



ADAA FAQs for Members

This document answers Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about ADAA agility, including competition information, ADAA policies and other important issues for all members.

It is recommended that all ADAA members read this document and review it regularly.



What is ADAA?

ADAA is a volunteer-run organisation that was formed in 1994 to promote international standard agility to all dog owners and to encourage the public to involve their pets more in 'fun' activities. ADAA also formulates rules and guidelines for the conduct of Agility competitions. Agility tests are designed for the enjoyment of the handler, the dog, and for spectator appeal, within the constraints of safety.



Can all dogs participate?

Yes! Anyone who wants to spend time with their canine buddy - male and female, young and old, people with disabilities, everyone. The sport is for all dogs also - whether they are big or small, pure bred or cross breeds. As long as your dog is healthy you can give agility a go. The best way to find out if Agility is for you and your dog is to TRY it.

ADAA offer four different height divisions for dogs, which compete separately. All heights are measured at the wither. There is Toy Class, Mini Class, Midi Class and Maxi Class. The smallest of dogs can have a great time as well as the large dogs. All of the classes have different jump heights for dogs. These jumping height classes were developed to international standards. Toy and Mini have more time to complete a course because of their shorter legs.



When are ADAA events held?

ADAA and ADAA affiliated clubs conducts dozens of competitions each year. To find out if there is a competition near you coming up soon visit the ADAA Events Calendar.

www.adaa.com.au/calendar.htm



How do I enter an ADAA Event?

To enter an ADAA event you first need to become an ADAA member. ADAA members enter events by submitting an Entry Form for each competing dog prior to the entry deadline/s published on the Competition Schedule. The Competition Schedule is normally published at least 3 months before the competition date, and they can be accessed by clicking on the event name within the ADAA Events Calendar. ADAA Membership Forms, Entry Forms and other important forms are available from the ADAA website.

www.adaa.com.au/forms/adaaforms.htm



What happens if a competition is cancelled?

As a general rule, once an ADAA sanctioned Competition schedule is advertised on the ADAA website, every effort should be made by the Club to ensure that the Competition is not cancelled. However it is acknowledged that there are circumstances, from time-to-time that make the holding of a Competition to not be in the best interests of members and/or their dogs or their joint welfare and/or circumstances beyond the control of the Club that preclude the holding of the Competition, as advertised.

ADAA has a published Competition Cancellation Policy, which you should refer to for more information.

www.adaa.com.au/clubs/compcancelpolicy.pdf



Why does ADAA have a Canine Contagious Diseases Policy?

ADAA believes that dog agility should be a safe and enjoyable activity for all members and their dogs. So our Canine Contagious Diseases Policy is part of this belief. It aims to reduce the spread of 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 be honest with reporting and quarantining their dogs.

[ADAA Canine Contagious Diseases Policy](#)



What diseases are covered in the Canine Contagious Diseases Policy?

All canine contagious diseases are covered by the policy. These include kennel cough, parvovirus, other contagious gastro-enteritis diseases, contagious skin diseases such as ringworm and sarcoptic mange etc. The requirements in terms of quarantining and veterinary clearance differ for the different diseases so it is important that you read the policy carefully.

Historically, kennel cough is the main contagious disease that has been reported and quarantined. Contagious skin disease and non-parvovirus gastro-enteritis have been reported only occasionally. Since its inception, ADAA has never had a reported case of parvovirus.

[ADAA Canine Contagious Diseases Policy](#)



How can I reduce my dog's chance of catching contagious diseases?

In general terms, sensible husbandry practices will help protect your dog. Although you cannot eliminate the risk altogether, you can reduce it by making sure that your dog does not share water bowls with other dogs or share tug toys, balls etc. Also make sure that you pick up after your own dog so that you are also potentially reducing risk to other dogs.

For many contagious diseases there are vaccinations available, so, why not ask your vet about it.

Kennel cough is highly contagious and is usually spread by close contact with other dogs. Spread is through the saliva and other secretions and can be direct or indirect.

Parvovirus is potentially fatal, with puppies at greatest risk. Spread can be direct or indirect with contaminated areas such as soil remaining infective for very long periods of time. Vaccination and appropriate segregation of puppies until they are safe to socialise widely are the most important protective measures. These need to be discussed with your own vet so that you make the right decision for you and your puppy.



I think my dog has a contagious disease. Do I need to take him to the vet?

ADAA does not make any specific requirements for you to seek veterinary attention for your dog, nor does it require vaccination or any other veterinary intervention for your dog. These are decisions to be made between you and your vet.

However, in the case of households affected with parvovirus, ADAA does require veterinary clearance for the household before any dogs in that household can return to ADAA competitions or events.

