

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OBEDIENCE LIAISON COUNCIL
AND GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME HELD AT THE KENNEL CLUB
ON TUESDAY 29 JANUARY 2013**

PRESENT: Mrs S Garner
Mr P Lubbi
Mr M McCartney

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs V McAlpine Executive – Events & Education – Left at
Item 3.5
Ms H Lawrence Education Manager
Mr P Allen Education Coordinator
Mrs C Maguire Specialist - Working Dog Activities Team

IN THE CHAIR: Mrs S Garner

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. There were no apologies for absence received as all attendees were present.

ITEM 2. OBEDIENCE INTRODUCTORY CLASS

2. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the content of the new Obedience Introductory Class. It was explained that the aim of the class was to fulfil the gap in requirements between general dog training classes and Pre-Beginner Obedience classes where rewards, either food or toy, could be used in the ring. The class was introduced in January 2013 and it was accepted that it may have a low take-up by societies in the first part of the year.
3. Ms Lawrence advised that when Good Citizen Dog Scheme (GCDS) Pre-Beginner stakes was first introduced specific societies were targeted by the scheme with support to hold stakes to assist with take-up. The meeting was advised that at most shows now holding GCDS Pre-Beginner stakes participants generally only entered that class at the show. As the Introductory Class was suitable for those entering this class it was suggested that society's which already hold the GCDS Pre-Beginner stake could be encouraged to also hold the new class. It was agreed that this was a good way to increase the confidence of newcomers to the

discipline and increase participation. The idea would be put forward to the next Obedience Liaison Council meeting.

ITEM 3. INFORMATION PACK

4. The meeting was advised that the Obedience Liaison Council had begun the preparation of an information pack with the intent to distribute it to GCDS clubs to assist with encouraging participation in competitive Obedience. It was agreed that competitive Obedience needed to be 'rebranded' and re-launched to sell the discipline to a new audience.
5. The proposed content of the information pack was discussed. It was suggested that it would contain an example of a schedule, highlighting where different information can be found, and a completed entry form, to show how it should be completed by the competitor. A copy of the 'Why not try Obedience' fact sheet produced by the Kennel Club was also proposed to be included. The meeting considered the document and agreed that it was out of date and aimed at the wrong audience level. It was highlighted that explanations of some of the moves should be provided and that the use of an image of a Border Collie on the front of the document was misleading.
6. A copy of the 'Guide for New Obedience Competitors' created for the Obedience Liaison Council was presented to the meeting and it was agreed that this document was a good start but needed to be more in-depth. Ms Lawrence highlighted a book called 'Your First Agility Show' by Sally Rowe as a good example of a beginner's guide to a canine discipline. It was agreed that this book and the GCDS Guidelines could be used as an example for style and layout for an Obedience guide.
7. The Chair advised that a good plan would be for the 'rebrand' to be launched in 2014. It was agreed that when finalised, the information packs would be sent out to GCDS clubs for them to pass on to those who achieve their Gold Award. It was highlighted that other avenues such as training instructors and veterinary practices could also be targeted.

ITEM 4. COMPETITIVE OBEDIENCE CLUB MATCHES

7. It was agreed that in light of the other discussions at the meeting there was no need to consider this issue at this time.

ITEM 5. GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME ASSESSORS / INSTRUCTORS

8. The meeting discussed the issue of advertising competitive Obedience to

GCDS assessors and instructors. It was agreed that progression from GCDS into competitive Obedience could be discussed during their training to work with them to encourage others into the discipline; however assessors might not be the most appropriate audience. It was highlighted that information sessions at clubs, including demonstrations of moves and how to train to achieve them, have proved a useful tool in advertising GCDS. It was discussed that Obedience Liaison Council Area Representatives could organise events at clubs in their area to promote competitive Obedience in this manner and push forward the take-up of the discipline in their area.

9. It was discussed that in areas of the country where it can be difficult to hold informational events other arenas such as agricultural shows could be used to get the message across to a wider audience.
10. Ms Lawrence suggested that as well as targeting GCDS instructors those who had shown interest in the Kennel Club Accredited Instructors scheme modules for Obedience and GCDS could be approached. It was agreed that these ideas would be put forward to the next Obedience Liaison Council meeting.

ITEM 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. Ms Lawrence advised that it would be useful if judges briefing sheets could be introduced to all Obedience classes. Many competitors, especially new ones, would benefit from this as it provides reassurance on what the judge will allow them to do during the class. The meeting was advised that it is normal to have this in Class C and that many judges also often provide this for lower classes. It was suggested that a briefing for competitors could be undertaken before the start of judging at all shows with the time of it advertised on the running order to ensure all competitors were aware. It was agreed that this idea would be put forward to the next Obedience Liaison Council meeting.
12. The meeting was advised that GCDS assessors all undertake a confirmation and movement seminar to assist with their understanding of different breeds. It was suggested that this could be encouraged for Obedience judges to assist with the progression of different breeds within the discipline and assist with the perception that only certain breeds can progress through the classes. It was agreed that this idea would be put forward to the next Obedience Liaison Council meeting and if agreed progressed to the Judges Working Party.
13. It was suggested to the meeting that Obedience judges and competitors could be encouraged to attend the Kennel Club's annual Sports Science

seminar. The subjects discussed at the seminars are aimed at all activity disciplines and in the past have included subjects such as 'Pain and Arthritis in the Working Dog' and 'Assessing and Training for Fitness'. It was agreed that this idea would be put forward to the next Obedience Liaison Council meeting.

ITEM 7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14. It was agreed that a meeting would be held after further work was completed on the re-branding of competitive Obedience.
15. The meeting closed at 12.20pm.