



## Grafton Dog Obedience Club Inc.

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### **YOUR PERFECT DOG IS A WORK IN PROGRESS**

So you've done your homework and worked out what breed of dog will suit your family and your lifestyle. So now you can just sit back and enjoy your perfect dog, right? Wrong! Choosing an appropriate dog for your needs is just the start.

Now you have the task of carefully training and managing your dog so that your dog is easy to live with and understands her place in your household. Your new dog is in effect a work in progress. In fact, your dog will always be a work in progress to some degree as throughout your dog's lifetime you may find the need to do additional training, or modify previous training to adapt to changing circumstances.

I'm told that many owners who surrender their dogs to pounds and shelters first start thinking of getting rid of their dog when their puppy is only a few months old. At this stage the puppy is past its initial cute stage and is starting to become unmanageable. Apparently guilt prevents many owners from surrendering their dogs at this point, but by the time the puppy is about 12 months old it is well and truly out of control, is resented or sometimes even now disliked by its former loving owner and finally gets surrendered.

Why does this happen? It happens for a couple of reasons. Either the owner realizes that they have chosen a totally inappropriate dog (poor initial choice of breed) or they fail to train their dog to fit in with their family. Either way, it should never happen. Even if you have made a poor choice of breed, or your dog is out of control, it is never too late and the situation can usually be saved by appropriate training and management.

However, it is easier to start training as soon as your puppy or dog arrives home. Very young puppies will benefit from puppy pre-school, while puppies that have had their permanent needles can join in our club's training classes.

If your dog came to live with you as an older dog, maybe even as a rescue dog, training will help your dog understand her place in her new family.

One of the great pleasures our dog training club's Instructors get (we are all volunteers) is to see new members arrive with an out of control or problem dog and watch dog and handler develop a great relationship as their training progresses over the following months.

Would you like help with training your puppy or dog? Is your perfect puppy turning out to be the puppy from hell? Is your adult dog relegated to the back yard because they are unmanageable? If so, please come along to Grafton Dog Obedience Club's training classes at Grafton Showground at 3.30 pm on Sundays. We take new members on the first Sunday of each month but of course you are welcome to come along and watch at any time.

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