

# DOG SPORTS NEWSLETTER 2020



Welcome to the CCKC Dog Sports team in 2020.

We now have the largest group of dog sports handlers we have ever had at our club. We offer obedience, rally obedience, agility/jumping, tracking, K9 Scent Games, Tricks and Flyball. You will see a lot of new faces – and dogs - please make them welcome, help them find their way around and invite them to be part of our team.

With so many attending training sessions safety is paramount. Please read the Safety Info carefully, so you are aware when attending any kind of dog sports training.

All handlers (instructors excluded) are required to pay the annual training fee of \$85 in addition to your annual club membership. This fee is now due and payment can be made directly into our account (ID: Surname annual). The annual training fee entitles you to attend all advanced training classes (NOT included: Tuesday public classes 7 – 8 pm and Wednesday Flyball).

## TRAINING TIME TABLE 2020

<b>TUESDAY</b>	8:15 – 9:30 PM	Advanced Rally Obedience / Trick training Monthly classes, please check schedule on our website
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	7 – 9:30 pm	Flyball Training Beginners / Solo / Intermediate / Racing
<b>THURSDAY</b>	5:30 – 6:30 pm	UD/UDX & Instructor training only
	6:30 – 7:30 pm	Advanced Obedience
	7:30 – 9:30 pm	Agility/Jumping advanced
<b>SUNDAY</b>	4 – 6:30 pm	Agility/Jumping advanced

## OUR INSTRUCTORS

We have an amazing team of instructors who volunteer their time every week to help YOU.

They often spend time before coming to the club to prepare for their training session. They have a passion for our sport and the only reason they offer tips and suggestions is to give you the opportunity to improve as a handler. Often improvement can only happen when we have to step outside our comfort zone. Don't worry, we all face challenges from time to time and your team members are there to support you and mentor you.

Our instructors also need to train their dogs, so they have the 'Right-of-Way' and can jump in at any time to do that. So if that sometimes means you have to wait, it's a small price to pay for their support.

Our instructors are giving up their time and social interaction to facilitate our training sessions. For this they deserve our respect and support.

If you have constructive criticism we appreciate if you tell us direct (see Andrea or Tricia), we are always looking to improve our training sessions.

We share a passion for our sport, and together we build a TEAM that is known for brilliance, good sportsmanship and friendship. We would love you to be part of our team.

## **OUR DOGS – TEAM MATES NOT SPORTING EQUIPMENT**

- Our instructors always put the dog first.
- If we see that your dog is unwell, is overstimulated or not ready yet to do a certain exercise, we will tell you.
- Not every dog has the same capacity for work and repetition.
- The capacity to work with you in focus, physically and mentally, depends entirely on the breed, the age and the work you have invested in building this so far.
- Neither you nor your dog will benefit if you go beyond that threshold.
- We will try and make your training time as productive as possible and we will tell you when your dog has had enough. Let's face it, if you do an exercise and the dog is brilliant after the second time, that's the time to finish and reward highly. There is no purpose in going on and watch the performance go downhill.
- Please be mindful which dogs you crate your dog next to. Do not let your dog approach another dog in their crate or while walking on lead.
- No harsh handling – please (no choker chains, prong collars or e-collars on the grounds) our club promotes force-free training methods. We understand that sometimes dogs require discipline in the form of time-outs and we support this method instead of positive punishment.

### **Coming to training:**

- Please arrive at least 30 minutes before start time so you can set up your crate, and toilet your dog
- ALL dogs must be brought onto the club grounds on lead and taken to their crate. NO dogs off lead unless they are working.
- Please respect the different training rings and do not walk through other rings, where dogs are working
- When coming to set up your crate or bringing in your dog please be mindful of other dogs already training. Some dogs are able to handle distractions, some dogs may not be at that level yet.
- Dogs must be securely crated when not training. Ensure your dog has access to water. Bring a sheet to cover your crate if your dog is noisy.
- Use the designated toileting areas only.
- Bring your dog on a flat collar, no Halti or harness allowed for obedience or agility. In agility you may run your dog naked.
- Food and toy rewards are fine. Be aware of other dogs working nearby when throwing food or toy rewards!
- Be mindful of your dog's capabilities and fitness level – do not ask for something the dog is not ready for
- All handlers must wear closed shoes when on the ground

## **WORKSHOPS**

At times there will be workshops at the club specifically to train certain skills, may that be in obedience or agility (2x2 weave training etc), or another sport. There will be a reasonable fee involved. Workshops with presenters invited by the club or third party come at a cost.

## **How can you support our Club?**

A hands-on positive attitude goes a long way. Our club provides public dog training classes to earn money for equipment, contribute to judges airfares for competitions, buy library items and whatever else needs to be paid for in our dog sports section. Our instructors are very important volunteers and we are always looking for handlers who like to become an instructor.

Talk to Andrea if you like to become an instructor. We have a mentoring system where you will learn course content and delivery techniques. Only when you feel confident in taking on a class will you be given your own class and there will be a mentor on the sidelines being your back-up. There is no 'throwing you into the deep end'. We pride ourselves to train our instructors to a high level of competency.

# AGILITY

## CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN AGILITY TRAINING

You are expected to participate in set-up AND put away of equipment. That's the long and the short of it.

