



ACT COMPANION DOG CLUB

CLUB RULES

(Approved 23 February 2021)

The following rules are established under clause 17(iii) of the ACT Companion Dog Club's *Constitution*. These Rules support the effective operation of the Club and the safety and well-being of its members and authorised visitors.

All members (and, where stated, authorised visitors) are expected to follow the Club rules. A member who persistently refuses or neglects to comply with the Club's *Constitution* or these Rules may be suspended or expelled from the Club.

Definitions:

- 'Club official' is (i) a member of the Club holding the position of Club instructor, member of a Sub-committee, member of the Main Committee or session manager and (ii) the Club's office manager.
- 'Member' is a financial member of the Club whose membership is approved by the Main Committee.
- 'Authorised visitor' is a non-member who has permission to access the Club to participate in a trial, competition, race-meet or other event approved by the Main Committee.

General:

1. The Club is a dog training and trialling facility and training and trialling activities always take precedence over other uses.
2. Members (excluding Club instructors) are required to regularly participate in the Club's training classes throughout the year and must nominate the activity/s that they intend to participate in when applying for and renewing their membership.
3. Membership entitles a member to attend the Club to participate in one training class per week in each activity in which they are enrolled each term or session. Access to the Club's facilities outside class times may be restricted without notice.
4. Members may only bring dogs listed on their membership record onto the Club grounds.
5. Members must abide by the Club's *Work, health and safety policy* and supporting documents when on the Club grounds or at an approved event off-site.
6. Members and authorised visitors must follow any reasonable direction given by a Club official when on the Club grounds or at an approved event off-site.
7. Members and authorised visitors must abide by the protocols set out in the document *Using the Club grounds* at all times.
8. Members and authorised visitors may not bring their dog(s) inside the clubhouse unless it is a recognised Assistance Dog or they have received permission from a Club official. Dogs inside the clubhouse must remain on lead or crated during office hours unless they are participating in an activity approved by a Club official.
9. Only Club officials (and members with disability parking permits) may use the Club's carpark during Behaviour Training classes (Note: Club officials must display a Club sticker). Members and authorised visitors may use the carpark at other times if the vehicle gate is open but must vacate the car park if requested by a Club official. Club officials are responsible for ensuring that the vehicle gate is locked when leaving the Club grounds.

Health:

10. The Club is a smoke-free environment, and members and authorised visitors are not allowed to smoke anywhere on the Club grounds (including buildings). Vaping is also prohibited.
11. Members' dogs must be at least 12 weeks of age and fully vaccinated against distemper, canine hepatitis and parvovirus before attending the Club's training classes. A current vaccination certificate must be sighted and/or proof of immunity (eg titre test) must be provided before a dog may attend class for the first time and at any subsequent time on request. Homeopathic alternatives are not accepted.
12. Dogs must not be brought on to the Club grounds if suffering from any infectious or contagious illness or condition or if they have been in contact with an infectious or contagious dog until cleared by a veterinarian. Proof must be provided on request.
13. Members and authorised visitors must remove their dog's faeces immediately and place the waste in the bins provided on the Club grounds. It is the responsibility of handlers to have an adequate supply of bags with them when on the Club grounds.
14. Female dogs in oestrus ('on heat') are not permitted on the Club grounds for a period of 21 days after the first sign of their season is noticed.

Safety:

15. Members are responsible for the behaviour of the dog(s) under their care on the Club grounds and must strive to minimise the risk of unsafe or inappropriate behaviour by proactively monitoring and managing their dog(s) at all times.
16. During Club training classes, dogs must be kept on lead or crated at all times except when participating in off-lead activities under the supervision of a Club instructor.
17. Members must consider the welfare of their dog(s) and the safety of other members when tethering their dog(s) on the Club grounds at any time. A tethered dog must not be able to reach another tethered dog. Dogs must not be tethered using any type of head collar.
18. Members must not allow their dog(s) to approach a tethered or crated dog at any time.
19. Members must not approach or make physical contact with a dog without the express permission of its handler at any time.
20. Club instructors have authority over their class and may ask a member to take their dog out of class if it is unable to be safely controlled or is showing signs of stress that compromises its welfare.
21. In the event of a physical conflict between dogs or between dog/s and person/s on the Club grounds, handlers must gain control of their own dog, place it on lead (if not already on lead), remove it from the immediate vicinity of the conflict, and report the incident to a Club official as soon as possible. To minimise further risks, any dog involved in an incident must not be left unattended on the Club grounds after an incident. Once alerted, the Club official is responsible for ensuring the incident is addressed under the Club's *Dog arousal and aggression policy*.
22. Members are directly and solely responsible for the behaviour and wellbeing of children in their care under the age of 16 years on the Club grounds or at an approved event off-site at all times. Subject to their ability to safely control their dog, children aged 11 years and over may handle a dog in class but must be directly supervised by a parent or guardian if under 16 years of age.

Conduct:

23. Members must only use rewards-based force-free training methods and equipment that conforms to the Club's *Training ethos* at all times on the Club grounds or at approved events off-site. Mistreatment of dogs (including physical or verbal punishment) is not tolerated and may result in removal from classes and other sanctions.

24. The Club is a community-based organisation focused on providing a fair, safe and inclusive training and trialling environment for members and their dogs. Communication by and between members must always be respectful and courteous and must not be offensive, aggressive, defamatory, threatening, discriminatory, obscene, profane, harassing, embarrassing, intimidating, sexually explicit, bullying, hateful, racist, or otherwise inappropriate. This includes face-to-face and written communication and communication through other channels including social media.
25. If a member wishes to raise a formal matter (ie. anything which requires the specific attention of the Club's office-bearers or consideration by the Main Committee), contact must be made using the Club's established communication channels (ie the Club's email address or by letter to the Club's postal address). Such matters should not be communicated via private or public social media channels, direct email to members' personal addresses, or calls or texts to their personal telephone numbers.

These Rules are supplemented by Club policies, procedures and plans. Together with the Club's *Constitution* these rules, policies, procedures and plans constitute the Club's governance framework.
