

# MEMO: Confusion on “Exposed”/”Contact”

DATE: October 31, 2023

RE: Canine sickness and Field Trials



Recently we have been consumed with misinformation regarding the correct procedures about possible Canine Illness in our game. Some of this is since the AKC uses the term Contact or Exposed. People then make up their own definition of what this means.

Trying to clarify this for everyone is a virtually impossible task. Everyone will have their own definition. We would like to be somewhat uniform on how we look at this problem. This Memo is meant for Guidelines. It is important to remember that each club has a right to determine their own standard. It was developed by the ESSFTA founders in this manner, and I think it makes a great deal of sense. The Parent Club HAS NO AUTHORITY to determine this. IT is a club decision. Given this let us deal with how we see it:

1. If your dog has any symptoms of any illness DO NOT bring it to the Trial.
2. If your dog exhibits any illness at the trial or immediately after the trial have it tested to what it is.
3. If it is a transmittable disease notify your club immediately.
4. Dogs with transmittable diseases must be quarantined for thirty (30) days as is the AKC rule.
5. Exposed/Contact does not mean every dog in that trial.
6. Riding in the same shuttle, drinking out of common water sources, using the same dunk tank and allowing them to drink out of them IS exposure/contact.
7. We all need to mitigate our issue by taking PERSONAL responsibility to protect our animals. Air them on a lead not let them run free, keep water bowls protected.
8. Young dogs and older dogs are especially vulnerable. Protect them. Keep your distance in parking lots.
9. Blanket statements like if you ran this particular trial, you cannot run ours does not make any sense. It is an overreaction and causes more harm than good.
10. Take every precaution to protect your dogs.

Please remember that it is all about dogs. We want to do everything to protect them while still allowing them to do what they love to do.

Each Club has the right to determine how they will handle their events....as it should be.

The ESSFTA Parent Club will be working with experts and the AKC via the ESSFTA Health and Wellness Committee. We will have the information they generate at the 2024 May Annual meeting or before if it is ready for action.

We as the Parent club would like to give you our guidelines on maximizing your event while protecting your dogs.

Michael F. Nolan

ESSFTA Field VP