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831-431-0161

About Your Class

This class should be enjoyable and educational for both you and your dog. If you are having trouble with any aspect of the class, please talk with us about it and we will do our best to find a solution!

We will be using lots of food in this class as a way to quickly jumpstart behaviors. Bring a hungry dog, and make sure some of your treats are “whole food.” **When practicing at home, train in 2 to 3 minute sessions so that your dog doesn’t get too many treats at once.** We will also be talking about other types of rewards that you can use in your training.

This class meets in a public area.

- We want to keep this class safe and fun for everyone. So please let me know if something is not comfortable for your dog!
- Please take responsibility for your dog as you would in any public areas.
- There may be unexpected people, dogs, or other things going on.
- We will need to follow all leash laws. So please come with your dog on a 6-foot leash. No flexi-leashes please.

We may move during the class to another part of the park. Please bring your supplies in an easy to carry bag or backpack.

- Treats—lots of them, cut up small, and in a training pouch
- A favorite toy or two to use as a reward and for mini-breaks
- Water and a bowl
- Small towel or blanket for “settle” exercises
- A stuffed Kong or chew if your dog may need help settling between exercises

VERY IMPORTANT rain, extreme heat, and cancellation info

Rain and extreme heat: If it is raining or we have a forecast of over 90 degrees at the time and location of your class, **please call 831-431-0161**. We will post at least one hour before class if we meeting or are canceling. It is your responsibility to check this message.

If class is cancelled for any other reason, we will send an email, and also try to text/call you. If we cancel a class, we will simply tack one on at the end.

We are very sorry, but we do not offer make up classes if you need to miss. However all homework is available online and we will do our best to help you catch up.

If you have any other questions, feel free to ask at any point.



Beginning Life Skills Class

Your class meets for 6 week.

Rain makeups, if needed, will be added to the end of the session.

This outline will give you an idea of what will be coming each week. We will customize it to fit the needs and progress of the dogs in this class.

<p>Week One About the class Introduce the reward marker ("Yes" or click) Sit and release Attention and eye contact—auto check-ins Go to your mat Name game—prerequisites for Come! Beginning leash work—Find the Spot Down and release Discussion topic--selecting and using rewards</p>	<p>Week Four Attention with toys and dogs as distractions Settle on Mat with other dogs moving Name game near dogs and people Sit, stay, move away Heel up to 20 feet—cones or square Come from 15 to 30 feet Walk and play/sniff</p>
<p>Week Two Name game Attention and eye contact Go to your mat Down on the mat Sit continued—15 to 30 seconds Come continued—6 feet. the finish, name game Leash work continued—5 steps turn and go Discussion topic—how to stop unwanted behavior</p>	<p>Week Five Attention on the move Sits and downs in the real world Stay on mat with person moving away Walking past others (loose leash) Sit to greet Trouble shooting problem areas</p>
<p>Week Three Attention on the road or with distractions Mat work with down for longer periods Leash work 10 steps and patterns Restrained recalls (come!) 12 to 20 feet Sit and down with no lure Sit for 30 seconds Excited-settle exercises Name game with easy distractions</p>	<p>Week Six Celebrating successes! Putting your new skills to work Assessment games and tips on where to go next!</p> <p>Coming up in Intermediate Life Skills A--loose leash walking and polite greetings! Coming up in Intermediate Life Skills B--Coming when called for the real world, leave it, rock solid stays!</p>

Goals for this class

Success is dependent on your practicing at home! Meeting these goals will give you solid foundation for the next level class or for continuing on your own.

- **Attention:** Your dog will learn to pay attention to you in distracting environments.
- **Mat Work:** Your dog will have learned to go to a mat and settle for 30 seconds or longer; you will have the concepts to continue moving this forward toward a "settle in your place" behavior.
- **Sit and Down:** You dog will be able to sit or down on cue and hold the position for 30 seconds while you walk six feet away.
- **Beginning Come:** Your dog will have learned the prerequisites for a strong "come" and will be able to come reliably in low distraction environments.
- **Loose-Leash Walking:** Your dog will be able to walk next to you for at least 20 feet with 2 turns and you will have the tools to continue working on this on your daily walks.
- **Name Response:** Your dog will respond to his name by giving you attention in light and moderately distracting situations.