



# BELCONNEN DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB

Affiliated with Dogs ACT

## Information for New Members 2019 – 2020

Belconnen Dog Obedience Club Inc (BDOC) is a not-for-profit voluntary organisation, dedicated to promoting responsible dog ownership by helping people to train their dogs.

This application pack contains an application form, an information letter, and a dog profile form (for dogs older than 6 months). Application packs are available from the website or the club office. If you do not have access to the website, you can also request an application pack be sent to you by emailing [bdoc@bdoc.asn.au](mailto:bdoc@bdoc.asn.au).

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

Telephone: (02) 5105 0992  
The office is open on Thursday evenings from 7:00pm to 8:30pm, and on Sunday mornings from 9:00am to 10:30am during session times. Our preferred communication method outside of office hours is email.

Email (enquiries): [bdoc@bdoc.asn.au](mailto:bdoc@bdoc.asn.au)  
Email (applications): [applications@bdoc.asn.au](mailto:applications@bdoc.asn.au)  
Website: <http://www.bdoc.asn.au>  
Postal address: PO Box 879, MITCHELL, ACT 2911  
Street Address: Cnr Flemington & Morisset Roads (Sandford Street), Mitchell ACT

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### HOW TO JOIN BDOC AND ENROL INTO A CLASS

To join BDOC, you must pay a joining fee (not required for subsequent renewals) and an annual family membership fee (which covers insurance for family members who attend the classes), plus an activity fee for each training activity per dog. This activity fee entitles you to attend a weekly training class for the duration of your membership. There are no extra fees for each session you attend.

#### Fees for New Members

To calculate the required fees for your enrolment, please use the below table. The Membership Fee and Activity Fee are charged on a pro rata basis dependent on which session you begin training at BDOC. The Activity Fee is charged per activity and per dog, so if you have two dogs that you wish to enrol, you will be required to pay two Activity Fees.

	Session 3 (June)	Session 4 (August)	Session 5 (October)	Session 1 (January)	Session 2 (April)
<b>Joining Fee</b>	\$80	\$80	\$80	\$80	\$80
<b>Membership Fee</b>	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40
<b>Activity Fee</b>	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20
<b>Total One Dog / Total Two Dogs</b>	\$260 / \$320	\$230 / \$280	\$200 / \$240	\$170 / \$200	\$140 / \$160

We are only able to keep such reasonable training fees because our instructors, Committee and club workers are dedicated volunteers.

For holders of a valid pension card (not seniors card), we offer a discount of 25% off the joining fee, membership fee, and activity fee. Please note that pensioner cards must be sighted before your application can be processed.

## Enrolments

You can enrol in person at the office during its opening hours, by post, or by email to [applications@bdoc.asn.au](mailto:applications@bdoc.asn.au). For all methods of enrolment, please ensure that you have filled out the forms completely and include your dog's current vaccination certificate. If you are enrolling a dog which is over 6 months of age, please also complete the Dog Profile Form, as this information will allow us to assess you and your dog's training needs. If you are enrolling a puppy that has yet to complete its vaccination schedule, please let us know at the time of enrolment, and email the final certificate to [applications@bdoc.asn.au](mailto:applications@bdoc.asn.au) as soon as possible.

We often receive more applications for Beginners classes than we have places, so please check the availability for your chosen session on our website, or email [applications@bdoc.asn.au](mailto:applications@bdoc.asn.au) to enquire about availability. All places in Beginners classes must be pre-booked. We cannot confirm a place in a Beginners class for you and your dog until we receive:

- The completed membership application form, (available from the website or the office)
- Payment for the required membership fees
- A copy of your dog's current vaccination certificate; and
- A completed Dog Profile form (for dogs over 6 months of age)

Accepted methods of payment are:

- In person at the club office: cash, EFTPOS, credit card (MasterCard or Visa), money order or cheque
- By post: cheque or money order only (made payable to Belconnen Dog Obedience Club Inc)
- Direct deposit: Belconnen Dog Obedience Club, BSB 062 911, Account 10139225

Please note that, in case of cancellation, fees will be refunded only in exceptional circumstances and may incur a \$30 administrative charge.

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## TRAINING AT BDOC

Our training sessions for the second half of 2019 are:

- Session 3 – commences on Thursday 27th June or Sunday 30th June
- Session 4 – commences on Thursday 22nd August or Sunday 25th August
- Session 5 – commences on Thursday 24th October or Sunday 27th October

Canine Companion classes for dogs of all ages are conducted on Thursdays at 7:00pm to 8:00pm and on Sundays at 9:00am to 10:00am. Your annual training fee entitles you and your dog to attend one class per week for the duration of your membership period, which ends 30 June 2020. If you have completed puppy classes at your vet, we recommend that you still commence at the Beginners level.

During the first week of Beginners class there will be an introductory lecture in the clubhouse for all humans in the family (no dogs). At the lecture, if you have not already received it, you will receive a copy of the Member's Handbook which sets out all the things you need to know as a member of BDOC. Please note that the lecture is for handlers only, please do not bring your dog, their training will commence the following week.

If you have already trained your dog at another dog training club and wish to enrol in a higher level class, or are interested in enrolling directly into one of the dog sports offered at BDOC, please contact us either via telephone during office hours or via email ([bdoc@bdoc.asn.au](mailto:bdoc@bdoc.asn.au)) so that your dog can be assessed to determine which level or class would best suit you and your dog.

