

## Welcome to the world of Obedience Training.



No matter what breed you have chosen there is a method of training that will help you to teach your dog how to become an accepted and valued member of the family and of society in general.

Even if you only want a pet for companionship, early, basic obedience training is helpful to both you and your dog. The exercise is beneficial for both everyone and the time spent together in training gives your dog the opportunity to demonstrate its intelligence and builds a special friendship between both

of you.

Obedience training has no limits for the dog or the handler.

Puppies must be at least 12 weeks old and fully vaccinated and yes, you can teach an old dog new tricks so no age limit applies.

As for the handler the only limits are the ones you put on yourself. There is a world of fun and camaraderie to be enjoyed as you travel the road to your desired level of training. Some people only want their dog to come when called. When you start training with your dog, you will see that you are able to do so much more together. Even a brief training session is better than no training at all because a dog that pleases itself is often a nuisance to the community. Obedience training is there for everyone from 10 years old until forever. There is equal opportunity for all people.

There are numerous Dog Obedience Clubs all over Queensland that are affiliated with Dogs Queensland, possibly one or more in your area. The trainers of these clubs are experienced dog trainers themselves, often competing with their own dogs and volunteer their time because they love to help. Many clubs run classes starting with puppy classes and graduating up through all levels of obedience.

As you and your dog become proficient at the basic commands you will be introduced to Obedience competitions and trials. Another world will open up for you. Obedience trials are run throughout the year all over Queensland and indeed all over Australia. To enter in these competitions you need a trained dog that is registered with a controlling body, in Queensland that is "Dogs Queensland" either on the main register or special register. You also need to be a member.

There are five levels of Obedience in Australia plus Rally Obedience which also has different levels from novice through to advanced. All classes and rules are explained fully in the Obedience Rule Book which can be sourced from Dogs Queensland. If you decide to compete, your dog may achieve an Obedience Title, which means you can put letters behind its name.

Community Companion Dog is the first level with heeling and stand for examination performed on lead and a small recall and a basic sit and down stay off the lead.

### Companion Dog



Is very similar to the previous class except that it is all off the lead and the handler has the choice of either a short retrieve or a change of position.

### Companion Dog Excellent



Things start to get a little more complex now with the introduction of jumps, drop on recall and stays with the handler out of sight.

### Utility Dog.



This class incorporates scent exercises, directed jumping and the dog working to signals only, very impressive. In this class the dog and handler can earn the title of Obedience Champion.

## Utility Dog Excellent



A class that just about has it all but no jumping as by now most dogs are getting a little elderly. UDX is a very challenging class for both the dog and the handler. Nothing to worry about as by this stage the bond between a handler and dog is very strong.

Rally Obedience is not quite as formal as the previous Obedience trial classes but it is lots of fun and gives both dog and handler a chance to compete in a light hearted way. It incorporates various levels of skill and encourages interaction between dog and handler.

You now have a very basic idea of what you and your dog can achieve and where you go to get started.

A well trained dog is welcome in society. With a little training your loved pet will become a true companion and a joy to own.