

## **Information Sheet**



Welcome to 'The Toowoomba Dog Obedience Club':

At the club, we operate across 5 levels of obedience training. Puppies are required to be 5 months of age prior to commencing and handlers must be at least 13 years of age. We start at Level 1, where we work on the 'basics' such as gaining focus and getting attention in a busy environment with many other dogs. We then progress on to more advanced efforts such as 'loose lead' heeling and staying when required.

Importantly, we work with 15 new handlers (and their dogs) each month. Starting on the first Tuesday of each month (from January to November each year), we work for approximately 25 minutes then a short 10min break followed by another 25 minutes with their dogs on focus and behaviour. You do need to book, as the spots in these beginner groups fill extremely quickly.

Bookings are arranged by calling our Club's booking officer on 0435 675 990. They will let you know when we have an opening. Please remember that each training level runs for 1 calendar month. Those booking in for Level 1 are required to pay a training fee of \$50 which covers membership and 1 month of level 1 class; whereas, Levels 2 to 5 are simply paid weekly (\$5 per night). At the end of each month, Level 1s automatically 'graduate' to Level 2; however, Levels 2, 3 and 4 are assessed by their instructor before being allowed to advance-on to the next level. Once handlers and their dogs reach Level 5, it's entirely up to you if you wish to continue and move on to train your dog in obedience, rally or tricks competitions (offered each Thursday night) or agility/jumping on Monday nights. You can stop when you reach the level of obedience you and your dog are comfortable with.

Cost of training is \$5 per night; Membership is \$20 per year for a single or \$25 for a year for family, membership is incorporated into the \$50 level 1 registration fee. Please note that you MUST be a member to attend.

Classes are conducted on Tuesday nights 6:30pm – 7:30pm (from January to November each year) at Norman Park, Newtown on the Corner of Tor Street and Hursley Road.

We do use positive reinforcement training at the club, however for the safety of all dogs and handlers we require that all dogs be fitted with a martingale collar or check chain, this is to avoid the possibility of your dog slipping its collar or harness. These can be fitted and purchased from the club. A comfortable lead approximately 1.2-1.8m in length is required, (NO BUNGEE LEADS)

Agility courses are run by Margaret on Monday nights for more information on agility training please speak to Margaret at the club.

Thursday night obedience training is for those who wish to go on to compete in various disciplines such as Obedience, Rally, Tricks etc.

To book please call 0435 675 990 and you will be pencilled in. Once pencilled in you must fill in the level 1 registration form available from our website and drop it in with the \$50 fee to be confirmed. This should be done as soon as practical after you have rung and been pencilled in. Forms and money are to be dropped off at the club house at 6pm on a Tuesday night.

I hope this covers all you wish to know, however, if not, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thanks

Toowoomba Dog Obedience Club