



# METROPOLITAN DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB INC

(Affiliated with the Canine Control Council of Qld)  
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## Obedience Class Information

Metropolitan Dog Obedience Club welcomes all handlers from all ages and all areas of skill. It is our mission to teach you how to teach your dog to become a welcomed member of society. Our instructors are volunteers and each has a passion for dog behaviour and obedience, which we are willing to share with our prospective handlers. We do NOT offer puppy classes at this club. Please talk to your local Vet about puppy class recommendations.

New members may join any Monday night please see the staff at the counter for a membership form and a class start date.

All dogs MUST be vaccinated. Please leave your dog at home and bring current vaccination certificates with you.

Each level lasts as long as required for both the handler and dog to learn the required skills to gain promotion. Remember practice makes perfect and you need to take time at home to practice to gain promotion. When you have been told by your instructor that you have been promoted it is necessary to notify one of the volunteers at The Metro Dog House front desk. This will ensure that upon promotion a certificate of promotion will be awarded to you.

## Class 1 - Introduction

All dogs MUST be vaccinated and should be 20 weeks of age

This first night of your training includes discussion on the running of the club, ground rules and training techniques. Therefore, as your dog has a very short attention span, to make it easier on you as a handler and for your instructor please do not bring your dog along on the first night you train.

One week of general information and exercises to practice your handling skills and introduce you and your canine companion to class expectations and techniques. Followed by three weeks covering simple exercises to teach your canine companion how to be a better member of the family. Exercises include introduction to heeling, sending your dog to his bed, sit, stay, drop and recall. You then progress to class 1 Beginners until such time as your instructor promotes you to class 2. This is a self-paced class.



## Class 1

Beginners learn to polish up Class 1 skills for promotion to Class 2.

For promotion, dogs should be able to heel on lead, complete an automatic sit and have a good working partnership between dog and handler.

# Obedience Class Information

## Class 2

Enhance skills learnt in Class 1 training.

Introduction of drop, stand, stand for examination, stays (at sit, stand & down) and finish to recall.

For promotion heeling should be very good, drop and recalls good and the stand for examination should be fair.



## Class 3

Smarten up hand signals and footwork.

Introduction of 3 paces, the pivot left about turn and off lead work (at the discretion of the instructor) and combining recall and the finish to recall.

For promotion stays to be very sound, stand for examination and stand free to be very good and recall (complete) to be very good.

Final assessment to progress from class 3 up to 4 will be done by the Training Coordinator.

## Class 4

Training for competition standards. This class is for those members

wishing to compete in Obedience Trials.



## Rally Obedience

The purpose of Rally Obedience is to demonstrate a dog's usefulness as a companion of mankind, not merely the dog's ability to follow specified routines in the ring. Dogs who participate in Rally are dogs that have been trained and conditioned to compete at Novice level and in the presence of other dogs.

The objective of Rally is to provide a fast-moving and motivational sport for both Handler and dog that demonstrates competency in basic Obedience exercises without the precision of the formal Obedience Classes. Dogs in Rally events should demonstrate willingness and enjoyment. To that end, Handlers may use verbal praise and encouragement of the dog on the Rally course.

Rally Obedience is available to dogs that have been trained to a level three obedience standard. Dogs and handlers who wish to participate in Rally Obedience must be assessed by our Rally Obedience training Coordinator on a Monday night training night prior to admission to Rally obedience classes.



# Dog Handling Guidelines

Dogs have personalities: some simply – do not like each other. If this is so, keep them away from each other. Dogs will also have the odd growl and minor tiff (usually mouth focussed). Please – do not panic!! Very seldom is any damage done in such a scuffle. There is a lot of noise, and then it is over.

Most classes are conducted while dogs are on lead although some exercises require dogs to be off lead. Always carry your lead with you. When you are working with your dog off lead (whilst under supervised in a class environment) - keep your lead close – (in your pocket, around your neck or waist will do). Do not carry it in your hand as this will give your dog confused signals. As soon as you have finished an exercise, clip your dog back on the lead.

## Avoiding Conflict:- Early Warning Signs

Dogs rarely just lunge at one another. Please be aware of your own dogs warning signals – e.g. stiff body, soft growls, or staring at another dog, ears back, hackles up, muttering quietly. Aggression may be due to either fear or dominance.

Intervene if you notice any of these behaviours. Move your dog away and ask for behaviour to re-focus its attention. While you are standing around waiting for your class to commence, or listening to announcements or to your class instructor, be sure to keep your dog close by your side and be aware of

what your dog is doing – has it wandered to the end of its lead, started eye-balling or threatening another dog? It is an ideal time to practice a little basic obedience while you are waiting for class to start – a perfect opportunity to reinforce a stay, a drop, a sit etc with all of these distractions happening.



**DEFENSIVE AGGRESSION**

## Conflict – How to Manage It

In the event of a minor scuffle between dogs, both dogs need to learn that such behaviour is unacceptable. Physically separate the dogs and totally ignore them for a few minutes, or give a gruff growl to indicate displeasure then ignore them. Then ask for a simple behaviour and reward your dog when it gives you that behaviour. Remember that you are rewarding the final good behaviour – not the scuffle (the scuffle is over and done within the dogs mind).

In the event of a more heated clash with one or more dogs off lead we would like to implement the following:



- As frightening as the clash may seem to you, DO NOT scream and shout. This can signal to your dog that it is doing the correct thing.
- Keep other dogs away. If you choose to help other members whose dogs are having a dispute, hand your dog to someone else, before trying to aid in the conflict.
- To separate the dogs – grab a back leg of the dog/s that is off lead, or it's tail to unbalance the dog & lift off the ground....and keep moving backwards. The dog on lead MUST be moved away – backwards from the conflict as well.
- Separated from its conceived threat and in a new undignified position the dog/s should simmer down, and be able to be clipped on lead....or held by the collar.

**Move right away from the conflict zone (you may give a gruff growl to indicate the behaviour is unacceptable) & face the dog away from others and ignore it. After a few minutes ask for a simple behaviour and reward. This applies to all the dogs involved, regardless of who starts the conflict!**

# Dog Handling Guidelines

## Maintenance

Most importantly remember we are here to have fun with our dogs. Don't ostracise the owner of the dog who may have had the odd scuffle. If we are all aware of, and implement the above strategies, our club should remain the friendly place it is, where like-minded people can gather and have some fun with their dogs.

There is an immense amount that can be learned on dog behaviour. Speak to the Instructors regarding any issues that you may be having with your dog. YELLOW bandanas are available from the equipment officer for your dog to wear (a gold coin donation – thank you). The colour YELLOW allows other dog handlers to be aware that your dog may have issues (don't like other dogs in their space, fear aggression or simply that you are working with your dog and need space or that your dog just gets over excited when other dogs are around). Please be aware of any dogs wearing anything YELLOW and allow them the space that they require. DO NOT approach any dog who is tethered – please allow them space and be aware of where your own dog is and what it's behaviour is at all times.



Finally, remember YOUR dog is YOUR responsibility – you must know how to act. You cannot simply rely on there always being someone there to assist. If you are unsure on how to control your dog.....please ask before it is too late. Remember that it is perfectly OK to ask other members to keep their dogs away from your dog, as your dog likes its own personal space – this applies equally to both dominant and fearful dogs. This way you are maximising both you and your dogs' chances of having a successful and fun training session.