

## **POLICY: CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DOGS AND HUMANS**

### **at club-sponsored events and activities**

**DOG OWNERS** are responsible for their dog's behavior at all times while participating in Club events and activities. **Handlers must have full control of their dogs.**

### **POLICY GOALS:**

- **The safety, both physical and emotional, of all participating dogs and humans**
- **Clear guidelines for what comprises inappropriate conduct of dogs and humans**
- **Clear guidelines for consequences of inappropriate conduct of dogs and humans**
- **What to do if an issue arises**

*Dancing Paws of Maine's activities and events are for the benefit of all attending. We strive to facilitate positive training, working and performance experiences in a safe environment. Dangerous, disruptive and unsportsmanlike conduct are not permitted.*

### **RULES**

- Dogs must be on a leash held by a handler or crated/confined when not working.
- For handlers bringing more than one dog, the handler is responsible for keeping non-working dog(s) securely confined or restrained.
- Dogs must be prevented from approaching or fraternizing with other dogs unless given permission by other dog's owner. If engaged in interactions, dogs must not be disruptive.
- Agility equipment is not to be used during practice due to potential disruption to other teams.
- If you engage in an active game with your dog, avoid being disruptive to other participants. Please refrain from using squeaky toys.
- Be courteous to fellow members and be kind to your dog.
- If you would like to meet another person's dog, ask the owner if you may greet her dog prior to approaching or making physical contact.
- Dogs should be positioned at a great enough distance (8') from entrances, exits and restrooms so as to provide sufficient space for others to pass by.
- Crated or confined dogs should be at a great enough distance from each other for them to be comfortable. Please ask your neighbor what they are comfortable with.
- Any participant may directly address any handler whose dog is behaving in an inappropriate fashion and/or mention the event to a Dancing Paws of Maine Board Member.
- If a participant is approached regarding the behavior of her dog, she is expected to be respectful of that person and make necessary adjustments.
- If your dog is in heat, she may attend as long as she's wearing panties and she is not disruptive.

*Any dog who is uncontrollable or disturbs activities (including excessive barking) may be requested to take a break or to leave. Handlers who are verbally or physically abusive to dogs or humans may be asked to leave.*

\_\_\_ I have read and agree to the Dancing Paws of Maine Code of Conduct for Dogs and Humans

## DEFINITIONS

### INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIORS, DOGS:

- 1. Dog-on-Person, no contact.** This includes a dog rushing/barking at another participant. *CONSEQUENCE: The dog is required to take a break and get crated/separated for 15 minutes. Dog may return to activities after that. If there is another incident at this event, dog will be excused from further participation.*
- 2. Dog-on-Person, with contact\***, whether or not skin is broken or blood is drawn. This includes a dog rushing/barking at another participant and making contact with that person. *CONSEQUENCE: The dog is excused from further participation.*
- 3. Dog-on-Dog, no contact.** The dog was intent on charging at another dog but was prevented and/or made no contact. *This does not include dogs reacting to passing each other on leash, making noise but not contact or intent on attack, or dogs reacting in their crates to passing dogs (such dogs' crates need to be covered or moved).* *CONSEQUENCE: The dog is required to take a break and get crated/separated for 15 minutes. Dog may return to activities after that. If there is another incident, the dog will be excused from further participation.*
- 4. Dog-on-Dog, with contact\*.** The dog made contact with another dog, without breaking skin. *CONSEQUENCE: The dog will be excused from further participation.*
- 5. Dog-on-Dog that did break skin or draw blood\*.** *CONSEQUENCE: The dog is excused from the event.*

### INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIORS, HUMANS:

- 6. Person-on-Person.** Verbally abusive, physical (one or both persons may be at fault). *CONSEQUENCE: The perpetrator(s) may be excused from the event.*

**NO REFUNDS** will be made if a dog or handler is required to leave for any of the above reasons.

**NOTE:** repeat infractions indicate that the dog in question is not comfortable in this setting and would best be left at home.

### TIPS FOR PROPER HANDLING

- Know what your dog is paying attention to; interrupt focus on another dog
- Know how much space your dog requires and how much space is available to nearby dogs. Keep your dog close to you. Refrain from loitering near doorways.
- Check doorways and around corners to be sure the path is clear for you and your dog to pass through.
- Provide your dog with sufficient breaks to ensure he is as comfortable as possible.

#### GROUNDINGS FOR DOG TAKING A BREAK:

- Dog-on-Person, without contact, first offense
- Dog-on Dog, without contact, first offense.
- Verbally or physically abusive handlers, first offense.

#### GROUNDINGS FOR REMOVAL FROM PREMISES:

- Dog-on Dog, without contact, additional offense.
- Dog-on Dog, with contact.\*
- Dog-on Dog, with contact, broke skin or drew blood.\*
- Dog-on-Person, without contact, additional offense
- Dog-on-Person, with contact.\*
- Verbally or physically abusive handlers, additional offense.\*

*\*INCIDENT REPORT must be filed. INCIDENT REPORT FORMS must be present at all club-sponsored events and activities.*