

BIRCH ACRES DOG TRAINING CLUB “BADTC”



Information booklet



BADTC vaccination policy:

- Puppies (under 5 months old) – first booster at 8 weeks, 2nd booster at 12 weeks and the 3rd booster **AND** Rabies at 16 weeks.
- Older dogs must have been vaccinated in the last 12 months (5-in one and Rabies) and annually thereafter.

NO DOG WILL BE ALLOWED TO REGISTER IN A CLASS IF THE VACCINATIONS ARE NOT UP TO DATE

OBEDIENCE CLASS PROGRESSION



OTHER ACTIVITIES (DISCIPLINES)

Carting	Flyball	Agility	Companion Dog	Tracking	Sniffer Dog
Advisable to be in an Obedience class (Beginners or higher). Suitability assessment to be conducted by the specialist trainer. Sat 12:00: All levels (Beginners and Seniors)	Minimum age of dog 8 months. Must retrieve a tennis ball and return to the handler. Must be under control off-leash and not show aggression to any other dog or person. Assessment by specialist trainer. Sat 16:15: Beginners / Intermediate dogs Wed 18:15: Team training	Minimum age of dog 12 months, Under control off leash, actively participate in an obedience class and preferably have passed Beginner level. Mo 17:30: Competition class Thu 18:00: All levels (Beginners, Grade 1 and Grade 2 Small, Medium and Large dogs)	Minimum age of dog 14 months. Actively participate in Novice / Rally Fun or higher. Suitability assessment to be conducted by the specialist trainer. Sat 12:00: All levels (Beginners, Normal CD, Super CD)	Suitability assessment to be conducted by the specialist trainer. Enquire with Specialist Trainers (Saturday mornings at sunrise or as arranged on a Thursday) Puppies 1 & 2, Beginners, Junior 1 & 2, Senior and Veterans	Dog must have completed at least Bridging 2 and must be able to pick up and article. Sat 16:15: All levels

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1. Puppy class

We have a dedicated enclosed area for our puppy classes

Eligibility

- Puppies 8 weeks to under 5 months of age on the first day of training

Reward and Praise – Reward based training (treat and/or toy)

Name recognition and focus – Puppy to learn its name and look – treat or play when the pup is focused on handler.

Fun recall: The Handler will recall their puppy while puppies are playing, from different sides of the enclosed area.

Different positions: (sit, down and stand)

Loose leash walking: 5 steps next to the handler with static distractions

Trick training: Teaching a puppy a basic treat e.g. give paw

Play / interactive retrieve – with a toy

Food manners: Take it / leave it

Obstacle course – Each week a new obstacle/ piece of equipment is added. It is fun, creative and an interactive way of teaching puppies different surfaces, boosting confidence and play learning.

Stay: 15 seconds sit or down stay



All puppies that attend the class regularly throughout the term receive a certificate and progresses to Bridging 2 the following term. The “Best Puppy” shield is awarded to the puppy that really impresses the trainers throughout the term. The “Ruka Rising Star” trophy is awarded to the puppy and handler for the best trick.

2. Bridging 1

Eligibility

- New dogs that have not trained before and older than 5 months of age.



Loose leash walking: 10 – 15 paces. The dog does not have to be strictly in the heel position but should not be pulling on the leash and will walk past a few distractions.

Fun recall: Call the dog to the front (done on lead)

Play retrieve: The dog fetch any article or toy or take it from the handler’s hand.

Different positions: (sit, down and stand)

Sit or down stay with the handler not more than 2 paces in front or next to dog for 15 seconds

Social skills: Dog must allow a person other than the handler to approach, and to examine the paws, teeth and ears.

Trick: Lift left and right paw. The handler works on his/her own

trick throughout the term.

All dogs that attend the class throughout the term receive a certificate and progresses to Bridging 2 the following term. The “Mad Maddy” trophy is awarded to the most enthusiastic handler and dog team throughout the term. The “Oscar” trophy is awarded for the best trick.

3. Bridging 2

Eligibility

- Dogs that have completed the Puppy class or Bridging 1 class training



Heelwork: Handler and dog forward in a straight line – 15 paces and circle right or left

Fun retrieve: The dog retrieves any article and returns to the handler willingly.

Different positions: (sit, down and stand)

Recall: Come in recall to the end of the leash. Recall on command to front and sit for 2 – 3 secs.

