

September 29, 2020

To the members of the Australian Flyball Association,

I write today in support of the proposal to raise the minimum competition age for flyball dogs in Australia from 12 months to 18 months of age.

I am a Diplomate of both the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation and am currently a canine sports medicine consult and head of my own business, Zink Integrative Sports Medicine. I evaluate canine structure and locomotion and design individualised retraining and conditioning programs for canine athletes.

For dogs to be ready to compete at 12 months, they will generally have had to have been training high-impact exercises like flyball turns and jumps for many months prior to competing, which places unnecessary strain on their developing joints. In my expert opinion, 12 months is too young for dogs to be competing in the sport, and I would recommend that the AFA follows both NAFA and the FCI in raising their minimum age.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my support to this proposal.

Regards;



Chris Zink DVM PhD DACVSMR CCRT CVSMT CVA