



# BAGSD Reigate Branch

British Association for German Shepherd Dogs

## Introduction for New Members

Welcome to BAGSD Reigate Branch. The Association exists to assist owners of the breed to become more knowledgeable and responsible, therefore better able to develop the potential of their dog. This will ensure that the ownership gives them more pleasure and helps to enhance the reputation of the breed.

Membership of the Association ensures you are kept up to date and informed of changes affecting the breed. The annual fee per handler working a dog is £18.00 per person. Further information concerning membership can be obtained from Sandra Cobbold 0780 141 8588.



The Branch makes a charge of £50.00 for 10 weeks. This is to pay for the hire of the Bowls Club and any incidental expenses. Training is given by volunteers who have passed the BAGSD Instructor's Course. If you consider that your dog is not ready to take part in the training class, you are welcome to bring it along so that you may observe the training sessions. Your dog will benefit from the social interaction with other dogs.

### About us and our training methods - reward based

Our instructors, who are qualified and experienced, will be available to advise you on any problems with which you may need help. They will show you the correct use of equipment and introduce you to basic commands before you commence training classes. It is important that you know none of our Instructors are paid, we do this on a purely voluntary basis for the good of the Breed.

We take part in the Kennel Club Good Citizen Scheme which encourages responsible dog ownership. We start with the Puppy Foundation Assessment Course which is normally completed in 11 weeks; this then sets the foundation for the Kennel Club Good Citizen Scheme. The scheme has three awards, Bronze and Silver which are achievable by any pet owner, and the Gold which incorporates a slightly harder test. The scheme is straight forward and non-competitive and on completion of each of the tests, participants will be awarded a Certificate to mark their achievement, a rosette is also given on completion of the Puppy Award.

We hold Fun Events for all of our members through the year. In the summer we hold a BBQ with games for dogs and handlers and an agility course. And at Christmas we have a Dog Christmas Party with party games for dogs and handlers, which is thoroughly enjoyed by all the dogs followed by a food event for the humans.

### Contact Details

Sandra Cobbold – Treasurer – 0780 141 8588

### Committee and Instructors

Sandra Cobbold – 07801 418588 – Treasurer and Instructor

Phil Williams – 07973 406220 – Secretary and Instructor

Rachel Chapman - Instructor

Simon Cornwell – Instructor

Yvette Theobald – Instructor

Derek Theobald - Committee

Chris Wicks - Committee

Shaun Hiller - Committee



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## Training Tips

- Be **consistent**, be **patient**, and give lots of praise when your dog gets it right.
- When giving a command, give it clearly but only once and help your dog to carry out the command. The dog will learn through repetition.
- When your dog has carried out your instruction to your satisfaction, ensure you reward your dog. Rewards can be a verbal praise or a food or a toy ensuring your dog enjoys their training.
- When teaching an exercise, don't chastise the dog for getting it wrong, he may have misunderstood. Always praise the right response. If necessary, break the exercise down to smaller components.
- Don't shout, your dog is not deaf!
- Always make training short and enjoyable; a 5 to 10 min session each day is better than ½ hour once a week, and always end on a good positive note.
- Other useful practices include teaching your dog to sit whilst it waits for its food. Give the food only when it has complied with your instruction.
- When exercising on the lead, do not allow your dog to push through doors or gates. Command it to sit or wait, then open the door or gate but insist that it passes through in a controlled manner. Whenever you cross a road make your dog sit or stand at the kerb and wait until you give the command to proceed.

We recommend a suitable length lead and either a flat or ½ check collar. Our training is motivational and reward based, so please bring treats/toys, and a retrieve article and a scent article.

These small but important practices will help your dog to associate training with pleasure. Experience has shown that a dog that enjoys its training learns quickly and has fewer problems than those which find training boring.

Finally, please remember that you have chosen not only the most attractive breed but also one of the most intelligent and powerful of breeds. Because of this, it is essential that ongoing training forms a part of the daily routine. Training should be fun for both you and your dog and will help you bond with your dog and stop boredom setting in.