Stays: 20 seconds SIT stay and 30 seconds DOWN stay with the handler standing in front of his/her dog

Tricks: Lift left and right paw and bow. The handler works on his/her own trick throughout the term.

All dogs that attend the class throughout the term receive a certificate and progresses to Beginners the following term. The “Massie McLeod” trophy is awarded to the most enthusiastic handler and dog team throughout the term. The Bridging 2 trophy is awarded for the best handler and dog team on the assessment day and the “Trick” trophy is awarded for the best trick.

4. Social Dog Class

Eligibility

Criteria: A dog **MUST** have completed either a Puppy- or Bridging 1 class before it may register in the Social Dog class. There is no age restriction for dogs. Handlers must be over the age of 8 years. **Dogs must not display any signs of aggression towards people or other dogs.**

This class is specifically for those handlers and dogs who really cannot master the obedience side of training but who are still keen to come to the club and participate in some form of training. This class is not intended for dogs that have passed Rally Advance and higher at this stage (we are working on enhancing the class to accommodate dogs in higher classes). The class is also not intended for dogs competing at any KUSA level competition.



What is Social Dog class about? This class is a COMPETENCY class (can the dog master a skill?) and will not be evaluated on how well the dog executes an exercise.

There is no time limit to complete the exercises in any of the classes and there is no formal assessment at the end of the term. Once a dog has mastered all of the basic skills, the handler and dog will be awarded a competency certificate and can opt to either follow the normal mainstream classes the following term or the dog can remain in the Social Dog Class and enter the next level.

Exercises include loose leash walking, self-control (stay in one spot), wait and recall, isolated stay, different positions (sit, down and stand), greeting people in a calm and orderly manner, fun weave exercise around 2 cones / poles, exposure to different surfaces, sniffing out treats, find an article, send to bed, master 2 basic tricks, play / have fun exercise, walk backwards and groom/brush the dog.

There are currently 6 levels: Basic, Advance, Superior, Expert, Elite and Genius Social Dog Class qualifications

5. Beginners

Heel on lead – include right, left and about turns and halts all at normal pace

Recall (come in recall with finish and a heel recall)

Retrieve: handler's article and fun retrieve

Sit stay: 30 seconds – handler in sight facing dog

Down stay: 1 minute – handler in sight facing dog

Tricks: Lift paw or bow and free choice* (*for bonus points)



Handlers will not be penalised for extra commands/signals or for encouraging their dogs except when dogs are left in the “Stay” exercise. Handlers will be penalised for touching their dogs and for moving their feet once they have assumed a position require in an exercise.

6. Rally Fun & Rally Senior

The course may be done **on or off lead*** (handler's choice. *Bonus point if done 80% correctly off lead); 12 to 15 signs or “stations”

Handlers can talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and/or signals using one or both arms, clap their hands, pat their legs, or use any verbal means of encouragement.

Treats / toys are allowed but baiting will be penalised (treats or toys may not be given during the course, but on completion thereof). The perfect heel is not required and is defined as a dog under control within ½ meter from the heel position.

The handler may restart any exercise station should it be inadvertently missed or not performed provided they have not started the next exercise. One retry per station is allowed during the assessment.

Rally Senior: There are no SIT signs in the course and is ideally for older dogs or dogs struggling with mobility problems.

Retrieve: Fun retrieve using any article); no wait or finish required, but handlers are encouraged to work towards a *wait and *presentation (for bonus points).

Free choice sign: Free choice (handler's choice) execution of any sign in a higher class for a bonus point.



7. Rally Intermediate

Course is done **on or off lead**; 12 to 16 signs or “stations”

Handlers can talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and/or signals using one or both arms, clap their hands, pat their legs, or use any verbal means of encouragement.

Treats / toys are NOT allowed during the assessment.

The perfect heel is not required and is defined as a dog under control within ½ meter from the heel position.

The handler may restart any exercise station should it be inadvertently missed or not performed provided they have not started the next exercise.

A maximum of five retries are permitted for the course during the assessment.

Only ONE sit command to be given.

Retrieve: Fun retrieve using any article); no wait or finish required, but handlers are encouraged to work towards a *wait, *presentation and finish (for bonus points).

Free choice sign: Free choice (handler’s choice) execution of any sign in a higher class for a bonus point.



