

## Frequently Asked Questions

**What do we do?** We are a group dog obedience training club holding classes from beginner's through to competition (trial) levels. The training is suitable for all breeds & experiences. Examples of obedience training exercises include heeling (walking on lead), stays & stabilisation, position changes (sits, downs, stands), recalls, etc. It builds a bond between handler & dog which can assist with everyday life. The club/training is run & administered by volunteers.

**When do we train?** Training is held each Sunday morning from 9am during the warmer months (November until March – no training in January) & from 10am in the cooler months (April until October). Training is over 3 sessions lasting approximately 90 minutes.

**Where are we?** We are at 80 Hillsborough Road, Hillsborough at the CNCC Dog Showgrounds. Our clubhouse is situated at the rear of the grounds. When you enter the gate take a right turn, follow around to the left, over the bridge & then the far-left side of the grounds.

**How old does the dog need to be?** Dogs must be at least 16 weeks of age & fully vaccinated. Training is suitable for all ages over 16 weeks.

**What are the costs?** There is a new membership fee of \$30 & a weekly training/ground fee of \$5. Payments by cash or card. Annual renewals are due by 30 June each year for \$25.

**How do I join?** Membership registration can be done in person during Sunday morning training or via our website [www.newcastledogtrainingclub.com.au/membership](http://www.newcastledogtrainingclub.com.au/membership). You will need to provide proof of up-to-date vaccination.

**What is the difference between Motivational training v Conventional (yellow) training?** Both programs are beginners programs which work through the same exercises. The main difference is the method in which they are taught. Conventional method directs the dog with words & actions whereas Motivational uses food to teach the exercise. Food can be used in both, Conventional would be used (if chosen) after the exercise is completed whereas Motivational is used during the exercise. What is best depends on how your dog learns, if they are food motivated then motivational would be best but if not then conventional is effective. Should you try one method but not making progress you can look at changing the following month. Conventional (Yellow) runs for 4 weeks before automatically progressing to an intermediate level whereas Motivational training program is over 8 weeks.

**When can I start?** For new members/beginners we start a new beginners program the first Sunday of every month. Registrations are required prior to start & we recommend first day to arrive 20-30mins prior to ensure registration is complete & to allow your dog to settle. If you are joining us from another club & have obedience experience, one of our senior instructors can assess to join a more advanced class.

**How do I know when it's been cancelled?** We do train in rain unless it is heavy or unsafe. Any training cancellations will be posted on our Facebook page or website. If unsure you can contact the secretary by call, text or email. Due to the uncertainty of weather, it may be short notice.

**Does the club do any other dog sports?** Yes, we also hold training in agility, scent work, Retrieving/Gun Dog & tracking. Each of the trainings are held at different times to obedience & hold introductory classes at different times of the year. Any interest in the sports should contact the co-ordinators per the website for availability, times & costs.

**What to bring?** We suggest a flat collar & lead (1.2 to 1.8m long) all dogs must be on a lead, container for water (bowls are around the grounds but viruses can be spread in water) & some treats, if you are choosing to reward with food.

**Can family members train the dog?** We recommend that one handler be the one training the dog but family members are welcome to come along to listen to the training & take home for practice. Handlers must be over 12 years of age.