

Frequently asked questions (FAQ'S)

How do I enrol?

Download the membership form from the website, complete it, and bring it to training on Sunday morning, at about 8.40am before training starts so that we can process your application and you can start on time at 9am with everyone else. Alternatively, we have forms available at the Trailer when you arrive.

What else do I need to provide?

We will need to sight a current vaccination certificate for your dog and you will need to pay your membership fees depending on which level you choose on the form.

Do I need to bring anything else?

Yes, you will need a collar and lead for your dog (dogs must be on lead at all times unless instructed by a trainer), soft food treats, a bumbag for food treats, water and a bowl for your dog.

What do I wear?

Sensible, closed in, shoes (no thongs allowed) and no loose fitting garments that will flap and get in the way of your training. A sun hat and sunglasses on warm days and raincoat for rainy days.

Is Training ever cancelled?

Yes, in the summer if the forecast on the day is for 40 degrees, or more, we do not conduct training and, in the winter, if there is a road weather alert current on the morning of training, we also cancel the training. (Listen to your radio news in the winter before you leave home)

Is there anything we are NOT allowed to bring?

Yes, the club will not allow Choker Chains on dogs and you will not be allowed to take part in training with a Choker Chain on your dog.

Can my child do the training with our dog?

Yes, but only if he / she is over 12 years of age and they must also be accompanied by an adult at all times

How long do classes go for?

All classes commence at 9am sharp and usually finish at 10am

Can I buy any merchandise at the Club?

Yes, we have a selection of leads, head halters, body harnesses and training aids at very reasonable prices. Our trainers will also assist you by fitting head halters or harnesses to your dog to ensure a proper fit.

My dog has been attacked previously in a park and is very nervous around other dogs, should I come to training?

Yes, absolutely, your dog will improve over time but be very sure to explain to your trainer that your dog has specific issues and then we can cater for him / her in our classes. If your dog does not respond to the training we will refer you to a specialist trainer for one-on-one training.

What do you teach at training?

In puppy class we teach socialisation, good manners, bite inhibition and basic behaviours: Sit, down, come, walk on a loose lead and settle.

In Beginners class we teach all the things you will need to enjoy your dog in normal day to day living. This includes Sit, down, stand, come, stays, walk on loose lead, settle, socialisation, etc.

Intermediate and Advanced Class builds on these to a higher level of precision and reliability.

The pre-trial class prepares you for entering obedience trial competitions.

Do I have to use food in training? What if my dog does not want the food? Do I have to have food with me forever?

Ideally, yes, as food is absolutely one of the most perfect rewards in class! It is quick, it is easy to carry and it is a wonderful way to gauge your dogs mood (a fearful or highly stressed dog won't eat. It is especially convenient and easy to use during initial training because you can cut it up into small pieces, put it in your pocket or training pouch and use it repeatedly within one training session. As your dog matures and progresses through training you will find that the best rewards are relevant "life rewards" – allowing your dog to do what he/she wants as a reward for good behaviour. These can be activities like going for a walk, or throwing a toy, or having their dinner etc.

Do I have to bring my dog with me?

Yes, you need to have your dog with you so you can get the moves right. You will then be able to practice the correct moves at home.

How long will it take to train my dog?

All dogs and all handlers are different and learn different things at different paces. Dog training is all about repetition. The dog needs lots of repetitions to learn something so frequent practice at home reduces the time to train your dog. Pups and young dogs need time to grow and develop as well. It will probably take around 6 months to have a trained dog but huge progress will be made in the first 8 weeks.

Does the training use positive reinforcement methods?

Definitely, yes. We do not allow any rough treatment, tagging, or force, or shouting at training.