

Glen Iris Dog Training Club Inc. Induction Pack

Statement of Purpose

1. To facilitate dogs of all breeds and ages to socialise.
2. Teach and educate dog owners as to their responsibilities to other members of the community.
3. Conduct classes to train dogs in both obedience and agility.
4. Encourage interested members to compete with their dog in obedience and agility trials.
5. Conduct social gathers of members and their families from time to time.

FAQs

Should I give my dog breakfast before class?

No. Please don't feed your dog before training. Your dog will work best on an empty stomach. Also remember to adjust your dog's daily food intake if you have been training with food treats.

Can my children train our dog?

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

When can my dog do agility?

Dogs should be at least 18 months old to do agility. Ability to work off-lead desirable or they can be worked on-lead with a flat collar.

What time should I arrive for class?

Arrive 5-10 minutes before your class. If your dog requires time to settle in arrive even earlier and walk them around first.

How much is membership and when is it due?

The Club financial year runs January to December. There is a one-off joining fee of \$60 plus an annual membership fee of \$50 (\$25 pro-rata if joining July onwards). All memberships fall due on 31 December.

Is there anything I can do to help the Club?

Yes! ☺ We are happy for people to help with setting up water bowls, putting up and taking down equipment and whatever else you can do to help the club and smooth running of the lessons.

Can I have my dog off-lead?

No. Off-lead work is only done in the high classes when instructed by an instructor. The park is an on-lead park.

Can I let my dog play with other dogs?

No. In fact you should only allow your dog to approach another dog if you have the express permission of the other handler.

Can I give treats to other dogs?

Only when this is expressly permitted by the other handler. It is actually best to not give treats to other dogs as this can lead to resource-guarding behaviour in your own dog.

Can I use treats to train my dog?

Yes you can.

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

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

What facilities are available at the ground?

We have access to the pavilion where there are toilets and a kitchen. When we have enough volunteers on the day we are able to offer coffee and tea. If you would like to be a volunteer please ask. 😊

How should I dress for class?

Dress sensibly in comfortable clothes suitable for the weather (jeans/light-weight long pants). Don't wear loose clothes that will flap about in the wind. Closed shoes are a must (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 sort of collar and lead should I have for dog training?

A correctly fitted check chain or limited-slip martingale are best as you are able to give corrections with these. However some handlers may prefer to use a flat collar. A flat collar is always used for agility training. A soft leather lead is best for obedience work. Chain leads will hurt your hands. Avoid leads with hard handles. Instructors can give advice about correct fitment.

I don't think giving corrections helps my dog

There is no 'one size fits all' method of training. Different breeds of dogs have different temperaments. Some dogs are 'soft' and respond best to totally positive methods of training. Other breeds need a firmer hand. You know your dog best so do discuss with your instructor ways of modifying your training to get the best from your dog.

Why do some dogs have yellow bandanas?

Dogs with yellow bandanas need to be given a bit more space as they can be a bit jumpy and excitable. Please respect their need for space.

Code of Conduct

1. Handlers should be dressed appropriately and wear their membership badge in a visible position.
2. Handlers are to ensure that their dogs are registered with their local council and vaccinations are current.
3. Dogs are to remain on lead at all times unless directed otherwise by an instructor. If a handler needs to leave their dog for a short period they must ensure it is securely tethered.
4. Dogs must not be left unattended in motor vehicles if the temperature is above 20 degrees.
5. The handler must immediately clean up any fouling of the ground by their dog.
6. Dogs brought to class must be in good health. Never bring a bitch in season to the ground.
7. Instructors will cancel training in the event the weather may have an adverse effect on dogs or handlers.
8. Handlers must behave in a courteous and friendly manner and accept responsibility for their dog and their dog's actions.
9. Neither members or their dogs shall create noise or disruption to neighbours around the training arena. When parking their motor vehicles at the training venue, ensure that they are properly parked and do not cause obstruction or inconvenience to neighbours.
10. Handlers must use such collars, leads and other gear (including muzzles) for their dog as directed by the instructor.
11. Members must arrive on time for class and carry out the directions of the instructor.
12. Handlers must not give food or treats to another dog without the handler of that dog giving prior permission.
13. Handlers under the age of 18 years must have a parent or adult present at the Oval.
14. Members should forthwith report any concerns or incidents to an instructor or committee member.
15. Members must not use the Club website or any form of social media to publish anything that is untoward, offensive, harassing or abusive.
16. Any complaint or grievance of a member regarding any other member, their dog or an instructor should be reported to a committee member and be addressed by the most senior committee member present.

Class competencies

The following are the basic competencies which should be demonstrated before moving to the next level. Instructors may teach other skills in addition to these.

Induction class

This is a general introduction to the Club and to dog obedience training. It provides an opportunity for our instructors to get to know you and your dog. You will be introduced to some of the skills required in Yellow level.

Yellow (Beginners — Level 1)

- Appropriate collar, correctly worn
- Handling puppy/dog
- Focus exercise
- Puppy push-ups
- Lure to recall position (from free movement)
- Lead technique — two hands, held low on body
- Loose lead walking, leading with left foot
- Turns — right and left and about turns (U turns)
- Sit on “halt” (guided placement)
- Rewards – bright YES! Or calm “good dog” (with correct timing to teach conditioned reinforcement)
- Use of a release word (e.g. “free”, “go”)

Green (Beginners — consolidated)

- All turns, including left about pivot, loose lead, handler feet movement
- Lead technique — two hands, low on body, ability to bundle in left hand for hand signals and right hand for reward with left hand if required
- Heeling — loose lead, using correct leading foot, change of pace
- Automatic sit on “Halt” (no guidance, no command)
- Recall “come” command (from free movement)
- Sit on “halt” (gradually diminishing guided placement)
- Down from heel and heel on
- Stand from heel and heel on
- Turns – right, left and about turns
- Sit and down stays — under a minute, length of lead, correct returns by handler
- Cross-overs and weaving – loose lead, threshold distances, minimal dog interaction
- Conditioned reinforcement
- Roadwork with dog sitting at curb
- Use of release word

Red – (Intermediate)

- Heeling with loose lead – with change of pace, neat turns in grid formation
- Recall with “come” command – introducing wait and distance
- Sit on “halt” (no commands, no guidance)
- Turns — left and right; right and left about (pivot)
- Stays — one minute, in all positions (stand, sit, down), with voice commands and hand signals, end of lead, lead free optional, handler return
- Stand for examination
- Return to heel (the finish) — from right and left

- Roadwork with dog sitting at curb
- Give and take

Blue (Proficient)

- Lead free work where appropriate
- Heeling with commands (down, stand – voice only, hand signal only)
- Turns — left and right; right and left about (pivot)
- Figure 8 — on lead and off lead
- Distance commands
- Down from heel and heel on (variation in pace)
- Stand from heel and heel on
- Recall off lead
- Recall with distraction
- Return to heel (the finish)— from right and left
- All stays off lead with time variation (1 minute, 3 minutes) and distance variation
- Change of position (in stay)
- Stand for examination
- Rally O exercises when heeling (drop — walk around dog & heel off, step to the right, 1,2,3 recall, 370 turn etc.)

Club contacts

Secretary – Lesley Hardcastle 9885 7078