



Orientation Outline • Beginning

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Welcome to Happy-Go-Lucky Dog Training!

In this 6-week class, our goal is to aid you in training your dog. We practice positive reinforcement training using lure and reward methods. We use treats and teach you how to incorporate life rewards as incentives for your dog.

Dogs are Good at Being Dogs

Dogs think safe verses unsafe. They do what ever works best and is rewarding for them at the exact time they do it.

They do not generalize well. Behaviors you see in certain environments may not carry over in different settings.

Dogs communicate primarily through body language. Understanding a little bit about your dog's body language can assist you in recognizing why they may be doing certain things and can improve your communication skills with each other.

Set your Dog up for Success

Help your dog make the right choices by managing their environment. Crates, exercise pens, and baby gates are great tools when creating a space for them to stay when you are not actively watching them. As your dog gains your trust, this area can become larger and they are allowed more freedom.

A Tired Dog is a Good Dog

Be sure your dog gets plenty of physical and mental exercise. If they are physically tired and mentally content, they will likely make better choices. Be sure that your dog is getting enough exercise so that their tongue is hanging out and they are panting heavily. For most dogs a walk around the block is not enough. Figure out what your dog was bred for and use that in your daily exercise regime.

Social and mental exercise is equally as important as physical exercise. Try feeding your dog using a Kong so they have to figure out the puzzle to eat, or hide their food around the house so they use their natural instincts to search it out.

Most behavior problems stem from boredom so be sure your dog is getting an adequate amount of physical, mental, and social exercise. This can help resolve many issues you may encounter with your dog.

Be a Clear, Consistent, and Benevolent Leader

Every interaction you have with your dog is a training session. Teach your dog what is right and focus on that. Consistency is very important when training your dog so be sure the whole family is on board so that they are not receiving mixed signals. It is unfair to your dog if one family member lets him get on the sofa but he gets in trouble with another family member when he is found up there.

Do not resort to physical punishment. Violence stems from violence and we want our dogs to trust us. When punishing your dog, use time-outs and removal of rewards. Controlling their resources is the clearest way to communicate to them that you are the leader. We want them to understand that we provide the

things they need and they must behave properly to receive them. Figure out what is rewarding to your dog, usually food, going outside, toys, your attention, and use these things in your training.

When your dog misbehaves try using a time-out. Dogs are pack animals and being alone isn't something they generally like. Look on page 10 in your resource guide for help.

Training Your Dog

Dogs learn similar to us. Every behavior has a consequence, and that consequence determines whether or not the behavior will be repeated. If the consequence is good, it is more likely the behavior will be repeated. If the consequence is negative, it is less likely the behavior will be repeated.

At Happy-Go-Lucky we use reward based training. It works well for both our dogs and us, as we get to reward our dogs when they do things that we like. We start by using treats, and lure them into situations we want and then reward them for getting it right. Once they understand the behavior, we move away from the treats and incorporate life rewards to proof what they learned.

Home will be the least distracting environment for your dog when training. Move your practice around your home so that you aren't always working in the same space. As you improve, increase the level of environmental distraction and try taking the training to the backyard or at a friend's house.

Keep your training sessions short (5-10 minutes) and frequent. Dogs will get bored and sometimes think that maybe they aren't completing the task you asked them (even if they are) if you work on it too long. Keeps the sessions fun and upbeat and always end them on a positive note. Training should be fun!

Supplies for Class

- A variety of soft smelly treats (bring more than you think you will need) and a pouch to keep them in
- A flat buckle quick release collar and a 4-6 foot leash (no flexies, choke chains, or prong collars please!) head halters and body harnesses are encouraged
- A stuffed Kong or chewie and a toy for down time
- Next week will be the hardest so start practicing as soon as you get in the door!
- Please let us know if your dog is shy or reactive

Class Rules/Guidelines

- Please be on time, we will start promptly and the door will open 5 minutes before class
- Don't feed your dog before class, we want them hungry and motivated
- Exercise and potty your dog at home, do not potty your dog in our neighborhood (except Oregon Park)
- Turn your cell phone off
- Do not allow your dog to have contact with another dog once inside our building
- Keep up with the homework so you are not behind in class. If you miss a week, go to happygoluckydog.com/homework.
- Save your Lucky Bones, they are worth 25 cents each off future services and can be used to enter the raffle at the end of class
- Relax and have fun!