

**ALTONA
CIVIC
OBEDIENCE
DOG CLUB INC**



**MEMBERS
INFORMATION BOOKLET**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSES

The objects of the ALTIONA CIVIC OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC. are:

- (a) to conduct and promote training in Obedience and Agility;
- (b) to foster, promote and protect the interest of exhibitors of dog in exhibitions;
- (c) to collect, verify and publish information relating to dogs and exhibition of dogs;
- (d) to promote good fellowship and sportsmanship amongst members;
- (e) to inform members of and make know to them the Laws and Regulations of the State relating to the ownership and care of dogs, and the responsibility of owners for the conduct and actions of their dogs;
- (f) to hold functions and lectures relating to dogs and to the purposes of the Club generally;
- (g) to provide awards and donate prizes for competition at Exhibitions for exhibitors of dogs;
- (h) to foster relations with other Clubs and bodies having similar aims;
- (i) to promote and assist worthy causes as agreed at a General Meeting of the members of the Club;
- (j) to invest the funds of the Club not immediately required in such manner as the members or the Committee in lieu thereof shall determine;
- (k) to purchase, hire, lease, etc. and do such things as are conducive or incidental to promoting and achieving the purposes of the Club;
- (l) to carry on such other activities or promote or encourage interest in the upkeep and training of and the general well-being and improvement of dogs and to do all such other things as may be necessary or conducive to carrying out the objects of the Club.

Welcome to the Altona Civic Obedience Dog Club. The Club provides you with the opportunity to train your dog.

The fact that our Club and others like it exist, demonstrates an increasing interest in dog training as a hobby that can be enjoyed by both dog and owner.

The Club's main aim is to promote the training and understanding of the dog so that he may be accepted as a true companion in our urban society.

There are some important aspects you should be made aware of.

- ❖ **We want you to appreciate that our Club is a non-profit organisation, conducted entirely by Voluntary Officers, Committee and Instructors, giving freely of their time and knowledge to assist you. For this reason, you will have certain obligations to fulfil, in fairness, to these people who expect nothing in return other than your full co-operation in a genuine dedicated effort to succeed and your appreciation of the time and effort, which they are devoting to you.**

Please do not waste our valuable time if you are not prepared to make an effort to succeed.

- ❖ What do you hope to achieve through Obedience Training? Do you wish to own a well-behaved pet or an Australian Obedience Champion? These are the extremes but there are many levels of achievement in between. With ten weeks of training, you **MIGHT** have a well-behaved pet, but with patience and perseverance you will be able to achieve a higher level of training that gives you self-satisfaction and a sense of achievement. The level of understanding between you and your dog that is attained from advanced training is extremely rewarding.

If, as a Member, you expect the Club to provide the time and energy to train you, then you must accept the responsibility for training your dog. The people instructing you at training sessions are there to teach you how to train your dog.

Time – (at least 10 minutes) must be set aside each day for training in order to achieve results. Every endeavour will be made to help you with any problems that may arise.

ELIBILITY OF DOGS

Any dog, from the age of 18 weeks, is welcome to commence training at the Club.

No dog is too old to be trained, providing that it is not suffering from any physical disability. Every dog is trainable, although some breeds and some individual dogs are more difficult than others and require more time, patience and understanding before a satisfactory result is achieved.

VETERINARY REQUIREMENTS

It is a **REQUIREMENT** that your dog is vaccinated against Canine Hepatitis, Canine Distemper and Parvovirus for his or her health protection.

These diseases are highly contagious and the health of all dogs must be considered. Proof of vaccination will be required upon joining and renewing at the Club unless a letter from a Vet excludes this. Dogs suffering from Ringworm, Sarcoptic Mange or any other type of infectious disease e.g., Kennel Cough, must be excluded from training until a Vet has cleared the infection. Worming must be carried out regularly. Bitches in season (Oestrus) are **NOT** permitted in the vicinity of the training ground.

