

# Calibration of Flyboxes

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Hi everyone,

There has long been a problem of different club's flyboxes performing with different characteristics. This in itself is annoying, but there is also the problem that there could safety issues for the dogs in that if a ball goes too high for a small dog (or even a large dog) they can damage their backs as they leap and twist trying to catch the ball. Also, if the ball goes too close to the top of the box, dogs can injure themselves if they hit the box trying to grab the ball.

In an effort to understand the way in which different boxes performed and the effect that this would have on both large and small balls, I carried out some experimentation on a number of different boxes. I then set about trying to standardise this in a way that could be used to calibrate the performance of a flybox so that we could have some similarity in the way in which all clubs boxes performed.

After a lot of experimentation and adjusting of elastic cord, I have come up with a simple method to calibrate boxes so that there is less variation in the way that they perform. The calibration is initially performed with a standard tennis ball and getting it to land in the acceptable zone. (See attached file) Then a trial with a small ball is carried out and it should either land in the second or third zones. Zone one is too close to the box and probably wouldn't clear the top of the box sufficiently. Anything outside of zones two and three is also unacceptable.