



GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF  
VICTORIA  
GEELONG BRANCH  
MEMBER INFORMATION

*My Shepherd, My Friend, My Responsibility*

*May 2022*

# Welcome:

Welcome to the German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria, Geelong Branch. We hope that you will find our club, enjoyable, friendly and helpful.

We wish to make your entry to the Club as smooth as possible and we hope the following information will help you through those steps.

You will find that your instructors are very friendly, and they welcome any questions you may have about your "doggy problems" or about the Club, so please do not hesitate to approach any of them.

## General information:

✚ We train each Sunday at 10am. These times are sometimes subject to change, so please keep an eye on our Branch web page <https://geelong.gsdcv.org.au/> and Facebook site. <https://www.facebook.com/GSDCVGeelong>. Remember to 'like' our Facebook site so you can stay up to date.

✚ CLASS TIMES:

Puppy A (8 – 16 weeks)	10 – 10.45am
Puppy B (4 – 6 months)	10 – 10.45am
Classes 1-4 (dogs over 6 months)	10 – 10.45am

✚ If it's your first training day we recommend you arrive 30 minutes early at around 9.30 am to ask any questions, have your equipment checked for suitability for training and process your membership. Arriving early allows you and your dog to become familiar with the surroundings and to get your dog settled prior to training

✚ Rain, hail or shine, training is always on unless the Branch is closed as advised. This may be due to the extreme heat policy (35°C+) or on days the Club and its branches close for the annual State Breed Exhibition Show and the National Show



# Membership:

- ✚ Once you join the German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria, you will receive a temporary name badge until you receive yours in the mail in approximately 5-6 weeks
- ✚ Please always wear your membership badge so we know who you are and that your membership is current - this is essential for insurance purposes
- ✚ Only current and financial members are permitted to train
- ✚ If you are a member of another Branch, you are required to wear your name tag and present your dog's vaccination certificate before you can join training on the grounds



## What to bring:

- ✚ A big handful of soft food treats cut in small pieces that are quickly and easily swallowed by your dog (for example sausage, cooked liver, cheese) Do not bring your dog's regular food. Treats used for training should not be given at other times
- ✚ A pouch that you can put the food into and quickly and easily reach it. These can be purchased from our Branch if required
- ✚ Do not feed your dog prior to training. Dogs will work better on an empty stomach
- ✚ Your dog's favourite toy, preferably in a training bag, especially for those who are not food motivated
- ✚ Collars and leads: A suitable lead, flat soft collar for puppies and flat collar or check chain for older dogs. Spiked or prong collars are not accepted for use and will be removed from your dog. Your instructor will advise you regarding appropriate collars for your dog
- ✚ Plastic bags to clean up after your dog. A bin is available to dispose of the bag
- ✚ Leads, collars and other quality essential pet products are available at reasonable prices from the equipment store at the clubhouse
- ✚ During your first day in class, the correct fitting of a check chain will be demonstrated.
- ✚ We will provide you with a number of information sheets to support what you learn in class.

## Vaccination Certificates:

- ✚ Vaccination certificates will be required to be shown at your first training session
- ✚ These must then be sighted annually by the Membership Officer. You will be notified when checks are due: please bring an up-to-date certificate with you to your next
- ✚ Dogs without current vaccination certificates will not be permitted to train



GSDCV Vaccination Guidelines – All members are required to provide proof of current C3 (annual or tri annual) plus annual Canine Cough vaccinations before being able to train on any GSDCV training ground. The GSDCV will not accept titre testing as proof of current vaccination.

## What to wear:

- ✚ Wear closed-in shoes, no thongs or sandals. Something sturdier if it's wet and slippery is advisable
- ✚ Avoid baggy or open zip jackets for training that can get in your dog's face when you train
- ✚ No mobile phones are allowed while in class
- ✚ Remember to always wear your membership badge

## On arrival:

- ✚ Please arrive by **9:30 am** to check in at the gate, and to complete any membership paperwork if necessary, and pay your \$3.00 training fee. The money collected contributes to the running costs of the Branch
- ✚ Take your dog away for a walk and sniff around the grounds, giving them time to settle down.

