



N.A.T.B. DOG SPORTS



NATB Dog Sports Code of Conduct 2014

1. Dog welfare should be the top priority at all times, therefore all dogs must be fit and healthy for the purpose of the Dog Sports they are participating in. The responsibility for this will lie with the guardian but any NATB member who has any concerns should raise this before any activity takes place.
2. Only train or race your dogs in temperatures and humidity which is acceptable for the type or breed of dog you are running and the Dog Sports discipline you are taking part in (for example canicross may be run in slightly higher temperatures than bikejoring or scootering dependent on your dogs' personal circumstances). Again the responsibility for making this decision will lie with the guardian but any member who has concerns should voice this before any activity takes place.
3. Any training or racing must take place on surfaces which are appropriate for the dog and must not cause any unnecessary injury, preferably with only short distances on hard surfaces such as concrete or tarmac and ideally all grass and soft trails.
4. All dogs must be kept on a lead (if not adequately tethered or confined) and under the control of a competent handler at all times whilst on event or training sites.
5. All equipment being used by members for the purposes of training or racing should be suitable for use, in that it is built to withstand use for Dog Sports and is in a safe condition to be used for that purpose.
6. Members should wear suitable protective headgear and clothing when training or racing, this will include a helmet at all times when using wheeled vehicles, plus any other gear deemed necessary for the conditions (ie waterproofs when taking part in organised trek training on Salisbury Plains)
7. Members should ensure they are as visible as possible to other trail users when training or racing, using high viz clothing and lighting where low level light conditions are expected.
8. Members should only run dog teams of a size appropriate for the trails and equipment they are using, considering the width of the trails and other users who may be on the trails.
9. Members are responsible for ensuring that they are training or racing in areas where they have permission to do so. If in any doubt about this, permission should be sought and extra care taken when using public areas such as byways, bridleways etc.
10. Members will ensure they are adequately covered by public liability insurance, as although events may have public liability insurance this will not cover you for any personal liability claims that could be made against you.
11. If permits are required for the areas of training or racing then members are responsible for obtaining these permits and training or racing within the conditions of them.
12. Training or racing should not take place on a Public Highway, it is deemed unsafe by NATB Dogs Sports and is not allowed by Highway regulations.
13. Members should train in areas that have suitable parking for the vehicles attending and space for the dogs attending. I.e: Not in a lay by next to a busy road and with plenty of room for dogs to be unloaded from vehicles without encroaching on other dogs' space.
14. Members should always train or race with care and consideration for all other users of the trails where they are training or competing, moving over and slowing down where necessary to allow safe passage of all public, other members, competitors and any dogs, whether they be under close control or not.
15. When taking part in any competitive event, members will follow the race rules for that particular organisation or club at all times.
16. Members should always respect the environment they are training or racing in, leaving the areas as they were found.