HOW THE CLUB WORKS

- ❖ **THE CLUB TRAINS PEOPLE.** We could not undertake to train every Member's dog for them, it simply would not work. The training of any animal is a daily activity. Unless daily training is pursued at home, progress is not easily achieved. If you are not prepared to train your dog daily, there is absolutely no point in starting, you could be wasting your own time and that of the Instructors and other Club members.

No matter how intelligent you think your dog is, training is a slow process requiring patience, perseverance and dedication. We do not perform miracles – you must work at it. Expect that results may take a little time to achieve.

To commence training in Beginners you will need a flat collar (or a correction chain if your dog is at least 6 months of age) and the lead should be approximately 75cm – 120cm long.

Do not attempt to train your dog in exercises that you observe in other classes. There is a correct method to introduce each new exercise. Training must be carried out one stage at a time.

Your Promotion to the next class depends on three factors:

1. The regularity of your daily training.
2. Your ability, as a handler, to teach your dog, with patience and perseverance. Harshness and irritability will bring only confusion and resentment from your dog.
3. Your individual dog's response to training.

SOME DO'S

- ✓ **DO** ask before you, your dog or children approach someone else's dog. Don't assume that a dog that looks friendly will always be pleased to meet you!
- ✓ **DO** be conscientious with your homework – ideal training period are 10-15 minutes per day. Long training periods can do more harm than good; dogs can become bored and their attitude to training can sour.
- ✓ **DO** listen to your Instructor, even if their remarks are being directed to another Member and even if you have heard the explanation several times before, there could be something you have forgotten.
- ✓ **DO** remember to praise your dog for every satisfactory response (not only at training but also around the house), otherwise how will your dog know when they have done the right thing!
- ✓ **DO** feel free to discuss your problems with our Instructors or the Chief Instructor. If you have a grievance to make, please bring the matter to the Chief Instructor, whether it is about an Instructor, fellow Member or Committee Member.
- ✓ **DO** be guided by your Instructors.
- ✓ **DO** be a good sport and accept necessary constructive criticism and advice in the right manner, after all, we are trying to help you.
- ✓ **DO** be patient with your dog. Try to analyse their reactions to increase your understanding of your dog's behaviour.
- ✓ **DO** wear comfortable attire i.e., jeans/slacks, jumpers/T-shirt and sensible footwear, runners, gumboots (in winter etc). You will be surprised how much being comfy can assist you in the training of your dog.
- ✓ **DO** bring your children with you and leave them with a friend whilst you are training. They may even decide to start training their own dog one day. What a better way to learn than to see Mum or Dad train.
- ✓ **DO** observe our Club rules and avoid the embarrassment of being reminded.

SOME DON'TS

- ❖ **DON'T** allow your dogs to roughhouse whilst playing, it usually ends in tears.
- ❖ **DON'T** allow your dog to exhibit dominant behaviour over other dogs e.g. standing on tiptoes or climbing over the top of them. Eventually, someone will take offence.

- ❖ **DON'T** allow your dog to mark territory (urinate or defecate) on the training grounds during training at the Club. Please toilet your dog before your class.
- ❖ **DON'T** wear loose or floppy clothing i.e., skirts, dresses, baggy pants or any type of apparel that could flap in the dog's face/body. No thongs or moccasins as they can distract the dog and you could quite easily lose your footing.
- ❖ **DON'T** be cruel. It will not be tolerated in any training sessions or anywhere on or in the immediate training area or grounds.
- ❖ **DON'T** give up. Sometimes it takes several months before some dogs begin to show signs of improvement. With persistence you will achieve your training goals.
- ❖ **DON'T** forget to praise.
- ❖ **DON'T** expect miracles. Remember, the only time success comes before work is in the dictionary.
- ❖ **DON'T** be discouraged if your progress is slower than others. You may end up with the better dog.
- ❖ **DON'T** leave your children unattended. There are many hiding places in the clubroom e.g. the back storeroom (is full of equipment that could easily fall on a child playing), the kitchen (where they could get burnt, could fall off serving counters or tables) and the ground themselves where a child could get injured.
- ❖ **DON'T** discard this booklet. Re-read it from time to time to satisfy yourself that you are following the instructions.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS AND KITCHEN

Social Functions and special efforts may be held throughout the year. These are aimed at raising funds toward furnishings and equipment for the Club. All Members and friends are welcome to participate in Club Functions.

