

ORIENTATION HANDOUT

General Information

HEALTH Your dog MUST be current on all vaccinations.
 If your dog is sick, or showing symptoms such as coughing, diarrhea, DO NOT bring them to class.
 You are welcome to come without your dog.
 Females in season are not allowed in the building.
Please do not take your dog to the dog park while taking classes.

CLASS CANCELLATIONS are usually due to weather. We will post cancellations on the WDAZ crawl.

GOOD MANNERS

1. Be careful entering and leaving the building. If your dog is small and/or nervous, carry your dog into the building. Puppies under the age of 12 months MUST not have a bad experience because it can have long term consequences that can be difficult to reverse.
2. Children are welcome to attend class but they must be supervised and remain with their own dog.
3. We will be using agility equipment. Children are not allowed on this equipment.
4. **Accidents Happen!** If your dog pees or poops don't be alarmed. We have cleaning supplies available for you to use.

How the classes will work:

PUPPY K: The dogs are divided into 3 groups prior to the start of class. We do this so your dog is working with dogs of a similar size. Each puppy group will work in three different instructional areas during the class. These areas are set up to provide the puppies with opportunities for socialization, new experiences and obedience instruction.

Each week we will introduce new skills, review previously taught skills and extend their difficulty.

Difficulty is accomplished by adding 1 of 3 conditions: Distractions, Distance, Duration

Equipment We recommend using a 6' leash, preferably leather. Retractable leashes are not allowed in class. Puppies should wear a buckle collar or a martingale collar. Harnesses are fine to use. NO CHOKE, PRONG or ELECTRIC Collars, no head halters in Puppy Kindergarten.

Training treats Training treats are used for rewarding correct behavior and they are used liberally during initial stages of training. Please make sure you are wearing clothing with pockets or use a treat bag. Training treats need to be quickly accessible.
***Treat bags** (or Bait Bags) can be purchased at local pet stores

Training Commands

KEY WORDS These are words that you will use consistently with your dog during training. Please have these words identified prior to class next week.

1. A word to reward correct behavior. Many people use the word 'yes' for this.
2. A word that says 'oops - "let's try that again. You didn't quite get it."
'Uh uh' works well. It is low key and is usually said in a softer tone than 'no'.
3. A word that signals the training session is over. Examples are 'free' 'break' 'done'

Training at Home

KEEP IT SHORT

Training sessions should be short. Usually 5 - 10 minutes is sufficient.

Train in repetitions. Puppies should practice each skill in repetitions of 3 several times throughout the day.
 Older dogs should practice each skill in repetitions of 5 several times throughout the day.

PRACTICE EVERY DAY - mix training into your daily routine.

MAKE IT FUN! Let your dog know you are having fun! Smile, laugh, use a pleasant voice.
 End on a positive by doing something the dog enjoys, such as throwing a ball.

HOMEWORK FOR NEXT WEEK:**Name Recognition - Practice this training exercise several times this week. (by Connie Cleveland)**

Attach a 6' leash to your puppy. Let the puppy drag the leash.

Step on the leash, stopping the puppy's movement and say the puppy's name.

Walk to the puppy and put your hands on the puppy.

THE SEQUENCE OF THIS ACTIVITY IS IMPORTANT. Step on the leash PRIOR to saying the puppy's name.

Focus/Watch

The dog can be either in front of you or beside you. It is usually easier for a puppy to begin by sitting in front of you, close enough to reach.

Have a treat in one hand - between your thumb and index finger. Move the hand with the treat down to the dog's nose and then up to your eyes. You want the dog to look at you. When the dog looks at you say your marker word 'yes' and reward the dog. Be sure to reward when the dog is looking at you.

Sit - using hand signal

Begin with several treats in your hand. Hold one treat between your thumb and index finger.

Your hand holding the treats will be down at your side.

If you are working with a puppy you will kneel in front of them.

Use your other hand to position your dog into a sit directly in front of you by moving your hand, palm up, above the dog's head.

Do not say anything. At this point we want the dog to notice the hand signal. Practice this several times a day.

After 2 day, stand upright and use the hand signal and see if the dog sits in front of you. If he does, reward immediately while the dog is in the sitting position.

It's Your Choice by Susan Garrett www.SusanGarrett.com

Start with some good treats.

Have a fistfull of treats but when you close your hand the treats should not be visible.

Sit in a chair with your knee supporting your arm so your hand remains still. You do not say a word!

Extend your hand toward the dog so he can smell or even try to nibble at the treats. Do not say a word.

Eventually the dog will move away. GOOD CHOICE

Open your hand. If the dog remains sitting, pick up a treat. Dog remains sitting GOOD CHOICE

If the dog moves toward you, close your fist. POOR CHOICE

Dog is sitting. Move the treat toward the dog. Dog remains sitting GOOD CHOICE

Dog gets the treat. Praise. The first time you speak.

When you move the treat toward the dog, if he dog moves his head toward the treat, POOR CHOICE close your fist.

We strongly encourage you to visit Susan Garrett's website and watch the video of this training activity!

Free-Shaping exercise: Please watch this before class next week.

TaylorMadeWorkingDogs: Rodney Lesson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNRO0kwupZM&t=522s>

If you are taking the Star Puppy Test, please click on the following the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqkIEJ0HROW>

We are constantly trying to improve our instruction by going to seminars and reading training materials. Our training session include techniques from several national trainers.

Here are some of our favorites that you might want to explore. These trainers are published authors and have websites that offer valuable information and training materials. Several of them have facebook pages and blogs that can be followed without charge. It's worth checking out!

Susan Garrett

Brenda Aloff

Connie Cleveland

Sandra Ladwig

Michael Ellis

Deb Jones

Ian Dunbar

Patricia McConnell

Janice Gunn

