



COME INTO MY OFFICE OR LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE TULSA SCHUTZHUND CLUB

By Gail Brown

After signing a waiver, you may come out three (3) times with your dog as a guest of the club. These three (3) times should be during weekend sessions.

After three (3) times, you shall be expected to make application for membership in the club. Submit the forms and the probationary fee of \$50 to the Treasurer. This entitles you to join in all club activities, except voting, for the next three (3) months. During this time you will be expected to train your dog or participate in all three (3) areas of training: tracking, obedience, and protection. You should make every effort to attend one weekend session and the Tuesday night protection session.

During the probationary membership, you will have the opportunity to get to know the club members, and get a better understanding of the club's attitude towards training and competition. This time period will help you to decide if you want to move forward in becoming a full member at the end of your probationary period.

During this period, your participation in club training sessions and other activities, your attitude towards the club, its goals, and its members, and your attitude towards the training itself is observed. These observations will play a part in the decision making process, should you decide to apply for full member at the end of your probationary period.

If during your probationary period you decide, for whatever reason, that you do not wish to apply for full membership, you may withdraw your application with no future penalties.

Should you decide to move forward with your membership, your application will come up for vote at the first general membership meeting after your probationary period is up. If you are approved as a full member, you will be required to pay the first year membership dues of \$30 and pro-rated for balance of the year. Working fees for individuals with one dog are \$60 per year and two or more dogs are \$100.

If your application is rejected, you will receive a letter stating such and your training privileges will be withdrawn. You may reapply for membership after a six (6) month waiting period. If you were already a member of another recognized schutzhund club, your training privileges will revert immediately to guest status.

QUESTION & ANSWERS

How long does it usually take to train a dog to a Schutzhund I title?

Starting with a six (6) month old puppy that has the natural ability for the work, you can figure on at least one (1) to two (2) years consistent work. Dogs who do not have a lot of natural drive to do the work may take much longer. Some dogs take longer to mature and may require up to three (3) years to develop the necessary drives to do the work.

How long will it take to see if my dog is able to do the work?

Dogs with strong natural drives that do the work will usually show it within a few weeks. Very young puppies, adolescent puppies, older dogs who had a lot of obedience, and dogs with lower natural drives will usually show gradual improvement over the three (3) month probationary period.

At what point should I call it quits with this dog?

If the dog shows no improvement over the three (3) month period or if the dog shows the type of temperament that cannot safely handle the training. If the dog shows very little improvement, but you decide to go on with it, accept the fact that you will need to have a great deal of patience and still might be disappointed in the long run.

Must I have a crate for my dog?

Dogs must be confined to a crate or a secure vehicle, unless they are being held on leash or being worked. Dogs left loose in the car often get destructive while watching other dogs in protection work. During the summer months, confining a dog to a car is not feasible. Dogs should not be tied out.

What about training more than one dog at a time?

Each person pays a yearly working fee of \$60 for the first dog. The same person may work a second dog for an additional \$40 per year.

Can a bitch in season be brought out for training?

Yes, but let the training director know. While a bitch is in season, she should be kept off the training field as much as possible and she should be worked after the other dogs in protection. She should be worked lighter and with less stress.

Must I stay for the entire training session or can I leave after working my dog?

On weekend session, you should meet to run a short track, participate in obedience, and stay through one protection practice with your dog. A second short protection practice later in the session is advisable. Normally this runs from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 am.

On Tuesday nights, it is not necessary to stay past the protection practice for your own dog, but the club members do meet for coffee, etc. after the training session for discussion; everyone is welcome.

What if weekend sessions cannot be attended on a regular basis?

Training, protection work in particular, will progress at a much slower rate. More of the obedience and tracking work will have to be done on your own without the assistance of other club members. Tuesday night sessions hinge on attendance of the weekend sessions; the training director for continual absences may revoke Tuesday night training privileges at weekend sessions.

What about husband, wife and family memberships?

A family (husband, wife, and eligible children) may join TSC for the \$30 membership fee for the first year and a pro-rated \$100 working fee. If after their probationary period, both decide to join DVG, they will join as individual members. If one decides not to join DVG, he or she will be dropped from the TSC roster.

Can I join DVG at any time?

Yes, but it is necessary to join DVG within six months of your accepted membership in TSC.

What I get behind in payments of club dues or quarterly working fees?

You must be a member in good standing to be able to vote; meaning you must not have any outstanding club dues. If you are not current when your renewals comes up, you will be dropped.

What about training at other schutzhund clubs?

For new trainers, training protection work on a regular basis with other clubs is discouraged. New trainers generally do not have the knowledge to know what type of work their dogs require and the decoys at other clubs do not know what type of training is currently being done with the dog at TSC and as a result, may actually set your dog back in its training.

For experienced trainers, occasional training with other clubs can be advantageous, as long as, the handler is knowledgeable enough to be able to actively assist in the training of their dog with the club's decoys.

Can I belong to other schutzhund clubs or other dog clubs or classes?

Yes, although belonging to and being active in a schutzhund club takes a lot of time.... make sure you have the time to do justice to all the clubs you belong to.

How about bringing children or guests to training sessions?

Children and guests are welcome. Children must be under control, kept off the training field, and should be strongly discouraged from approaching strange dogs while at the sessions. Children should not be left in control of any dog.

Gail Brown is a founding member of the Tulsa Schutzhund Club. Gail has titled numerous dogs in schutzhund, AKC obedience, and UKC obedience.