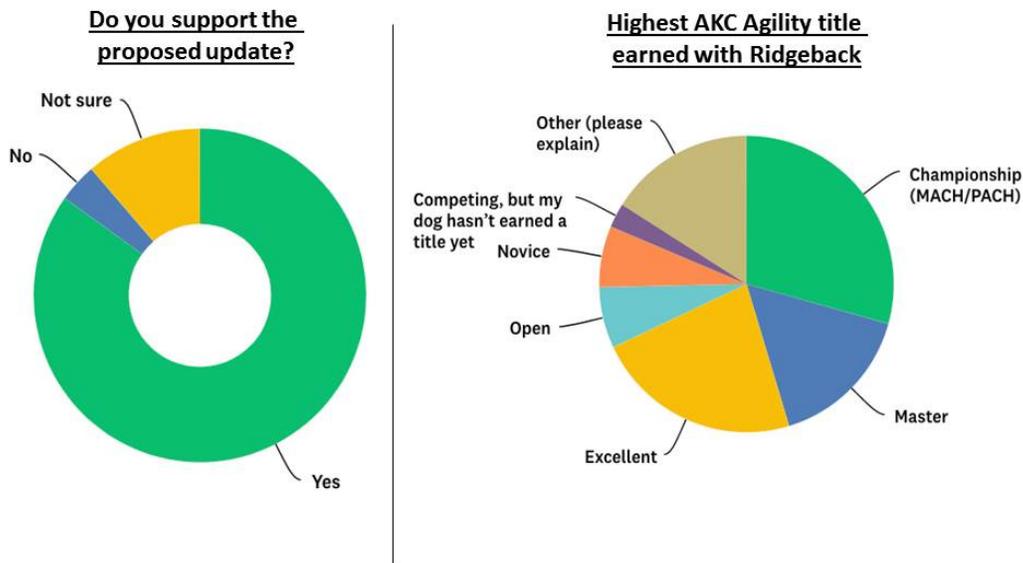# RRCUS Agility Survey Results

The RRCUS membership was surveyed regarding a proposed update to the RRCUS Agility Top 20 ranking system, with the survey open from May 18 to June 1, 2020.

A clear majority of the responding members were in support of the proposal. Therefore the Agility Subcommittee and the Performance Committee unanimously agree that this updated ranking system for the RRCUS Agility Top 20 should be implemented—pending review of the RRCUS BOD—with the effective date of January 1, 2021.

The updated rules, as they will be provided on the RRCUS website, are given on Page 3.

Details & Analysis of Survey Results

- **52 members completed the survey:**
  - 45 (86%) had earned an AKC Agility title with a Ridgeback.
  - 24 (46%) had earned a Championship or Master title with a Ridgeback.
  - Out of the 44 RRCUS members who had qualified in AKC Agility trials during 2019, 28 completed the survey (a 63% response rate).

- **44 out of 52 respondents (84%) answered YES**, they would support the proposed update to the RRCUS Agility Top 20 ranking system.
  - 20 (83%) of the 24 respondents with Championship or Master titles answered YES.
  - Excluding Subcommittee member responses, 39 out of 47 (82%) answered YES.
- 6 answered NOT SURE.
  - Common critiques discussed below.
- 2 answered NO.
  - One respondent answered, NO, RRCUS should use AKC rules for Agility ranking.
  - One respondent answered, NO, RRCUS should only rank Master-level dogs.

The Subcommittee identified 3 categories of common critiques of the proposal (critiques that were found in comments from two or more respondents):

(1) 5 comments asked about rankings for **Preferred** jump height.
- This topic has been taken up by the Performance Committee for further discussion.

