

## Learned Dog Rules and Class Policies

### Dog Dress Code – Collars and Leashes

As our training methods are force free, we do not use and do not allow electronic, choke or prong collars in class. Your dog needs to have:

- A regular flat/buckle collar with ID
- 4' or 6' leash made of cotton, soy, hemp, nylon or leather (best choice). NO RETRACTABLE LEASHES please.

You may choose to use one of the following:

- Front attachment walking harness (great choice!)
- Head halter (Gentle Leader, Comfort Trainer, Canine Bridle, Halti, etc)
- Back attachment (regular) harness (not recommended for large dogs that pull on leash).

### Class Age Requirements for Dogs and Puppies

Puppy Kindergarten:

- Puppies ages eight (8) weeks to sixteen (16) weeks of age and current on vaccinations may join this class
- Special exceptions (over 4 months of age) may occasionally be added to class upon instructor's recommendation/approval

Canine Manners (Basic Obedience), Intermediate Obedience, Tricks, Agility Foundations:

- Puppies and adult dogs four (4) months of age and above may join this class

### Vaccination/Parasite Policies

- Please bring a copy (for our records) of proof of your dog or puppy's current vaccinations before attending the first class with your dog.
- All dogs and puppies are required by Pet Stop Inn to have received a Bordatella (kennel cough) vaccine within 6 months of attending class. This is not part of a regular vaccination schedule. Please ask your veterinarian about administering this vaccine before class.
- Your dog or puppy should be free of fleas, ticks and internal parasites.
- All puppies must have received a minimum of one (1) set of vaccines (DHPP) at least seven (7) days prior to attending class and have received at least one (1) deworming treatment. Puppies are required to be kept up-to-date on vaccines throughout the class. If your puppy is showing any signs of illness, please DO NOT bring your puppy to class and contact your veterinarian. (Please read the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior's position on [puppy socialization](http://www.avsonline.org), <http://www.avsonline.org>).
- All dogs over four (4) months of age are required to be up-to-date on DHPP and Rabies vaccines.

If Your Dog is in heat, ill, or has been exposed. . .

- If your dog is in heat, please DO NOT bring her to class. PLEASE STILL ATTEND CLASS without your dog.

- If your dog or puppy is feeling under the weather (coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, mucus/discharge from eyes and nose, lethargy, not eating, etc) DO NOT bring him/her to class, and contact your veterinarian if necessary.
- If your dog has been exposed to a communicable disease within the last month (kennel cough, parvo, etc.), do not bring him/her to class.

## Disruptive Dogs or Owners

- In order to protect all participants in a group class, we reserve the right to decline entry to, or remove from class, any dog who presents behavior issues that may be dangerous, disruptive, or exacerbated by participation in a group class or setting. Credit for unattended sessions may be given, and we will recommend private training
- Our training method is based on the principles of positive reinforcement. Therefore, we do not permit the use of choke, prong (pinch), or electronic collars in class. We reserve the right to dismiss any participant from class, without refunding any portion of the class fee, if they persist in treating their dogs in ways that might cause physical or psychological harm.

## Upon Arrival

- Have all equipment needed for class ready
- Have dog equipped appropriately (see Dog Dress Code) and safely leashed
- Please potty your dog prior to coming into class. Bring bags for disposal of solid waste (plastic grocery bags work well).
- Please RESPECT OTHER DOG'S SPACE – leave plenty of room between your dog and other owner's and dogs. While your dog may be friendly, you have no knowledge of the friendliness of other dogs
- If attending a later class (7:45pm), please wait until the earlier class has exited the building to enter
- Enter the training space ONE DOG at a time
- You are responsible for cleaning up accidents made by your dog within the training facility, for which we provide handy cleaning supplies.

## Children

We encourage family members who will be participating in training your dog to attend class. However, for the safety of dogs and people we do not typically permit children under the age of twelve (12) to attend training classes without special consideration of your situation and the nature of the class. We have found that the attention span of young children can be shorter than that of puppies, and we want their parents to be able to fully concentrate on the class.

If you would like your child to attend class, please call us to discuss your situation. Each child under twelve (12) permitted to attend class MUST be accompanied by an adult (over 18) who will serve as the minor's guardian during class SEPERATE from the adult working with the attending dog.

- All minors (under 18) must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or have written permission from a parent or guardian to attend with another adult who will serve as the minor's guardian during class.

- Since not all dogs are comfortable around or friendly toward children, children should be instructed to **never approach or pet any other dog in class.**
- Children must remain under parental supervision at all times. We ask that they remain seated during lecture and discussion, and remain alongside you and your dog during training exercises.
- Please use “indoor voices” in the classroom arena and do not run. Skateboards, “Heelies”, or other types of shoes with wheels are not permitted.
- If you feel your child may become restless during class, please feel free to bring quiet activities they would enjoy.

## Class Registration and Payment

- Only one dog per handler per registration. Additional dogs may be registered separately and attend with a separate handler.
- Once your completed class registration form and payment are received by the class instructor, you will be provided with confirmation notification via email.
- Full payment is required at the time of registration to reserve a space in the class
- A space in class will NOT be guaranteed without full payment
- Accepted forms of payment: Cash, check or credit card.

## Cancellation

- If the minimum enrollment for a class is not met 3 days prior to the first class session, the class will be cancelled and rescheduled.
- You will be contacted via telephone and/or e-mail to see if you would like to enroll in the rescheduled class, receive credit toward a future class, or receive a full refund.

## Refund

- A full refund will be offered if the instructor is notified at least 5 days prior to the start date of class.
- If a dog is unable to attend due to an injury or illness during enrollment, you will receive a 50% discount toward a future class.
- NO refunds or discounts will be given after the third class session of dogs with handlers.