



# MELTON DOG OBEEDIENCE CLUB (INC)

## NEW MEMBERS MANUAL

*Where:* Melton South Recreation Reserve  
Cnr Northcott St & Exford Rd Melton South.

*Days of training:* Every Sunday morning, hail rain or shine. We do have a break over Christmas for approximately 7 weeks.

### *Class Times:*

Introductory Lesson - 10:45 am on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday every month without your dog.

- The introductory lesson is compulsory for all new members joining. No cost involved.

**CLUB HEAT POLICY IS THAT IF THE TEMPERATURE IS GOING TO BE 30 DEGREES OR OVER FOR SUNDAY IN MELTON ON SATURDAY NIGHT NEWS NO TRAINING ON SUNDAY**

Class 1 and 3 - 9:30am To 10:30 am

Class Prep, 2 and 4 and above - 10:40 am to 11:40 am

# **Introduction to the MELTON DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB Inc**

Registered No. A0008268J

Established 1979

P.O. Box 2088, MELTON SOUTH, VICTORIA, 3338

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## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

The President and Committee of the MELTON DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB Inc. (M.D.O.C) extend a warm welcome to yourself and your dog, and congratulate you for taking the first step into what will be the very rewarding world of dog obedience.

The M.D.O.C was started in 1979 and is run by the members and appointed committee of volunteers and Instructors.

The M.D.O.C obtains its results by PRAISE, PATIENCE and PERSEVERANCE

The M.D.O.C is a non-profit organisation, and does not discriminate between pure breed (Pedigree) and cross breed (Associate) dogs.

The M.D.O.C is affiliated with Dogs Victoria (Victorian Canine Association) which is the controlling body of ALL Canine activities in Victoria, and therefore abides by the rules and regulations of Dogs Victoria. There are some 250 individual clubs that regularly in Obedience, Tracking, Agility, Endurance, Dancing with Dogs, Field and Retrieving Trials (Gun-dog group) Herding (Working dog group) and Conformation Showing, and now Rally "O".

## **THE CLUB**

New members are welcome on the first Sunday each month. On the initial visit, new members are shown around the club & the classes as well, a brief explanation of the club rules and then are shown some basic obedience exercises.

The M.D.O.C. conducts training classes every Sunday morning during the months of February to November.

### **NOTE: - NO TRAINING ON SUNDAYS OF PUBLIC HOLIDAY LONG WEEK-END**

Training times are as follows: Class One & Three 9.30 to 10.30 am.

Class Prep, Two, Four, Five and Six 10.40 to 11.40 am.

Introduction 10.45 am.

AGILITY training can be catered for, for dogs over 15 months of age subject to the number of members and the availability of qualified instructors.

Dogs of ALL ages and Breeds but they must be over 14 weeks of age and fully vaccinated. ALL dogs over the age of 3 months must be registered with a local council or shire. Vaccination & registration certificates must be supplied to the Club each year.

**TRAINING WILL BE REFUSED IF VACCINATION CERTIFICATE IS NOT PRODUCED.**

**ALL OUR INSTRUCTORS HAVE WORKING WITH CHILDREN CERTIFICATES**

The Membership Fees are the First Year is \$80-00 per family then \$60-00 each year after that. There is a weekly charge of \$2-00 per dog per weekly.

**VCA Public Liability Levy is included in the above. if you are a member of Dogs Victoria please show us your current membership card for a discount.**

We encourage ALL members of the family to participate in the Club activities.

## **EQUIPMENT:**

You have already taken the first step with the acquisition of your dog. A lead with the minimum length of 750 mm is required; leads that are excessively long will hinder your training ability. A "correction collar" or "Martindale collar" correctly fitted are the ONLY collars that is used in training, various styles are available and, in all cases, should be fitted by a qualified instructor to ensure correct fit. In some cases, we do fit a gentle leader or a halty to very strong dogs so the handlers can handle their dogs.

