

Big Sky Working Dog Club

Visitor's Agreement

Big Sky Working Dogs welcomes you to participate in our training in support of the sport of IPO/Schutzhund. As such, we base our training on teaching our dogs to be willing partners in tracking, obedience and protection. Our members primarily have German Shepherd Dogs and Belgian Malinois, but we appreciate a good working dog regardless of the breed. As stated on our website, if your dog is mentally and physically sound, has a confident and stable temperament, loves to retrieve and play tug, is not dog aggressive and you think you might be interested in learning about the sport of IPO, you're welcome work with us and then decide if you wish to join the club.

What we are not: (1) Our club sessions are not training classes. We are here to work our own dogs and obtain input from other club members. You should watch, ask questions, and then be prepared to train on a regular basis on your own. We will help you but we will not train your dog. If you want more instruction and wish to progress more rapidly, we strongly encourage you to take classes especially if you do not have a background in classical and operant conditioning. (2) We do not do personal protection training. IPO is not about personal protection and a successful dog/handler team must be proficient in obedience, tracking and protection.

Expectations: Please keep your dog on leash and under control and ask if you should bring it onto the training field or into the building if we are training indoors. Do not let your dog socialize with other dogs unless specifically told by the other handler that it is acceptable (this is rare – we are here to bond with our dogs, not let them bond with others). Be courteous of dogs and handlers who are working. Feel free to ask questions and talk with a club member about what someone is doing with their dog while they are training. And we expect you to enjoy yourself and learn!

Visitors will be charged \$10 per session plus any fees associated with use of the facilities. You will be expected to participate in all three phases of training if you plan to be part of the club. After three sessions as a visitor, we will evaluate your dog and inform you if s/he thinks your dog is or is not suited to the sport of IPO. Some dogs are not suitable for protection work, and if this is the case, you will be expected to train in obedience and tracking if you wish to apply for membership. Note that the requirement to track is waived for October through April.

Please read, understand and sign the following:

1. I understand that my participation in this club is at my own discretion and own risk.
2. I will not hold this club, its officers, members, sponsors, land owners and other participants responsible for damage that may occur to my person or property as a result of the activities of this club.
3. I understand that the training of my dog is primarily for the purpose of the sport of IPO/Schutzhund. I am aware that Big Sky Working Dog events include training and trials of various breeds of dogs. I am familiar with such training. I am aware that injury and damage, while rare, can occur in such club events. Knowing the risks, I hereby agree to assume those risks and to release and hold harmless all of the persons or entities mentioned above.
4. I understand it is my responsibility to provide ample home insurance to cover the possible actions of my dog.
5. I understand that I am fully responsible for the actions of my dog and I agree to keep my dog properly restrained and under reasonable control during training sessions.
6. I agree to treat my dogs in a humane manner.
7. I am familiar with and agree to accept and abide by the rules and bylaws of the Big Sky Working Dogs and the United Schutzhund Clubs of America.

name

date

email

dog's name