

# LETCWORTH (FGC) DOG TRAINING CLUB

## Code of Conduct



### **Introduction**

This Code of Conduct has been developed to set out the Letchworth Dog Training club expectations for all those taking part in or attending events and training under its jurisdiction along with general guidelines on the use of social media.

### **Why do we need this Code?**

The advice and guidance offered in this document are not meant to penalise or cause difficulty but are there for the protection of all of us and particularly the dog – unity and co-operation is therefore vital.

### **What we expect from you**

As with all sports, LDTC expects all members and competitors to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and to ensure that their dogs are properly taken care of throughout the period of the event/ training and do not become a nuisance to other dogs or to other attendees. Below are expectations that should be followed.

A breach of these provisions may be referred to LDTC committee for disciplinary action under Kennel Club Rules and Regulations.

### **People**

- Conduct - participants have a duty both to their dogs and to others to make all events friendly and welcoming, and are expected to be co-operative and above all create a safe environment for all to enjoy their time at all events.
- Sportsmanship - participants should conduct themselves at all times in an appropriate fashion and should display good manners and respect towards other participants, Instructors and judges.
- Abusive or aggressive behaviour towards anyone at the show or training – including the Instructors, judge, other participants, show management or other officials - will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Abusive or aggressive behaviour towards any dog at the show or training will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

- If you have children, do not allow them to touch any dogs unless you have the permission of the owner for them to do so. Be aware of where your children are, and what they are doing, at all times.

The following relate particularly to training:

- Handlers must be aware of their dog and what it is doing at all times. (Only one dog per handler per session).
- If you feel your dog would benefit from having more distance from the other dogs please use a yellow lead to indicate this to the other handlers.
- It is the handler's responsibility to prevent excessive barking from their dog during the session
- Crates may be used for training dogs between runs but please be mindful of the position of the crate to limit interference from other dogs. A suitable position may be suggested by the Instructor. The handler is to remain with the dog while it is in the crate.
- It is the handler's responsibility to position any training aids they wish to use for their dog eg touch plates, toys or stride regulators.
- Excessive reprimanding or disciplining of a dog or the use of an object eg lead or toy to punish a dog will not be tolerated. Dogs to have four feet on the ground when being handled.
- The use of agility equipment is not permitted unless under supervision by an instructor.
- It is expected that handler will help set up and pack away the equipment. For their safety, dogs should remain or be returned to their vehicles during these processes.

### **Instructors**

It is to be remembered that the Instructors give up their time freely to run the training sessions for the club. Members are expected to be respectful and courteous to the Instructors. Training is all about being open to new ideas and trying new things. The Instructors may suggest different methods or ways of running a sequence which will be based on their experience and style of training. If you feel that this isn't right for you or your dog then please explain this to your Instructor who will then help you find an alternative.

## **Dogs**

- Must have a basic level of obedience before starting agility training, dogs that are out of control will be asked to leave the arena.
- Your dog must not interfere with another dog's run
- While walking a course or sequence if leaving your dog in a stay it must be in a safe place in relation to the other dogs in the session.
- No dog is allowed to hold an object in its mouth while running a course
- Spectating dogs must be in the gallery and must in no way be a disturbance to the dogs training in the arena
- Dogs may wear muzzles whilst training in the club (instructors must be informed.)

## **Harassment**

### **A Zero Tolerance approach**

No-one should be subject to intimidation or made to feel alarmed or distressed or put in fear of reprisal. Harassment is a criminal offence. To that end, the LDTC adopts a zero tolerance towards all type of harassment activity.

Harassment may be defined as causing alarm, distress and anxiety and fear of physical violence or other threat, offensive statements, verbal abuse and threats.

Conduct may include speech, obstruction and so on. As such conduct may involve a criminal offence the police may be involved and it may be that the Kennel Club may warrant action pending the outcome of such investigation and/or prosecution.

It goes without saying that the LDTC expects courtesy and co-operation to be shown towards all Instructors and organisers at any Kennel Club licensed event/Training venue.

Whilst the pressures and tensions which arise at competitive level are understood, any aggression or abuse towards those who are simply undertaking their jobs for the benefit and interest of the handler/competitor and the audience and ultimately the dog itself cannot be tolerated.

## **Use of Social Media**

### **Overview**

The rapid growth of social media technologies combined with their ease of use and pervasiveness make them attractive channels of communication. However, these tools also hold the possibility of a host of unintended consequences. To help you identify and avoid potential issues we have provided some examples of best practices which are intended to help you understand, from a wide range of perspectives, the implications of participation in social media.

### **Maintain Privacy**

Do not post confidential or proprietary information. Do not discuss a situation involving named or pictured individuals on a social media site without their permission. As a guideline, do not post anything that you would not present in any public forum. Ask yourself, 'would I want to see this published in the newspaper or posted on a billboard tomorrow or ten years from now?'

### **Does it Pass the Publicity Test**

If the content of your message would not be acceptable for face-to-face conversation, over the telephone, or in another medium, it will not be acceptable for a social networking site.

### **Think Before You Post**

There's no such thing as a "private" social media site. Search engines can turn up posts and pictures years after the publication date. Comments can be forwarded or copied. Archival systems save information even if you delete a post. If you feel angry or passionate about a subject, it's wise to delay posting until you are calm and clear-headed.

**Understand Your Personal Responsibility**

You are personally responsible for the content you publish on blogs or any other form of user-generated content. Be mindful that what you publish will be public for a long time—protect your privacy.

**Be Aware of Liability**

You are responsible for what you post on your own site and on the sites of others. Individual bloggers have been held liable for commentary deemed to be copyright infringement, defamatory, proprietary, libellous, or obscene (as defined by the courts). Be sure that what you post today will not come back to haunt you.

**Be Accurate**

Make sure that you have all the facts before you post. It's better to verify information with a source first than to have to post a correction or retraction later.

**Correct Mistakes**

If you make a mistake, admit it. Be upfront and be quick with your correction. If you're posting to a blog, you may choose to modify an earlier post—just make it clear that you have done so.

**Respect Others**

You are more likely to achieve your goals or sway others to your beliefs if you are constructive and respectful while discussing a bad experience or disagreeing with a concept or person.

**Respect Your Audience**

Don't use personal insults, obscenity; also show proper consideration for others' privacy and for topics that may be considered sensitive. Users are free to discuss topics and disagree with one another, but be respectful of others' opinions. You are more likely to achieve your goals if you are constructive and respectful while discussing a bad experience or disagreeing with a concept or person.

**Take the High Ground**

Remember that you're most likely to build a high-quality following if you discuss ideas and situations civilly. Don't pick fights online.

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