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## TRAINING PHILOSOPHY

The club's Canine Companion Syllabus is based on positive reinforcement (motivational) training methods. This training uses rewards such as food, toys and praise to encourage the dog to repeat desired behaviours, rather than forceful (negative) methods.

Dogs of all breeds and sizes are welcome, provided they are over 12 weeks of age and sociable. All dogs must be fully vaccinated against hepatitis, distemper and parvovirus (minimum C3). To ensure all dogs are protected, you must provide the club with a copy of your dog's current vaccination certificate with your membership application.

Due to the group structure of our classes, our instructors are unable to provide the one-on-one assistance required for dogs that have serious behavioural issues, such as aggression towards people and / or other dogs. If your dog is unable to settle, focus and learn in a group situation, we recommend that you speak with a behavioural expert before enrolling in obedience classes. Please feel free to contact us if you are unsure whether our classes would be suitable for you and your dog.

All family members are encouraged to participate and learn how to train the family dog, however, handlers (those holding the lead) must be at least 12 years old and must be accompanied by an adult if they are under 16 years of age.

Training classes are one hour per week in sessions of eight weeks. There are five training sessions each year. At the end of each session you and your dog will be assessed to see if you are ready to go on to the next level of training. There are no additional costs for continuing your training within your membership period.

Our Canine Companion classes include: Beginners (for both puppies 12 weeks and over and adult dogs of any age), Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels. The first three levels (Beginners, Bronze and Silver Canine Companion) teach the basic requirements for a well-mannered dog. The Gold Canine Companion class focusses on more advanced life skills.

We also offer training in dog sports (Agility, Dancing with Dogs, Disc Dogs, Flyball, Rally Obedience, and Trialling Obedience) for dogs who have completed some basic training and meet the admission requirements for their sport of choice. Please note that admission into most dog sports is via a waiting list which can be joined at the BDOC office, and that some dog sports have a minimum age requirement that must be met before you can place your dog onto the waiting list.

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

Our memberships follow the BDOC Membership Year and all memberships must be renewed by Week 4 of Session 3 of the canine companion class calendar. This usually occurs around mid-July.

Please note that fees will only be refunded in exceptional circumstances and may incur a \$30 administrative charge.

Due to strong demand, placement in a Beginners class will only be guaranteed upon receipt of the application form, the vaccination certificate and payment. If a session becomes full, we may need to postpone your membership to the following session. We therefore advise that you submit your application as soon as possible.

By signing the membership form you are agreeing to abide by the club rules and policies. Please read the attached rules carefully and visit our website for more information about club policies. Every handler is responsible and legally liable for their own dog whilst on the club's grounds.

If your dog is over 6 months of age please ensure you complete the Dog Profile form. This information will allow us to assess you and your dog's training needs.

If you would like to come along one Thursday evening or Sunday morning to watch classes and to meet some of the people involved, you are most welcome (but please leave your dog at home unless requested otherwise).

Thanks to a grant from the ACT Government, the club now has three Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs) for members who are hearing impaired, and have difficulty hearing in open spaces. Members are welcome to make use of the ALDs when participating in classes.

We hope you enjoy training your dog with us and look forward to welcoming you to BDOC soon!

- BDOC Committee

## **BDOC CLUB RULES**

All members are required to abide by the club rules and other club policies whilst on BDOC grounds:

- All dogs must be 12 weeks of age and fully vaccinated (minimum C3) before they begin training. Dogs must not be brought on to club grounds if suffering from any infectious or contagious complaint. A current vaccination certificate must be sighted before the dog is brought to class
- Handlers must remove their dog's faeces from club grounds immediately and place them in the bins provided. (Note: there are plastic bags and suitable implements provided for this purpose)
- Bitches are not permitted on the grounds when 'in season'
- During club training sessions, all dogs must be kept on lead at all times except when participating in off leash exercises under supervision in class
- Training methods and training equipment used on club grounds are to conform to the club's training philosophy. Physical or verbal punishment of a dog will not be tolerated on the club's grounds at any time
- Dogs can only be tethered for a short period of time whilst on club grounds and where it cannot reach another dog. Dogs must not be tethered using any type of head collar
- Dogs should never be allowed to approach a tethered or crated dog
- Instructors have authority over their classes and may ask a member to take their dog out of class if it is unable to be controlled
- In the event of a physical conflict occurring between dogs, all 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 an instructor or Committee member
- Dogs are not to be brought inside the clubhouse unless they are on official club business with an instructor or Committee member. These dogs must be on lead during office hours
- Children aged 12 years and over can train a dog but must be supervised by an adult if under 16 years of age
- Children must be supervised by an adult whilst on club grounds and must not be left in charge of a dog. At no time are children (or adults) to approach a dog without the express permission of its handler/owner
- BDOC instructors, life members, current Committee members, and regular volunteers may use the club grounds provided they are not booked. Training takes priority at all times. Other financial members and their financial dogs may be permitted to use of the grounds provided the dog is attending regular classes (at least 75% of the classes), the dog is under the control of the handler and can be recalled to the handler at any time, and the dog is not permitted to run along the fences. Members must have completed Bronze level canine companion classes (or equivalent)
- On training days, the car parking facilities for members is located on the eastern side of the clubhouse. The area directly in front of the clubhouse is reserved for instructors, Committee members and regular volunteers
- BDOC is a smoke-free environment, and members and visitors are not allowed to smoke in the paddocks, the car park, the clubhouse, and the driveway