Owners need to wear suitable footwear that being closed toed shoes, runners or boots. ***Sandals, thongs or bare feet are not permitted.***

The Club is NOT anti-fashion, but over the years it has been proven that wearing loose and noisy clothing tend to distract your dog and other people dogs and also makes it difficult to hear the Instructor. May we suggest the following attire: Slacks or Jeans, Jumpers or T-shirts or windcheater and if required a coat but it must be fastened to avoid it flapping around.

Name tags are provided so the instructors and other people know who is who.

## **TRAINING SUGGESTION**

The Club does not train dogs; we only train you the handler. As assistance the Club offers the following suggestions in the approach to training.

If you or your dog tires during training, ask the Instructor if you may be excused from class to have a rest. You may re-enter the class later on.

Bring your dog's water bowl to training this lessens the chance of spreading communicable ailments such as KENNEL COUGH.

## **CLUB ACTIVITIES**

In September each year M.D.O.C. conducts an OPEN OBEDIENCE TRIAL in which dogs from all over the state and also from interstate compete. These dogs are Class 4 and above.

The Club conducts a number of member's funday during the year which is an extension to your weekly training and are done with invited judges who will evaluate your ability on the class you are currently training in. Trophies and sashes are award accordingly.

Also, during the year M.D.O.C. do run several MEMBERS fun days and participates in a three-way competition between BACCHUS MARSH, MACEDON RANGERS & MELTON which is run by all clubs in rotation. This day is known as The Rocky Shield Sunday.

At the Annual General Meeting each year the MELTON DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB presents to MEMBERS who go out and obtain their TITLES at obedience trials, a Sash with the DOGS NAME with title on it. There is no difference between pedigree and non-pedigree. ALL dogs compete together in the one class.

## **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

Where a person, be they a member or an officer or other employee of the Melton Dog Obedience Club Inc., has a grievance arising from their involvement in the activities of the Melton Dog Obedience Club Inc., whatever that may be. With another such member, officer or employee or the Melton Dog Obedience Club Inc., and that person consider the grievance warrants investigation and action by the Melton Dog Obedience Club Inc. that person shall follow the following procedure.

The person shall contact, either by telephone or in writing, the Melton Dog Obedience Club Inc. Grievance Officer, appointed by the Board of management, and advise they have a grievance which they wish to discuss.

## **CONCLUSION:**

You have taken the first step in being a responsible dog owner and the Club is here to assist you achieve whatever level of obedience training you desire, from a socially acceptable dog through to an Obedience titled dog.

The Club is owned by its members, we welcome you as a new member, please make yourself known to the committee and instructors.

## **RULES**

- a) Name tags must be worn during training and returned to club house.
- b) All dogs over the age of 3 months must be registered with a council  
Whether or not they come from Melton and registration receipts to be supplied each year.
- c) Current vaccination certificates must be produced every 12 months when due, these are notified in the Newsletter each month.
- d) Bitches in season must be kept away from the training ground.
- e) Handlers who are late or wish to leave or enter class must always ask permission to enter or leave class.
- f) Dogs must always be on lead, unless told to remove it by an Instructor, between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00 pm. At all times the dog must still be under control if the handler has them off lead.
- g) Dogs are only allowed into the club rooms to be fitted for equipment.
- h) No fouling, handler responsible for cleaning up after their dogs, pooper marker and bucket.
- i) Dogs who are in ill health are not to be brought into class or they will be asked to leave.
- j) No smoking in class
- k) Food is not to be used as a training aid between 9-30 to 10-30 and 10-45 to 11-45.
- l) No fighting, dogs or handlers. No hitting or otherwise abusing dogs' offenders will be reported to Chief Instructor/Training Co-ordinator

m) Should any disagreement arise during a training session it **MUST** immediately be referred to the Chief Instructor/Training Co-ordinator. Who will decide the course of action.

n) Correct Training aids shall consist of suitable lead and correction collar. Should a handler attend two (2) consecutive training session with-out suitable aids they will be referred to the Chief Instructor/Training Co-ordinator.

o) Dogs who, in the opinion of the Instructor, are a danger to handlers or other dogs will be asked to be muzzled. The muzzle will remain until the Chief Instructor/Training Co-ordinator advises otherwise.