Our "Last Day Of Training" in December is a fun day out with a general obedience class, some really fun games, awards, a great raffle and food for all to enjoy. See the Calendar on the website for the date for the current year.

We have **FREE TEA AND COFFEE** in the **CLUBROOM** for Members only. Our kitchen also has cans of drink and bottled water for sale. So, pop in after the morning's training and socialise, chat to Instructors and other Members, you will be amazed at what information you can pick up.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

Training is conducted on a Class system. Beginners through to Class 6. Training is progressive; when the dog has attained the requirements of each Class then, and only then, will dog and handler be promoted to the next Class.

You will learn on the first day, the only correction permitted is through voice command and lead control, If you are caught hitting or kicking your dog, you will be reported to the Chief Instructor. Repeated offences may cause your expulsion from the Club.

Handlers are asked to be punctual when attending Classes. Not only do late arrivals disrupt a Class that has commenced training, but you could also miss something which might be vital towards your future training programme. It is advisable to arrive a little early to walk your dog and allow your dog to 'toilet' before their Class begins. Members are requested to make every effort to attend all training sessions (for the sake of continuity of training and for the benefit of your dog). Handlers whose dogs are sick or are "in season" are welcome to participate without their dog.

SUPERVISED TRAINING TIMES – Sunday mornings

Class times can change throughout the year especially during the Summer season. If you think your Class may be affected by weather conditions, please check the 'Club Notices' section of the Website before attending Class on the day.

You can also see the Class times in the "Training Your Dog" section or in the "Class Bookings" section on the Website.

Members must assist with setting out **AND** packing up of equipment to train in Agility and Rally Obedience.

WEEKLY CLASS BOOKINGS - Important

Members are asked to book into their Class each week. This allows the Chief Instructor to ascertain Class sizes for the day. Class Bookings can be made between Tuesday – Midday Saturday prior to the Sunday training day. The Class Booking link can be found on the 'Home' page of our website.

This link can be saved to your Internet favourites or 'Bookmark' it on your phone.

CLUB RULES

Every Club requires its Members to observe certain house rules. Our rules are not demanding and are based on common sense and courtesy.

1. Should you dog foul the training ground, you are responsible for cleaning up with the equipment provided. The possibility of your dog fouling can be greatly reduced by the exercising of your dog prior to arrival at the ground.

2. Bitches in season **MUST NOT** be brought on or near the training ground.
3. Dogs with an infectious disease **MUST NOT** be brought to training.
4. You are expected to be in your Class line-up at the schedule start time. Should you be delayed, you are required to see the Chief Instructor and request permission to join Class.
5. Membership Name Tags must be worn at all times. Without your Name Tag you will not be permitted to train in Class unless with the permission of the Chief Instructor. **REMEMBER** this is proof of your Membership. In the event that you have forgotten your Membership Name Tag, you can obtain a “Day Pass” from the Office. A \$1.00 fee will be charged for this.
6. No dog is permitted on the ground ‘off-lead’. (The only occasion that dogs should be loose is during the free exercises in the advanced Classes or within the Agility ring). Dogs **MUST NOT** be left tethered to cars or posts unless under supervision and must NEVER be tethered to the Club’s front gates.
7. **The Club is not responsible for any injury incurred to a handler/child/dog. Your dog is on lead, it is up to you to correct and control it!**
8. Chatting among handlers and inattentiveness in Class will be to your disadvantage. Please pay attention, you cannot expect the Instructor to repeat an instruction because you were not paying attention.
9. **DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE CLUBHOUSE** (Unless granted specific permission from the Club President or Club Secretary.)
10. Training is **NOT HELD** over long weekends or during the Christmas break. Please check the “Club Notices” section of our website for any notices regarding scheduled training.

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

CLUB INSTRUCTOR – All Members are welcome to train as a Club Instructor. This can be very rewarding. Of course, a basic knowledge of Obedience exercises is an asset in this field. Remember, a person who can train a dog does not necessarily make a good Instructor. People skills are also necessary. If you are interested in learning, talk to the Chief Instructor.

