



## Members' Information and Club Rules Updated April 2019

### Kind and Fair Handling Policy

Dogs Actfully practices a policy of positive handling. Harsh corrections and punishment based training are not permitted. Please bring suitable motivators to class such as toys and high value treats your dog loves. Check chains and prong collars and their like are not to be brought into the premises or used in class.

### Let us know

Please make our instructor(s) aware of any relevant information about your dog or your own health. We will be pleased to do our best to accommodate any special needs you may have. If, for any reason, you prefer not to participate in any particular exercise, or you wish to adapt it to suit your dog, please let the instructor know. We want to support you. In particular, please do not lift or move any equipment if you are injured or if you have a weakness that could lead to injury.

Ultimately, handlers and/or owners remain responsible for their dogs at all times. It is possible and recommended, to take out insurance cover for liability in the unlikely event of damage or injury caused by a dog to property or to a third party.

### Safety and Emergency Procedures

A first aid kit is available at class. In the event of an accident or incident, a priority is to prevent further injury. Secure all dogs.

If the Instructor is incapacitated, call the emergency services from the nearest land-line or mobile phone. Assign someone to meet the emergency services and escort them to the incident area.

In the exceptional event of a serious dog to dog confrontation or an injury caused by a dog, it is the owner's responsibility to pass on relevant personal and insurance details within 48 hours. A record will be noted by Dogs Actfully and relevant facts or contact details disclosed to involved parties, or appropriate authorities if necessary.

*Please do not train your dog if s/he is:*

- injured or displaying signs of illness including lethargy, vomiting, diarrhoea or persistent cough
- in season
- under medication and you have not cleared training with your vet.
- fine but you are not.

### Acceptance of Risk and Club Rules

Participation in classes is conditional upon acceptance of personal risk and club rules. While reasonable practical endeavours will be made to ensure a safe training environment, active dog training can entail a risk of injury to both handlers and dogs. In particular there is a risk of slipping or tripping on uneven or slippery surfaces and of injuries to, and by, dogs, especially while running.

Participation is strictly on the understanding that attendees expressly absolve the Club, its individual Instructors, Stewards and Helpers and the Landlords or Owners of any public or private venues of all legal and financial responsibility pertaining to their attendance at training or other Club activities. If you prefer not to take part in a particular activity please just let your instructor know.

## **Housekeeping**

We are privileged to have our venues. Please help us to keep them by being considerate when parking and when entering or leaving the grounds, keeping noise levels to a minimum. There is a strict 5mph maximum speed policy in effect on any training premises.

Please ensure your dog has an opportunity to go to the toilet before arrival. Don't worry, it has happened to us all, but any rubbish or poop must be picked up and removed at the end of your class.

Dogs must be on a lead except when training, including going to and from vehicles. Please be aware of other traffic and take care.

## **Agility - Special Considerations**

As a general guide, 12 months is the age when most dogs are physically and mentally mature enough to begin agility training. This may vary by breed and large breed dogs may not be fully grown until they are 18 months old. We can usually assist with 'Foundation' classes for dogs under 12 months old with adapted training suitable for young dogs.

Do NOT feed your dog a main meal within two hours prior to agility training. Serious illness can occur if a dog is vigorously exercised soon after being fed. While waiting to train, you are welcome to warm up by practicing fun heel-work around the field. However, due to insurance terms, handlers and dogs may only use the agility equipment under the supervision of an Instructor.

Risk of injury is lessened if dogs and handlers gently warm up properly before (or between) exercises; cool down afterwards; and if suitable footwear is worn. Minor existing injuries can be exacerbated or become chronic if handlers and dogs continue to work with symptoms of these, so please don't push on.

## **Young Handlers**

Dogs Actfully encourages young handlers to develop a knowledgeable, positive and responsible approach to dog ownership. However, safety precautions must come first. Generally, handlers under 12 years of age will only be able to attend training with the support of a parent or guardian who will remain responsible for the young handler and their dog at all times.

In all cases, handlers under 18 years will require the signature of a parent or guardian as part of the enrolment process. Individual lessons for handlers under the age of 16 will only take place in the presence of a second instructor, a parent or guardian.

## **Vaccinations**

Members are responsible for ensuring that dogs attending class are appropriately vaccinated according to their veterinarian's current advice for the local area. There is a risk of illness being passed from dog to dog, so members understand that risk and are responsible for their own dog's vaccination protection and to avoid bringing a dog to class that is unwell.

## **Guests**

Members may bring guests to training. It is the member's responsibility to ensure that Guests are apprised of the class rules, and agree to accept them. Only members may actively take part in classes.

## **General Data Protection Regulation**

Dogs Actfully (The Club) collects the following information from members on the membership form: Name; Address; Telephone Number; Email address; Name of Dog(s). This information is used to communicate with the membership.

The information is managed by the Head Instructor on an Excel Workbook which is kept on her personal computer and may be shared with other Club Trainers or Officers. Telephone numbers are stored on the Mobile Telephone of the Head Instructor and Officers. Normal practice for group emails to members is to place the addresses in the Bcc location, so that they will not be visible to all recipients. Members' details are not communicated externally, or shared with any other organization. Members may request to see the data that DogsActfully holds about them at any time, and request that their data be removed at any time.