

## **DTCCU Aggressive Dog Policy**

This policy shall apply to all members, handlers and dogs present at and/or participating in any DTCCU functions, including but not limited to training classes, licensed trials, fun trials, demonstrations and informal training sessions.

Definition of Aggressive Behavior:

An aggressive dog is one who, on DTCCU premises or at DTCCU activities, makes – or repeatedly attempts to make – negative physical contact with any person or any animal. “Negative physical contact” is that which is potentially harmful or dangerous to persons or pets. Actual physical contact is not necessary to constitute aggressive behavior.

Any person who believes s/he experienced or witnessed an act of dog aggression may fill out a written report, which must be signed, dated and presented to the class instructor, Director of Training or Club President.

### **Policies & Procedures**

1. All training class participants and club members will receive or be given online access to a copy of the Aggressive Dog Policy.
2. Any dog that exhibits an overt act of aggression is to be excused immediately and taken from the building or training/exhibiting area. In class situations, the instructor will request the owner/handler remain to discuss the incident, review club policies and determine options for further classes. In trial situations, the event committee will meet to establish and complete process using venue-offering organization aggressive dog guidelines.
3. If a person believes a dog is exhibiting aggressive behavior, a report (see Aggressive Dog Report Form) must be filed.
  - a. In class situations the instructor ALWAYS has the right to request that a handler remove a dog from class for that class meeting or the remainder of the class session OR may recommend other appropriate action; in such instances, the instructor will file a written report with the Director of Training and the DTCCU Board.
  - b. Full or partial refunds in cases where a dog is not allowed to return to class will be subject to board review.
4. Written reports of dog aggression will be forwarded to the instructor and Director of Training who will request an assessment of the situation from the instructor, other exhibitors or witnesses.
5. If the Director of Training determines that action should be taken, the Director of Training will share that information with the Board.
6. The President, on behalf of the Board, will formally write to the handler. The letter will inform the handler of the Club decision regarding the incident as well as the handler’s appeal

rights. Copies of the President's letter shall be forwarded to both the Corresponding Secretary and Director of Training.

7. Actions taken regarding an individual dog shall not affect the handler's training/showing status with other dogs.

## **Review Process**

The owner/handler may request a formal review by the DTCCU Board of Directors of action taken by the Director of Training and/or Assessment Team following any changes in the dog's circumstances:

- Neutering
- Private Training
- Environmental Circumstances Changed
- Other Extenuating Circumstances

The Board will accept written requests for review after 6 months and will act upon such requests within 60 days of receipt.