AFA Matting –Procedure for control and use of matting

The AFA received a donation of 12 rolls of anti fatigue matting after the World Dog Games. The rolls are 3 feet wide and 60 feet in length. Each roll weight approx 35 kg and when rolled is approx 70 cm in diameter. In order to ensure extended life it is essential that the matting be correctly stored, handled and laid. When stored the matting should either be in a single or two stack level with the second stack placed between rolls on the lower stack.

The AFA has rented a secure storeroom under the Club House at Castle Hill Showgrounds Dog Section for storage.

Approved uses for matting.

The matting can only be used in association with a flat, even and solid surface such as concrete, solid timber or carpeted floor area. The AFA has approved its use for Competitions, Training Days and Demonstrations where there is a suitable base floor. Applications to use the matting should be made via the Event Sanction Application Form.

Under no circumstances is the matting to be accessed or used without prior AFA approval.

It is the responsibility of the hirer to arrange transport of the matting from the store area to the event location and to return the matting to the store area at end of use. It should be recognised that the total matting weighs approx. half a tonne and occupies an area well in excess of the normal 6 by 4 trailer. Two standard trailers or a double Horse float is required.

Fees for use.

Whilst the matting was donated it does have a finite life span and the AFA Committee has determined that there should be a use fee applied in order to provide a replacement fund and to recover storage costs. The initial fee for use will be $10 per team per day of Competition use.

For demonstrations using the matting the AFA will determine whether any charge should apply, based on circumstances – such as whether the AFA is receiving a fee for the Demonstration.

Where a Club wishes to conduct a Training Day using the matting no fee will apply but host club will be responsible for transport and tape costs.

In addition to any use fee the hiring club shall be required to purchase from the AFA the necessary tape to secure the matting. Tape will be sold to Clubs at cost price and a tape applicator will also be provided. As a guide tape needed is likely to cost in the order of $150 for two racing lanes.

Given the costs and effort involved in set up Clubs are encouraged to consider two days of competition on an indoor arena. This could be either a

two day Competition or two separate one day competitions and could involve two Clubs combining to run the event. This format is common in North America.

Laying and taping matting.(Guidelines based on initial Competition experience).

Allow approx 3 hours to prepare the surface and lay the matting. (Initial Comp actually took 3.5 hours to lay with 4 - 5 people involved in laying.)

- The base surface needs to be well brushed or air blown to remove any surface dirt or gravel.
- Mark a Centre line with chalk and then measure equal distances on either side of Centre for the two racing lanes. –
- The two sections of matting making up the Centre run of each racing lane should be rolled out and the edges of the matting rubbed over with metho to remove grease and dirt (when done as part of the set up of the second racing lane at Mutts on Mats this greatly assisted the adhesion of the tape and reduced set up time). –
- The Centre lane should then be taped to the floor on both sides, at the join and at the run back end. The Box end of the lane should NOT be taped to the floor. Make sure that the tape is evenly applied to both the floor and the mat as this assists the adhesion of the second and third matt sections to the centre matting.
- The second and third width of rubber should then be rolled out along side the centre run, edges treated with metho. and then taped to the centre run. Based on initial use it does not appear necessary to tape the outside of the second and third runs of matting to the floor. –
- Box line, Start line, Jump locations and start gap lines (if required) can be shown by use of white 2 inch tape applied to the matting. The start line should be taped across all 3 runs and onto floor surface. DO NOT mark the matting with markers or paint as the matting lengths need to be able to be rotated.

When rolling out the matting the maximum run back length is achieved by allowing approx 4 foot of matting behind the Box line – this will give a join in the matting approx 6 ft before the start line and a run back of approx 65 ft. If this layout is used it is desirable to use grey colour joining tape to tape over the join in the two lengths of matting so it become less obvious. An alternative layout involves joining the matting right at the start line and then measuring back 51 feet to get the Box line. Under this option the run back area will be approx 60 ft.

A run back tape can then be taped to the matting join tape on the right hand side of each centre lane using clear tape. The run back tape can be made by cutting a standard measure tape of its roll up device.

Care should be taken in removing the tape from the matting in order to avoid tearing the rubber. All tape shall be removed and the matting then brushed to remove any dirt and then be tightly re-rolled.

Indoor Venues

At this stage the only known indoor venue in Sydney is the Norwest Canine Association covered arena at Castle Hills Showgrounds dog section. Any Club is welcome to book and utilise this area. The Venue is advanced booked for some Dog Shows and during events like the Castle Hill Show. Booking enquiries should be directed to Chris Mann, the Secretary of Norwest canine Association via email to manxmann@zeta.org.au (Note Norwest Thunderdogs are NOT involved in bookings or rental of the covered arena and are therefore not aware of forward bookings).

(Any information regarding other venues would be welcomed. Area required would be an indoor open plan area of approx 130 feet (40 metres) by 50 feet (16 metres) with solid and regular floor and appropriate entry/exit points).