

SRA&ODC is a Not For Profit organisation. It is completely staffed by volunteers. We welcome anyone who is prepared to give their time in any area and always require stewards for Trials. Anyone can steward. You will always be paired with an experienced person, and usually trials last no longer than 3 hours. If you are prepared to assist in any way, please speak to one of the trainers.

Training tips and rules for our club

Clothing

Handlers need closed in shoes. This is a safety rule.

Dogs will wear a flat collar and a soft lead. No jackets unless a teeny breed like a Chihuahua. NO check chains, no martingales, no rope collars, if you need a different collar your trainer will assist you. We have leads and collars for sale at a very competitive price, cheaper than the shops.

Treat bags

Best is old trousers with pockets in or a proper treat bag or a jacket or vest with pockets. No noise or fidgeting, easy access surprise treats using moist food.

Timing is important remember the demo and exercise.

Reward based training ...yeah...dogs love food, this is not bribe or bait but payment, how would you feel if you worked hard for no reward, how do you feel when someone says "Good Job " ?

Punishment will not be tolerated, if we see you kick or hit your dog we will have a chat and encourage you to try again but if you are harsh to your dog a second time you will be asked to leave.

Praise words. Short snappy...yes or good, not gooodd girrrlll because by the time you finish the dog will think that as he is looking at the seagull, growling at the dog next door or generally being a goof he will think that this is the reason he got the treat.

10 treats...yes 10 treats...Fido watching watching YES !!! Time delay from hands on waist to mouth. Hands not next to dogs face when you use your praise word. Remember the demonstration.

Hand signals are international. We are an obedience club and in order for us to know and see what everyone is doing, everyone needs to be doing the same thing. We work on the premise that you may trial one day and for this reason all hand signals and all commands need to be the same. Show dogs seem to have an automatic stand. We have many show dogs trialling at the very top level of obedience and they can do automatic sits. Luring only in lesson 1 of teaching a new move or trick after that no luring, just rewarding for correct behaviour.

No random giving of food for nothing. If your dog is sitting being good, if your dogs is demonstrating the behaviour you desire then use your praise word and reward. Always use the praise word then after the time it takes to move your hands from your waist to the dog's nose, you deliver the delectable morsel.

Training starts in your car

Training starts when you arrive so the second you leave your car till you get back in the car. We do the socialisation. Watch your dog, do not let other dogs approach and do not allow your dog to wander to say hello. You will be taught how to 'say hello' to people and dogs. Not all dogs want to meet other dogs, but very social dogs need to be under control so as not to terrify a dog that may be here because he is scared of dogs. Please keep distance. Always be training your dog, always watching your dog.

In the first term

Loose leash walking

Turns

Sit, stand, drop

Recall, touch ,target and we address any problems you have at home.

All dogs will be working in a loose pack. This means the dogs actually get used to working alongside the dogs they work with each week. Please attend each week as your slow progress is unfair on others who attend regularly.

Home training

Every second you are with your dog is a training opportunity, remember to reward for good desired behaviour in the home and it is a great idea to have small containers up high with a few bit of their kibble dinner in at random places around the house. Training treats are to be proportional to their meal and not extra. Formal regular training is desirable and we suggest 10 minutes a day.

Set expectations for your dog's behaviour make sure everyone in the house is consistent and not encouraging unwanted behaviour. For an example it is no use Mum teaching the dog he is not allowed on the sofa if Dad says it is ok.

Happy Trainers have happy dogs. Take your dog out with you as much as possible to help training and socialisation with cars, people, road noise, bikes etc. The more energy you put into your training the more your dog will give to you.

Class is 45 mins, please leave the ground as soon as class is finished as other classes are scheduled to start. Any problems discuss with your trainer at the end of class.