



Northcote Obedience Dog Club Inc.

Reg No. A0019273W
Affiliated with DOGS Victoria

Information Sheet for Members
So you want to train your dog?
We can show you how!

However, before you sign up, there are important aspects of which you should be made aware. We want you to appreciate that the club is a not for profit organisation, conducted entirely by volunteers. All the committee and instructors give freely of their time and knowledge to assist you. For this reason, you will have certain obligations to fulfil in fairness to these people who expect nothing in return other than your cooperation in a genuine dedicated effort to succeed and your appreciation of the time and effort, which they are devoting to you. Please do not waste their valuable time if you are not prepared to make the effort to succeed.

Eligibility of Members

Adult Members: are 18 years of age or over, capable of understanding instructions and physically able to control their dog to apply training methods, i.e. brisk walking or moving, turning, bending, and arm actions etc. Junior Members: 8 to under 18 years of age, capable of understanding instructions and physically able to control their dog to apply training methods, i.e. brisk walking or moving, turning, bending and arm actions etc. Junior membership cannot be accepted for a child with a medium to large boisterous dog or a dog with aggressive tendencies towards other dogs and people. Incidents may occur causing disruption to the class and possible injuries and anxiety to other handlers and the dogs in the class or around the training ground, and you, *NOT the club*, are responsible for any injury caused by your dog. It should also be realised that although the child may be able to manage at home, it is a different story when surrounded by a number of dogs, some of who will also want to play and fight in their excitement of being out in company. We advise that an adult family member should train the dog in these circumstances until such time as it is under control among other dogs and at least partially trained and obedient.

Eligibility of Dogs

Subject to Section 3(1) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, Restricted Breeds or Domestic Animals Amendment (Dangerous Dogs) Act 2010 and the procedures listed below, any breed or cross-breed dog that has completed the puppy vaccinations as advised by their own veterinarian against Distemper, Hepatitis and Parvovirus is eligible to be trained. *Vaccination certificate to be shown when joining and renewing membership.* No dog is too old to be trained, providing it is not suffering and physical disability or illness. Every breed or cross-breed is trainable, although some breeds and individual dogs are more difficult and require more time, patience and understanding for a satisfactory result. A dog shall not be permitted to be trained or registered on the club register where the dog has had any of the following prohibited procedures: ear cropping, debarking and tail docking or any such procedure prohibited by Victoria State legislation, unless full documentation confirming that such procedure is in accordance with the legislation is provided. The documentation must comply with the Rules and Regulations of the DOGS Victoria and must prove that the procedure was lawfully carried out by a Veterinary Surgeon as provided for by Victorian State legislation or was carried out before the commencement date of the prohibiting legislation.

Advantages of an obedience trained dog

A well behaved dog is admired by even non-dog loving people, whereas an untrained disobedient dog is disliked and criticised by all. A well trained dog will not be an annoyance to visitors and could help sway the opinion of dog haters. A well trained dog is a pleasure to take out and will not disgrace you or itself. Obedience training to a reliable standard could be the means of saving your dog's life. The family dog of today generally lives as part of the family, so why should it not behave in the same manner, observing certain rules and standards of conduct.

How the club works

The club trains people! We could not undertake to train members' dogs for them one afternoon a week; it simply wouldn't work. The reason being that the training of any animal is a daily activity. Recommended training periods are 10-15 minutes twice a day, if possible, but at least once a day. *Unless daily training is pursued at home, no progress is achieved.* We stress this point to every prospective member. If you are not prepared to train your dog daily, then there is no point joining the club and coming along once a week - in fact you would be wasting our time and your own and depriving really interested members of our attention to their training. Another point to make clear is that in the training of animals and dogs there is no exception. It is a slow process. No matter how intelligent you think your dog is, it will require patience, perseverance and dedication over a period of time. *Those that imagine that by joining an Obedience Club they will have a trained dog in a few weeks, are very much mistaken.* We do not perform miracles - you must work at it under the guidance of our experienced instructors who have been trained to help you. *Please do not attempt to train your dog in exercises you observe in other classes. There is a correct method for all exercises and you could start bad habits or, even worse, you could confuse your dog.* Each week your class instructor will observe your progress, corrects errors or omissions and only when you and your dog are ready will you be passed to the next class and be presented with your ribbon for passing that class. *Your time in each class depends on three factors*

1. The regularity of your daily training
2. Your abilities as a handler to teach your dog with patience and perseverance. Harshness and irritability will confuse your dog.
3. Your dog's response to training. It is normal for puppies and very excitable dogs to progress slowly, but it is unimportant. It's the end result that counts. Daily training should only be for short periods, as dogs cannot concentrate for long periods, they get bored. Training should be only carried out by one person until exercises are firmly imprinted in the dog's mind. Varying people have different tones of voice for the same work, and this will confuse the dog in its early training as a dog does not understand the English language, but goes only on the sound of the word used.

Puppy Class

This is a special class for puppies from 3 months to 6 months who have had their vaccinations. They do not do an enormous amount of work but concentrate on associating with other puppies and humans. They learn to heel, sit, stay and come in a very short session of training.

Fees are paid *annually* and all membership renewals are expected by April 1st.

N.B. There are no ongoing weekly fees, **Total Fees** payable are reflected in the last column of the table below.

Annual Fees

Membership Category	Joining Fee	Annual Subscription	Insurance Levy**	Class Fee	Total Due on Joining
Single Adult	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$45.00
Adult Concession*	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$35.00
Dual	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$75.00
Junior (8-17 years)	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$35.00

*Concession available for Pensioners, Unemployed and Full Time Students. Must have proof of I.D. **Insurance Levy is \$0 for DOGS Victoria members upon proof of membership or if proof can be provided of Insurance Levy payment already made to another DOGS Victoria affiliate.