8. Rally Advance

The course is done **off lead**; 14 to 18 signs or “stations”

Handlers can talk, praise, encourage, using one or both arms, clap their hands, pat their legs, or use any verbal means of encouragement.

Treats are not allowed in the ring.

The perfect heel is not required and is defined as a dog under control within less than 30 centimetres from the heel position. Repetition of commands may be given but the length of time from the first command until the dog responds to the command is what is evaluated. A major or minor deduction may be assessed for a dog that takes an excessive amount of time to respond but then performs the exercise successfully.

The handler may restart any exercise station should it be inadvertently missed or not performed provided they have not started the next exercise. A maximum of **three retries for the course** are allowed (which can all be on the same station).



Retrieve: Fun retrieve using any article); no wait or finish required, but handlers are encouraged to work towards a *wait, *presentation and finish (for bonus points).

Free choice sign: Free choice (handler’s choice) execution of any sign in a higher class for a bonus point.

9. Rally Excellent

The course is done **off lead**; 16 to 20 signs or “stations”

Handlers can talk, praise, encourage, using one or both arms, clap their hands, pat their legs, or use any verbal means of encouragement.

Food is not allowed in the ring.

The perfect heel is not required and is defined as a dog under control within less than 30 centimetres from the heel position. Repetition of commands may be given but the length of time from the first command until the dog responds to the command is what is evaluated. A major or minor deduction may be assessed for a dog that takes an excessive amount of time to respond but then performs the exercise successfully.

Only ONE retry is permitted for the course



Retrieve: Fun retrieve using any article); no wait or finish required, but handlers are encouraged to work towards a *wait, *presentation and finish (for bonus points).

Free choice sign: Free choice (handler’s choice) execution of any sign in a higher class for a bonus point

10. Formal Obedience (KUSA standard)

10.1 Beginners

Heel on lead – include right, left and about turns and halts all at normal pace

Recall (come in recall with finish)

Retrieve: Handler’s article; Formal retrieve with a wait, command to retrieve, presentation and finish

Sit stay: 1 minute – handler in sight facing dog **Down stay:** 2 minutes – handler in sight facing dog

Handlers will not be penalised for extra commands/signals or for encouraging their dogs except when dogs are left in the “Stay” exercise. Handlers will be penalised for touching their dogs and for moving their feet once they have assumed a position require in an exercise.



10.2 Novice

Heel on lead first done AND
Heel off lead (2 heel courses)

Both heel courses include normal, fast and slow pace, halts and left, right and about turns, both at the halt and on the move. Halts and turns on the move to be done at normal pace only.

Recall (come in recall)

Retrieve: Handler's dumbbell; Formal retrieve with a wait, command to retrieve, presentation and finish

Sit stay: 1 minute – handler in sight

Down stay: 3 minutes – handler in sight

(At the direction of the Judge, handlers will face or face away from their dogs during stay exercises.)

Handlers will not be penalised for extra commands/signals or for encouraging their dogs except when dogs are left in the "Stay" exercise.

Handlers will be penalised for touching their dogs and for moving their feet once they have assumed a position required in an exercise.

10.3 A – Class

Heel off lead include normal, fast and slow pace, halts and left, right and about turns, both at the halt and on the move. Halts and turns on the move may be done at any pace.

In the heel free exercise one command and/or signal is permitted on recommencing movement after a halt.

Recall (A-type or heel recall while moving; then halt)

Scent discrimination (handler's own cloth; size approximately 15cm x 15cm) and scented by the handler, will be placed with five (5) cloths supplied by the judge. There shall be no decoy cloths. The six cloths must be set out in a straight line in any direction with due regard to wind direction

Retrieve: Handler's dumbbell; Formal retrieve with a wait, command to retrieve, presentation and finish

Sit stay: 1 minute – handler in sight

Down stay: 5 minutes – handler out of sight

Where a command is permitted it may be either verbal and/or a signal and if both are used they must be simultaneous.

Extra commands / signals and other communications from handler to dog, handlers touching their dogs or handlers moving their feet once they have assumed a position in an exercise will be penalised.

10.4 B – Class

Heel off lead includes normal, fast and slow pace, halts and left, right and about turns, both at the halt and on the move. Halts and turns on the move may be done at any pace. Included in the heel course is a figure of 8 (at normal pace)

A single command or signal is permitted.

Send away-drop and recall – 20m to a marker (10cm x 10cm)

In the send away exercise, drop and recall a simultaneous signal may be given with the command to send the dog away but the arm must be returned promptly to the handler's side.