In the case of kennel cough, the Policy does not require Veterinary diagnosis or Veterinary clearance. As to whether or not your own dog needs Veterinary attention and treatment, this is something you need to discuss with your own vet.

For contagious diseases other than parvovirus and kennel cough, the Policy does not require Veterinary diagnosis, treatment or clearance. However, any Veterinary advice about the specific case should be made available to ADAA in order to ensure that the most appropriate measures are taken to minimise spread and /or to impose different quarantine conditions if indicated.



Why do I need to report contagious disease. Can't I just keep my dog away until he is better?

There are a couple of reasons why we require reporting of contagious diseases to ADAA. Firstly, we can let members know about it, and let them know the places you have been with your dog. You have probably seen these notices on ADAChat from time to time. This means they can be more diligent in observing their dogs for signs of contagious disease and also allow them to decide whether or not to take their dogs to certain venues or events. And secondly, it is very important that we have a full record of all cases of contagious diseases so that we can evaluate the Policy accurately to ensure it is fulfilling its function.



Kennel Cough

What do I need to know?

As kennel cough is the contagious disease that is by far the most commonly reported to ADAA, the following slides should help you to understand more about the disease, the rationale for the Policy, and what you should do if your dog is affected.



What is kennel cough?

And how do I know if my dog has got it?

Kennel cough is a fairly common and highly contagious disease of dogs. It is caused by a wide range of bacteria and viruses. Dogs usually catch kennel cough directly from other dogs, so it is more likely in areas where lots of dogs congregate. In fact that is how the disease got its name, but it is by no means limited to kennels, and most dogs probably catch it from other places such as the local dog park.

The most obvious sign that your dog has got kennel cough is the cough itself. The classic cough is a harsh and hacking cough that sounds as if the dog has something stuck in its throat. But in other cases the cough can be much milder. Generally the cough will persist for at least a couple of days but can last a lot longer. Other things to look for (but not always seen) are runny eyes and nose and sneezing. Usually there is no loss of appetite or lethargy. There can be more severe complications of kennel cough but fortunately these are much less common.



My dog started coughing 3 days ago. How do I work out when is he allowed back to training and competing?

The total quarantine period is 21 days, starting on the very first day that you saw any symptoms. So that day would be Day 1, then count off each day, such as Day 2, 3, .. until Day 21 which is the last day of the quarantine period. An easy way to check whether you have calculated correctly is to look at the days of the week. If your dog first showed signs on a Tuesday, his first day that he can resume normal activities would also be on a Tuesday. So that would be the day your dog could be back training and competing again.



My dog only coughed for 5 days and now he seems fine. Why can't he come back to training before the 21 days is up?

The 21 day quarantine period was calculated to cover both the period of time that your dog was showing signs of kennel cough, and also for the period of time when he has recovered but is still contagious to other dogs. This process, called shedding, lasts longer than the disease itself. On average, a dog will be coughing or showing other signs of kennel cough for about 7 days, then will shed for up to 14 days (maybe longer), so that is how the 21 days quarantine is determined.



So, what is shedding?

This is the process where infective organisms such as viruses and bacteria are released from an animal and may infect another animal. In kennel cough, shedding can occur in the saliva, nasal secretions and tears. Even when a dog has fully recovered from kennel cough, it can still be shedding and thus still be contagious to other dogs.



I have three dogs, and all of them are now coughing. How do I calculate the 21 days quarantine?

Some people have had trouble with this calculation so it is a great question to ask!! Firstly, to explain, because kennel cough is so contagious, the policy requires that if a dog from a multiple dog household contracts kennel cough, the 21 day quarantine period will apply to that dog and to all the other dogs in the household. So the whole household would be in quarantine for that same 21 day period. But if during that time another dog in the household contracts kennel cough as well, then the quarantine time needs to be adjusted. This would be done by starting a new 21 day count for the next affected dog, and also for the next affected dog in your case as you said that you had 3 dogs affected. So, for example if the first dog showed signs on Monday, and the second dog on Wednesday, and the third on Thursday, the 21 day count would be recalculated from Thursday for the whole household. In this case it would mean that the total quarantine period would be extended by 3 days.



**My friend's dog is coughing
and we usually walk and train together.
Does my dog have to be quarantined too?**

Your dog does not need to be quarantined or excluded from any ADAA activity or event including training unless it shows signs of kennel cough.



Can I still go to my training club when my dogs are in quarantine?

Yes, you can but all your dogs will have to stay at home of course.. Most kennel cough is spread by direct contact and only for a short time by indirect contact. So, as long as you are sensible, you will not spread the disease. This means being attentive to hygiene including washing hands and wearing clean clothes. So it is OK to instruct or attend a class as an observer during that period.



How do I contact ADAA

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

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