

PUPPY LIFE SKILLS

This class is designed for young puppies between 2 and 6 months of age. The class focuses on early puppy training and fitted to the shorter attention span of young dogs. Puppies can learn at an early age and the techniques taught in this class will serve as a basic foundation for your puppy's continuing education.

We encourage you to bring a toy to class each week. Puppies have a short attention span and may become bored as lessons are discussed. If your puppy has a toy to occupy him during quiet periods, you will be better able to focus on class discussions.

You should also bring soft, easy to chew treats to class each week. We will be showing you how to use food to motivate and encourage your puppy to learn new things. It is important that the puppy can quickly and easily chew the food motivator. (Hard treats take longer for the puppy to eat, tend to crumble and crumbs can easily be left on the floor. These can become a distraction for the puppies and for any other dogs that are enrolled in any class that follows.) Do not feed your puppy an evening meal prior to class or, at least, cut the meal in half. Puppies are more eager to focus on you and will learn more quickly when they are hungry. Remember to consider the treats that are used for training should be counted as a part of the total daily food allotment for your puppy.

Since your young puppy does have a short attention span, we recommend that training sessions be kept short. Five or ten minute sessions - done 2 to 3 times a day - will be the most successful. Training sessions are meant to be fun for both you and your puppy. Puppies are naturally pack animals and respond to a leader. Training sessions will help establish you as the pack leader and will also help build a working bond between you and your puppy. It will be helpful if you plan to do your training when the puppy is both rested and hungry. (Also, you should make sure the puppy has been outside and eliminated so he will be less likely to have an accident during your training session.)

You are encouraged to read your lesson plans before class each week. Although we will demonstrate and explain lessons, your book will serve as a good reference if you experience difficulty with an exercise. The lesson plan also includes training tips, information on crate training, housebreaking, chewing, jumping, etc.