

DOG OBEDIENCE CLASS RULES

(Helpful notes from volunteer trainers Ann Sanders and Janet Garvin)

Please be sure to contact Animal Services at 746-8400 if you decide to drop out of the class. We have other citizens on a waiting list to attend.

Please be sure to have the following equipment, and bring it with you to the first class:

1. A chain or nylon slip collar, pinch collar, or head halti that fits your dog properly. No buckle collars or harnesses please.
2. A cloth, leather, or nylon 6 ft. leash. No chain or flexi leads please.
3. Water and bowl for your dog. (This is very important as the weather is getting warmer, and we will take a short break to offer our dogs water during the class.)
4. Training treats for your dog. (Whatever treats your dogs finds most tempting.)
5. Plastic bags to pick up after your dog in case of an unexpected bathroom break.
6. A big smile and happy disposition! This is very important for positive reinforcement training.

Be sure to wear a good sturdy shoe, such as a tennis shoe or boot. Please do not wear sandals, flip-flops, high heeled or backless shoes, due to the uneven terrain you will be walking during class.

We highly encourage children with the strength, ability, and aptitude to participate in the training of the family dog. However, if you bring children under the age of twelve who are not taking part in the training, they must be supervised at times, so please make arrangements to bring a caretaker with you to the class.

You will be given written instructions and homework after each class. It is very important to your success to read the information and practice with your dog every day during the week in between classes. We ask you to train at least one - fifteen minute session per day. Addition sessions are even better, but never more than 10-15 minutes per session.

Remember, you will get out of these classes what you put into them. We can only give you the information and demonstrate how it should be done. Beyond that it is up to you to show your dedication and love for your dog by helping them to become well-trained members of your household. They only want to please you, and a well trained dog is a happy dog - one that will return your investment many times over.

Please understand that even though we do this training for Animal Services on a voluntary basis, it is our mission to guide you to the best of our ability. Therefore, do not take offense if we correct you or tell you what you are doing is wrong, as we feel it is the only way in which you will learn.

***** Please let us know beforehand or at least by the first class if your dog has a tendency to bite people or other dogs. We can then take the necessary precautions to ensure everyone's safety. *****