- Once the exercises are set up, the instructor will explain your training options for each station. It is in your interest to be there for the talk.
- Sequences may be run in height order or with card system.
- You are required to help with height changes. Be ready with your dog when your height is up.
- If you need to work on a certain skill with your dog, ask the instructor for help. It may not be possible to do it immediately, but the instructor can set up a sequence specifically for that skill the following week.
- It's not a good idea to over-work your dog on the agility exercises, this could cause injury or diminish your dog's enthusiasm to work, especially when it's hot. Your dog should have at least **10 minutes break** between exercises.
- Please respect other handlers by not monopolising the equipment. You are being given a couple of minutes on each sequence.
- Do not repeat an agility exercise with your dog until all handlers have had a turn on that sequence.
- Remember that agility should be fun! Short sessions, and praising, rewarding and playing are highly encouraged.

## EQUIPMENT

Please take care of our equipment. All our instructors work very hard so that we are able to purchase the newest equipment for our training sessions and competition.

Take care when setting up and putting away our equipment. Please look around if you notice a jump cup missing.

Tunnels are made out of fragile material please take care not to put any rips or cuts into them.

If you notice any damage to any of our equipment please advise the agility instructor so we can take care of it.

# **OBEDIENCE / RALLY O / TRICK TRAINING**

## **CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN OBEDIENCE TRAINING**

- Please come early and crate and toilet your dog so you are on time for training start.
- Dogs must be on lead when they are not working
- All dogs must be securely crated when attending training
- You are expected to assist with group exercises
- Bring your own equipment (dumbbell, scent articles etc).
- When attending Rally Obedience classes you are required to help set up and tidy away the RallyO equipment, this is not the instructor's job.
- Ask for help if you need it. Your instructor may not be able to talk to you immediately but we will make time to discuss an issue after training.

Due to a very limited time slot for advanced obedience training on Thursday evening, there will be no ring run-throughs until just before trialling season (starting in March). Check dates on Facebook.

On Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30pm only UDX/UD dogs and instructors are allowed to train with their dogs.

Thursday from 6:30pm our instructors are available to assist you on an individual basis to train your dog. Training time per dog approx. 10 mins. Please advise when you arrive whether you want to work with an instructor or whether you want to work alone. There are designated training areas. We may use a white board to indicate handlers & training areas.

### **Training with an instructor**

You need to know what you want to work on with your dog. Discuss this with your instructor before going out to train. Your instructor will mark the dog's behavior with a clicker and then you can reward your dog. This is more efficient as the instructor is in a better position to see when a behavior has been executed and what your performance looks like. It is also better if the handler does not change his/her body position to check the behavior. Your instructor will provide feedback after you have taken your dog out and suggest what you need to work on. Our aim is to maximize the dog's motivation and make the training segment as positive as possible.

Training/Learning happens every second anyone is out there working with a dog. You are welcome to come and watch and listen. Learn from others that are working on skills that you may be working on in the future. You can come onto the grounds and observe other handlers work, as long as you do not impede the handler, dog or instructor. Listen to what is being said, watch the handlers and the dogs.

### **Rally Obedience Training**

Make sure you arrive on time. Please be aware that public classes are in progress or just finishing when you arrive. Set up your crate, then bring in your dog. Be aware that there are novice handlers out there and do not allow your dog to approach any other dog.

Wait for your training area and instructor to be ready for you.

You are required to help set up and take away the RallyO equipment.

## **Trick Training**

Make sure you arrive on time. Please be aware that public classes are in progress or just finishing when you arrive. Set up your crate, then bring in your dog. Be aware that there are novice handlers out there and do not allow your dog to approach any other dog.

Wait for your training area and instructor to be ready for you.

Please bring all the necessary equipment/props for your tricks with you.

Bring lots of food rewards.

Trick training may be happening at the same time as Rally Obedience. If your dog is not totally under control you should keep a lead on your dog when working.

## **Making your training session a success:**

### **Before taking your dog out to train:**

- Make sure your dog has settled down after arriving before training with him
- Discuss with the instructor exactly what you want to work on (skills/exercise)
- Know when it is your turn and be ready
- Organise yourself, your strategy, your tools, your rewards and everything you need
- PREP YOUR DOG. Do whatever it is you need to do before you go on the grounds to work with your dog. This routine should also be used when going into the trial ring.

### **During your training session:**

- Pay attention to your dog's every move
- If you are working with a clicker your instructor will click for you.
- Have your reward (food/toy) handy and know your award placement – discuss with the instructor
- Listen to your instructor – when he/she says REWARD – then reward!
- PRAISE goes a long way, it costs nothing, don't be stingy and dish it out BIG if your dog is a super star

### **After your training session:**

- Go outside the ring REWARD and praise your dog
- Put your dog back in its crate
- Then you can talk to your instructor
- Allow your dog to rest and mentally work through everything that has just happened

## **The worst you can do???**

Take your dog out and then talk to an instructor for 10 minutes while the dog is bored!

Remain on the ground with your dog after working and talk to an instructor for 10 minutes, while the dog is bored!

Not praising and rewarding often enough.

Not marking the behavior you want

Being in a bad frame of mind and wanting to work with your dog

# Flyball

Training fee payable direct to Flyball team for every 8 week training block.

Set-up time is 6pm.

Training start is 6:30 pm

Training finishes around 9:30pm

You are expected to assist with putting up and taking down the equipment.

## **Class Sequence and sets for each handler**

1. Beginner class
2. Solo class
3. Intermediate class
4. Racing class

Each group/individual has maximum of 5 sets, but finishes on a good set in the 5. - If a dog/handler nail the first 3 sets, they finish on the third set.

Training finishes at approximately 9.30pm, again depending on numbers and handler/dog stamina/endurance.

Depending on numbers, the above is repeated 2, 3, 4, 5 times, so that everyone gets training in and can watch others, listen to instructors comments.

Handlers can reflect on their own personal training to improve whilst watching others and their journeys of improvement.