## Junior Member

### ***Any person under the age 16 years.***

All Junior Members must have parental supervision upon joining the club until such time as a Qualified Instructor ascertains the junior member's capability of handling their dog.

All Children either training or visiting the club are the responsibility of their Parent/s or Guardian/s at all time whilst at the club.

This means:

(a) An adult/guardian (over 18 years of age) must be visibly present with the child at all times whilst at the Club. Any visiting children are not to be left unattended at any time whilst at the club.

(b) No visiting child is allowed on the training ground at all whilst training is being conducted. They will be required to stay within the confines of the clubrooms, veranda and carpark area only.

(c) Committee members and Instructors are not responsible for the supervision of any children at the Club.

(d) Children should not touch any dog without the permission of the owner.

(e) An adult must accompany a junior member to the toilets at all times.

## EXERCISES IN PREP CLASS

### 1. Heeling

During this exercise the lead is to be held in both hands and remains loose at all times.

Handlers should have their dogs sitting on the left hand side ready to commence training. On the instructors command "**forward**", the handler, using the dog's name first, tells the dog "**heel**" in a bright voice and steps off on the LEFT FOOT and walks at a brisk pace. We step off on the left foot as it is the one closest to the dog and acts as an additional signal. Do not wait until all dogs are in the correct position, if one or two are playing up heel off.

### 2. Sit on Command - Placement

In prep and early one. The instructors command "**prepare to halt**" is given while the handler and dog are still are moving, right hand moves to the turnbuckle and left hand drops the lead and is placed on the rump of the dog at the base of its tail, The instructor then gives the command to **HALT** the handler stops on the right foot and the LEFT HAND presses gently down, as the left leg comes to the right leg, the RIGHT hand is pulled upwards. With the handlers knees together this creates a see-saw action. Care must be taken that handlers do pull the lead upwards and not backwards.

### 3. Right About Turn (Pivot Turn)

On the instructors command **"right about turn"**, the handler will get down to his/her dog and with small steps turn through 180 degrees on the spot (pivot turn) and take a half step off on the left foot giving the dog time to keep up. When completing the turn the handler should keep their feet together while turning and travel back, in a straight line, along the same path. During this exercise the handler should encourage their dog and tap the inside of their right thigh, only when needed.

Handlers are to be reminded that they must ensure the dog is in the correct position, via the use encouragement or correction, prior to attempting the exercise. It is important to ensure the dog is not allowed to go wide as the turn is executed.

#### **4. Right Turn (Pivot Turn)**

Again this is a pivot turn but only through 90 degrees.

On the instructors command **"right turn"** the handler will get down to his/her dog and with small steps turn through 90 degrees only on the spot and steps off on the LEFT FOOT walking a straight line. During this exercise the handler should encourage their dog and tap the inside of their right thigh.

Handlers are to be reminded that they must ensure the dog is in the correct position, via the use encouragement or correction, prior to attempting the exercise. It is important to ensure the dog is not allowed to go wide as the turn is executed and handlers keep their feet together during the turn.

#### **5. Stand**

This exercise is the first in which both a voice and hand signal are given together. On the instructors command **"Stand your dog"** the handler stops on the RIGHT FOOT and gives the hand and voice command and the LEFT FOOT follows.

The hand signal is done with the palm of the RIGHT HAND extended out in front of the dog and moved back towards the dog's nose whilst giving the command **"Stand"**. Whilst the hand signal is being given the LEFT hand is DROPPED from the lead and placed on the stifle of the dog. The handler should hold the dog in position until it understands the exercise and is steady, and then it should not be necessary. The stand is done during the heel exercise and dogs should not be held there for more than 5 seconds, and plenty of praise should be given if done correctly.