Scent discrimination: handler will be given one or two (at their choice) similar cloths for scenting. The second cloth (if requested) will be used to give the scent to the dog. A decoy steward will scent a single decoy cloth and place it in position. Handlers and decoy stewards will scent their cloths for thirty (30) seconds

Retrieve: Judge's article. Formal retrieve with a wait, command to retrieve, presentation and finish

Stand stay: 1 minute – handler in sight

Sit stay: 2 minutes – handler out of sight

Down stay: 10 minutes – handler out of sight

10.5 C – Class

Heel off lead including Advance Stand, Sit and Down (done at normal pace, handler to leave their dog in the Stand, Sit and Down positions whilst still moving and given directional orders and directed to pick up the dog on the working side), figure of 8.

A single command or signal is permitted.

Send away-drop and recall: 20m to a discreet marker visible to the handler.

In the send away exercise, drop and recall a simultaneous signal may be given with the command to send the dog away but the arm must be returned promptly to the handler's side.

Distance control: Sit, down stand in any combination. The dog may not move more than a body length

Retrieve: Judge's article; Formal retrieve with a wait, command to retrieve, presentation and finish

Sit stay: 2 minutes – handler out of sight

Down Stay: 10 minutes – handler out of sight

Scent discrimination: The Judge shall provide for each dog two (2) cloths, one to be placed by the steward for selection by the dog and the other given to the handler by the judge for the purpose of giving scent to the dog. At least two (2) decoy cloths must be used, placed by separate decoy stewards and changed for each dog. The judge's two (2) cloths used for the dog and the decoy steward's cloths will be scented by the judge and decoy stewards respectively for one (1) minute before being used.

11. Country members (not training)

This category is for any member (household) who wants a safe place to exercise and walk their dogs without the commitment of training.

The grounds are available for country members from sunrise to sunset weekdays, Saturday mornings until 11:00 and Sundays unless there are formal club activities taking place.



OTHER DOGSPORTS / DISCIPLINES

12. Carting



Carting is a sport with many practical applications. A misconception is that Carting is limited to large dogs, but this is definitely not the case. If you think your big or small dog needs a job, check out this sport!

The load and cart are in proportion to the height, weight and strength of the dog, therefore even small dogs can pull a cart. Carting training is best accomplished using positive reinforcement techniques.

If you would like to perform demonstrations for public audiences, this sport will delight them. Besides the fun of entering dog shows, there are other benefits to carting. Imagine having help while gardening by loading things into the cart or shopping (if you live near shops) and the excitement of demonstrations where young children love to be given cart rides and most bigger dogs can pull a small child.

Carting is good exercise and can improve the dog's stamina and muscle tone – not to mention the handlers!

Minimum criteria:

- Dogs must be at least **14 months old** to participate in the Carting class
- Dogs must actively participate in an obedience class; preferably Beginners or higher.

There are 4 Carting classes at club and competition level namely Mini Novice, Standard Novice, Mini Senior and Standard Senior.

The specialist carting trainer will confirm if your dog is suitable for carting. If you are interested in this sport, get your dog used to wearing a harness in the interim as all carts are attached to the harness (very similar to horse carts).

The trainer will slowly introduce the cart by first walking alongside your dog to get it used to the sound and movement before attempting to hitch the cart to the dog. Having your dog able to know and respond to cues in a distracting environment is very important. An out-of-control dog with a cart can be dangerous to himself and others.

Before attempting the carting course, handlers walk the course and the judge will explain technicalities and what to do.



13. Companion Dog ("CD")



Area search



Control (heel work)



Send away to an object

Companion dog or "CD" has nothing to do with qualifying a dog to help people as a service dog or therapy dog; it is a combination of control, agility and nose work and is the basis of Classic Working Trials (which later includes tracking).

At Club Level there are 3 Companion dog levels, starting with Beginner Companion Dog. When a dog qualifies out of Beginner CD, it enters in the Companion Dog class and has the option of entering Super Companion Dog when the dog qualifies 3 times. Agility equipment heights are adjusted to suite small, medium and large dogs.

Minimum criteria:

Dogs must be at least **14 months old** to participate in the CD classes and must actively participate in a Novice or Rally Fun class or higher.

