

SOUTH DOWNS AGILITY CLUB

CODE OF PRACTICE

AS A KENNEL CLUB REGISTERED CLUB WE OPERATE UNDER THE KENNEL CLUB CODE OF PRACTICE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure that the welfare of the dog is paramount. No activity shall be conducted which permits, encourages or develops aggression in a dog
- 2) The Club ensures that their instructors are conversant with acknowledged methods of dog training and understand the rudiments of dog behaviour – preference will be given to motivational methods of training which take into account the breed and nature of each individual dog.
- 3) Instructors must be alert to the differing levels of the experience of both owners and their dogs and should be courteous at all times.

Any member who witnesses harsh handling at any event organised by the Club must report the matter to Club committee. Where substantiated, the committee must report the matter to the kennel Club under Rule 42.

- 4) At the start of each training course the importance of good behaviour, the socialisation of dogs and the theory of training will be discussed. Advice will be given on choosing suitable collars, leads, identity discs and training equipment.
- 5) Owners must remember to carry some form of poop scoop and remove fouling caused by their dog.
- 6) If and when members wish to progress to competition work, instruction will be given on the more advanced training before the practical work is started. Instruction will also cover the basic knowledge of KC regulations.
- 7) Dog Agility is a competitive and physical strenuous activity. It is the responsibility of the owner / handler to ensure their dog is 'fit to function' and that they themselves are fit to take part.

The Clubs additional code of practice is detailed below:

- 1) It is recommended that dogs must be fully vaccinated
- 2) Owners must demonstrate an acceptable degree of control of their dog before they will be allowed to commence agility training
- 3) The Club instructors reserve the right to exclude from agility instruction any dog that in their opinion is unsuitable for agility due to age, weight, temperament, breed or physical ability.
- 4) The Club retains the right to ask the owner / handler of any dog considered to be aggressive or out of control to leave the premises of the training venue
- 5) The training techniques employed and advised by the Club instructors shall be consistent with the principles of kindness and fairness to both members and dogs. For this reason, the use of coercive or punitive techniques and / or equipment will not be tolerated
- 6) Members will conduct themselves as responsible, caring dog owners at all times and as such will use the training methods taught by the Club and will pick up after their dogs at all times both on and off the training premises

- 7) Members' dogs who do not train at the Club will not be permitted to enter points for the annual trophies.

Rules that apply to the training venue:

- 1) When parking please ensure there is clear access to the yard at all times
- 2) All dogs must be kept on a lead on the vicinity of the school and stables unless actually working
- 3) All handlers / owners must pick up after their dogs
- 4) Barking must be kept to a minimum
- 5) No smoking in or around the stables or indoor school
- 6) You can visit the horses in the stables but please remember horses bite and the owners accept no liability if this should happen. PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE HORSES
- 7) The Club has the use of the toilet facility at the school – please leave them clean and tidy
- 8) Any problems are to be reported immediately to a member of the committee
- 9) Dogs can be exercised freely on the common away from the vicinity of the stables