

Glen Iris Dog Training Club Inc.

Induction Pack

VALUES

The Glen Iris Dog Training Club holds and is guided by the following values:

- We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of people, dogs and the community.
- We respect the rights, dignity and worth of others.
- We are committed to supporting members in their training and handling of their dogs.
- We aim to be a dog obedience club that promotes current principles and practices of managing dog behaviour and training.
- We strive to develop an atmosphere that is conducive to positive interaction between members and their dogs.
- We value open, honest and polite communication.
- We aim to foster an environment which supports encouragement of others and enjoyment of others' success.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The goals of the Glen Iris Dog Training Club are to:

1. Facilitate the socialisation of dogs of all breeds and ages.
2. Educate dog owners about their responsibilities to their dogs, the dogs of others and to other members of the community.
3. Conduct classes to socialise dogs and to train dogs in both obedience and agility.
4. Advise any members who are interested in competing with their dog in social neutrality, obedience and agility trials.
5. Advise members when required of the necessity of additional training, beyond what is possible in class-based training.
6. Conduct social gatherings of members and their families from time to time.

FAQs

Where do you train?

We train every Sunday morning, except for public holiday weekends and the January holiday period. We train during the school term holidays.

Our address is a small reserve bounded by Saxby Street and Francis Crescent, Glen Iris, on the eastern (Ashburton) side of Gardiners Creek.

What time are the classes?

All new members attend our Induction class at 10.15am on their first time. You will then move to one of the Beginners classes (Yellow), also at 10.15am. Duration is 45 minutes to an hour.

The next level is Green (Intermediate). These classes meet at 9.00 and 10.15am. The next levels, Red (Proficient), and Blue (Advanced) commence at 9.00am.

Do I need to book each week?

When you have registered as a member (via the website) you will be sent a booking link each Tuesday or Wednesday for the following Sunday. There is no additional cost.

Can I come and observe the club activities before joining?

Yes, you can. However only registered members can participate in a class, due to our public indemnity insurance.

Should I give my dog breakfast before class?

We suggest that you do not feed your dog before training. Your dog will work best when eager for a food reward. Also remember to adjust your dog's daily food intake if you have been training with food treats.

Can my children train our dog?

Children over the age of 13 can be involved in training. However, if under 18 years, a parent or other responsible adult must be present on the grounds.

When can my dog do agility?

Dogs should be close to 12 months to begin agility work, starting with jumps at a low height. (Note that dogs must be 18 months to compete in Australian regulated agility trials.) Dogs can be worked on-lead with a flat collar and off-lead when advanced. We do not recommend using a correction collar (check chain) when working in agility, unless advised to by the instructor.

The agility equipment is available for members from 8.15am to 10.00am every Sunday.

What sort of collar and lead should I have for dog training?

A flat collar or limited slip martingale collar is recommended. A flat collar is always used for agility training. A soft lead, such as leather or reinforced material, is best for obedience work. A harness is not advised for obedience training. We do not recommend use of a face halter ("halti"). They are uncomfortable, can damage a dog's mouth and olfactory ability and distract from learning.

What time should I arrive for class?

Intermediate, Proficient and Advanced commence at 9.00am
Induction, Beginners and Intermediate commence at 10.15am

On your first visit please come 10 minutes early and collect your name badge. Members must wear this while on the park as evidence of financial membership.

How much is membership and when is it due?

The Club's financial year runs from January to December. There is a one-off joining fee of \$100. There is an annual renewal fee of \$50 due from 31 December. The committee and instructors are all volunteers. The joining fee covers Council tenancy fees, insurance and the purchase and maintenance of equipment.

Is there anything I can do to help the Club?

We appreciate help with setting out water bowls, putting up and taking down equipment and anything else you can do to help the Club run smoothly for the benefit of all members and dogs.

Can I have my dog off-lead?

Off-lead work is only done in the advanced classes under the guidance of an instructor. (Dorothy Laver Reserve East is an on-lead park, except when participating in dog obedience training.)

Can I let my dog play with other dogs?

Instructors will provide opportunities in class for dogs to interact. You should only allow your dog to approach another dog if you have the permission of the other handler.

Why do some dogs wear a yellow bandana around the collar?

A yellow bandana is a sign, recognised universally, that a dog is reactive for some reason. Dogs with yellow bandanas may be jumpy, excitable, or overanxious. Please respect their need for space.

Can I use treats to train my dog?

Absolutely. Positive dog training uses treats as rewards for wanted behaviours.

Can I give treats to other dogs?

Only when this is permitted by the other handler. Giving treats to other dogs can lead to resource-guarding behaviour in your own dog.

My dog is not food-orientated, what else could I use to help train my dog?

Whatever motivates your dog. This could be a toy (with brief play for an exercise well done) or simply praising them in a happy voice. You know your dog.

What facilities are available at the ground?

We have access to the pavilion where there are toilets and a kitchen.

How should I dress for class?

Dress in comfortable clothes suitable for the weather. Do not wear loose clothes that will flap about in the wind. Wear closed shoes (no thongs/sandals). A cap to shade your eyes is a good idea too as you should not train in sunglasses – your dog needs to make eye-contact with you.

What approach to training does the Club use?

The Club uses a balanced approach to training. It teaches you to reward the behaviours you want, rather than punish a dog for “unwanted” behaviours. Training your dog should be fun — for you and your dog.

