

**Notification 12 - Amendments to Rules ( Section 9.2) to include “Mistreatment of a Dog” and amended Penalty for “Inhumane treatment of a dog”.**

The current AFA Rules indicates that the penalty for “Inhumane treatment of a dog ( including racing a dog under 12 months of age) is a Red Card – in effect a 3 heat send off. The penalty in this case would be against the member rather than the dog as it is the member who is at fault, not the dog. It has been drawn to the AFA’s attention that if the offence was running an under age dog the current Rule would theoretically allow a member to continue to run that dog after serving the 3 heat penalty. This clearly was not the intent of the Rule.

The Committee has reviewed the issue of dog mistreatment and has decided to adopt the following amended Rules **“On Trial”** effective from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2009.

Specific amendments:

Rule 9.2 (r ) on Page 24 of Rule Book under Red Card DELETE existing Clause (ii) “Inhumane treatment of a dog(includes racing a dog under 12 months of age)” and REPLACE with Clause (ii) “ Mistreatment of a dog. This includes unreasonable treatment short of violence that causes the dog to display obvious and sustained distress”.

Rule 9.2 (r ) on Page 14 under Black Card –RENUMBER existing part (iii) to be new part (iv) and INSERT as (iii) “Inhumane treatment of a dog (includes racing a dog under 12 months of age)’.

The above rule change gives Judges the discretion to assess whether the members behaviour is “Mistreatment” (and that a Red Card penalty against the member is sufficient) or represents “Inhumane” treatment and accordingly that a Black Card penalty against the member should apply. In the case of a member running a dog under 12 months of age NO discretion applies and a Black Card is to be issued. In this case the dog is not be allowed to continue to run (even though the penalty is against the member) and all heats run with that dog are to be forfeited.