## Announcements:

- ✚ Weekly announcements are made prior to class and provide Branch-specific information comprising items of interest and upcoming events



- ✚ Listen carefully to announcements that are made, they will inform you of fun days, fundraisers, lectures or anything that is of interest to our members

- ✚ Pass-up ribbons, certificates and special awards will also be presented at this time

## Introducing your dog:

- Members training at the Club are responsible for their own dogs and **it is paramount that they show due consideration to other members and their dogs at all times.** This is particularly important regarding puppies
- When first meeting other dogs, please ask the owner's permission - your dog may be friendly, but the other dog may be timid or grumpy  
**\*Never assume that all dogs are friendly\***
- Owners of puppies must always be particularly careful to avoid any situation where something may occur that may have a detrimental effect on the puppy
- Respect other members and their dogs, especially if they do not want your dog approaching theirs

## Handling your dog:

- Rough treatment of your dog will not be tolerated at any time
- If you are having difficulty with your dog within the group, take a break and go for a short walk to calm yourself and your dog. Talk to an instructor or Committee Member: there is always someone who can offer advice and help

## Water:

- Water buckets are provided around the ground
- If another dog is drinking, please be courteous and wait with your dog until they are finished. Not all dogs like to share. Same rules apply when we have our swimming clam shell pools out please

## Dogs tied up:

- Dogs are not to be left tied up and left unattended on the grounds at any time
- Crates are available in the clubhouse in which your dog may be placed while you socialise with other members
- No dogs are allowed off lead unless under the direct supervision of an instructor





# Tunnels and agility equipment:

- ✚ As well as the classes that you attend, there is also the agility equipment that you will be able to make use of. Most dogs love this event, and the handlers get a kick out of it too
- ✚ For the safety of yourself and your dog, please do not be tempted to use this on your own. There will be a qualified instructor available who will be t happy to go through this with you
- ✚ Members are encouraged to support our volunteer instructors and committee and help put the equipment away after announcements
- ✚ You are welcome to give your dog and their friends a run in the enclosed *Jo Mee off-lead ring*, providing it is not being used for classes
- ✚ If you wish to join another dog or group of dogs, ask their owners before entering—not all dogs are comfortable playing with strangers
- ✚ If you see someone waiting to use the ring, limit your play to 5 minutes and take turns to use it



# Class Skill Cards – Puppy & Class 1

## PUPPY CLASS

- Praise
- Play
- Socialisation
- Sit
- Drop (from sit position)
- Stand
- Stay – short time
- Recall – come when called
- Walking on a loose lead
- Heeling, including left and right turns
- Watch/focus on owner
- Retrieve a favourite article
- Voice correction



## CLASS 1

1. Sit
2. Sit – stay (30 seconds)
3. Drop
4. Drop and stay (30 seconds)
5. Stand
6. Stand –stay (30 seconds)
7. Recall – stage 1 (on lead)
8. Retrieve stage 1 (introduction only)
9. Walking on a loose lead
10. Heeling (including all turns – left, right, right about and left about turn)
11. Focus/watch
12. Comfortable in the presence of other dogs, people and in a variety of environments

## Skills required to graduate to Class 1

### (at 6 months of age)

- Complete a sit and a drop (from the sit position)
- Come when called
- Be able to walk or heel in position for 8-10 steps with a turn
- Understand the stay command
- Be calm around other pups and dogs
- Be able to watch/focus on owner for very short periods
- Understand socialisation and appropriate interactions with other pups and dogs
- To have experienced and be comfortable with a variety of equipment and sounds
- Experienced a variety of interactions with a number of people

