



fracas!

Fun and Reward Ashridge Canine Agility Society

New members' information

Welcome to Fracas, the club was established in 2003, and is now based in Ashley Green. We are a small and friendly dog agility group. We use positive methods and focus on helping you and your dog have fun working together.

We run classes from complete beginners through to competition level dogs and handlers.

The Club trains on a Saturday morning in winter (September - April approx) and Tuesday evening in summer. This allows members to compete at weekends if they wish to do so through the summer show season.

We run our classes in ten week blocks and payment is requested at the beginning of each block. At the start of a 'beginners' course' the first lesson will be part informal assessment and part lesson.

The informal assessment checks that your dog has basic training (come, sit, wait etc) and is suitable for agility training in a class environment.

Our training venue is Johns Lane Farm, Ashley Green, HP5 3PT

Winter Training - Saturdays (Members present from 8am to set up)

Class 1 8.45 am

Class 2 9.45am

Summer Training - Tuesdays (Members present from 6pm to set up)

Class 1 6.30pm

Class 2 7.30pm

We will let you know which class to attend.

If you are in the first class it is appreciated if you could arrive early to help set the kit up. When you arrive do not enter the milking yard if the gate is closed or there are dogs loose in the yard.

These dogs are Guard dogs and will do their job when required!!

The same applies to the main farmyard; this is to the left of the milking yard. However these gates should be open so you can park here when the field is too muddy.

Agility equipment can be heavy and unwieldy. New members will be shown how to load the equipment into the trailer and how to set it up once down in the field. Your help is always appreciated as the more people we have to set up the quicker it will be done.

Please don't try to park in the field when it's muddy your car will churn the ground up and you will get stuck!

If you are new to agility here is some information before you start classes at the club.

If possible please leave your dog in your car whilst helping to put the equipment up. We don't have enough space for everyone to tie their dogs up at the field.

However please remember dogs should not be left in closed cars if the weather is remotely warm or sunny. A cage or tailgate guard can be useful to allow you to leave your boot open for ventilation whilst your dog is restrained safely.

Dogs should not be fed within 3 hours of the start of your training class.

In order to motivate and encourage bring at least one or preferably both of the following:

- A variety of SOFT tasty treats that your dog particularly likes and save these only for agility training (hard biscuits are more likely to be choked on).
- Find a toy such as a ball on a rope, or 'tuggy' that your dog also particularly likes and save this for training as well (no squeaky toys as they are distracting for all the other dogs).

These are important to help motivate, encourage and reward your dog whilst training.

Your dog needs to wear a flat buckle or clip collar and plain lead whilst training. Check or Half check collars are not safe when doing agility. Neither are slip leads or extending leads. Your dog may wear a head collar or harness if necessary but these should be removed when the dog is using ANY equipment.

For your safety especially if it is damp or muddy suitable footwear is advised such as football boots. This is especially important during the winter as you are very likely to slip if your shoes do not have very substantial grip.

Please tick yourself off on the register, in order that we can keep track of attendance.

Coffee, tea and hot chocolate are available as complimentary refreshments along with squash. Biscuits are found in the red biscuit tin! Please help yourselves, cake may be available if there have been successes at shows!

Water is available next to the table if your dog would like a drink, please top it up if your dog empties the bowl (water carrier normally somewhere under the table).

Please be aware that your dog may find the refreshments table tempting!

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask, we are a very friendly bunch. You are very welcome to come early or stay late if you wish to watch any of the other more experienced handlers and dogs.

Committee

Angie - **Membership**

Angus - **Treasurer**

Anna

Carol

Colin

Chris - **Treasurer**

Kate

Nick

Rosemary

Sarah

Instructors

Nick

Sarah

Kate

Anna

Colin - works mainly 'behind the scenes'

Guest Instructor - Ann

You may see some dogs tied up during training these are normally Instructors' dogs so that they can be used for demonstration if necessary. Here's a quick introduction:

Molson - Basil Brush lookalike (Ann)

Rafe - Red & Tan Kelpie (Ann)

Khali - Red & Tan Kelpie puppy - socialisation only at the moment (Ann)

Fitz - Chocolate Labrador (Ann)

Bruce - Black & Tan Kelpie (Nick)

Parker - Black Terrier cross wire haired (Nick)

Harvey - Chocolate Labrador (Nick)

Jackson - Black Labrador (Sarah)

Isla - Border Terrier (Anna)

Poppy - Black & white pointer (Kate)

Buster - Black Terrier Cross smooth haired (Kate)

Casey - Black & white working sheepdog (Colin)