



# Canine Comprehension Club

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Your child: \_\_\_\_\_

From (school): \_\_\_\_\_

has been given the opportunity to work with the award winning education group, Canine Comprehension. Many of the schools we work with have said that they would love to see us at the school more often! We would love to be at your school more often!

So, we have set up The CCC.

The CCC is a group of selected young people who are members of our exclusive tutoring club.

This club grants access to:

- Just Add Dog: 40 minute Mindfulness sessions
- Hug a Dog: 40 minute opportunity to just hang out with one of our special dogs and tutors and relieve stress by having a pat, hug (and maybe a photo opportunity)
- Train a Dog: a 40 minute session, where a tutor will teach the young people about dog safety, obedience and trick training.

The dogs love working with young people to help them discuss issues and practice their new techniques. There is lots of evidence to show that for many people stress and anxiety are quickly lessened whilst patting or in the presence of a dog. The dogs are also useful tools to help students develop interpersonal and social skills, are used as social lubricants and can often be used as a metaphor for self.

Please be aware:

- The dogs have all completed training with Lead the Way (LTW) Animal Assisted Therapy and thus meet the highest levels of hygiene, socialisation etc. They are also adorable.
- There will be one dog per session, however dogs may be rotated to avoid students becoming too attached to a particular animal.

If you have any questions about program please Sarah Macdonald, Director of Canine Comprehension through her email [sarah@caninecomprehension.com.au](mailto:sarah@caninecomprehension.com.au)





# Canine Comprehension Club

## **Student behaviour**

'I understand that in the event of my child's misbehaviour or behaviour that poses a danger to himself/herself or others during the program, he/she may be sent back to class. I further understand that in such circumstances I will be informed.'

## **ICT**

'I agree to my child using the Internet and computer network in accordance with the same Internet student users agreement that applies at their school.' [Strike out if you do not consent]

## **Photography and publication**

'I also consent to my child being photographed and/or visual images of my child being taken during activities by Canine Comprehension for use in both Canine Comprehension's and the school's publications without acknowledgment and without being entitled to any remuneration or compensation.' [Strike out if you do not consent]

## **Medical consent**

Where the teacher-in-charge of the excursion is unable to contact me, or it is otherwise impracticable to contact me, I authorise the teacher-in-charge to:

Consent to my child receiving any medical or surgical attention deemed necessary by a medical practitioner. Administer such first-aid as the teacher-in-charge judges to be reasonably necessary.

## **Parent / guardian consent**

I have read all of the above information provided by the school in relation to the Canine Comprehension Club.

I give permission for my daughter/son \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name) to attend.

Parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature) \_\_\_\_\_ (date)





# Canine Comprehension Club

## USE OF DOGS IN AAT

To obtain effective consent, our school needs to provide sufficient information to parents/guardians about the nature of and risks associated with this program.

Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) is a form of creative therapy that utilises licensed and credentialed therapy animals and handlers (people who manage the animal) to provide goal-directed interventions to individuals of all ages. In the case of Canine comprehension the goals are based around education intervention and literacy. Participation in AAT is not guaranteed and will be based on the Canine Comprehension tutor's assessment. If the assessment determines the student is not a good fit, other options will be discussed and appropriate referrals may be made:

- a. If a history or indication of animal abuse or other risk factors are present, the Canine Comprehension tutor will determine whether participation in AAT is indicated
  - b. Should a student become aggressive (hits, kicks, bites, pulls, pinches, etc.) towards one of our AAT dogs during lessons, the Canine Comprehension tutor will determine if it is appropriate to continue treatment or make the appropriate referrals
2. Anyone wishing to participate in AAT should be screened for allergies before working with one of our AAT dogs. All allergies must be reported before beginning lessons so the proper precautionary measures can be taken. Should documentation from a medical professional indicate that allergies, skin or respiratory sensitivities, or other medical conditions exist, the Canine Comprehension tutor will determine if it is appropriate to continue lessons or make the appropriate referrals. Neither the Canine Comprehension tutor, Canine Comprehension can be held liable for allergic or other physiological reactions to our AAT dogs.
  3. Any fear of dogs must be reported before treatment commences so the proper precautionary measures can be taken and goodness of fit determined.
  4. If sick or injured, one of our AAT dogs will not be able to provide services until the illness or injury subsides or upon veterinary approval, as sickness or injury could negatively impact the animal's behaviour
  5. Although one of our AAT dogs will remain current on their vaccinations and health screenings, there is always a slight risk of zoonotic disease transmission (i.e., the sharing of diseases between animals and humans) when working with an animal. Every effort will be made by the Canine Comprehension tutor to reduce the risk of zoonosis
  6. Direct contact with the animal's urine, stool, and/or blood should be avoided. Every effort will be made by the Canine Comprehension tutor to educate/model for the student and/or guardian appropriate ways to physically engage with our AAT dogs.
  7. All students must either wash their hands, use hand sanitiser or sanitising wipes before and after touching One of our AAT dogs.
  8. Our AAT dogs will be well groomed before every therapy session. Although every effort will be made to cut and file our AAT dog's nails, scratching may occur while physically interacting with the dog. Neither the Canine Comprehension tutor, nor Canine Comprehension, can be held liable for injuries incurred by the AAT dog's nails.
  9. Dogs play or show affection by licking or nibbling, which may result in oral contact from the dog. Although every effort will be made by the Canine Comprehension tutor to monitor this, there is a risk for light biting or zoonotic disease transmission to occur when a dog makes oral contact with a person. One of our AAT dogs will be allowed to





# Canine Comprehension Club

lick the student upon obtaining the student's and/or guardian's verbal permission. This will be noted in the student's file. Neither The Canine Comprehension tutor, nor Canine Comprehension can be held liable for injury or zoonotic disease transmission as a result of oral contact from our AAT dogs.

10. Dogs use their body to communicate and may brush against or lean into a person. Other body language such as tail wagging or body wiggling may also occur. Such behaviours create a risk for loss of balance, falling, or light bruising. Neither The Canine Comprehension tutor, nor Canine Comprehension can be held liable for injury incurred by physically engaging with the AAT dogs.

11. The student and/or guardian will promptly report all accidents and/or injuries to the Canine Comprehension tutor. Should injury occur, the Canine Comprehension tutor will respond accordingly and take proper action to help the student get the appropriate medical care.

12. One of our AAT dogs cannot be used in therapy without a Canine Comprehension tutor present. No other provider, unless credentialed and previously approved Canine Comprehension can handle or use one of our AAT dogs in an educational capacity.

13. Students are never to be left alone with our AAT dogs.

14. If at any time, one of our AAT dogs shows signs of distress, irritation, fear, or in any way acts in a negative manner, they will be allowed to take a break. No one, except the Canine Comprehension tutor, should touch or interact with one of our AAT dogs during these times. The Canine Comprehension tutor will assess and determine whether it is safe for our AAT dogs to return to the session.

15. Animals, like people, have their own moods that determine their level of desire to interact with others. It is therefore understood that our AAT dogs are allowed to determine if and when to participate in therapy/interact with others. While it may be planned to use one of our AAT dogs in a scheduled tutoring session, one of our AAT dogs will never be forced to interact should they indicate signs of distress and/or resistance

16. Our AAT dogs must have a designated space in their working environment where they are free to rest, sleep, or take a break without interruption.

17. If the Canine Comprehension tutor and the student agree, one of our AAT dogs may work off halter or off leash.