(2) **3 comments** asked about the rule of **"3 Qs per class/level/year"** for non-Master level Qs.
- Rule reads: *"For each of the STD and JWW classes in Novice, Open, and Excellent levels, only the first 3 Qs earned per class per level will be counted toward ranking in the calendar year."*

- The Subcommittee has added the following footnote for clarification:
  - *"A maximum of 18 non-Master level Qs can count toward a dog's ranking in one year: 3 in Novice STD + 3 in Novice JWW + 3 in Open STD + 3 in Open JWW + 3 in Excellent STD + 3 in Excellent JWW = 18 non-Master level Qs."*

- Some additional background from the Subcommittee regarding this rule:
  - The quarterly data from AKC does not state which "leg" a given Q is toward a title, therefore, counting these **"first 3 Qs"** in the manner here described is the ***closest proxy available for counting the Qs that earn a dog its title.***
  - Per 2018 and 2019 data, the vast majority of Ridgeback Agility competitors have moved to the next level of competition as soon as they are eligible to do so (despite current RRCUS ranking allowing for up to 4 Qs per year from non-Master classes).

(3) **2 comments** asked **if the AKC formula is appropriate** for the Ridgeback breed.

The Subcommittee offers the following reply regarding the assessment of Ridgeback performance in Agility via the AKC formula of *Total Points = Full Seconds Under Standard Course Time + (# of QQs x 10):*

- The Ridgeback is an athletic breed, fully capable of earning QQs (a measure of consistency) and completing courses under Standard Course Time (a measure of speed).
  - These two metrics—QQs and seconds under SCT—are the same metrics for the Master Agility Champion (MACH) title.
    - Dozens of Ridgeback teams, including first-time Ridgeback owners and "Novice A" Ridgebacks, have earned the MACH title.
  - These two metrics are appropriate for ranking because the ideal Agility dog of any breed is ***both*** consistent ***and*** fast. Ridgebacks are no exception and they are indeed capable of being both consistent and fast! One quality does not preclude the other.

- Our proposal has specifically adapted the AKC formula to better suit the Ridgeback community by providing recognition to the teams who are actively and successfully competing at all lower levels.
  - To the best of our knowledge, this particular tailoring of the AKC formula to better suit Agility Ridgebacks may be unique among breed club rankings!

Our thanks to all the RRCUS members who contributed to this survey!

The RRCUS Agility Subcommittee:
Carol Vesely, Subcommittee Chair
Alex Hart
Judith Lichtman
Kelly Pierson
Pam Rape
Jennifer Underwood

Report submitted to the RRCUS BOD for review on July 8, 2020

RRCUS AGILITY TOP 20

Update implemented as of January 1, 2021

The formula for calculating the RRCUS Agility Top 20 is as follows:

Total Points = Full Seconds Under SCT + (# of QQs x 10)

SCT = Standard Course Time

QQ = Standard (STD) and Jumpers With Weaves (JWW) Qualifying runs earned at same trial

Rules applying to formula:

1. This formula applies to Qualifying runs (Qs) in regular STD and JWW classes at all levels (Novice, Open, Excellent, Master).
   a. For each of the STD and JWW classes in Novice, Open, and Excellent levels, only the first 3 Qs earned per class per level will be counted toward ranking in the calendar year.[1]
   b. There is no limit to the number of Qs that will count from Master STD and JWW classes.

2. **One Point** is earned for each full second under SCT.
   a. If a Q is over SCT, that Q will earn 0 points based on time (but is still eligible to earn points as part of a QQ, per Rule #3 below).
   b. Note: the "score" assigned by AKC to a Q—which ranges from 85 to 100—does not contribute to the calculation of points in the RRCUS ranking system (see Example below**).

3. **10 Points** are earned for each QQ earned (the two Qs that comprise a QQ do not need to be at the same level).

Example calculation:

Ridgeback A at Trial 1			
RESULTS	**SCORE OF Q (per AKC)****	**TIME**	**POINTS EARNED**
Novice STD—Q	85	15 seconds *over* SCT	**0**
Open JWW—Q	95	5 seconds under SCT	**5**
Ridgeback A earns a **QQ** for RRCUS ranking			**10**
TOTAL POINTS earned for RRCUS Ranking for Ridgeback A:			**15**

Qualifying scores are directly provided from the AKC to the Agility statistician, Kelly Pierson.
Comments and questions can be sent to Kelly via e-mail at: kellypierson0309@gmail.com

---

[1] A maximum of 18 non-Master level Qs can count toward a dog's ranking in one year:
3 in Novice STD + 3 in Novice JWW + 3 in Open STD + 3 in Open JWW + 3 in Excellent STD + 3 in Excellent JWW = 18 non-Master level Qs.