



GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF
VICTORIA
GEELONG BRANCH

MEMBER INFORMATION

My Shepherd, My Friend, My Responsibility

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 into 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:

- ✚ Training commences on a Sunday at 9.45am for warm up and a "meet and greet"
- ✚ If it's your first training day we recommend you arrive 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
- ✚ Formal classes run from 10:00am — 11:00 am
- ✚ 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 Show and the National Show.
- ✚ There are five classes in obedience: Puppy (8 weeks to 6 months) and Classes 1-5, which will be explained in more detail by your instructor

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



What to bring:

- ✚ A big handful of soft food treats cut in small pieces that are quickly and easily swallowed by your dog (e.g. sausage, cooked liver, cheese)
- ✚ A pouch that you can put the food in and quickly and easily reach it. These can be purchased from our Branch if required
- ✚ 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 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 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
- ✚ Please consult an instructor regarding the correct fitting of a check chain

Vaccination Certificates:

- ✚ Vaccination certificates will be required to be shown at your first training session
- ✚ All vaccination certificates must be sighted at least once a year. You will be advised when checks are to be made so you can bring your certificate along for our records to be updated
- ✚ Dogs without current vaccination certificates will not be permitted to train

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
- ✚ Ensure you always wear your member name badge



On arrival:

- ✚ Please arrive by **9:45am** and ensure that your name is marked off at the attendance table, pay your \$3.00 training fee and obtain your training stamp that will need to be sighted by your instructor once in class. 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. Prior to class we will all take part in a group walk around the ground to further settle them as well as teach them how to walk calmly with other dogs
- ✚ All members are to wear their name tags when at training. This assists your instructors and is also a Club insurance obligation. If you need a replacement, see our Membership Officer
- ✚ 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

Announcements:

- ✚ Weekly announcements are made following the short walk 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 both your dog and you. 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 only be very 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
- ✚ If you wish to join another dog or group of dogs before entering, ask their owners— 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

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 you by email and 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



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 the Membership Officer for a temporary card. Make sure that you have a badge on before you go to 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
- ✚ Pay your training fee (\$3) and have your hand stamped at the clubrooms prior to class. If your hand is not stamped, your Instructor will make a note and you will be required to make your payment before you can train
- ✚ Although your class only goes for one hour, 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 learnt 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**. It lists all upcoming events, member bulletins, committee members and more.



- ✚ Our Facebook page is another place to find information @GSDCV Geelong

- ✚ Branch Newsletter. A monthly branch newsletter is emailed to each member at the start of every month. To ensure you receive this please make sure your email address is included on your membership form. You can always let us know via our Branch email: **geelong@gsdcv.org.au**

- ✚ We have a member WhatsApp chat group, to join simply download the WhatsApp App onto your phone and email us your phone number at: **geelong@gsdcv.org.au** **OR** let Assistant Branch manager David McNerney know and he will link you in

- ✚ For information about the breed, see the GSDCV website: **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 Club

Most importantly, Have Fun, you and your dog should enjoy this time together and learn together...

Contact us:

- ✚ You can contact us, or any committee member or instructor at **geelong@gsdcv.org.au**

- ✚ Branch Manager, David Organ: 0438 657 381

- ✚ Chief Instructor, Veronica Filmer: 0417 541 553 after 6.00pm



Geelong Dogs in Action!