



Orientation Outline • Beginning

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Manage Your Dog's Environment

We want both your home, and your dog to remain in good condition! If you are not around to give your dog positive feedback regarding what is appropriate behavior within the home, a safe and secure place of confinement is recommended. This will protect not only your home and belongings, but your dear dog as well. A safe enclosure can help with potty training, inappropriate chewing, breaking bad habits and more! You want to set your dog up for success at all times, including when you are away or occupied. Keeping doors closed, shoes picked up, socks in hampers, trash under counters, etc. will prevent messes, damage, and even injury to your dog. You can use baby gates, crates, X-pens, or other safe and dog-proofed areas of your home to manage your dog's environment.

Exercise

You may have heard the phrase "a tired dog is a good dog", and it couldn't be more accurate. Many common behavior problems can be traced to a bored and antsy dog. Although walks are excellent for socialization and mental stimulation, two 20-minute walks a day are not meeting most dogs exercise needs. You want to see your dog's tongue hanging out and panting – more than once a day. Knowing your dog, and its breed, can help you find fun and exciting ways to get your dog moving. Think of ways your dog likes to play and be creative- keep that pup active!

Leadership

Here at Happy-Go-Lucky we believe in clear, consistent and benevolent leadership. We do not use force, physical manipulation or punishment, or rule by fear. Make sure the entire household is on board and practicing a fair and consistent method. For example, if one person lets the dog on the couch, but another member of the house forbids it – that is unfair and unclear to the dog. Sitting down with all parties who will interact with the dog on a regular basis and outlining rules is a good beginning. If you are not consistent, your dog will not be either- keep everyone on the same page.

Every casual interaction you have with your dog is a training experience for your dog. If your dog noses your hand, and you then pet him, he has learned to nose your hand for attention. If your dog leaps on the door and you let him out, your dog learns to leap to be let out. If your dog puts his paws on the couch and you invite him up, he learns that paws on the couch mean I get let up, etc. Now imagine you had hot coffee in your hand and your dog nudged it. Your dog went to leap on the door to be let out, but you only had the screen shut. Your dog just walked through a mud puddle, and wants on the couch... so remember: every casual interaction teaches something. If it's not okay all of the time, it cannot be okay at any time. Your dog cannot differentiate between your nice work trousers and your mucking around clothes. If it's okay to jump up on your blue jeans, it's going to be okay to your dog to jump up on your work clothes. It is unfair to your dog to have to grapple with these inconsistencies, and we want to be clear consistent leaders.

Another important aspect of leadership is rewards. Make your dog earn what it wants, and nothing should be "free". Sitting before getting pet, let in/out, having the leash clipped on, getting in or out of the car, waiting for a meal, the options are nearly endless. Control resources as well, such as food and

toys. You are the provider of the food, and meal times should be filled with training and interaction. Learn to take food gently. Learn to sit while a food bowl is lowered. Learn to tolerate hands near your food dish. As for toys, they shouldn't be left out willy-nilly for your dog to play with at any time. Toys are to be played with together, and then put away. Soft, stuffing filled toys will just be destroyed, and more durable toys will lose their value if left constantly available. You can leave safe chew toys down for your pup to alleviate boredom, such as Kongs, but toys are a valuable resource that you control – designed to be shared with you and your dog. You'll get a longer life out of them too!

Training

We follow positive reinforcement training, and that's what you'll be learning and doing in class.

What is positive reinforcement? Well, in its simplest sense, every action has a consequence, and actions with positive consequences are more likely to be repeated. We will be helping and guiding your dog to the correct action, and then rewarding. Frequently this will be a lure and reward method, in which a treat is used to lure your dog into the correct position or action, and then once successful, be rewarded with the treat.

We also use what is called a "marker word". The instant the dog demonstrates the requested action "YES!" is spoken, and a treat is given. This is similar in theory to the "clicker" training method. It is a sound that means what the dog has done is correct, and a treat is on the way. Using a marker word is a wonderful way to clarify communication between handler and dog.

What to Bring to Class

- An empty dog on a flat buckle collar and a four to six foot flat leash. Empty of wee, poo and food. We want them hungry, motivated and ready to learn. Harnesses are okay. No chain collars or leashes. No retractable leashes. Please remove any attachments from your leash (such as poop bag dispensers).
- 3 different kinds of treats. I recommend their kibble dinner, a soft and smelly treat and a softer and smellier treat. We will be treating constantly and we want the treats to be tiny, so easy to break apart is recommended.
- A non-squeaky toy or chewy to occupy your pup during down times.

Class Rules

- Arrive sober. It's Happy-Go-Lucky not Happy-Hour-Go-Lucky.
- Please avoid allowing your dog to potty in the neighboring plants and sidewalk areas. Oregon Park is a block away.
- Class will begin promptly at scheduled class time, so please be punctual.
- Wear comfortable clothing and footwear, we'll be on the move!
- Please silence your cell phone.
- Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult and are to remain seated unless working with a dog.
- There are no make-up classes. If you miss a class, go to happygoluckydog.com/homework.