Exercises	Beginner CD	Companion Dog	Super Companion Dog
Control (Obedience)	<p>Heel on lead (loose leash) – incl. turns, pace changes and walk around obstacles and people</p> <p>Recall – 20m with sit and finish</p> <p>Retrieve – dumbbell with presentation and finish</p> <p>Send away 15m to an object and a closed food container; no recall</p> <p>Down stay – 5 minutes in sight facing the dog</p>	<p>Heel on lead and heel free – incl. turns, pace changes and walk around obstacles and people</p> <p>Recall – 20m with sit and finish</p> <p>Retrieve – dumbbell with presentation and finish</p> <p>Send away 20m to an object. Dog remains in any position and is recalled when instructed and finish</p> <p>Down stay – 10 minutes out of sight</p>	<p>Heel free – incl. turns, pace changes and walk around obstacles and people</p> <p>Recall – 20m with sit and finish</p> <p>Retrieve – dumbbell with presentation and finish</p> <p>Send away 50m to an object. Dog remains in any position and is redirected either left or right to another object.</p> <p>Down stay – 10 minutes out of sight</p>
Nose work	<p>Area search (15mx15m area) Handler's article (not brightly coloured; +/-7cm x 7cm x 1cm) 2 minutes to find the article</p>	<p>Area search (15mx15m area) Judge's article which handler will scent 2 minutes to find the article</p>	<p>Area search (25mx25m area) Judge's articles; foreign scent. 5 minutes to find the articles</p>
Agility	<p>Clear jump A-frame Long jump</p> <p>A closed food container may be placed on the landing side of the obstacles</p>	<p>Clear jump A-frame Long jump</p>	<p>Clear jump A-frame Long jump</p>
Next level	Dogs that have passed three times in this grade must move up to Companion Dog grade. Pass mark 80%	Dogs that have passed three times in this grade may move up to Super Companion Dog if the handler wishes. Pass mark 90%	Pass mark 90%



Retrieve



A-Frame



Clear jump



Long jump



Out of sight down stay

14. Agility / Dog Jumping



A sport for all breeds / sizes



Solid tunnel



Handler directs the dog over a jump

What is Dog Jumping and Agility?

Dog jumping and agility are dog sports in which a handler directs a dog through an obstacle course in a race for both time and accuracy. Dogs run off leash with no food or toys as incentives, unless training in the Beginners class where a closed food container or toy may be used. The handler cannot touch the dog or obstacles, meaning a handler's controls are limited to voice, movement and various body signals, requiring exceptional training and coordination.

In its simplest form, an agility or jumping course consists of a set of obstacles which are marked with numbers indicating the order in which they must be completed. The handler must assess the course, decide on handling strategies, and direct the dog through the course, with precision and speed.

Class criteria:

- Minimum age of the dog: At least 12 months to start training.
- All breeds can participate in Agility – from the smallest to the largest of dogs.
- Dogs must be under control off lead and preferably have passed an obedience class.
- The specialist trainer may conduct a suitability assessment.

If you think Agility and Dog jumping is the sport for you, ask yourself the following:

- Assess your dog's temperament to be sure he's right for the sport;
- Is he highly energetic?
- Does he enjoy running and responding to instruction?
- Does he get along well with other dogs?
- Training doesn't only involve your dog. **You** are critical to the process.
- You don't need to be a world class athlete to train agility with your dog. Through progress and development of good communication skills, you and your dog can compete, whether recreationally or at a competitive level.
- Dogs prone to injury or joint problems should be assessed by a qualified veterinarian or rehabilitation therapist and given the all clear.

What is the difference between Dog Jumping and Agility?

In South Africa there is Agility which is divided into Contact and Non-contact and Dog Jumping which is a separate discipline.

Dog jumping is based on horse jumping. Depending on which "table" is run, all dogs that ran clear (no faults and under the time limit), go through to a jump off round where the fastest dog with the least mistakes is declared the winner.

In Agility, a dog is only given one round and the fastest dog with the least mistakes is declared the winner.

Dog jumping has similar equipment as Non-Contact. The height classification also differs slightly between Agility and Dog jumping and agility has an extra grade ("level") which works backwards in dog jumping. Angles and distances between obstacles also differ in the 2 disciplines.

And the difference between Contact and Non-Contact agility?

Contact agility has 3 "contact" apparatus, with a different coloured zone which the dog must touch. If the dog misses the contact zone, a fault is indicated. The contact apparatus consists of a seesaw, A-frame and dog walk. These are removed from Non-contact agility.