## Skills required To Graduate To Class 2

- Walk on a loose lead at a normal pace with little or no correction
- Do all turns on a loose collar without being overly corrected or dragged around
- Complete the sit, drop, stand with either voice, hand signals and/or treats with little or no correction
- Complete the Stand, Sit/Stay and Down/Stay for 1/2 minute each
- Come when called during the recall exercise and sit near the handler
- Complete the Stand, Sit/Stay and Down/ Stay for 1/2 minute each
- Come when called during the recall exercise and sit near the handle



## First aid:

- ✚ If you require any medical assistance, please speak to your instructor or a Committee Member who will direct you to our First Aid Officers for assistance

## Heat policy:

When the forecasted temperature for a Sunday (given on the 6.00 pm Saturday news) is for 35°C or higher, there will be **NO** Branch training

- ✚ If training is cancelled, we will advise via our Facebook page, so please "like" our page <https://www.facebook.com/GSDCVGeelong>

## Bitches in Season:

- ✚ Bitches in season are **NOT** allowed on the grounds during training. They are allowed after training when classes have concluded
- ✚ Bitches in season are allowed in Show Class however as tis class is held after other classes



GSD Jagger getting second place in CCD and an excellent grading at a GSDCV Obedience Trial

GSD Shelbie taken on gaining her Rally Novice Title at the end of 2021.



# Important things to remember....

- ✚ Always wear your membership badge. If you do not have one yet, or maybe you forgot it this week, don't worry as it happens to us all. Ask your instructor for a temporary card. Make sure that you have a badge on before you go into class
- ✚ Be ready to participate in training by the time your class starts. Give yourself plenty of time for "Hello, how are you" letting "Fido" relieve himself and get ready for class. That way, you get the full benefit of your Sunday morning training
- ✚ Only current financial members are allowed to train, so make sure you keep your membership up to date
- ✚ Although your class goes for 45 minutes, try to keep Sunday mornings free to spend with your dog; they need socialisation with their friends, and you will make friends of your own. Have a cold or hot drink from the canteen or order some hot chips. See what is available at our "Dog Shop", or just compare notes on each other's dogs. Our dogs are great ice breakers, there is always someone to chat to, and always someone more than willing to listen
- ✚ Your instructor will probably set some homework, e.g., practice your heelwork, perhaps a drop. If you try to do this homework, you will be rewarded. Your dog will progress much quicker, and you will find that your classes are more interesting if you are not constantly repeating what you did last week
- ✚ You should train your dog during the week to reinforce what you have learned on Sundays. You will achieve better results. Short training sessions - no more than 10-15 minutes at a time is best. Always finish training on a positive note
- ✚ Always have fresh water available and don't leave your dog in your car during warm or hot days



# Communication:

There are a range of ways we communicate with our Branch members.

- ✚ The Geelong Branch website's address is: [www.geelong.gsdcv.org.au](http://www.geelong.gsdcv.org.au). It lists all upcoming events, committee members and more
- ✚ Our Facebook page is another place to find information @GSDCV Geelong
- ✚ Your email address is used occasionally if we need to contact you. Please advise us of change of email address via our Branch email: [geelong@gsdcv.org.au](mailto:geelong@gsdcv.org.au)
- ✚ For information about the breed, see the GSDCV website: [www.gsdcv.org.au](http://www.gsdcv.org.au)
- ✚ For any questions, please speak to any of the Instructors or a Committee Member who are always happy to help
- ✚ Please feel free to raise any questions with your instructor during training. If you need to talk to someone about your dog during the week, either call your breeder or contact the Branch Manager or Chief Instructor
- ✚ We hope you and your dog enjoy your time at the Geelong Branch

*Most importantly, have fun as you and your dog learn together*

## Contact us:

- ✚ You can contact us, or any committee member or instructor at [geelong@gsdcv.org.au](mailto:geelong@gsdcv.org.au) or by message to our Facebook page
- ✚ Branch Manager, Paul Stynes: 0439 505 202
- ✚ Chief Instructor, Margi Raftopoulos 0481 844 342





# Geelong Dogs in Action!

