

Orientation Handout Puppy Kindergarten

- **Be healthy - Stay Healthy**
Your dog must be current on all vaccinations.
If your dog is sick, DO NOT bring them to class. You are welcome to come without your dog.
Females in season must stay home.
Please do not take your dog to dog parks while taking classes.
- **Class Cancellations**
Cancellations are put on the WDAZ crawl.
- **Absences**
Please try to attend every class. New skills are taught each week and are reinforced and extending during the following weeks.

Class Etiquette

Don't allow your dog to sniff or approach other dogs unless it is designated play time.
When working with your dog, leave space between your dog and the ones next to you.

Be careful when you come in and leave the building. If your dog is small and/or nervous, it might be wise to carry the dog until he gets used to the activity level.
If another class is in session, wait quietly behind the barriers.

If you have a dog that is aggressive to people and/or other dogs, talk to one of the trainers before bringing the dog to class

- **Equipment**
You will need a 4 or 6 foot leash. We recommend a 6 foot leather leash.
Retractable leashes are not allowed.
Puppies should wear a buckle collar.
- **Reinforcers**
Reinforcers are rewards that tell you dog he has done something right.
You will want to use a variety of high value treats in class. There will be many distractions in class and therefore you will need treats that your dog really wants. Small pieces of chicken, cheese, hot dog work well.
The Dog Training Center has a cookbook for sale if you want to make your own treats.

KEY WORDS These are words you will use whenever you are working with your dog. It is important that any working with the dog use the same words.

A word to reward correct behavior Many people use the word 'yes' for this

A word that says 'oops, that wasn't right, try again 'uh uh' works well. It is low key and is usually said in a softer tone than 'no'.

A word that signals the training session is over Many people use the word 'free'.

Please have your three training words identified when you come to class next week.

DEMONSTRATIONS This is your homework for next week.

Puppies should practice each skill in repetitions of 3... every day, several times throughout the day.

1. Name Recognition

- Attach a six foot 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 pup and put your hands on the puppy.
- The SEQUENCE is important.
Step on the leash PRIOR to saying the puppy's name.
- Say the puppy's name loudly and clearly.
- Walk to the puppy.

2. Focus/ Watch

- Dog can be either in front or beside you.
- Have a treat in one hand. Move the hand with the treat to the dog's nose and up to your eyes. You want the dog to look up at you. Say your marker word, such as yes and reward while the dog is looking at you.

3. Sit - using hand signal

- Begin with several treats in your hand. Hold them between your thumb and index finger. Your arm holding the treats in down at your side.
- Bring your arm up to the opposite shoulder. Use your other hand to position your puppy into a sit directly in front of you.
- Do not say anything. The object is to get your puppy to notice the arm signal.
- **Practice this 3 times in a row, 3 or 4 times a day.**

After 2 days, stand upright, use your hand signal and see if your puppy will sit in front of you. If he does, reward immediately - while the puppy is still in the sitting position.

Homework

1. Identify the 3 key words you will use during training:
 - a word that signals YES, YOU GOT IT RIGHT (we suggest 'yes')
 - a word that says NOT QUITE, TRY AGAIN (we suggest 'uh uh')
 - a word that says TRAINING IS OVER (we suggest 'free')
2. Practice the skills for this week
Remember to use LOTS of praise, smiles and your key words.
 - focus
 - sit
 - name recognition

What to bring to class next week:

1. Collar and leash
2. Treat bag - or wear something with pockets you can get at easily
3. a variety of high-value treats
4. a hungry dog - no feeding before class

And most of all - a smile and lots of patience. Remember, we don't expect a toddler to do everything perfectly the first time. Puppies are no different.

'A puppy is but a dog, plus high spirits and minus common sense'

Agnes Repplier