



Beginning Obedience – Orientation Outline

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Introduction

What is something you love about your dog?

What is something you wish was different about your dog's behavior?

Positive Reinforcement Training

Providing something that your dog wants (food, attention, play, access to outside) to illicit behaviors

Training is about the relationship between you and your dog. A good trainer advocates for their dog, reads their dogs body language, and helps their dog get things right to build a good behavior foundation.

Management

Dogs are really good at being dogs!

We need to help them to do the right thing, this often means limiting their access to the potentially naughty things they could do. For example, jumping on the kitchen counter, or chewing shoes.

Exercise

Appropriate exercise depends on age, breed, and physical ability.

Fetch, swimming, running etc.

Mental enrichment

Equally, if not more, important than physical exercise

Walks are mental exercise

Puzzle toys

Find-it games

And training!

Rewards

Treats! Variety is important, your treat needs to be more valuable to your dog in the moment than the distractions around you.

Interactions with you- that they enjoy!

Playing

Things they want- to smell a nice bush, to greet other people or dogs, etc.

Punishment

Time-outs. Keep them short. In order to be effective they must happen immediately after (or during) the unwanted behavior. Catch them in the act. Our dogs do not understand punishment for something that happened even one minute ago.

Homework

“Yes”

Easy

Name

Sit

Watch

Come

Collar work

Equipment

6 Foot leash

Regular collar or harness

Treat Pouch

Variety of treats

Water and bowl

Kong, bully stick, and/or other puzzle toys

Toy (no squeakers please!)

Rules

Don't feed your dog before class

Exercise and potty your dog before class

Dogs will be excited! Get them working or focused on a chew/puzzle ASAP

Wait outside to be escorted in. We will come and get you 5 minutes before class starts. If you arrive late please ring the doorbell and we will come and let you in.

Silence cell phones

No dog-to-dog interactions in class

Reactive dogs (excessive barking) will be transferred to private training

Miss a class: Get your homework at happygoluckydog.com/homework