

# Queanbeyan & District Dog Training Club Inc

## BEGINNERS SYLLABUS

<p><b>Aim</b></p>	<p>The Club is a not-for-profit social community organisation whose primary aim is to promote responsible dog ownership in and around the Queanbeyan district. This includes teaching handlers the basics of dog obedience training by using positive motivation methods.</p>
<p><b>Objectives to be achieved</b></p>	<p>By completion of the initial 8 week course, the <u>Handler</u> should have an understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• basic dog psychology;</li> <li>• various methods on how to train a dog; and</li> <li>• the needs of a dog in the family household.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the <u>Dog</u> should be familiar with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cue words (<i>ie. commands</i>) such as Heel, Sit, Drop, Stand, Stay, Come, Take, Hold &amp; Give.</li> <li>• best position to walk beside their handler; and</li> <li>• the requirement to automatically <u>sit &amp; stay</u> when their handler stops walking.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Exercises taught</b></p>	<p><b>Heelwork (On lead)</b> – With the dog on a loose lead, it is to walk (<i>heel</i>) on the left-hand side beside their handler; turn whenever their handler changes direction either left, right or reverses; and to sit and stay whenever they stop walking. Dog is taught to become familiar with cue words to ‘Heel, Sit &amp; Stay’. (<i>Note: Left-About turns, Stands and Downs during heeling routines are <u>not</u> done in Beginners Class, they will be introduced as part of heeling in the Intermediate Class.</i>)</p> <p><b>Drop (On lead)</b> – Done from a static or moving position (<i>handlers choice</i>). Dog is taught to be familiar with the cue words to ‘Drop &amp; Stay’.</p> <p><b>Stand (On lead)</b> – Dog is <i>introduced</i> to moving upwards from a Sit to Stand position. Dog is taught to be familiar with the cue words to ‘Stand &amp; Stay’. (<i>Not assessed at this level</i>)</p> <p><b>Sit for Examination (On lead)</b> - Dog sits beside handler, cursory touch head/shoulder. Dog taught to be familiar with the cue words to ‘Sit &amp; Stay’.</p> <p><b>Recall or Come to me (On lead)</b> - Dog responds to the cue word to ‘Come’ given by handler moving backwards and calling it to ‘Come’ (<i>Dog doesn’t need to sit in front</i>). Dog is familiar with cue words to ‘Stay &amp; Come’. Handler returning to the dog is not <u>tested</u> but may be attempted.</p> <p><b>Sit Stay (On lead)</b> – Group exercise, handlers stands in front of their dogs holding loose leads and return directly to their dog’s side. (<i>Not around the back of their dog at this stage of training</i>). Dog taught to be familiar with the cue words to ‘Sit &amp; Stay’.</p> <p><b>Retrieve (not tested)</b> – Dog is taught to retrieve a fun article (<i>ie. Ball, Frisbee, Rag doll etc</i>) offered from hand and holds until told to give. Dog is taught the cue words to ‘Take, Hold &amp; Give’.</p>
<p><b>General notes</b></p>	<p><b>Heelwork</b> includes short, interesting patterns in slow &amp; normal paces (<i>No fast pace</i>).</p> <p><b>Drop &amp; Stand</b> should be taught using no physical force (<i>ie. gentle/ subtle cohesion</i>).</p> <p><b>Examination</b> of the dog in the sitting position should only be a cursory touch of head and back. Handler remains beside their dog and may give reassurance if necessary.</p> <p><b>Recall</b> is done as a moving exercise so as not to confuse the dog with the stay exercises during these early stages of training.</p> <p><b>Reinforcement</b> – The cue word to ‘Stay’ may be repeated if considered necessary.</p> <p><b>Motivation</b> - Handler is encouraged to praise and reward their dog every time it has performed positively to a word (<i>ie. cue word/ command</i>) it has been learnt.</p>
<p><b>Assessment Day Exercises</b></p>	<p><b>Exercises and points</b> – To enable the progress of the dog and handler to be assessed, it is a necessity to ascertain whether they have attained the objectives of following exercises taught in the Beginners Class. All exercises are done with the dog <b>on lead</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heelwork (<i>Short heel pattern with sits, left &amp; right turns, right about-turn in slow &amp; normal pace</i>) 25 points</li> <li>• Drop (<i>Not part of heeling routine. Handler has option to ‘drop’ dog on the move or from a static position</i>) 5 points</li> <li>• Sit for Examination (<i>Dog is given a very cursory touch of head/ back in sit position with handler at its side</i>) 10 points</li> <li>• Recall (<i>Dog called to ‘come’ from sit position - handler permitted to move backwards &amp; give extra encouragement</i>) 20 points</li> <li>• Sit Stay – (<i>Handlers in front holding lead for up to 30 seconds with a group of dogs –return directly to dog</i>) 20 points</li> </ul>

