



AFSS

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF SLEDDOG SPORTS

AGGRESSIVE DOG POLICY

OBJECTIVE:

To enhance and promote professional animal and human behaviour at any AFSS affiliated sleddog races and events.

DEFINITION – AGGRESSIVE DOG:

Any dog that is found to be aggressive. This includes any unprovoked attack that makes contact with another dog, dog team, driver, spectator or official.

AGGRESSIVE DOG REGISTER:

The dog, owner of said dog and the musher will be published in the AFSS Aggressive Dog Register. Details to include a photo of the dog if possible and/or microchip number if available.

PROCEDURE:

1. A complaint is made in writing to the event official/s at an AFSS affiliated race or event, reporting the aggressive dog behaviour. The complaint must identify the dog, the owner/musher, the event date, time and circumstances. The complaint must be made at the earliest opportunity from the incident occurring, including details of witnesses, information on photos of injuries sustained forthcoming.
2. The Race Marshall and/or race club official will forward this written complaint to the AFSS Secretary and the Race Marshall shall be invited to make comment on the complaint but this is not mandatory.
3. The owner/musher will receive notification of the complaint and will be asked if there are any extenuating circumstances.
4. If the owner/musher does not provide sufficient information or is unable to justify their dog's behaviour, AFSS may issue the 'first written warning'. The name of the dog will be listed in the Aggressive Dog Register as 'received first written warning'. This decision will be made by the AFSS National Committee and the relevant AFSS State Representative (which shall then be called 'the tribunal')
5. If the same dog is reported a second time at an AFSS affiliated race or event, procedures 1 to 3 shall be followed. AFSS may then, if it sees fit, issue a 'second written warning' to the owner/musher. The name of the dog will be listed in the Aggressive Dog Register as 'received second written warning'.
6. If two written notices are sent, the dog may be refused entry at any AFSS affiliated race or event.
7. The owner/musher is entitled at any time following six months from the second written warning to make a submission to AFSS showing that the dog no longer exhibits aggressive tendencies (refer to Right of Appeal procedures).

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RIGHT OF APPEAL:

1. After receiving the second warning notice, the owner of the dog is entitled to appeal the decision by writing to the AFSS and setting out the grounds for appeal.
2. AFSS will hold a meeting at a time nomination by AFSS. In attendance will be the National Committee and the relevant AFSS State Representative (“the tribunal”).
3. The tribunal may seek further information from any party and adjourn the appeal meeting if necessary.
4. If it is proven that the dog no longer exhibits aggressive tendencies, the dog shall be removed from the “Aggressive Dog Register” although their past reports shall remain on record for future reference.

GROUNDINGS FOR APPEAL:

1. The owner and/or musher must prove that the dog no longer has aggressive tendencies. For example, dog obedience, workshops, signed document from other mushers stating “...dog is no longer aggressive’ or ‘is under control’.

COMMENTS:

1. Information stored in the AFSS database will be available to any Race Giving Organisation (RGO) Australia wide.
2. Should an incident be proved that AFSS deems to be severe in its action, AFSS reserves the right to ban the dog from any further AFSS races indefinitely or for a defined period of time, notify all other clubs and refer the matter to the relevant legal authorities.
3. This Policy will not interfere or override any rules or obligations of the Race Marshall who has complete control of any aggressive dog behavior and the action taken on the day.
4. The Policy is not to replace any decisions of any individual RGO who may wish to ban a dog from competing at their own discretion.
5. NOTE: All communication is to be sent to the AFSS Secretary as soon as possible – afss.secretary@gmail.com.