then choose to avoid those places.
  - 1.2.2 In some cases there will be two or three tiers of quarantining, so this would not be possible without a report of the primary affected case.
  - 1.2.3 Reported cases will raise awareness in Members to be more diligent in observing their own Dogs for signs of illness
  - 1.2.4 This Policy is under constant appraisal, so without a full record of all cases it is impossible to evaluate the Policy accurately

#### **2. Quarantining**

##### **2.1 For Kennel Cough**

- 2.1.1 Affected Dogs and Dogs in the same household/under the same roof as affected Dogs:
  - 2.1.1.1 Any Dog(s) that have kennel cough are to be quarantined from all ADAA activities (including affiliated group activities) for 21 days from onset of clinical signs. This quarantining is to include all Dogs within the household/under the same roof.
  - 2.1.1.2 In a multiple Dog household, all Dogs in the household will be quarantined for the full 21 day period, provided that no other Dogs in the household develop clinical signs. If other Dogs do develop signs, the 21 day quarantine count will then restart on the first day of clinical signs for each subsequent Dog affected, thus extending the total quarantine period for the whole household.
  - 2.1.1.3 A Dog is not required to have veterinary diagnosis/certificate/clearance prior to being excluded from activities or returning to ADAA activities, however Members should comply with any veterinary/professional advice they receive.
- 2.1.2 “In contact” but unaffected Dogs:
  - 2.1.2.1 There is no blanket quarantine on other Dogs that have been in potential contact/near Dog(s) that have been identified with Kennel Cough. The quarantining is only for Dogs that have been identified as having Kennel Cough and other Dogs within the household.

##### **2.2 For Parvovirus**

- 2.2.1 Affected Dogs and Dogs in the same household/under the same roof as affected Dogs:
  - 2.2.1.1 Veterinary clearance is required before any Dog in the affected household is able to return to ADAA activities.

- 2.2.2 “In contact” but unaffected Dogs
  - 2.2.2.1 Any Dog that has had contact with another Dog subsequently diagnosed with Parvovirus, including being present when a Dog subsequently diagnosed with Parvovirus has been at a location at the same time (primary contact), or in contact with others Dogs that have been in contact with a Dog subsequently diagnosed with Parvovirus (secondary contact) is excluded from all ADAA activities (including affiliated group activities) for 21 days post contact.
  - 2.2.2.2 The incubation period for Parvovirus is usually 4-14 days but occasionally can be up to 21 days. Hence Dogs with no signs of Parvovirus, but known to have been in primary or secondary contact with a Dog subsequently diagnosed with Parvovirus, must be quarantined for a period of 21 days from the last known contact (direct or indirect) with that Dog.
- 2.3 **For all other contagious diseases (excluding kennel cough and parvovirus)**  
(examples of other contagious diseases include non-parvovirus gastroenteritis and contagious skin disease such as ringworm infection)
  - 2.3.1 Affected Dogs and Dogs in the same household/under the same roof as affected Dogs
    - 2.3.1.1 Affected Dogs must have made a full recovery and no longer show clinical signs before any Dog in the household/under the same roof can return to ADAA activities. Members must be guided by their own Veterinarians and must inform ADAA of any specific recommendations they may receive.
  - 2.3.2 “In contact” but unaffected Dogs
    - 2.3.2.1 There is no blanket quarantine on other Dogs that have been in potential contact/near Dog(s) that have been identified with contagious disease (except parvovirus). The quarantining is only for Dogs that have been identified as having contagious disease and other Dogs within the household.
    - 2.3.2.2 However, because the Policy potentially covers a wide range of diseases that vary significantly in severity and contagiousness, incidences will be dealt with on a case by case basis.
  - 2.3.3 The Board of Directors may seek veterinary advice about a particular disease and may impose further quarantine restrictions and/or undertake any other measures that may be necessary to control the risk of contagious disease (see also below).

### **3. Disease Outbreaks**

- 3.1 In any case of any contagious disease if there is a cluster of cases or an outbreak that does not appear controlled by the quarantine requirements outlined in this Policy, the Board of Directors reserves the right to extend the quarantine requirements by increasing the length of the quarantine period and/or expanding the definition of “in contact” Dogs that fall into the quarantine requirement.

### **4. Withdrawal from Competitions/Events**

#### **4.1 Due to quarantining restrictions**

Dogs that are withdrawn from an ADAA activity/event due to quarantining requirements will be eligible for refund. Please refer to ADAA’s Refund Policy together with the official schedule for the relevant event(s).

### **5. Voluntary withdrawal**

- 5.1 When there is a reported incidence of Kennel Cough, Parvovirus or other contagious disease, all Members and affiliated group contacts will be advised. It is the Owner’s responsibility to decide the risk for their own Dog(s) in participating in any activities (including ADAA) and to seek advice from their own veterinary surgeon if uncertain. The Board (nor any of ADAA’s representatives) does not give veterinary advice and will not accept liability for the Owners’ decision to participate with their Dog.
- 5.2 If a Member wishes to withdraw a Dog(s) from an event due to their own risk management, refund will be available in accordance with the ADAA Refund Policy and the official schedule for the relevant event(s). Note that in order to be eligible for such refund, withdrawal advice must be received prior to the scheduled commencement of the event or within four days (96 hours) of their receipt of notice of incidence from ADAA, whichever is earlier.

### **6. ADAA Competition/Event cancellation or postponement**

The Board reserves the right to cancel/postpone Competitions/Events, exclude Dogs that have been at affiliated group training from ADAA Competitions/Events and/or request that affiliated group(s) cancel training if, in the opinion of the Board, there is an outbreak that is widespread and/or poses an unacceptable risk to Dogs.

## 7. Minimising Risk

The ADAA Board of Directors does not give veterinary advice, and specific recommendations for minimising the risk of contagious disease should be sought from the Member's own veterinarian. However, they do recommend sensible hygiene and husbandry practices. Further, whilst ADAA does not require Members to vaccinate, the Board of Directors encourages Members to consult their own veterinarians. Several of the contagious diseases of Dogs do have effective vaccines available and there are also titre tests available that quantify antibody levels in the blood stream.

### Stakeholders to be consulted prior to policy change:

Board of Directors

### Related documents:

ADAA Competition Cancellation Policy POL-CLU-020

ADAA Competition and Event Schedules

ADAA FAQ for Members POL-POL-002

ADAA Refund Policy POL-FIN-013

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30 March 2009	Created	P Mead	10 May 2009
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### References:

C. Greene, Editor. (2005) Infectious diseases of the Dog and cat. Philadelphia. W. B. Saunders Company