

Glen Iris Dog Training Club Inc.

Induction Pack

Statement of Purpose

1. Facilitate the socialisation of dogs of all breeds and ages.
2. Educate dog owners as to their responsibilities to their dogs and to other members of the community.
3. Conduct classes to train dogs in both obedience and agility.
4. Encourage interested members to compete with their dog in obedience and agility trials.
5. Conduct social gatherings of members and their families from time to time.

FAQs

Should I give my dog breakfast before class?

We suggest that do not feed your dog before training. Your dog will work best when eager for a food reward. Also remember to adjust your dog's daily food intake if you have been training with food treats.

Can my children train our dog?

Children over the age of 13 can be involved in training. However, a parent or other responsible adult must be present on the grounds.

When can my dog do agility?

Dogs should be close to 12 months to begin agility work, starting with jumps at a low height. (Note that dogs must be 18 months to compete in Australian regulated agility trials.) Dogs can be worked on-lead with a flat collar and off-lead when advanced. We do not recommend using a correction collar (or check chain) when working in agility, unless advised to by the instructor.

What time should I arrive for class?

On your first visit please come 10 minutes early and collect your name badge. Members must wear this while on the park as evidence of financial membership. If your dog requires time to settle in arrive before class and walk them around first.

How much is membership and when is it due?

The Club financial year runs from January to December. There is a one-off joining fee of \$100. There is an annual renewal fee of \$50 due on 31 December.

Is there anything I can do to help the Club?

We appreciate help with setting out water bowls, putting up and taking down equipment and anything else you can do to help the Club run smoothly for the benefit of all members and dogs.

Can I have my dog off-lead?

Off-lead work is only done in the advanced classes under the guidance of an instructor. (Dorothy Laver Reserve East is an on-lead park.)

Can I let my dog play with other dogs?

Instructors will provide opportunities in class for dogs to interact. You should only allow your dog to approach another dog if you have the permission of the other handler. See note below about yellow bandanas below.

Why do some dogs wear a yellow bandana around the collar?

A yellow bandana is a sign, recognised universally, that a dog is reactive for some reason. Dogs with yellow bandanas may be jumpy, excitable, or overanxious. Please respect their need for space.

Can I use treats to train my dog?

Absolutely. Positive dog training uses treats as rewards for wanted behaviours.

Can I give treats to other dogs?

Only when this is permitted by the other handler. Giving treats to other dogs can lead to resource-guarding behaviour in your own dog.

My dog is not food-orientated, what else could I use to help train my dog?

Whatever motivates your dog. This could be a toy (with a brief play for exercise well done) or simply praising them in a happy voice. You know your dog.

What facilities are available at the ground?

We have access to the pavilion where there are toilets and a kitchen.

How should I dress for class?

Dress in comfortable clothes suitable for the weather. Do not wear loose clothes that will flap about in the wind. Wear closed shoes (no thongs/sandals). A cap to shade your eyes is a good idea too as you should not train in sunglasses – your dog needs to make eye-contact with you.

What sort of collar and lead should I have for dog training?

A flat collar or limited slip martingale collar is recommended. Your instructor will advise you if another type of collar, such as a correction collar, suits your dog. A flat collar is always used for agility training. A soft lead, such as leather or reinforced material, is best for obedience work. A harness is not advised for obedience training.

What approach to training does the Club use?

The Club promotes positive dog training. It teaches you to reward the behaviours you want, rather than punish a dog for “unwanted” behaviours. Training your dog should be fun — for you and your dog.

Code of Conduct

1. Handlers should be dressed appropriately and wear their membership badge in a visible position.
2. Handlers must ensure that their dogs are registered with their local council and vaccinations are current.
3. Dogs must remain on lead at all times unless directed otherwise by an instructor. If a handler needs to leave their dog for a short period, they must ensure it is securely tethered.
4. Dogs must not be left unattended in motor vehicles if the temperature is above 20 degrees.
5. The handler must immediately clean up after their dog.
6. Dogs brought to class must be in good health. Never bring a bitch in season to class.
7. Instructors will cancel training in the event the weather may have an adverse effect on dogs or handlers. Training will be cancelled when the temperature is at 35° C
8. Handlers must behave in a courteous and friendly manner and accept responsibility for their dog.
9. Neither members nor their dogs shall create noise or disruption to neighbours around the training arena. When parking their motor vehicles at the training venue, ensure that they are properly parked and do not cause obstruction or inconvenience to neighbours.

