

## Additional Notes from the FCI Working Commission Meeting March 2017

Provided by Frank Phillips

The FCI Working Commission is working to have the stick hits in the World championships reinstated. The Working Commission voted 19-1 to send a letter to the General Committee stating that they did not follow established procedures when they banned stick hits from the FCI World Championships. The host country (Germany) has also written a letter to the General Committee stating that they submitted a bid and the General Committee approved the bid in which it is stated that the trial will be held by “the current regulations”. In the current regulations it states that stick hits are in the rules unless “prohibited by law” in a country, Germany does not have laws prohibiting stick hits so they want to follow the current rules in the World Championships also. One thing blatantly obvious in the Working Commission meeting is that the Working Commission is adamantly working to keep stick hits in the IPO rules and maintain the working ability of our dogs. There is one member of the General Committee that feels that stick hits violate animal protection laws, that prohibit “hurting” an animal, he feels that stick hits hurt the dogs and from people that have talked to him, he will not listen to explanations that it is a padded stick and does not hurt. Unfortunately, he is in a powerful position and believes he is right.

The current proposed rules will go to the General Committee for approval and hopefully that will take place by end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter so that an International Judge’s meetings to educate judges can take place over next winter.