Club Office bearers

President: Tony Kenna
Vice-President: Ian Rogers
Secretary: Lesley Hardcastle
Treasurer: Don Burns

Committee

Eliza Armstrong
Rosemary Berrell
Barb Edgar
Amy Hooper
Kalpana Kao
Otto Raus
Saul Rothman
Peter Slane

Code of Conduct of the Glen Iris Dog Training Club Inc

1. Handlers are responsible for the actions of their dogs and should be able to restrain their dog.
2. Handlers should be dressed appropriately, wear enclosed shoes and wear their current membership badge in a visible position.
3. Handlers must ensure that their dogs are registered with their local council and vaccinations are current.
4. Dogs must remain on lead at all times unless directed otherwise by an instructor. If a handler needs to leave their dog for any reasons, they must ensure their dog is securely tethered.
5. Dogs must not be left unattended in motor vehicles if the temperature is above 23° C.
6. Handlers must immediately clean up after their dog.
7. Dogs brought to class must be in good health. Bitches in season should not attend a class.
8. Handlers must use such collars, leads and other gear, including bandanas and muzzles for their dog as directed by the instructor. Gear must be in good working order. No equipment or gear shall be sold or promoted at the club without prior approval of the Committee.
9. Handlers must not give food or treats to another dog without the handler of the other dog giving prior permission.
10. Neither members nor their dogs shall create noise or disruption to neighbours around the training arena. When parking their motor vehicles at the training venue, members should ensure that they are properly parked and do not cause obstruction or inconvenience.
11. Members should endeavour to arrive on time for class and carry out the directions of the instructor.
12. Handlers under the age of 18 years must have an associated adult present at training.

13. Any complaint or grievance of a member regarding any other member, their dog, or an instructor, should be reported to a committee member as soon as possible, and be addressed by a member of the Executive.
14. Handlers should behave in a courteous and friendly manner at all times.
15. Members must not use any form of communication or social media to publish material that is offensive, abusive, critical, harassing or detrimental to the Club and its office holders, instructors or members.
16. As a general rule, a handler should train only one dog at time. A handler may train two dogs in a class by agreement with the instructor. No more than two dogs can be trained by the one handler.
17. When using the agility circuit, handlers must follow the directions of the instructor, and at all times ensure dogs are kept safely apart.
18. Members are bound by the *Model Rules for an Incorporated Association (Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2012, available at <https://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/library/forms/clubs-and-not-for-profits/incorporated-associations/model-rules-for-an-incorporated-association.doc>)*. Breaches have consequences, up to and including expulsion from the Club, under section 19 of the Model Rules.
19. *Members* will respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, sexual preference or religion. No member may vilify another individual on such grounds, or physically or verbally abuse, harass or bully anyone associated with the Club (member, instructor, committee member), on or off the park, at any time.
20. *All members will abide by the rules, regulations and by-laws of the City of Boroondara.*

DOG OBEDIENCE COMPETENCIES AT EACH CLASS LEVEL

The following are the competencies which are demonstrated by handlers and dogs before they move up to the next level. Instructors may teach other skills in addition to these.

INDUCTION

This provides an opportunity for our instructors to get to know you and your dog and introduce you to balanced dog training techniques.

- Appropriate collar, correctly worn
- Lead technique — two hands, held low on body
- Handling puppy/dog
- Controlled dog interactions, cross-overs (“meet and greet”)
- Focus exercise (use of a word, e.g., “watch”, “look at me”, “check”)
- Puppy push-ups and shaping
- Lure to recall position (from free movement)
- Marking behaviour with rewards (with correct timing of reward/treat to teach conditioned reinforcement)
- Consistent use of marker word to mark wanted behaviour

YELLOW — Beginners

- Verbal marker installed correctly and reliably with appropriate delivery time of a food reward (dog is clearly expecting treat when marker word is given)
- Dog is confident and calm being approached and touched by humans

- Dog responds to name by looking at handler and is regularly checking in with handler (focus)
- Handler can recall dog on lead without luring. Dog comes directly in front of handler
- Correct response to leash pressure for loose-lead/social walking
- Dog can be lured into all positions
- Dog understands the sit and down commands (does not need to hold these positions)
- Calm meet and greets
- During instruction, dogs are controlled using the 'parking' technique

GREEN — Intermediate

- Dog focuses on handler and checks in
- Marking behaviour demonstrated
- Use of release word
- Dog responds to commands for all positions
- Lure to heel position
- Recall (from free movement)
- Handling dog
- Loose lead walking (not heeling)
- Heeling with all turns
- Heeling with all positions
- Roadwork (loose lead walking)
- Give and take
- Leave (it)
- Stays (sit and drop) – short but secure

RED — Proficient

- Heeling in grid formation, with all turns, all commands, changes of pace
- Heeling with change of pace
- Recall — with distance (off lead)
- Voice commands and/or hand signals for drop, stand and stay
- Stays in all positions – variation in time and distance
- Stand for examination
- Give and take
- Leave (it)
- Handler return to heel position
- Dog return to heel (the finish) from left and right
- Rear end awareness

BLUE — Advanced

- Dogs can work off-lead
- Heeling with all commands, all turns, variation in pace
- Distance commands
- Change of position in stay
- Drop on the run
- Recall off lead

- Recall with distraction
- All stays with time and distance variation
- Stays with handler out of sight
- Stand for examination
- Give and take
- Tethering
- Retrieval
- Rear end awareness (use boxes or steps)
- Voice OR hand signals

OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR TRAINING YOUR DOG

AGILITY: The club offers agility work to dogs over 12 months in age. The equipment is available to members from 8.15 am. Handlers must be supervised by an instructor for safety reasons.

FLYBALL: Classes are available from 9.00am. They are available to dogs in Blue class who can work off-lead. There is a limit of four handlers per class and members who wish to participate must commit to at least 10 weeks in the same class. The learning is incremental, and continuity is important. The flyball classes last 30 minutes and handlers are able to attend their usual obedience class for part of the time.

RALLY OBEDIENCE (RALLY O): The club regularly sets up a Rally course for use during class time.