



ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP REPORT **Following meetings held on 13 January 2020 and 14 September** **2020**

After many years of trying we completed the practical part of the jumping study at Nottingham Trent University funded by the Kennel Club from the 18th to 22nd of August 2020. Many thanks to the volunteers recruited via Gary Martin and the Liaison Council Equipment Panel, the NTU staff and Dr Jackie Boyd (chair of the Activities Health and Welfare subgroup) for their time and contribution.

We had over 20 dogs taking part and a range of 5 breeds to give a fair representation of dogs competing in trials. Unfortunately changes to lockdown rules, quarantine and personal illness issues prevented some volunteers from taking part.

The trial was due to start in March but was delayed due to the uncertainty surrounding Covid19. It was possible to start in August by complying with the stringent NTU Risk Assessment when the campus was essentially closed. The main impact of this was the restriction to only 2 handlers allowed on site at a time which meant the study carried on over 4 working days.

The dogs were weighed, and height measured, then completed 3 jumps at different heights (6ft, 5.5ft and 5ft) on the scale and 3 jumps over the long jump at 9ft, 8ft and 7ft. There were 5 cameras set up to capture the dogs motion to allow for research into joint angles and body position and a pressure pad on the landing side to inform on how the pressure is spread over each of the dog's 4 feet.

The review of all the data will now take some time to complete and a report will follow.

It is encouraging to prove that it is possible to do some things with our Working Trials dogs despite the current restrictions.

Barry Gilbert