Seesaw



A-Frame



Dog walk

At club level we have a Beginners class for new dogs and handlers – the aim is to lay the foundation and equip everyone to eventually compete at KUSA competitions should they wish to do so, once the dog has mastered commands and equipment.

At club level we mostly train dog jumping (or non-contact agility) but the trainers will be more than willing to assist or refer any handler and dog wishing to further their dog jumping or agility career.



Weave poles



Long jump



Long jump

15. Flyball



The 2 flyball lanes where 2 teams compete against one another



Our very own Luqa – a Flyball legend!

What is Flyball?

Flyball is a relay race between two teams each consisting of four dogs. The first dogs in each team is released upon a whistle and must negotiate four hurdles, trigger the flyball box that releases a tennis ball; catch the ball and return over the four hurdles through the start/finish poles. Once the first dog returns, the second dog is released but may not cross the first dog until that dog's nose passes the start line. The same applies for dog three and dog four. The aim is to get the dogs to pass as close as possible over the start/finish line – ideally a nose-to-nose cross.

For any infringements such as a dropped ball, missing a hurdle or not triggering the box to release the ball, the dog causing the error must run again.

At club level, dogs are assessed based on individual times. The senior group also run pairs (2 dogs) against one another.

Class criteria:

- Minimum age of the dog: At least 8 months old to start training.
- Your dog **must be able to retrieve a tennis ball** reliably and return it to you.
- Any breed can participate in flyball – hurdle heights are adjusted to the smallest dog in a team.
- Dogs must be under control off lead and not be aggressive towards people or other dogs.
- Your dog must preferably wear a harness to hold onto before being released. This also prevents pressure on the oesophagus.
- Dogs prone to injury or joint problems should be assessed by a qualified veterinarian or rehabilitation therapist and given the all clear.
- The specialist trainer may conduct a suitability assessment.

What we ask of you:

- Be an enthusiastic handler who is a team player and who can have fun with his/her dog; and encourage your dog to be a happy, energetic working dog!
- Teach a proper box turn (“swimmer’s turn”) as this will not only prevent muscle strains and other injuries, but will ensure a long, happy flyball career for your dog.
- Handlers must be willing to carry out equipment and set up the lanes.
- Handlers must be willing to learn how to box load (the person placing the balls in the box is called a box loader and has to know which dogs in the team turn left or right) and time keep / marshal and attend at least one competition either as an assistant or spectator.
- Take as long as necessary to train your dog to be the best it can be. Getting the dog in the ring as soon as possible is not listed as one of the training goals. Stick to the lessons and do not bypass any of them. Forget obedience commands except “**COME**”!



16. Tracking



Tracking refers to a dog's ability to detect, recognise and follow a specific scent or odour. Scent or odour is the combined permeations of trampled vegetation, bugs, mud, and soil disturbed by an individual's footprints. The disturbed soil releases moisture and trampled plant life release odours. Footprints release new odours different to undisturbed vegetation surrounding it.

The **tracklayer** is a person laying the track that a dog will follow. For Dogs in the Junior 1 and higher classes, this person will, as far as possible, be a stranger to the dog for which he lays the track. The tracklayer will drop **articles** on his track. Articles will not be hidden or buried. On all tracks the last (or only) article is to be dropped at the end of the track. The age of the track is to be calculated from the time that the tracklayer begins the laying of the track.

Handlers will stay away from the tracking area until the time approaches for each to begin his track.

Tracking requires a vast open area to train in and takes a few hours to complete. It is not for handlers who love to sleep in on a Saturday morning as tracking starts very early!

At Club Level there are 7 tracking levels which become progressively more difficult as the dog masters each.

- Puppies 1 (first / basic level; dog of **any age** starts at this level)
- Puppies 2
- Beginners
- Junior 1
- Junior 2
- Senior
- Veteran



17. Sniffer Dog

Sniffer Dog is a fun class and aimed at dogs that don't really excel in obedience but have the ability to use their noses and that love to retrieve.

Exercises include (but not limited to)::

- Finding hidden articles
- Area Search
- Scent discrimination
- Send away
- Find the handler
- Retrieve

Class criteria:

- Minimum age of the dog: Any age of dog
- Your dog must have completed at least a Bridging 2 or higher class
- Your dog must be able to pick up and carry an article (any article)
- Dogs must be able to work off lead

What we ask of you:

- Enthusiastic and prepared to have fun with your dog!

