

CLUB HANDBOOK



FORT WAYNE OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Fort Wayne Obedience Training Club Handbook

The objective of the Club is as follows:

- A. To create, promote and maintain interest, ownership and appreciation of all dogs, regardless of breed(s). We believe in enriching the dog owner's experience and the dog's life by forming a bond in training and good manners.
- B. To sponsor and conduct dog training classes in or near the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana.
- C. To cooperate in all matters pertaining to tests and trials as set forth and approved by the American Kennel Club (AKC) and United Kennel Club (UKC).
- D. Offer and lend aid and encouragement to the novice and inexperienced dog owners.
- E. Foster and maintain a close and friendly relationship among owners, trainers and exhibitors of dogs.
- F. Sponsor and support legislation for the betterment of dogs' welfare and pertaining issues.

1. These rules are intended to be used with common sense. During peak hours when the building is full of dogs and people, it is very important that you remain in control of your dog for the safety of everyone at the building. We encourage you, when entering the building, due to the congestion that can be created at the door, that you move away from the entrance as soon as safely possible.

2. To become a member of the club, one must complete the Adult Public Class and be voted in by the Executive Committee as per the club by-laws. A nonmember can fast track into the Club and skip the Adult Public Class if they have a CD or both novice Std and novice JWW in agility on their dog. They must still pay for the Adult Public Class even though they are skipping the class and be voted in by the Executive Committee.

3. We all want to be successful and have fun but there are more distractions at club than at home. Dogs should be kept on a leash and under control while at the Fairgrounds. Under control means you are aware of where your dog's nose is at all times. The dog, when not crated, should be at your side and should not be lunging (even in play) at other dogs or barking. Please do not let your dog go up to the dogs that are crated. Please do not allow your dog to approach another dog without permission from that dog's handler.

4. We encourage the use of food or toys for motivation; but because of the number of dogs in the building, please be careful that games do not get out of hand.

5. Dogs are to be kept on leash, except when instructed to be off leash while working in the ring. Please do not enter the ring while a dog is working off leash.

6. It is a Fairground's rule that no dogs are allowed in the restrooms. If you need to use the facility, activities such as clean-up, meetings or parties, please crate your dog, take it to the car or have someone hold them for you. Dogs are not to be tied to the walls, tables, door knobs or left on a "stay" while unattended.

7. We will make every effort to help you and your dog with behavior problems. However, if a dog proves to be dangerous despite our efforts to other dogs or to people, we may ask you not to bring that dog to club. Any dog that bites another dog or a person may be asked to leave, depending on the circumstances.

8. Please listen to your instructors and follow their instructions. Please do not attempt to use the agility equipment without instruction.

9. An open ring will be maintained at all times on Obedience and Public training days. This is on a first come basis and may be used by any club member. Please work together with other members to optimize the usage of the ring. On Public days, because of the many “new” dogs, and for safety’s sake, it is best to schedule with the Public DOT for the use of the open ring time while classes are being conducted. Excluding emergency closing, if for any reason the open ring needs to be shut down, such as during the pandemic and it was essential for maintaining social distancing, the members will receive notice not less than 48hrs. previous to the time of closing. If the third ring is not being used, classes in the rings may use the space but must vacate it if requested by the DOT. Members wanting to use the third ring will approach the DOT and ask them to facilitate this.
10. In the case of an emergency closing-such as those caused by weather-every effort will be made to contact the membership by 3 PM by email.
11. Training at the Fairgrounds and club is only allowed on the days the club has rented the building. If club is closed due to weather or other circumstances, there is to be no individual training at the club.
12. When it comes to resolving any problem, concern or issue, it is important that the appropriate persons are involved. Any issue should be brought to the attention of the appropriate Director of Training. If it is not resolved, it is then brought to the President’s attention who will then contact the involved DOT and they will work together to try to resolve the issue. If a satisfactory resolution cannot be attained, it is then taken to the full Executive Committee. Their decision is final.
13. New members entering the club enter into the Fundamentals for Obedience class. To move beyond they must first pass a CGC (Canine Good Citizen) equivalency test. If one fails the test, they simply retake the class and test again. If they fail a second time, they can confer with the DOT’s whether they can move on. Standing members bringing a new dog into class at the club do not have to take the Fundamentals for Obedience class but must complete the CGC equivalency test to move into classes beyond the level of the Fundamentals class. If they fail, they can wait for a period of 1 week and retest. If they fail a second time, they can confer with the DOT’s whether they move on.
14. Please remember to clean up after your pet and place all materials in the appropriate containers.
15. When locking the gate, for safety issues, at least 2 members are to be present and they will leave the fairgrounds at the same time.
16. If you have a dog that “comes into season”, please leave the dog at home until it’s over, 3 weeks after first sign of blood. You are welcomed and encouraged to monitor the class to keep up with the training.
17. Harsh corrections-those that put the dog’s welfare in jeopardy-are never to be used. When bringing a dog into class with a normally not used piece of equipment, please show it to the DOT and seek their advice as to whether it is appropriate to use at the club. Electronic collars are not permitted at the club
18. Handlers must be 12 years of age or older.
19. Every member should have an equal chance while signing up for classes. To do this the club sets one time for everyone to sign-up. Sign-up for member’s classes will begin 11:00 AM Sunday prior to the Wednesday Open Meeting and continue until the following Sunday. The DOT may set a class size limit and close the class sign-up once the limit is reached. The DOT may extend the sign-up period at their discretion. The DOT may take past attendance records into account when forming classes. DOT’s will do their best to confirm receiving your request for classes within 3 days of your entry.

20. Lifetime Honoree members are invited to attend the Executive Committee meetings.

21. PAWS Points are issued as follows:

Attending meetings 10 points

Class set up/clean up 5 points

Teaching Class 40 points or 1 free class or \$20 club voucher

Assisting Class 20 points

Special Events/Trials It will be up to the committee chairperson to determine if PAWS Points are to be awarded and how many to award.

20 PAWS Points may be used per class to off set the price of that class. 1 PAWS Point=\$1.

Should a member leave the club for any reason, PAWS Points totals will be retained for a period of 30 days, after which they will be forfeited.