



ABC Class Etiquette Guide

AWARENESS

- *Observe your dog as it enters the hall.*
- *Look at the body language your dog displays. Watch ears, head and tail position.*
- *Observe periodically, other dogs around you. What is their body language telling you?*
- *Energy level ~ is your dog excited, anxious, quiet etc?*
- *What energy are the dogs around you displaying? Overly excited and/or anxious dogs can be unsettling to some dogs.*
- *Dogs watching 'eyeballing' dogs ~ this type of behaviour can be taken as a direct challenge from a dog. Do not allow 'eyeballing'. Turn dogs away from each other if this occurs.*

BEHAVIOUR

- *Playtime ~ 'Playtime' sessions are actively encouraged in the **Puppy Class** as part of their socialisation and development*
- ***Intermediate & advanced classes**...handlers please encourage your dogs to sit or lie calmly whilst you are waiting to work your dog.*
- ***Food** ~ most if not all handlers usually have a pocket full of food. Dogs understandably can be protective of 'their' treats so please be careful when treating your dog very close to another.*
- ***Distracting** ~ To avoid unwanted behaviour escalating always be prepared to distract your dog e.g. if you hear your dog give a warning grumble, or your dog is 'eyeballing' or dominant behaviour is displayed towards another dog (or even handler). **Do not** use treats as a distraction for these behaviours as you will be rewarding the dog!*
- ***Discipline** ~ Please be sure to discipline your dog immediately and effectively for unacceptable behaviour. This does not mean 'cruelty'.*

COURTESY

- ***Noise** ~Instructors would respectfully request that members please keep noise levels to a minimum whilst waiting to work.*
- ***Waiting** ~ Where possible would members please use the seats provided in class, whilst waiting to work. Whilst seated please ensure that dogs are kept on a shorter lead length and close to handler.*
- ***Space** ~ please allow clear access onto the floor in which handlers and dogs can pass with minimal disruption to others.*

This 'ABC Class Etiquette Guide' is intended to help to continue to improve and provide pleasant and enjoyable experience for both handlers and dogs, in all classes here at BAGSD Reigate Branch. It is hoped that members will welcome the guide and work to put into practice its content. Thank you.