



INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS DURING COVID-19 DISRUPTION

(Issue 7, 1 July 2021)

Below is the latest information about Club arrangements during the COVID-19 disruption. Read it to stay informed about your responsibilities during this time including access to classes and the Club grounds. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for further updates.

What is the status of the Club's COVID-19 Safety Plan?

Stage 4a of the Club's [COVID-19 Safety Plan](#) is now available on the Club's website and all members are expected to read it. It provides a framework for the conduct of Club activities including dog sports trials and organised social events while managing and minimising the risks to members. Stage 4a of the Plan covers the period from 1 February to 13 July 2021. The document covers:

- The Club's duty of care
- Responsibilities for oversight and implementation of the plan
- Consultation and communication
- Expectations of Club members
- Club-wide hygiene and physical distancing protocols
- Activity-specific attendance and equipment management
- Activity-specific instructor and handler responsibilities
- Protocols for the conduct of dog sports trials
- Use of the grounds
- Use of the clubhouse
- Hire arrangements for club facilities

If asked, you must follow the directions of Club Officials to ensure that the Club's COVID-19 measures are observed.

Is the Club using the 'Check-In CBR' app to help with contact tracing?

Yes, the Club has a QR code and it is displayed on the door of the clubhouse and at the office. We encourage members and visitors to scan the code if they are coming into the clubhouse. We will continue to use manual methods (class lists) to monitor attendance at classes.

The availability of the Check-In CBR app enables the Club to extend its clubhouse capacity from 20 to 25 people under Stage 4a of the Club's *COVID-19 Safety Plan*.

How does the plan affect the Club's training activities?

The principle of "Get in, Train, Get Out" continues to apply to all training classes at the Club. This principle aligns with the ACT Government's advice and is set out in Stage 4a of the Club's *COVID-19 Safety Plan*.

In addition, a maximum of 2 people per dog may attend Behaviour Training classes. The second person must be a member of the household unless they are a guardian or carer. This is to help manage social distancing requirements during the Club's busy training sessions. This is set out in Stage 4a of the Club's *COVID-19 Safety Plan*.

What about Dogs-As-Therapy?

Dogs-as-Therapy activities are expected to resume under Stage 4a of the *COVID-19 Safety Plan* subject to the individual protocols adopted by the various aged care residences, schools and other organisations the Club supports.

What about other Club activities like dog sport trials? Are they happening?

Stage 4a of the *COVID-19 Safety Plan* provides for the conduct of trials, competitions and race-meets. Scheduled events are included in the Club's [Calendar](#).

Under the *COVID-19 Safety Plan* only participants involved in these events may be on the grounds at the time. The grounds will be closed to other members. This is to ensure that we abide by social distancing restrictions. Please [contact](#) the Convenor of the sport(s) you are involved in for further information or [email](#) the Club Office to be put in touch with the relevant person.

Are there any restrictions on use of the grounds under Stage 4a of the COVID-19 Safety Plan?

Yes. Members (other than instructors) may NOT access any of the Club's off-leash areas 30 minutes before, during or after Behaviour Training classes on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. This is to help manage social distancing requirements during the Club's busy training sessions.

Times affected are:

- Wednesdays 9.30am – 12.30pm
- Thursdays 6.00pm – 9.30pm
- Sundays 9.00am – 12.30pm

Note: Agility and Flyball classes are also scheduled on Sunday afternoons and access to parts of the Club grounds will be restricted at these times.

The principle of "Get in, Train, Get Out" continues to apply to all training classes at the Club.

While the grounds may be accessed at other times, as a member you MUST follow the measures outlined in the Club's *COVID-19 Safety Plan* including any temporary signage on Club gates. This includes:

- If sharing an off-lead area – or a training area – you must stay 1.5 metres apart
- Each member MUST agree to share the area – if not, wait your turn
- Limit your use of an area to 15 minutes if another member is waiting and wishes to use the same off-lead area you are occupying. They, too, may have preferences for the off-lead area they like to use.
- Do NOT congregate in groups at adjoining fences or gates – maintain your distance
- Do NOT congregate in groups elsewhere on the grounds – maintain your distance
- Wash or sanitise your hands before and after using the grounds
- Keep sanitiser and/or a bottle of soapy water and towel in your car so you can wash your hands when arriving and leaving the grounds. You can also use the washroom next to the Puppy Playpen (please leave the door shut when you leave).
- In addition to the above measures, you MUST also follow the rules and protocols set out in the [Using the Club Grounds](#) (March 2020) brochure (except where the latter are superseded by the *COVID-19 Safety Plan* and/or gate notices). These include:
 - NOT inviting or bringing visitors or non-members onto the grounds. The Club is NOT a public dog park, it is a training facility.
 - You may only bring family members and dogs listed on your membership record on to the Club grounds.
- Unless you are a Club official* or member with a disabled parking permit you must NOT park in the Club's car park. Any Club official using the Club car park is responsible for ensuring the car park is locked on departure.
- Unless you are a Club official* you must NOT use the Club's floodlights. Any Club official using the flood lights is responsible for switching the lights off.

* A Club official is defined as a Main Committee or Sub-Committee member, Club employee, Instructor (including Honorary Instructor) and Life Member.

PLEASE NOTE: Training activities ALWAYS take precedence over informal use of the grounds. CCTV cameras monitor the Club grounds at all times.

Is the Club office still open?

Yes. The Club office remains open during office hours (Tues-Friday 10.00am – 2.00pm) and during Behaviour Training classes. To limit physical contact please conduct Club business by email, phone or post if possible. If visiting the office please scan the QR code if you have the Check-In CBR' app on your phone.

Is the Club's shop open?

Yes. The Club's shop is open during Behaviour Training classes and training equipment will continue to be sold. Cold drinks will also be sold over the counter however, food and other drinks (including tea and coffee) will NOT be available to members. Members must adhere to social distancing measures when accessing the shop or clubhouse (ie physical distancing of 1.5 metres).

Fitting of all training equipment will be undertaken outdoors.

What happens if the government tightens restrictions again?

The Club is subject to the regulations and directions of government and public health authorities. If public health measures are tightened, we will review the *COVID-19 Safety Plan* to determine what adjustments we need to make.

How can I keep up-to-date with any changes to all these arrangements?

Please keep an eye on our [Facebook](#) page and on the Club's [website](#) for further updates including any changes to the above arrangements. Remember, you can access our Facebook page even if you don't have a Facebook page of your own (just click 'not now' on the pop-up message and scroll down to read messages).

We also attach notices to the Club's internal gates to provide important updates on grounds use. Please check the gates and read the notices to ensure that you are complying with the latest conditions. Club officials may check with you when you are on the grounds to ensure you are meeting these conditions (including your financial status as a Club member).

Don't let complacency set us all back. It is up to every Club member to do the right thing for the welfare of fellow Club members and the broader community.

If you have any queries please [contact](#) the Club office and we will do our best to respond.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

On behalf of the Main Committee and Sub-Committees of the
ACT Companion Dog Club
