

Queanbeyan & District Dog Training Club Inc

RECREATIONAL CLASS SYLLABUS

Syllabus	<p>This class is open to any dog that has passed the Advanced level at the Club. Primarily, it is to be used by handlers who want to continue training their dog but do not want to participate in the competitive trialling classes offered by the Club. As there is no laid down training syllabus for this class, the weekly training structure is left entirely up to the Instructor taking the class. This means that there would be <u>no</u> further need for any future assessments to be carried out for dogs participating in this class.</p>
Intent	<p>The Recreation Class is intended to enable members to continue training their dog at the Club primarily for socialisation and fun related purposes (<i>ie. non-competitive environment</i>).</p>
Aim	<p>To continue enhancing basic dog handling skills including responsible dog ownership and to also introduce dogs and handlers to a variety of other dog related activities.</p>
Obedience related exercises	<p>As these dogs have already been attending classes up to Advance level, they should be responding quite well to their handler's commands. Therefore, the following handling skills and innovations are some recommendations that may be introduced in this Class:</p> <p>Heeling (<i>Walking the dog</i>) – Dog could be taught how to walk properly on either side, or in front, of the handler with or without the use of a lead. There is to be <u>no</u> emphasis/requirement placed on the dog's positioning or for any additional assistance (<i>verbal or enticement</i>) that may be given by the handler. Still continue to use all heeling paces, turns and directional changes (<i>slow to fast pace, circle, figure 8, weaving etc</i>). Introduce subtle distractions such as people and dogs walking around; obstacles such as chairs, tables, bikes, food bowls; and various noises and smells etc.</p> <p>Recall (<i>Come when called</i>) - Dog should continue to practice the basic recall exercise of coming when called. However, it could be taught to more closely reflect actual day to day occurrences, such as calling the dog to come when it's roaming free. It can also be done from either a static or moving position. As the dog becomes more reliable in coming to the handler, the distance could be extended accordingly. Try using a variety of distractions (<i>left up to the Instructor</i>). The handler should be permitted to use as many signals, commands or other enticements as they consider suitable or necessary in getting their dog to come to them. There should be no requirement for the dog to sit in front when it returns to the handler.</p> <p>Change of Position (<i>Distance control of a dog from a distance</i>) – Dog is taught to respond to their handler's command (<i>Stay, Sit, Drop, Stand, Come, Jump, Fetch etc</i>) given from any position or distance away from the dog. This could be introduced by firstly getting the handler to give the commands directly in front and gradually increasing the distance as the dog progresses in skill and ability.</p> <p>Examination (<i>Touch & Pat</i>) – Dog should be left in any position and accept being touched, patted or examined. Handlers need to fully understand how to instruct strangers on the proper way to approach and touch their dog. As the dog progresses in reliability and stability, the distance the handler leaves their dog can be extended and the examination made a little more thorough. The dog needs to understand that it is not allowed to jump up, move away or show any level aggression or shyness whilst being handled. It is quite acceptable for the handler to give reassurance as their dog is being touched by a stranger (<i>ie. Vet, relative, friend etc</i>).</p> <p>Stays (<i>Stability</i>) – Dog is left with a group of other dogs in any position (<i>ie. Sit, Stand & Down</i>) for any period of time. The time and distance the handler is away from their dog should only be increased when the dog becomes more stable and reliable. It is acceptable for the dog to fidget slightly, but any movement towards another dog or breaking position needs to be curtailed.</p>
Retrieve related exercises	<p>Dog is taught to fetch, hold and surrender an object when told to do so by their handler. It is preferable that the dog does not chew the object or divert in direction when retrieving and returning to their handler. The object to be retrieved could include balls, toys, dumbbells, scent discrimination type articles (<i>ie. Wood, Steel & Leather</i>) or any other object selected by the handler. Leaflets relating to some methods on how to introduce basic retrieving skills to a handler can be obtained from the Secretary.</p>

<p>Agility related exercises</p>	<p>Dog should be taught how to correctly approach and jump hurdles, bar & spreads, broad and tyres; weave in and out of poles; scramble up and down obstacles; walk on unstable surfaces (<i>See-saw, Dog walk</i>); as well as negotiating tunnels and tables.</p> <p>Equipment used to teach dogs how to negotiate these obstacles should always be set at the minimum distance from ground level. This exercise is <u>not</u> being taught as Agility training.</p> <p>Leamlets relating to some methods on how to teach some of these basic agility exercises can be obtained from the Secretary.</p>
<p>Other related exercises</p>	<p>Some of the many other dog related activities, exercises etc that could be introduced in this class include:</p> <p>Dog dancing with the dog and handler performing some pre-arranged routines which are intended to enforce the handler's use of commands and body movements together with the dog's ability and agility to jump, turn, twist and talk.</p> <p>Tricks such as speaking on command; food refusal; shaking hands; standing on hind legs; spinning left and right circles etc.</p> <p>Walking through a crowd - Demonstrates that the handler is in control of their dog while taking it for a walk and that they can move freely and politely in and out of a crowd without stopping to sniff or making an unwelcomed approach towards pedestrians.</p> <p>Pets in Therapy – The class has the potential of producing the kind the dogs and handlers that would be quite welcomed to participate in schemes where companion animals are taken to aged care facilities etc to bring a lot of joy to people who may no longer be able to keep pets.</p> <p>Dog accepting strangers and sitting politely for petting – This exercise links into the basic examination exercise but could be extended into simulating the normal act of walking a dog in a heavily populated area.</p> <p>Apppearance and grooming – The intent of this exercise is firstly to condition the dog to being washed and groomed and as a consequence to permit someone, such as a groomer or friend etc, to do so. It also demonstrates the handler's care and sense of responsibility.</p> <p>Rally-O is simple a heelwork routine with a collection of directions placed on the ground that require the handler to read, comprehend and action accordingly. These courses could incorporate certain agility equipment such as weaving poles, jumps, tunnels, distractions etc.</p> <p>Reaction to distractions – Dogs need to be conditioned to a variety of distractions, such as traffic noises; motor bikes; baby crying; joggers; bicycles; fireworks, walking over bridges etc. The dog needs to express a natural interest in an unknown distraction and may even appear slightly lightly at first but, should be reassured and not to panic, try to run away, show aggression or bark. Handlers need to understand how to respond to their dog's concerns and how best to condition them to a variety of distractions.</p> <p>Good manners – This could involve the dog being taught to wait politely before receiving food; entering or leaving the house, gate or car; and welcoming strangers at the door.</p>
<p>Leaflets</p>	<p>As this class progresses, as much literature on different positive motivational training methods as possible needs to be collected and supplied to the Secretary to ensure a good range of training methods and practices can eventually be accumulated by the Club.</p>
<p>Assessments</p>	<p>There are <u>no</u> assessments carried out during this stage of recreational training. The primary reason for having this Class is to enable members to continue working with their dog on basic obedience and for fun and socialisation purpose. Based on the Club training procedures this class will have a dedicated Instructor allocated for each eight weekly training session.</p>