



BELCONNEN DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB

Affiliated with Dogs ACT

Information for New Members 2020 – 2021

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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
Email (applications): applications@bdoc.asn.au
Website: <http://www.bdoc.asn.au>
Telephone: (02) 5105 0992 (office hours only)
Postal address: PO Box 879, MITCHELL, ACT 2911
Street Address: 1 Morisset Road, Mitchell ACT

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 2 (July)	Session 3 (August)	Session 4 (October)	Session 1 (January)	Session 2 (April)
Joining Fee	\$80	\$80	\$80	\$80	\$80
Membership Fee	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40
Activity Fee	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20
Total One Dog / Total Two Dogs	\$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. 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, your puppy's final vaccination certificate must be emailed to us at applications@bdoc.asn.au before your puppy attends its first class.

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

TRAINING AT BDOC

Our training sessions for 2020-2021 are:

- Session 2, 2020 – commences on Thursday 9th July and Sunday 12th July
- Session 3, 2020 – commences on Thursday 27th August and Sunday 30th August
- Session 4, 2020 – commences on Thursday 22nd October and Sunday 25th October
- Session 1, 2021 – commences on Thursday 21st January and Sunday 24th January
- Session 2, 2021 – commences on Thursday 25th March and Sunday 28th March

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 concludes at the end of Session 2. 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 organisation 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 an email to applications@bdoc.asn.au so that your dog can be assessed to determine which level or class would best suit you and your dog.

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. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions on sporting activities, BDOC is only able to run four training sessions in 2020, and Session 2, 3 and 4 will only be seven weeks in length. 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.

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, which ensure that everyone can enjoy club activities in a pleasant and safe atmosphere. The club rules and policies can be found on our website. Please familiarise yourself with these during your time at the club. 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.

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