PROMOTION RIBBONS – Ribbons will be awarded to each Member on being promoted from one Class to the next. These are colourful and are something of which you can be very proud. They are available to every handler and dog.

TROPHIES and AWARDS

Club Competitions	Ribbons, medallions and trophies for 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd Place getters.
Bill and Allisa Gilmour Trophy	Highest scoring Member in Club Competitions (aggregate of the 2 competitions per year).
Club Trophy	Most Popular Club Instructor As voted by Members at each Club Competition.
Title Certificates & Trophies	Awarded to Members who have trained at the Club and receive an Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC) Title during the financial year (1 Nov – 31 Oct each year).

FEEES

The fees for each following year are decided at the **ANNUAL** General Meeting, which is held in December.

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Our **FINANCIAL YEAR** ends on **31 OCTOBER EACH YEAR** and Memberships must be renewed between the 1st November and 30th November of that same year; otherwise, another Joining Fee will be incurred.

All Members are invited to and are eligible to vote and to take part in the decision-making of the Club.

Note: Junior Members cannot vote at meetings.

If you are over the age of 16, you can vote at our Annual General Meeting held at the Clubrooms in December. At these meetings we like to discuss future functions that are of interest to our Members. If there is anything you, as a General Members, would like to discuss at these meetings, please talk to someone in our Office to make your suggestions known.

According to the Club's Constitution, Clause 27(2) states that every Member who was a financial member of the Club for not less than three months of the financial year proceeding the Annual General Meeting and is currently a financial member shall be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible to nominate or be nominated for but not hold more than one office on the Committee, unless there are no other nominations for such second or subsequent office.

With reference to the Club's Constitution, Clause 27(3) states that a person becoming a Member between the closing date of the financial year preceding the Annual General Meeting and the date of the Annual General Meeting, shall not be eligible to vote at the

Annual General Meeting, nor to nominate, or be nominated for Office Bearer or Member of the Committee.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Heat Policy – Training will be cancelled if the temperature reaches 30c. If the Weather Bureau is predicting hot weather, please check the temperature before attending the Club.

Rain – If rain or muddy conditions prevents training in a safe environment, training will be cancelled. We will try to have a Notice of training cancellation up on the “Club Notices” page of our Website by 8:00am if training is to be cancelled.

Please keep an eye on the “**Club Notices**” page of our Website for any changes to training times, cancellations or other notices regarding Club operation. We sometimes start all Classes early if the weather is going to get too warm in summer.

CONCLUSION

The old saying that you only get out of something what you put into it is true for dog training. This not only applies to training but to Club participation as well. New Members are encouraged to enjoy the activities that the Club provides. New ideas are always welcome.

If you have any questions at any time, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary on 0432 745 303 or email info@altonadogobedience.org.au

We hope that this booklet has been of assistance to make your time with the Club a happy and enjoyable one.

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are 08.30am – 09.00am and 09:30am – 10:00am. Please try to conduct your business or make any equipment purchases during these hours.

ITEMS FOR SALE

Leather Leads
Slip Leads
Correction Chains
Slip Collars
Treat Bags
9kg bags of Blackdog Adult Food

SPONSORS

Check out the ‘Sponsors’ page on our Website as some offer good discounts for Members.

**HAPPY TRAINING
FROM THE COMMITTEE OF
THE ALTONA CIVIC OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC.**

**CURRENT, ACTIVE LIFE MEMBERS
OF
THE ALTONA CIVIC OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC.**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AWARDED</u>
Mr Bill Gilmour	1988
Mr Joe Cimino.....	1998
Mrs Allisa Gilmour	1999
Mr Phillip Schulte.....	2001
Mr John Heath.....	2008
Ms Bev Dyer	2014
Mr Norm Patullo	2018
Ms Kerrie Keeley	2019
Mrs Kerrie Scully	2019
Mr Sergio Farrugia.....	2022
Mr Simon Luketic.....	2022
Mr Dean Scully.....	2022
Mrs Lorraine Grieve.....	2023

NOTES PAGE

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