



Accredited Obedience Instructors Assessment Scheme

Introduction

The first thing an instructor must remember is that they are the face of the club and that his or her attitude has a great bearing on the success of the club.

Handlers expect their instructor to be an expert! Therefore, instructors must not only know how to train a dog, they must also develop the ability to teach others how to train. In order to do this they must gain as much background knowledge as possible of dogs and their behaviour. Achieving a good understanding of such subjects as animal behaviour, the character of the different breeds and the psychology of training can do this. Most of this you will learn as you gain confidence and it is definitely advisable to read as much as possible to further your knowledge.

Teaching is an art in itself. Regardless of how much knowledge you have, it is no help to anyone else unless you can impart it. To be able to do so, you have to be very clear in your own mind what that message is. Whatever is in your mind will be conveyed to the class.

Your voice is your main instrument, so make your words clear. When working your class in a circle it is harder to make yourself heard outside of it than inside of it, but you must make sure that all the class can hear you. **SPEAK SLOWLY AND CLEARLY.**

Your own attitude towards teaching is the main thing in imparting the knowledge to the class. You must go into the class full of confidence and enthusiasm, showing that you know your job.

Always remember, we are training people to train their dogs!

Some of the good qualities an instructor should have or endeavour to gain are:-

1. Patience, understanding, consideration and tolerance.
2. Firmness, tactfulness, gentleness and sympathy.
3. The ability to encourage, instill confidence and earn the respect of the handlers.
4. To praise handlers where due, and have the ability to relax and also convey relaxation methods to the handlers.
5. The ability to organize activities and keep handlers interested and active, (this should be part of his/her training pattern).
6. A watchful eye and quick reflexes, e.g. in the case of a dog fight.
7. A good voice, and the ability, to speak slowly and distinctly.
8. The ability to cope with varying numbers of dogs and handlers.
9. Basic knowledge of the ANKC obedience rule book.
10. Knowledge and competency in applying a variety of training techniques.
11. The ability to help where difficulties arise and to be willing to give further time, if necessary, after the conclusion of the class.
12. A sense of humor and a willingness to admit he or she does not know the answer to a question but is willing to find out.

There are two levels of certification:-

- 1) Dogs Victoria Instructor Certificate; and
- 2) Dogs Victoria Master Instructor Certificate.

Nomination for these certificates can be made by a club or by the individual applying to be tested.

Entry at the Master level is acceptable providing all criteria for both levels have been met.

Prerequisites

Dogs Victoria Instructor Certificate

- Been a member of Dogs Victoria for a minimum of two (2) continuous years; and
- Provide proof of current competence as an instructor to trial entry level.

The aim of this level is to have instructors able to teach both dog and handler from beginners through to initial trialing i.e. CCD / Novice.

Dogs Victoria Master Instructor Certificate

- Have attained a Dogs Victoria Instructor Certificate and/or met the prerequisites of both certificate levels.
- Been a member of Dogs Victoria for a minimum of five (5) continuous years; and
- Have trained and handled a dog to a minimum of Open trial standard.

The aim of this level is to have instructors able to teach both dog and handler advanced training levels of Open, Utility and Utility Dog Excellent exercises.

Assessors will be appointed by the Dogs Victoria Obedience Tracking and Endurance Committee and will be accredited Dogs Victoria Instructors.

Dogs Victoria Instructor Certificate Assessment

The initial assessment will be written or oral, (candidate choice)

It will include;

- An explanation of how the candidate would introduce themselves to the class.
- Identifying canine behaviour including dog body postures i.e. aggression, fear etc.
- The steps you would take to teach a beginners class.
- What exercises would you go through when instructing a beginner's class on the first day?
- Questions on how to teach the sit, stand, drop, stay and recall.

The second assessment will be a practical one.

The applicant must demonstrate practical knowledge of and the ability to:-

- run a class, including communication skills
- identify dog behaviour and understand how dogs learn
- identify dog-aggressive behaviour
- teach obedience exercises from beginners to trial entry level.
- use a variety of training methods; and
- solve day-to-day problems for the members of the class

The candidate should also be able to explain the benefits of being a member of Dogs Victoria.

The candidate will instruct a minimum of seven dogs and handlers and a maximum of ten dogs and handlers.

The candidate will also be asked to teach and have the class members competent in the skills to be able to undertake the training of their dog in the first two of the tasks listed below plus two others determined by the assessment panel on the day. The candidate must

- Ensure collars are fitted correctly
- Gain the dog's attention
- Walk on a loose lead
- Come when called
- Sit
- Stand
- Drop
- Stay

Dogs Victoria Master Instructor Certificate Assessment

**At the Master Level a practical assessment only is required if a Dogs Victoria Instructor Certificate has already been gained.
If a DV Instructors Certificate has not been gained then the candidate would undertake the same written/oral assessment as the initial level.**

The practical assessment.

The applicant must demonstrate practical knowledge of and the ability to:-

- Provide instruction in advanced obedience exercises
- The Candidate will instruct a maximum of three handlers/dogs

The candidate will also be asked to teach and have the class members competent in the skills to be able to undertake the training of their dog in the first two of the tasks listed below plus two others determined by the assessment panel on the day. The candidate must

- Ensure collars are fitted correctly.
- Gain dog's attention
- Retrieve Dumbbell on the Flat
- Seek Back
- Scent Discrimination
- Drop on Recall
- Multiple Retrieve

General

Written/oral assessments and practical assessments will be conducted separately.

Practical assessments may be undertaken at various venues as decided by Dogs Victoria.

Results of both the written/oral and practical assessments will be sent to the candidate as soon as possible following the completion of the assessment. Results may be sent by post or email.