



CLUB POLICIES

BYLAWS:

Dog welfare:

- Members must display responsible dog ownership, care and control when attending and participating in Club events and also any other run when representing the club.
- The Club will not be responsible for the actions of any member's dogs at an event.
- It is each member's responsibility to ensure that their dog is fit to run (including being of suitable age) and not put at risk whilst attending any club event.
- No use of prong collars/grot collars/ e-collars or other aversive training methods/tools are permitted at our events.
- No dogs are to be left alone in vehicles during our sessions unless in full DEFRA compliant vehicles with temperature control, remote monitoring, secured containments and full licensing and insurance, risk assessment and liability waiver is provided and this is only permitted in extreme circumstances.

Background and context:

Our canicross Leaders work predominately with forcefree methods, from science-based, up-to-date training methods. We will not tolerate any aversive training tools or techniques being used in classes or on the dogs during our sessions. You may be asked to leave a session if these tools are in evidence on your dog and/or are being used during the session.

The club is founded on the principals of working with your dog, using canicross as a means to allow your dog enrichment, growing your human canine bond, whilst developing behaviours and cues which will hopefully lead to more confidence whilst out with your dog. All the while learning to see the world through your dog's eyes.

Our focus is on how incredible, fast, intelligent, strong and unique each and every dog is!

Prong collars/grot collars/ e-collars are not needed in canicross settings, it is an environment where dogs are encouraged to pull in harness.

Our focus is on pet dogs and their human companions where we heavily encourage the exploring and understanding of why a dog does something, management of such behaviours and supporting the dog, and referring to professionals when help is needed, rather than using tools to suppress behaviors.

Leaving a dog alone in a vehicle, even with ventilation and water, can still lead to distress, especially in a busy car park where the dog is unable to see what is going on but can hear noises.

The Animal Welfare Act in the UK ensures that causing unnecessary suffering to animals is punishable by law, and we may choose to report any dog that we deem to be suffering unnecessarily to the appropriate authorities.



Reactive dogs:

We welcome reactive dogs into our club, as long as you are happy that you are in control of your dog, are happy to discuss their needs with our leaders so they can be accommodated, and are willing to wear a “give me space” tabard (can be borrowed from us). This needs to be a vest or tabard as signs on dogs are generally too small to be read from a distance.

We have had many success stories of dogs that suffer from things such as fear aggression, really benefiting through the exercise and controlled socialisation of canicross. It can be beneficial to work in partnership with a properly qualified and educated behaviourist to help set your dog up for success.

Some canicrossers use a running muzzle on their dogs, and we actively encourage this in our community as they can be a fantastic tool for creating a safe space for you and your dog. If your dog has a bite history, or there is concern that they may bite, we may insist that they are muzzled for their safety and that of other people and dogs.

Help and advice re reactive dogs is available on request.

General policies:

The Club will provide third party liability for Members at its events against third parties not involved in the event.

Any member may organise social runs, being mindful of the following guidelines:

- runs are listed with clear information regarding location/distance/pace/expectations
- you are confident and experienced with guiding these runs and take some responsibility for those joining
- you have a back up plan should you need to cancel eg: someone else to lead.
- you fly the SCC flag high and show your skills and good judgement as club reps
- These do not clash with runs we host regularly, eg: our Saturday Sessions, but rather run in conjunction with them. For example, an experienced club member leading a social run at the same time as the coaches are hosting beginner sessions, from the same car park, so that members have a chance to get to know one another and socialise afterwards.

Finance:

The financial year of the Club shall commence on 1 September in each year.

A bank account shall be opened in the name of the Club. All income will be paid into this and *withdrawals may only be made on the agreement of the Treasurer either the Chairman or the Secretary.*



The accounts shall be kept by the Treasurer.

Annual Subscription Rates:

The annual membership rates shall be reviewed and determined by the Committee prior to the Season start, and set out in the 'Club Membership' document. The membership fees shall be used primarily to cover the costs associated with the provision of Club Runs, canicross insurance and any expenses incurred by the Club on behalf of its' members eg: provision of food after runs.

Revenue

The revenue of the Club shall not be available for dividend, but shall be used solely to further the objectives of the Club. In the event of dissolution or winding up of the Club, whether voluntary or by order of the court, any net assets remaining after settlement of all due liabilities shall be donated to a Canine Rescue Organisation agreed on by the officers of the club.

Expenses:

All expenses incurred by the Committee on behalf of the Club will be reimbursed from the Club funds. Receipts must be provided for all expenses claimed.

Complaints and appeals:

Any complaints regarding the behaviour of club members should be submitted in writing to the Secretary via email: surreycanicross@gmail.com

The Committee will meet to consider a complaint within 28 days of a complaint being lodged. The Committee has the power to take appropriate action including the termination of membership.

The outcome of any decisions should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made. There will be the right of appeal to the Committee following any resulting action or advice being announced. The Committee should consider the appeal within 28 days of the Secretary receiving the appeal.

DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY

The Data Protection Act currently exempts private clubs from the need for registration of their databases, but the Club will follow best practice guidelines as follows:

1. The Secretary holds a simple UK-based electronic database of the information provided by members on their membership application form including e-mail addresses where supplied.
2. Member contact details will be used for mailing newsletters, renewal reminders and other club information the Committee deems appropriate. E-mail addresses will only be used if the member has given permission via the membership form and will only be used for club business.
3. Committee Members undertake to treat any member contact details as confidential and for the use of club business only. Membership records will be kept for five years or at the discretion of the Committee. Any member who has any concern regarding the use or holding of their contact details at any time should contact the Membership Secretary in writing giving details of the nature of their concern.



4. Any questions or concerns about how, why and when the Club processes and stores personal data can be directed to surreycanicross@gmail.com

DISSOLUTION

A resolution to dissolve the Club can only be passed at an AGM through a majority vote of the membership.

In the event of dissolution, the assets of the Club that remain will become the property of another like-minded group/club and/or a Dog Rescue Organisation agreed on by the Committee.

ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution may be altered by agreement of the committee.

CLUB COLOURS

The Club colours are LIME GREEN, LEMON YELLOW, (on Black, White or Gray).