



# Pilot Project

## **Bitches in Season**

**Please see rulebook section:**

### **1.4 - Eligibility**

“Dogs less than eighteen (18) months of age, bitches in season ... must NOT be permitted to participate in any AAC agility trial.”

**The board took a number of the Development Committee recommendations and agreed to run a pilot project for one year.**

### **Motion 211211**

Bitches in season will be allowed to compete, at the discretion of the trial host, for a trial period starting July 1, 2022 and ending July 1, 2023. This does not include Regional and National Events. This will be re-evaluated and information gathered by the Development Committee with feedback from all trial hosts and this shall be presented back to the Board by the June 2023 meeting.

### **Development Committee – Bitches in Season (BIS) Recommendations:**

#### **Local Trials:**

Allowing BIS to compete will be at the sole discretion of the host club. The club premium must state clearly whether BIS are allowed, and if they are allowed, the specific rules and regulations pertaining to BIS and any additional requirements deemed reasonable by the host club.

#### **Requirements for BIS at AAC Trials:**

At any AAC event where BIS are allowed to compete, the following conditions will apply and will be clearly stated in the club premium:

- 1.** Handlers are required to notify the trial secretary that they will be running a BIS at the event as soon as it is known.
- 2.** It must be stated in the club premium that handlers should minimize exposure of their BIS to other dogs and limit their movements about the grounds.
- 3.** If the club does not allow BIS entries, they must state if they will allow BIS on site and provide benching and walking area. If BIS are not allowed on site, and a dog comes into season during the trial, the competitor will be allowed to withdraw all their dogs entered at that event and offered a refund or credit.
- 4.** Competitors will be notified there is a BIS on site.
- 5.** A protective mat shall be used at the start line. The club premium must state whether the mat will be provided by the host or the competitor.
- 6.** The club premium will state whether BIS will be required to run in protective panties.

7. BIS will run as a group at the end of each class.
8. "BIS" will be noted next to the dog's name on the gate sheet so that other competitors, ring crew and the Judge(s) are aware.
9. Regardless of whether BIS are allowed at a particular trial, or not, competitors with dogs that come into season will be allowed to withdraw and will be offered a refund or credit if they choose not to compete.
10. BIS must use a designated relief area.
11. BIS must wear protective "panties" when not running or within the designated relief area.

**Additional Recommendations for Host Clubs that Allow BIS:**

Host clubs that allow BIS should consider additional requirements. Any additional requirements must be clearly stated on the club premium. For example BIS will wear a specifically coloured bandana (provided by the host club) in order to identify that the dog is a BIS.