## Weekly Progression - Beginners

<b>Week 1</b>	Induction lecture and demonstrations.
<b>Week 2</b>	<p>The Class is briefed on the exercises to be taught and why they are useful in training a dog. Stress importance of the handler's tone of voice, enthusiasm &amp; keeping the dog's interest/attention.</p> <p><b>Discuss and introduce:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of sensible training equipment (<i>leads, collars, clothing, shoes etc</i>).</li> <li>• Differing methods used to teach a dog to respond to handler (<i>ie. motivation, clicker etc.</i>)</li> <li>• Proper use of the dog's name and the importance of cue words (<i>Sit, Heel etc</i>).</li> <li>• Teach some methods on how to get a dog 'Sit' and then practice as a group.</li> <li>• Introduce the 'Heel' position and practice doing some circle work as a group.</li> <li>• Introduce 'Right-about turn' and resist the temptation to use too much body language.</li> <li>• Discuss about getting a dog to 'come' by running backwards, proper use lead to guide – no pulling; never call a dog to punish; and always use a happy tone of voice.</li> <li>• Explain how to approach a dog but try to limit too much touching at this stage.</li> <li>• Socialise – explain how to properly socialise dogs.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Advise handlers what homework they need to do during the next week.. Give handlers a copy of the pamphlet such as 'Nothing in Life is Free'.</i></p>
<b>Week 3</b>	<p>Class need to do some circle walking before moving onto straight line work with lots of stops (<i>Sits</i>) and turns (<i>Right-About</i>). Stress point about always rewarding and never chastising the dog.</p> <p><b>Discuss and introduce:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons why it is necessary to instantly acknowledge/reward all desirable acts.</li> <li>• Heelwork – Using a suitable word when starting to walk (<i>Heel, Walk etc</i>); moving off with left foot (<i>opposite for Stays</i>) using loose lead and use of encouragement and praise.</li> <li>• Approach and touch each dog and ensure the handler stays with dog and gives reassurance.</li> <li>• Discuss proper use of cue words (<i>Heel, Sit, Stay, Come</i>) including proper use of dog's name.</li> <li>• Turns Right &amp; Left – make them smooth &amp; flowing – no military style turns.</li> <li>• Sit Stay – using a suitable word to stay – leaving with right foot (<i>ie. opposite to Heeling</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 4</b>	<p>Work on difference between free walking &amp; heelwork as well as smooth turns and quick responses to sits, comes and stays.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proper use of suitable hand signals to compliment verbal cue words.</li> <li>• Dog remaining still whilst being touched – handler remains beside dog, only cursory touch.</li> <li>• Slow pace - emphasis difference between normal &amp; slow paces.</li> <li>• Come to me (<i>Recall</i>) – Practice getting the dog to 'come' when called – <b>Do not</b> become too obsessive about getting the dog to sit in front.</li> <li>• Sit Stay – Work on stability (<i>no movements</i>) and less on duration (<i>time away</i>).</li> </ul>
<b>Week 5</b>	<p>Keep working on socialisation, perfecting heelwork, turns, sits, paces; examination, coming &amp; staying, use of suitable cue words and the proper usage of the dog's name.</p> <p><b>Introduce:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Drop</b> – either done from a static position with the option of doing it from a mobile position. Explain about selecting the proper cue word to drop/down/deck/lay etc.</li> <li>• <b>Stand</b> – either done from a static position with the option of doing it from a mobile position. Explain about selecting the proper cue word to Stand</li> <li>• Sit Stay – Have handlers leave and stand in front of their dogs for up to 30 seconds before returning directly to their dog's side.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: On completion of this weeks' training, ask handlers to bring a retrieving toy/ article etc next week.</i></p>
<b>Week 6</b>	<p>Progress the standard of heelwork, work on smooth flowing turns, automatic sits, check response to drop, work different paces; stability during examination, coming, staying &amp; socialisation.</p> <p><b>Introduce:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fun retrieve article</b> - Handlers should be taught how to use the cue words 'take', 'hold' &amp; 'give'. Dog to be encouraged to take the article from a moving hand – use the chase instinct – don't worry too much about explaining 'fetch' at this stage. Remember, all dogs in class remain on lead when practicing this exercise. (<i>Note: Retrieve is not an assessed exercise at this level</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Fast pace</b> – is only introduced to show a variation in paces and to emphasis the difference between slow &amp; normal. (<i>Note: Fast pace is not an assessed pace at this level</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 7</b>	<p>Assess progress of each dog against the objectives &amp; exercises discuss Assessment Day. Practice fun retrieves exercise and emphasis the proper use of the cue words to 'take', 'hold' &amp; 'give'. Encourage the class to attend and stress the relaxed atmosphere of the event – no pressure.</p>
<b>Week 8</b>	Assessment Day.