

K9 Agility Club Safety Policy

1. Definitions

Aggression means for a dog to approach or rush at a person / dog in a menacing manner, displaying aggressive behaviours that may include snarling, growling, raised hackles and biting.

Club means K9 Agility Club Inc. and may include the club's training ground, surrounding area and car parks during club hours.

Contact means a dog has physically touched another dog / person.

C.O.M means Committee of Management.

Handler means any person who is in charge of any dog who may or may not be the owner of that dog.

Victim means any injured person or handler of an injured dog.

Witness means any person who has seen an incident occur.

Incident means any injury to any person / dog that occurs at the club. It can also mean any breach of the club rules, displays of aggression both dog and human, and any unexpected, untoward event that has actual or potential negative consequences.

2. Reportable Incidents

- 2.1 Some dog-to-dog aggression is expected and usually well managed. Where no aggressive contact has occurred, an incident report may not be required.
- 2.2 It is mandatory for an incident report to be written for the following circumstances:
- i. Any dog to person aggression.
 - ii. There is aggressive contact between dogs.
 - iii. There is an injury to a person or dog however caused.
- 2.3 Where possible, a C.O.M member or instructor should approach all handlers involved and inform them that a report must be written. The victim / person should always write the report. If they refuse, a witness may write the report, however, the victim / person must be informed that a report will be written and have a second opportunity to write their own report. Where any person involved refuses to write a report, their refusal should be recorded on the report by the witness or C.O.M member / Instructor.

3. Dealing with incident reports

- 3.1 Any incident should be discussed by C.O.M / Instructors present as soon as possible after the event to determine necessity of immediate action, clarify details and to ensure prompt reports are written.
- 3.2 All completed incident reports must be submitted to the Secretary, who must bring the report to the next C.O.M meeting, where each incident will be discussed individually to decide which action/s is to be taken according to the severity of the incident.
- 3.3 Incidences involving aggressive dogs:
One or more of the following categories of actions may be taken by the C.O.M for an incident involving aggressive dog/s depending on the severity and / or frequency of the incident. Any action must include verbal and / or written notification from the C.O.M to the handler of the aggressive dog and the Instructors must also be informed.
- i. No action required
 - ii. Warning Letter to be sent outlining expected behaviour and possible action to be taken should behaviour re-occur
 - iii. Referral to a registered, qualified private trainer who has experience with aggressive dogs
 - iv. Dog must be on lead at all times whilst at club
 - v. Dog must be muzzled at all times whilst at club
 - vi. Temporary suspension of dog being brought to club
 - vii. Permanent expulsion of dog from the club

Any dog that bites another dog or person must be removed from the club grounds immediately and on return to club muzzled at all times until further notice from the C.O.M.

- 3.4 After consideration the C.O.M may review / revoke any action/s taken.

4. Strategies to prevent incidences from occurring

- 4.1 This policy to be put into beginner packs
- 4.2 Welcoming officer to verbally advise handlers to be mindful of their own dogs.
- 4.3 No dogs to be tethered on posts of club house verandah.
- 4.4 Children under 12 to be under the direct supervision of a responsible adult at all times whilst at club.
- 4.5 Class instructors should advise handlers at the start of every class to watch their own dogs.
- 4.6 Incident reports to be written where warranted / required.
- 4.7 Handlers are to be advised of actual or potential aggressive behaviours displayed by their dog verbally / in writing.

4.8 All dogs to remain on lead at all times except when actively training.

4.9 The only people who may be in the training area at any time are:

- i. Handlers who are training their dogs in class.
- ii. Instructors & committee.
- iii. Handlers who are setting up / packing up during those designated times.