

## Introduction for New Members

# British Association for German Shepherd Dogs Reigate & District Branch

Welcome to the Reigate Branch of the B.A.G.S.D. 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 enables one to attend any branch, ensures you are kept up to date and informed of changes affecting the breed. The fee for membership is single membership £18 and joint membership £22. Further information concerning membership can be obtained from Sandra Cobbold 0780 141 8588.



The Branch makes a charge of £40.00 for 10 weeks. This is to pay for the hire of the hall and any incidental expenses. We provide tea/coffee and biscuits which is included in the floor fee. Training is given by volunteers who have passed the BAGSD Instructor's Course. If it is considered that your dog is not ready to take part in the training class, please 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, also they will show you the correct use of equipment and introduce you to very 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 straightforward 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.

At Christmas we have a Doggy Christmas Party which is thoroughly enjoyed by all the dogs – no matter what their ability.

### **Contact Details**

Sandra Cobbold – Treasurer – 0780 141 8588

### **Committee and/or Instructors**

TBC - Secretary - TBC

Sandra Cobbold – 07801 418588 – Treasurer & Instructor

Judith Gardner - 01372 452873 – Committee Member & Instructor

Rachel Chapman – 07876 595244 - Committee Member & Trainee Instructor

Phil Williams – 01737 248936 - Committee Member & Trainee Instructor

Zina Farley – Committee Member

## **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, see that this is rewarded. Rewards may be given verbally by using the dog's name with praise or by petting, stroking, giving a treat or a toy for play.
- When teaching an exercise, don't chastise the dog for getting it wrong, he may have misunderstood. Only 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 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 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**

1. We ask that all dogs are properly walked and 'emptied' before attending classes. Any 'accidents', either inside the hall or in the car park or garden, must be cleared up by the owner. If your dog does have an accident in the hall, please don't worry, allow it to do so. One small pile or one puddle is a lot easier to clear up than a long line leading to the back door! Please ensure you always have a poo bag.
2. All dogs must be kept on the lead at all times including Tea/Coffee break unless the owners are otherwise directed by an Instructor.
3. If you are late for a class try to join quietly and with the minimum of fuss.
4. Fees are paid to the club Treasurer in advance.
5. Whilst on the floor in a class we ask that you to listen to the Instructor at all times.
6. 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.
7. When a class is in progress please keep dogs under control to avoid disturbing the class. Please do not allow your dog to bark excessively in the hall foyer or the car park.
8. 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.

# British Association for German Shepherd Dogs- Reigate Branch

## Basic Syllabus for Classes

### **Puppy & Beginners Class: 7.00 – 7.45pm**

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

- Heel on a loose lead
- Sit
- Down
- Stand
- Stay (sit or down)
- Watch
- 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: 7.45 – 8.45pm**

*This class is aimed at handlers who wish to improve, consolidate on the basic commands and train their dogs to enter for the KC Bronze and Silver tests. Exercises will include:*

- Recall
- Retrieve
- Walking to heel off lead
- Return to heel
- Stand
- Sit and Stay for 1 minute
- Down and Stay for 2 Minutes
- Out of sight stays
- Introduction to scent
- Introduction to sendaway
- Continuation of socialisation and temperament exercises
- □Bronze & Silver Kennel Club Good Citizen Scheme

### **Advanced Class: 8.45 – 9.45pm**

*This class is aimed at handlers with dogs that have passed the KC Bronze and Silver awards and want to train for the KC Gold test. We do have some owners who like to compete in obedience competitions with their dogs and this class will also give them the opportunity to try and sort out any problems they might have and to practice in a group situation. We can and do give any beginners in the sport as much help and advice as we can. Progression of previous exercises including*

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

# British Association for German Shepherd Dogs

## Reigate Branch

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.

Vaccination Certificate: Checked: Date:  
Microchip: Checked: Date:  
Completed HO Form: Date:  
Paid Membership Fee: Credit Card/ Cheque / Cash Amount: Date:  
Completed Reigate Form: Date:  
Paid Membership Fee: Cheque / Cash Amount: Date:

Owner's Name/s: - .....  
Address: - .....

Home Tel No: - ..... Work Tel. No: - .....

Mobile Tel. No: - .....

Home E-mail address: - .....

Work E-mail address (only if acceptable to contact you):- .....

Name of Dog: - ..... Age of Dog: - .....

What age was your dog when you obtained it? :- ..... Is it a rescue? - .....

Have you owned a dog before?- ..... What breed?- .....

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

Do you currently own more than one dog?:- .....

Have you attended Dog Training classes before? If so which Clubs/Classes:-  
.....

Has your dog undergone any previous training? If so, what:-  
.....

Is your dog left alone during the day?: ..... If so, for how long?: .....

Any specific areas of concern or problems:-  
.....

How did you hear about us?:- .....

Are you willing to help out at shows (e.g. BAGSD Southern Open Obedience show – second weekend in September each year) details can be obtained from Sandra Cobbold: .....

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