#### **6. Stay Exercise (Sit and Stand)**

##### **Part A**

The instructor will first have the handlers in either the sit or stand position, on the command **"leave your dog"**. The hand signal and voice command **"stay"** is given and the handler steps off on the RIGHT FOOT and stands immediately in front of the dog with the lead in the LEFT HAND. The handler should be able to touch under the dogs muzzle and the lead should form a loop.

The hand signal is given with the palm of the RIGHT HAND, generates from the knees and is moved across in front of the dog's nose where it is held for approximately 1/2 to 1 second at the same time the voice signal "stay" is given.

## *Part B*

After a short period (commencing at 10 seconds) the instructor will give the command **"return to your dogs"**, the handler will step back to the dog, returning to their original position.

### **NOTE:**

If the dog breaks position during either of the stay's exercises, the handler should return to their dog and correct their dog and repeat the exercise.

When returning to the dog care should be taken not to dangle the lead across the dog's face or have the lead tight and always return to the shoulder of the dog. (Heeling position)

If dogs are unsteady and breaking as the handler leaves them, handlers may hold their dog's in position whilst carrying out the exercise until they are steady.

### **7. Stand Stay (Approach)**

This exercise is an introduction to "Stand for Examination ", the instructor will have dogs in the starting position then heel the dogs off. On the instructor command "stand your dog" the handler will give the appropriate HAND signal and tell their dogs to **"stand"**. The Instructor will then approach each dog, let them sniff the back of the hand, and gently run their hand over the head and neck of the dog. Instructors should always approach the dogs in full view and ensure the dog is aware of their approach.

### **8. Weaving**

This is a variation on heeling and consists of the class in a straight line and dogs in the sit position, each member in turn, on the instructor's command, will heel off, weave through the class and stop at the end of the line. During this exercise handlers in the static position are to keep an eye on their dogs and correct them verbally, physically or both should they move. The handler on the move should correct their dog if it moves towards other dogs or sniffs the ground; they must not stop but keep moving at a brisk pace. It is important that a good distance is allowed for between dogs during weaving.

## ***MELTON DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB INCORPORATED.***

***STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:  
TO FOSTER AND ENCOURAGE THE TRAINING AND  
CARE OF DOGS IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF GOODWILL,  
KNOWLEDGE, COMPETIVENESS AND  
ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN ALL THE  
CLUBS ACTIVITES***

## Instructors and Handlers Voice Commands

<u>Instructors</u>	<u>Commands</u>	<u>Handler will do.</u>
Forward		Handler steps off on the left foot at a Brisk Pace & tells the dog to HEEL.
Halt		Stops on the right foot & the dog sits
Stand	your dog.	Stops on the right foot & tells the dog to stand and with hand signal.
Down	your dog	Stops on the right foot & tells the dog to drop and with hand signal.
Right Turn		Handler & dog to turn 90 deg. to the right.
Right about Turn		Handler & dog to turn 180 deg. to the right.
Left Turn	(Class 1 upwards)	Handler & dog to turn 90 deg. to the left.
Left about Turn	(Class 2 upwards)	Handler & dog to turn 180 deg. to the left.
Normal Pace		Handler & dog to walk at a brisk pace.
Slow Pace	(Class 2 upwards)	About half normal pace
Fast Pace	(Class 2 upwards)	Handler to jog & dog to change gait
Call (recall)		Rover, then with a pause come.
Return		Handler to walk around the dog to the original position.
Finish (recall)	(Class 4 only)	Dog to go around the handler to the heel position.
Stay Exercises.		
Leave your dog.		Handler to leave their dog.
(sit, stand or down, stay stand for examination)		Taking off with the right leg & with the command STAY and a Hand signal
i.e. For a recall <u>leave</u> your dog		
Stand for examination <u>leave</u> your dog		