

WILTSHIRE WET LEO'S GROUP

MEMBERS VOLUNTARY CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Minimum ages for entry to the water, for dogs = 14 weeks (or when vaccinations are complete), for junior handlers/members 6 years with parental consent.
2. Training will commence at 9.30 a.m. on the days stipulated at the beginning of each season. All members to arrive, where possible, by 9.00am for admittance to the site and to help in the set up of the group's equipment and training area.
3. Every member/visitor must complete a safety information form and, where necessary, an indemnity for those junior members under 16 years of age BEFORE admittance to the water. All new members must agree for them and their dogs to be assessed over a four session probation period.
4. All members must pay membership and/or training fee's before training commences, all fees for the lake to be paid by 15th January and all dog registration to be paid by 15th March.
5. All members MUST attend the pre training safety briefing at the start of each session. Those members who miss the briefing must speak to one of the groups 'Head's before entering the water.
6. Whilst on the Cotswold Sailing Club site, or any site where the group are holding an organised demonstration, owners/handlers must be responsible for the control of their dogs at all times. All dogs must be on leads at all times unless in the water during training or instructed otherwise by the groups Trainers. All dogs must either be caged or in cars when owners/handlers are away from them for any reason.
7. Unless otherwise directed by the Trainers in charge, no other dog may enter the water at any time during the training session, but those being instructed at the time. There should only be one dog in the water at any one time.
8. The Group/Club cannot accept any responsibility for any accident / injury or loss to persons, dogs or other items at the training or demonstration session. Attendance and participation is at each members own risk.
9. A dog and its owner/handler will be immediately refused access to the groups training sessions and are requested not to bring any dog if any of the following below apply. The dog is;
 - A. Suffering from an infectious or contagious disease.
 - B. Interfering with the safe running of the groups training sessions.
 - C. Of such temperament or so much out of control as to be a danger to itself or any other animal or person.
 - D. Likely to be caused suffering if it continues to take part in water training.
 - E. A bitch in season.
 - F. If the owner/handler carries out any punitive correction or harsh handling at any time within the boundaries of the training group.
10. Training days will, where possible, be run on the days stipulated at the beginning of each season and will only be cancelled if safety is likely to be compromised; due to extreme weather conditions; or lack of attendees available to run the group on any given day. For safety, 4 adult participating members is the minimum for each training session.
11. All owners/handlers must clear up after the dogs in their care at all times and use the disposal system in place for the group.
12. Where possible members are to stay to the end of each session to help pack away equipment and clear the site of any debris caused by our activity.

13. All members are to be courteous and respectful to other members of the group and their dogs and to that of our hosts, the Cotswold Sailing Club members, their families and their dogs.
14. A joint Heads of Group decision regarding matters within the group is final. Any member with ANY issues must approach the Heads with their concerns for discussion and agreement.
15. Negative and or deconstructive comments regarding any other members of the group or their dog(s) are strongly discouraged.
16. All members must be willing to seek profession advice and help regarding any dogs that show behavioural problems when at the group. Where it is felt necessary by the Heads of Group, an owner or handlers dog whose temperament or behaviour does not improve or that causes a problem for the group may be asked to refrain from bringing said dog to further sessions. Any such dog may find themselves on a probation period of 4 sessions to allow the behaviour to be assessed.
17. Members should only work their dogs if they are in a fit state to swim i.e. members must not enter the water if they believe that their current state of health or ability could put them or others in jeopardy.
18. For safety reason we expect all members are capable of swimming at least 25 metres.
19. All members are expected to play an active part in the day's proceedings, this may include for example supporting other members training, manning the boat or dog sitting.
20. **LIFE JACKETS / BUOYANCY AIDS, AND FOR THOSE ENTERING THE WATER WET SUITS, MUST BE WORN BY ALL PERSONS TAKING PART IN TRAINING DAYS AT ALL TIMES.**
21. **ANY MEMBER UNWILLING TO FOLLOW ANY ASPECT OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT MAY RISK BEING ASKED TO LEAVE THE GROUP. REFUNDS OF MEMBERSHIP OR PAYMENT OF TRAINING SESSIONS UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES MEMBERSHIP AND FEES WILL BE FORFITED.**

I hereby agree to the above voluntary code of conduct as a member of the Wiltshire Wet Leo's Water Rescue Training Group a Group run as and event under the rules and regulations of the Leonberger Club of Great Britain and understand that a breach of the code may risk my being asked to leave the group.

Name..... Signed:..... Dated:.....