There are 2 Sniffer Dog levels:

- Junior
- Senior



18. Competing in Dog Sports

You want to compete with your dog ... now what?

The **Kennel Union of Southern Africa** (“KUSA”) is the only recognised international body to register pure-bred (“pedigreed”) dogs and dogs for internationally recognised dog sport competitions in South Africa. If you have a breed registered dog i.e. your dog was bred by a reputable and ethical breeder who is a member of the Kennel Union, the breeder would have already registered the puppies and given you the KUSA registration certificate for your dog. All you need to do is change ownership by completing the back of the form and sending it to KUSA, if this was not already done by your dog’s breeder. This is free for the first transfer of ownership as your dog’s breeder would have paid for the initial registration.



You can however, if you have a cross-breed dog or a dog with unknown ancestry, register your dog with KUSA on the **Dogsport Record**. This will allow you to compete in competitions in the various dog sports (“working disciplines”) such as Agility, Dog jumping, Obedience, Flyball, Tracking, Dog Dancing, Rally Obedience, Carting, Companion Dog and other Classic Working Trial competitions, Rescue Dog etc.

Your dog **must be microchipped** before you can proceed with the registration process.



Once you have registered your dog, you need to hand a copy of your dog’s registration certificate to the respective working discipline representative to issue you with a **record card** to enable you to compete. E.g. in Obedience you will be issued with a blue record card; in Dog jumping it is pink etc. The record must be handed to the judge of the class you enter to prove your dog is allowed to compete and at what level and also for the judge to record qualifying scores.



Two types of competitions (“shows”) held under the regulations of KUSA:

- **Non-championship show** or more commonly known as an Open show. Your dog must be registered to compete (except in the “Special or Elementary Obedience class” and “Beginner Flyball class”). You as the owner of the dog need not be a member of the Kennel Union to enter a non-championship show. Most open shows close a day or 2 before the event or even on the day. You can still qualify in the lower classes to move up a level, but if you are in the top class, you won’t receive a “QC” or Qualifying Certificate if you win the class.
- **Championship show:** Your dog must be registered with KUSA and you as the owner, must be a member of the Kennel Union to enter. Entries for championship shows are submitted approximately 2 weeks before the event. A closing date is annotated on the show schedule and fees are paid up front. The show entry forms are on the KUSA website to download although most clubs are opting for online registrations through the Working Dogs online portal (www.workingdogs.co.za).

Know your rules!

For each discipline there are rules and regulations and these can be downloaded from the KUSA website <https://www.kusa.co.za/index.php/documents/constitution-schedules>

Which class to enter?

For all disciplines, a dog starts in the lowest level and has to qualify out of that level to progress to the next level. E.g. in Obedience you start in Beginners, then Novice, Class A, Class B and Class C (highest level); in Carting there is a Novice and Senior level etc. Flyball is the only exception, as a new dog in a team will run in the team event irrespective of level of experience.

Depending on the discipline you enter, your dog needs a certain amount of qualifications to move up a grade / level of difficulty. Once your dog reached the top grade / level, your dog is eligible to become a champion in that discipline depending on the criteria e.g. a dog awarded three Obedience Qualifying Certificates in Class C, each by a different Judge, will qualify as an Obedience Champion and a KUSA Certificate to this effect will be issued. Qualifying certificates are only issued at championship shows.

Membership application (for the human owner)

If you decide you want to enter championship shows, you as the owner of the dog must be a KUSA member. Membership is renewed on an annual basis. There are different fees for junior members, young adults and senior members. Visit the KUSA website www.kusa.co.za to find the relevant information.

What are the costs to register a dog?

There is a once of fee to register your dog. Any dog, pedigreed or non-pedigreed can be registered. If you have a pedigreed dog from a reputable and registered breeder, the breeder will take care of the registration in most instances.

Fees: For more clarity on the fees charged by KUSA, find the fees on their website or contact the KUSA office.

KUSA website: www.kusa.co.za

19. CLUB INFORMATION (where to find us / how to get in touch)



BADTC is affiliated to the **Kennel Union of Southern Africa**



Corner of Mooiriver Drive and James Wright Avenue, Norkem Park, Kempton Park



26°03'49''S; 28°13'15''E



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