## Rules

- We ask that all dogs are properly walked and 'emptied' before attending classes. Any 'accidents', either in the Bowling Club or in the car park, must be cleared up by the owner. If your dog does have an accident in the Bowls Club, please don't worry, allow it to do so. Please ensure you always have a poo bag.
- Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times, except when doing 'off lead' exercises with an instructor.
- Please do not bring your bitch to classes if she is in 'season'.
- If you are late for a class, try to join quietly and with the minimum of fuss.
- Fees are paid to the club Treasurer in advance.
- Whilst in a class we ask that you to listen to the Instructor at all times.
- We invite all handlers to speak to any of our instructors to discuss individual concerns and any problems. Please feel free to stay and observe other classes.
- When a class is in progress, please keep dogs under control on a lead to avoid disturbing the class. Please do not allow your dog to bark excessively in the Bowls Club or car park.
- As a responsible dog owner, you will know how important it is for dogs to be regularly wormed and vaccinated. Please bring your vaccination certificate.



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## Basic Syllabus for Classes – Saturday afternoons

### Puppy & Beginners Class

*Aimed at puppies, new handlers and re homed dogs. You will learn how to teach your dog to respond to basic commands, and socialise your dog.*

- Heel on lead
- Sit
- Down
- Stand
- Introduction to Sit and Down stays
- Watch / Look
- Come when called
- Introduction to retrieve
- Socialisation with other dogs and people
- Kennel Club Puppy Foundation Assessment
- Bronze Kennel Club Good Citizen Scheme

### Intermediate Class

*This class is aimed at handlers who wish to consolidate on the basic commands and train their dogs to a higher level and the KC Silver Award. Exercises will include:*

- Recall
- Retrieve
- Walking to heel off lead
- Return to heel
- Stand
- Sit Stay for 1 minute
- Down Stay for 2 Minutes
- Introduction to Out of sight Stays
- Introduction to Scent
- Introduction to Sendaway
- Continuation of socialisation and temperament exercises
- Silver Kennel Club Good Citizen Scheme



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## Advanced Class

*Our aim for this class is for the handler to teach their dogs more advanced exercises and for those that have progressed through the KC Bronze and Silver Award to train for the next stage in the Kennel Club Awards, which is the KC Gold Award. In this Section we concentrate on the higher-level obedience for both those members that want a good well trained family dog but also for our Members who would like to go into competitive dog shows. We train in small groups, but with enough to enable the dogs to become well socialised.*

- Advanced Heelwork
- 'A' Recall
- Distant Control
- Out of sight Stays
- Sendaway
- Scent
- Retrieve any article
- Gold Kennel Club Good Citizen Scheme

**Please note we are currently running the Intermediate & Advanced classes at the same time.**



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To help us with your training please complete this form, it will help us if we know some details about yourself and your dog. Also, if you could give as many contact details as possible this will enable us to keep in touch with you, and update you on any news.

Information on the following 7 lines to be completed by a Committee member at BAGSD Reigate

Vaccination Certificate - Checked: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Microchip - Checked: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet ID Tag - Checked: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet Tag required: N/A - Yes (delete as applicable) Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

HO – On-Line Membership: (how many) = \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reigate Membership Form: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reigate Membership Fee: Bank Transfer / Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**To be completed by New Members:**

**Owner's Name/s (include all Members names) :-** .....

**Address: -** ..... **Post Code: -** .....

**Mobile Tel. No/No.s: - 1:** ..... **2:** .....

**Home Tel. No: -** ..... **Vets Tele No:** .....

**E-mail address/s: -** .....

**Name of Dog/s: -** ..... **Age of Dog/s: -** .....

**What age was your dog when you obtained it? .....** **Is it a rescue/re-homed? .....**

**Have you owned a dog/s before? .....** **What breed? .....**

**How many people in your household? – Adults: -** ..... **Children: -** .....

**Do you currently own more than one dog? .....**

**Have you / your dog attended Dog Training classes or undergone any previous training before? If so which Clubs/Classes/Course/Home training?**

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**Is your dog left alone during the day? .....** **If so, for how long? .....**  
**Any specific areas of concern or problems?**

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**How did you hear about us.....**

**Signature: -** ..... **Date: -** .....