**AFA Notification to Members No. 45 – March 2014.**

This notification deals with an “On Trial” Rule relating to the decision of the AFA to abolish the carding penalty associated with a dog simply crossing the center line of the Ring and not causing any interference to the other team dogs or handlers.

Effective from 29th March 2014 dogs will no longer be carded for simply crossing – this will apply not only in the runback area but also in the racing lane area.

The offence of interference continues to apply – and Judges will continue to have discretion to stop a race for interference in a situation where it appears likely that interference is about to occur. The carding and associated penalty for interference continues to apply.

The Rule regarding a dog chasing its ball and crossing into the other lane will also continue to apply ( Refer Clause 9.2 (I) iii). In that circumstance the Judge will stop the race and rerun the heat.

The changes necessary to reflect the abolition of the carding penalties for crossing in the AFA Rules have been incorporated in the copy of the AFA Rules published on the Web, showing the changes as being “On Trial”.

It is likely that the On Trial Rule will be submitted to members for final adoption at the 2015 AGM.

B.Lindsay (AFA Secretary).