

Preparing for Obedience School

Obedience Training is an exciting, interesting experience for both you and your dog. During the eight week semester you will learn how to become your dog's teacher, friend, protector, and leader. Your dog will learn general manners and behaviors to help him/her fit harmoniously into your lifestyle. In the process, you and your dog will build a bond together that will last a lifetime. In addition, your own teachings will help other family members to build that same bond.

*The Instructors will teach you how to read your dog's behavior so you become familiar with his/her actions and what he/she is telling you. You'll also learn how to communicate with your dog so he/she learns to understand your words and actions. By graduation day, your friend will be your companion for life. **Enjoy the learning.***

Below are some things you'll need to know about before you begin the class.

The type of clothes you should wear to class should be comfortable and practical. You will be spending time sitting on the floor or on the ground, walking, and running, so avoid wearing skirts and very tight pants. Do not wear flip flop shoes of any kind. Wear tie or buckle shoes that provide good support and do not allow your feet to slip out.

We will be using food in training. The process and method of food rewards will be thoroughly explained during the first class. Food treats should be nutritional soft food such as little cubes of sharp cheddar cheese, slices of hot dogs, and cubes of cut-up, cooked, boneless, skinless chicken. Do not use dog food treats as these are dry and it takes too long for the dogs to chew and swallow them after they've performed a behavior. Dogs need instant gratification for a food reward to be affective.

DO NOT feed your dog before class. If he/she is already full, food treats will not be as appealing as when he/she is hungry. That is one reason he/she soon learns to love going to school!

Your dog should be wearing a simple buckle or snap collar with a four or six foot leash (nylon, cotton, or leather is preferred.) If your dog requires a special type of collar, (harness, prong collar or choke chain) this matter will be addressed during the first class. Do not use a chain lead or a retractable leash. A six foot leash is perfect. The "leash" will be referred to as a "lead" in the future.

*Now get ready for a new and rewarding experience with your dog. If you have questions, call one of your Instructors and leave a message. They'll call you back as soon as possible. **Enjoy!***

If you cannot make it to class, or are unsure due to weather, please be sure to call one of your Instructors. Their phone numbers are given below.

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