



NORTHCOTE OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC. Reg No. A0019273W Affiliated with DOGS VICTORIA

Information for new Members

There is a lot of information in this letter, please take the time to read it completely

Thank you for considering 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

New member registrations are taken **in person at the clubhouse** on Saturdays *from 12.15- 12.30pm*.

Information for New Members

Location

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

Membership and what to bring

New member registrations are to be completed in person at the Clubhouse

Membership forms may be downloaded from the NODC website and brought to the Clubrooms on Saturdays.

Hard Copy forms are available from the Clubrooms on Training Days

A copy of the Dogs current **Vaccination form** (Hard Copy or Photograph)

Concession Card if Applicable

Fees

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

Membership Fees are per person not per dog, and these currently are

- Single \$50.00
- Dual \$85.00
- Concession Card Holder \$40.00
- Junior \$40.00

Training

Training is scheduled Saturday Afternoons, except Easter Saturday and AFL Grand Final. Classes may be suspended due to poor or hot weather.

Dogs must remain on lead at all times when attending NODC activities, unless advised by a NODC official.
Please comply with Yarra City Council requirements and signage for the use of Alphington Park.

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.

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

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. There will be time at the end for questions.

Along with your dog please bring with you:

1. Your dog's favourite reward - toy or food (or both). See below for examples.
2. 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;
3. Your usual collar (Flat collar, Martingale, Slip collar). Harness are not permitted without the approval of a NODC Training Co-ordinator.
4. 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;**
5. 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) and **closed toe shoes with outdoor soles suitable for walking, and turning (eg Trail shoes, Runners or Walking shoes) - (Note Scuffs, Clogs or Thongs should not be worn)** and, as we are in Melbourne, be prepared for any weather!

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) – Information below

Rewards allowed in class:

1. Verbal and physical praise (pats, tickle behind the ear, talking to your dog);
2. Food - (small, soft, easily chewed or swallowed, eg chicken loaf, twiggly sticks, lactose free cheese);
3. Training Toy - that can fit in pockets (tug, ball, soft, furry that you can show or engage with dog (subject to rules below)

Please note

Training Toys

Do not bring noisy toys (with squeakers/ clickers)

Do not bring toys that may distract another dog

A Training Toy is a Training tool and should not be used for general play

Do not throw toys in class

Toys should be "out of sight" and held in a Training Pouch, Pocket, or Bag

Food

Do not bring Food/ Treats that break or shatter (Eg Hard Dog Biscuits or Roast Chicken)

Food should be in small pieces to enable the dog to consume it quickly, and be appropriate for the dogs size

Food should not be chewy or take a long time to consume/ swallow (eg Pigs Ear, Dentastix etc)

Food should be out of sight and held in a Training Pouch, Pocket, or Bag

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. From now on you need to make allowance for any food given in class or practice at home and modify the amount of their normal diet.

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