

## Kern County T.O.P. Dog Club

# STANDING RULES

- The purpose of Tracking, Obedience and Protection meets shall be to advance our dog's knowledge and to practice with them in pursuit of Schutzhund titles.
- Members will - through their conduct and contact with the public - attempt to provide the best possible public image of the Kern County T.O.P. Dog Club, its activities and members, as well as their own and other member's dogs and breeds of dogs, and the sport of Schutzhund as a whole.
- All handlers must sign a waiver before working dogs.
- Safety is our FIRST CONCERN! Handlers must assure the safety of the decoy, persons and other dogs, by handling their dogs in a responsible, precautionary and alert manner, and by routinely double-checking equipment used for training.
- Handlers must have proper training equipment, adequate for their breed and size of dog. The training director and/or the Club decoys have the right to refuse to work with a member's dog, if improper or unsafe equipment is used.
- All club owned equipment is to be used with extreme care, to insure it's longest possible usability. The same applies to personal equipment of members who allow its use to others.
- Handlers must have a current Rabies and Parvo Vaccination for their dog before being allowed to work on the training field.
- Non-members are not allowed to train their dogs or bring dogs onto the training field except by special invitation of the training director.
- Members who do not participate in setting up and maintaining the training field will not be allowed to work their dogs.
- Members who routinely abstain from participating in the obedience session, or routinely arrive at the training field too late to participate in obedience, may be asked to refrain from protection work at the discretion of the training director, until they show the membership that their dog is receiving adequate training in ALL phases of Schutzhund work.
- Only authorized decoys may work puppies or dogs during a KCTOPDC session or on the training field before, after a session, or at any other time.
- Decoys are approved and authorized by the training director. New persons to be trained as decoys must first be approved by the training director.
- All decoys MUST wear protective equipment, unless otherwise specified by the training director.
- The training director is in charge of all training decisions. However, handlers have the final say on the training methods used with their own dogs.
- There will absolutely not be ANY civil agitation allowed.

- There will be no firearms allowed on the field other than the club starter pistol.
- Handlers may only have one of their dogs on the field at any one time.
- Members will close all training field gates immediately after entering/exiting, in order to provide the safest possible environment for any dogs working on - OR off - leash on the field.
- There will be no loose and/or out of control dogs tolerated on the training field or in the parking lot, other than - of course - during specific training exercises.
- Only 2 dogs per handler/member can be worked in an evening.
- NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES are allowed on the training field or in the spectator's area until all training has been completed and until all dogs have been safely crated.
- NO ONE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL IS ALLOWED TO HANDLE A DOG ON THE TRAINING FIELD!
- No dog-to-dog aggression shall be permitted on the training field, but shall be strongly discouraged and corrected. This club sternly opposes dogfights.
- All trash must be disposed of properly. Dog droppings must be picked up by the owner of the dog, and properly disposed of.
- No cigarette butts on the training field! If you smoke, bring an ashtray.
- **This club will NOT tolerate any loud arguing, fighting or overtly rude behavior towards members, the general public or park/city officials during training sessions or events. Constructive criticism and discussions are encouraged at all times. If you cannot control your anger or emotions, you have no place in our club or in dog training in general! Failure to observe this rule will result in immediate suspension from the club for a period of 30 days, during which a meeting will be held to determine if the member(s) involved will face expulsion from the club.**
- **This club will not tolerate any inappropriate and/or abusive treatment of dogs at any club function. The Training Director, or his/her appointed substitute, is to make the determination of whether the interaction is inappropriate and/or abusive. The first offense will result in a verbal warning from the Training Director. Subsequent incidents may result in suspension from the club.**

Anyone found in violation of the above rules may face suspension or expulsion from the club pursuant to the constitution and by-laws. I have read and understand the above standing club rules. I agree to abide by them as part of my membership commitment to the Kern County T.O.P. Dog Club.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_