



NORTHCOTE OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB

INC. Reg No. A0019273W

Affiliated with DOGS VICTORIA

Information for Members

Thank you for joining Northcote Obedience Dog Club (NODC) , we are a Not-for-Profit Club run by Volunteers. Our mission statement is to provide dog obedience classes and other dog events within a safe and nurturing environment

Location

Alphington Park - Parkview Rd. Alphington (just past the cricket nets)

Operating Hours

NODC Clubrooms are open from Saturdays 12.15 pm to 16.00, except Easter Saturday, AFL Grand Final Day and from early December to late January.

Membership and Fees

Fees are paid annually, and will cover Class Fees, Member insurance Fee (not Pet Insurance) Membership and Joining Fee.

Memberships are valid from 1 April to March 31, membership renewal forms should be completed by 31 March and are required for all Members, Officials and Life Members.

When renewing annual memberships please bring

- A copy of the dogs current **Vaccination form** (Hard Copy or Photograph)
- **Concession Card** if Applicable

Attendance at NODC activities and events

Attendance at Club activities are subject compliance with NODC Club Rules and By-Laws, and any applicable Local Government requirements.

Official activities and events will be overseen and at the discretion of **NODC Club officials** identified in an approved Club uniform, the current design is a royal blue shirt with the club logo embroidered on it. **Instructors** will also be identified by a Safety Yellow Vest with "Instructor" printed on the back of the vest, **Training Coordinators** will also be wearing a "Training Coordinator" Badge.

Dogs must remain on lead at all times when attending NODC activities including arriving and departing Alphington Park, unless advised by a NODC official.

Please comply with Yarra City Council requirements and signage for the use of Alphington Park.

Training and Classes

Training is scheduled Saturday Afternoons, except Easter Saturday and AFL Grand Final. Classes may be suspended due to poor or hot weather. Cancellation notice will be provided on the NODC website, and by Email from the Clubs Electronic Club Booking system

Please remember to book in for classes (class bookings open 5.00 pm Saturday evening and close 5.00 pm Friday evenings)

How to book in for classes:

Use the link: www.trybooking.com

Select 'Buy tickets' then enter Northcote Obedience Dog Club and 'Find Events' then Click on tile of our name. This opens up sessions for next Saturday – 'select' your class. And then Next page +1 'next'

Enter your details – 'Next'

Complete check out details (Do not click marketing details from Event organiser) 'Purchase'

- If your class has sold out please use the waitlist option
- It is not necessary to print a ticket and bring with you; we will have you recorded.
- You will receive an email confirmation.
- In the confirmation email there is a link to cancel the booking. We request you use this link if you are unable to attend, as the system has a waitlist and there might be someone who will fill the vacant spot.

Class Attendance

Please give your dog time to be toileted, check the surroundings out and settle down. Calm, focussed dogs and handlers have a greater learning experience than dogs and handlers that are rushed or distracted. Arriving late and rushing into class is not good for you or the dog. This is a new environment with lots of people and dogs, and your dog needs time to adjust to the area and greet their doggy friends.

Arrival at the Clubrooms

Each week please arrive at the Clubrooms at least 15 mins before the scheduled Class start time. Parking in the area at times can take some time to find and may result in requiring a short walk to the Club from surrounding streets.

Arriving early allows time for you to

- check in at the table,
- toilet your dog
- check the surroundings out and settle your dog down.

Arriving late and rushing into class is not good for you or the dog. This is an exciting/ stressful environment with lots of people and dogs, and your dog needs time to adjust to the area and greet their doggy and human friends.

Parking in the area at times can take some time to find and may result in requiring a short walk to the Club from surrounding streets.

The class will take 45 minutes and will commence promptly at the scheduled times, latecomers may not be permitted to enter the class.

Name Badges

Members Name Badges are used to identify approved members and dogs and **must be worn and clearly visible at all times** when attending NODC activities. Replacement Badges are available from the NODC Office if required. Name Badges must only be worn by the nominated member – swapping of badges is not permitted

What to Bring

Along with your dog please bring with you:

- Your dog's favourite reward - toy or food (or both). See below for examples.
- A treat pouch, bum-bug or clothing with suitable accessible pockets (to allow for quick reward). Please do not use a cross body or shoulder bag that swings forward as you lean over;
- Your usual collar (Flat collar, Martingale, Slip collar including Correction collar) Harness are not permitted without the approval of a NODC Training Co-ordinator.
- Leads of webbing, fabric or leather of not more than 1.2m in length with a quick release fastener. Leads that are excessive in length are hazardous to safe handling of the dog during exercises. Lead size and weight should be appropriate to the weight and the size of the dog and should be comfortable to grip securely.). **Retractable leads are not permitted**;
- Please remove any poo bag containers if they are hanging on your lead as they can be very distracting and get in the way.

Wear comfortable clothing that does not flap or flutter around the dogs head and cause a distraction (ie loose or dangling scarves, coats, skirts made of lightweight material, or shirts with loose cuffs)

Closed toe shoes with outdoor soles suitable for walking, and turning (eg Trail shoes, Runners or Walking shoes)

(Note Scuffs, Clogs or Thongs are not suitable for class activities and should not be worn)

Training Rewards

There are some rules about what rewards can be used in class to ensure everyone is safe, and not distracted by other dogs or handlers (or their rewards).

Rewards allowed in class:

- Verbal and physical praise (pats, tickle behind the ear, talking to your dog);
- Food - (small, soft, easily chewed or swallowed, eg chicken loaf, twiggy sticks, lactose free cheese);
- Toy - that can fit in pockets (ball, soft, furry that you can show or engage with dog (subject to rules below); and remember –
 - No noisy toys, eg squeaky toys or clickers;
 - No toys that are thrown in class, eg frisbee;
 - No toys that will distract another dog;
 - **No dropping of food:**
 - No food that breaks up or shatters (eg hard dog biscuit or roast chicken);
 - No chewy food that takes a while to chew or swallow (eg pigs ears);
 - Keep food and toys hidden in pockets/bum-bag/bag – ie not on display.

If you are using food as your reward, and you normally feed your dog breakfast or lunch, please cut that out on class days. If you feed 3 meals just cut out the lunch one. You should make allowance for any food given in class or practice at home and modify the amount of their normal diet.

Class Methodology

Our class methodology is to provide information and assist you to learn how to train your dog. We do this in a group situation with members and their dogs. The NODC Instructor will provide information and may demonstrate class activities or exercises and then will ask members to repeat the exercises, some exercises will be part of a group, others may be done as “one on one” exercises.

Class promotions are done as team promotions (ie: Member and Dog) as they are a team, Dual or Family members may be promoted at differing times due to individuals having differing abilities. Class promotions are done based demonstration of skills and competencies in class and will be at the discretion of a NODC Instructor or Training Co-ordinator

If you believe your dog has specific behavioural issues (generally shyness or reactivity) please feel free to discuss this with your Instructor or contact our Training team (training@northcoteobedienceclub.org.au) and they will be able to provide advice to you about the best way to bring your dog to the clubrooms and minimise the stress and anxiety.

Contacts and further Information

Should you have any queries please feel free to contact us using the Links on the “Contact Us” tab