10. Handlers must use such collars, leads and other gear (including muzzles) for their dog as directed by the instructor.
11. Members must arrive on time for class and carry out the directions of the instructor.
12. Handlers must not give food or treats to another dog without the handler of that dog giving prior permission.
13. Handlers under the age of 18 years must have a parent or adult present at training.
14. Members should report any concerns or incidents to an instructor or committee member as soon as possible after the incident.
15. Members must not use the Club website or any form of social media to publish anything that is untoward, offensive, harassing or abusive.
16. Any complaint or grievance of a member regarding any other member, their dog or an instructor should be reported to a committee member and be addressed by the most senior committee member present.

Club Office bearers

President: Tony Kenna
Vice President: Ian Rogers
Secretary: Lesley Hardcastle 9885 7078
Treasurer: Don Burns

Committee Eliza

Armstrong
Rosemary Berrell
Barb Edgar
Amy Hooper
Kalpana Kao
Otto Raus
Ian Rogers
Saul Rothman
Peter Slane
Kim Smith
Sylvia Whiteside

DOG OBEDIENCE COMPETENCIES IN EACH CLASS LEVEL

The following are the basic competencies which are demonstrated by handlers and dogs before they move up to the next level. Instructors may teach other skills in addition to these.

INDUCTION and BEGINNERS — YELLOW

This is a general introduction to the Club and to dog obedience training. It provides an opportunity for our instructors to get to know you and your dog. You will be introduced to positive dog training techniques.

YELLOW Level 1

- Appropriate collar, correctly worn
- Handling puppy/dog
- Controlled dog interactions, cross-overs (“meet and greet”)
- Focus exercise (use of a word, e.g., “watch”; “look at me”; “check”)
- Puppy push-ups and shaping
- Lure to recall position (from free movement)
- Lead technique — two hands, held low on body

- Marking behaviour with rewards (with correct timing of reward/treat to teach conditioned reinforcement)
- Consistent use of marker word to mark wanted behaviour

YELLOW Level 2

- Consolidation of level 1 principles
- Loose lead walking

YELLOW Level 3

- Consolidation of learning in previous weeks
- Heeling — basic commands
- Turns — right and left and about turns
- Use of a release word (e.g., “free”, “go”)
- Introduction of commands: “sit”; “drop”; “come” “give”; “take”; “leave (it)”; “this way”; “let’s go”

YELLOW Level 4

- Consolidation of learning in previous weeks
- Demonstration of relationship between handler and dog
- Before promotion, handlers and dogs will demonstrate basic competence in loose led walking, and heeling with turns and “sit” on halt
- Introduction (only) of stays

GREEN — Level 1

- All turns, including left about (pivot turn)
- Lead technique — two hands, low on body, ability to bundle in left hand for hand signals and right hand for reward with left hand if required
- Heeling — dog engaged with handler, change of pace
- Automatic sit on “Halt” (no guidance, no command)
- “Down” from heel and heel on
- “Stand” from heel and heel on
- Sit and down stays — under a minute, length of lead, correct returns
- Weaving – loose lead, threshold distances
- Roadwork with dog sitting at curb

RED – Intermediate

As for Green classes, with the following additional skills:

- Heeling with loose lead: change of pace, grid formation, all turns, all commands
- Recall – introducing “wait” and distance

- Stays — one minute, in all positions (stand, sit, down), with voice commands and hand signals, end of lead, lead free optional, handler return
- Stand for examination
- Return to heel (the finish) — from right and left
- Give and take

BLUE — Proficient

As for Yellow, Green and Red classes, with the following additional skills:

- Lead free work where appropriate
- Commands with voice only and hand signals only
- Figure 8 — on lead and off lead
- Distance commands
- Recall off lead
- Recall with distraction
- All stays off lead with time variation and distance variation
- Change of position (in stay)
- Selected Rally O exercises when heeling
- Other extension and fun exercises, as decided by instructor