

K9 KINDERGARTEN – GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Starting Time: All classes do start ON TIME. All classes are approximately one hour in length and last 6 weeks. If your dog needs time to exercise and calm down before class, we expect you to arrive early enough to accomplish this before class begins.

Proof of Vaccinations: Bring **WRITTEN** proof, (*tags are not considered proof*) of your dog's most recent vaccinations to the first session. ***For the safety of all people and dogs in class your dog will not be allowed to participate without this proof!*** If your dog is 4 months or older a Rabies vaccine is required. We **HIGHLY** recommend at least 3 Distemper vaccinations and a Bordetella vaccination before coming to class.

Fees: Fees are due in full at the end of the first session, which includes all handouts and workbooks. Because we want you to be certain about what you are getting into, we ask that you not pay anything until the end of the first class. **WE DO NOT GIVE REFUNDS for ANY REASON after this point.**

Equipment: You will need a training collar, a 6' leather or nylon leash (**absolutely NO chain leashes or harnesses**), a 20' long line, treats, and water for you and your dog. ***The first session you will need the collar and leash, water, and treats. Other equipment will be explained as we go along.*** If you do not own the proper equipment – please contact your instructor and I will go over with you what kind of equipment would be right for you and your pet.

Highlights: You can expect your dog to learn the following by the end of class: Heeling under control while out for a walk. Approaching strange dogs and people and remaining under your control. Coming to you when called on their long line. One minute sit and down stays. We will also cover housebreaking, crate training, 'alpha' behavior – or how to be the boss, appropriate toys, ways to save money at the vet, and several other useful topics. You will also be given a book filled with resources at the end of your first class.

Attendance: To get the most from the program, class attendance is important. If you must miss a class, please call your instructor. You are permitted one free make-up class. Additional make-up sessions may be arranged with your instructor at a nominal fee. **We consider attendance so important that you WILL NOT GRADUATE if you miss more than one (1) class!**

When & Where To Train At Home: Choose a quiet area to work with your dog so you can be the center of attention. Two short training sessions are better than one long one. In addition to setting aside specific times to train your dog, you will want to start making him obey you with the training techniques you are learning. Just be sure you are prepared to follow through if your dog does not respond. Our goal is to have the dog responding off the leash. Dogs learn by repetition. **In order to be successful you have to practice with your dog at least five days a week.** It is the practice at home which will bring success. **Class time is to teach YOU how to train your dog at home.**

Exercise & Food: Be sure to exercise your dog before class. If an accident happens, you will be expected to clean it up. Baggies will be provided at the first session for this purpose, and we will go over exactly how to use them. Do not work your dog for at least two hours after a meal. The same goes for bringing your dog to class—**you will find your training will be more successful if you bring your dog to class a little bit hungry.**

Clothing: Comfortable clothing is best for training. You will have to get down on the ground with your dog. The best shoes for training are low heels with rubber soles. Sneakers are ideal. Sandals, flip-flops, or high heels and open-toed shoes are inappropriate.

Who Should Train: The same handler should train the dog in class and at home. Switching handlers can be confusing to a beginning dog. However, all members of the family can be instructed how to give commands and have the dog obey. All must be consistent and learn to praise the dog.

Safety: Many dogs react unfavorably to alcohol and some medication; therefore no one is permitted to train in class if there is evidence of using alcohol. Smoking is prohibited during training sessions. We strongly recommend you not smoke or use alcohol when training at home. Also, even though you may have the sweetest dog to ever walk on four paws, please be aware that this is a training class. Some of the dogs you will encounter may not be willing to be approached by strange people or animals. Because of this we ask that you keep your dog under control at all times. **DO NOT let your dog rush up to another dog in class.**

Advice: Well-meaning friends can give you the wrong advice about training. To get the most from this program, use the techniques and procedures you will be shown in class. If you have any difficulty, call me right away.

Spectators: Visitors are welcome, but must remain quiet during class. We always welcome spectators, and we hope your family and friends express an interest in your training.

Cancellation: In case of inclement weather or if driving conditions are poor, we will cancel class. A make-up session for the entire class will be scheduled as soon as possible. We will not cancel class for a few raindrops or cold, windy days, so if you are in doubt please call.