
Puppy Preschool Clicker Class

Syllabus

6-Week Class

(Class time: 2-hour, people-only orientation, then, 1-1/2 hours per week for 5 weeks)

Syllabus

Class 1 – Orientation for People Only (2 hours)

- Basics of Clicker Training
 - Why use a clicker?
 - Clicker guidelines
 - Motivation
 - How to get a behavior (shaping, capturing, targeting, luring)
 - Adding the cue
 - Reinforcement
 - Catch them doing something right
- Play the Clicker Training Game
- Housetraining
- Crate Training
- First step in bite inhibition
- Techniques for dealing with chewing and recommended chew toys
- Vaccinations (discuss keeping puppy safe)
- Brief review of puppy developmental stages
- Class information (what to bring to class, lending library, puppy potty area, etc.)
- Demonstrate charging the clicker
- Demonstrate “Attention” using shaping
- Demonstrate teaching the puppies their names
- Demonstrate “Sit” using capturing method

Class 2 – Puppies’ 1st Week (1-1/2 hours)

- Safe way to meet and greet new dogs
- Everyone circulates and meets the puppies (One family member remains seated with puppy, and all “extra” family members circulate around the room greeting puppies one at a time).
- Review basics of clicker training
- Review “Sit” with hand signal (no lure)
- Discuss using sit for “deference” and to redirect jumping up
- PUPPY PLAY PERIOD
- Review “Attention”
- Review first step in bite inhibition (yip/growl when mouthing hurts)
- INTRODUCE PUPPY TO NEW THINGS – (wheelchair, walker)
- Teach “Settle” in lap
- Teach “Come” understanding the basics of teaching “come” (relay game)
- Teach “Release” word (Begin using release word such as “go play” or “free puppy”)

Class 3 (1-1/2 hours)

- Pass the puppies (People sit on floor, puppies move around the circle by themselves or with class assistant or handler if necessary. People can ask puppies to “sit” or “settle.”)
- Teach “Take hold of collar” – work with getting puppies comfortable with having collar grabbed
- Teach “Settle” (on leash)
- Review of “come” add the “Hide & Seek” game this week
- PLAY PERIOD (release puppy with release word)
- Second step in bite inhibition (yip/growl for any pressure)
- INTRODUCE PUPPY TO NEW EXPERIENCE (tunnel)
- Teach “Down” capturing or with lure and hand signal
- INTRODUCE PUPPY TO ADULT DOG
- Teach “Leave-It/Take-It” (Step 1 – closed hand)
- Discuss how to be a benevolent leader
- Introduce concept of Self-Control
- Demonstrate “Tug and Calm” game

Class 4 (1 hr. 15 minutes)

- Review “Settle while excited”
- Pass the puppies (People stand, and can ask puppies for “settle,” “sit,” or “down.”)
- Review “Down” with hand signal (no lure)
- Review “Leave-It” (add Step 2 – open hand)
- PLAY PERIOD
- Teach “Off” – four paws on the floor
- Demonstrate Handling (sensitive areas such as feet, tail, mouth, ears, bathing, nail clipping)
- INTRODUCE PUPPIES TO NEW THINGS (vacuum)
- Teach “Touch” hand (teach the basics of targeting)
- INTRODUCE PUPPIES TO NEW EXPERIENCE (Wobble Board)
- Teach “Stay”
- Discuss Techniques for dealing with Digging

Class 5 (1-1/2 hours)

- Pass the puppies (People sit and can practice handling puppies)
- Discuss head collars & no-pull harnesses
- Introduce target stick (“touch” stick)
- PLAY PERIOD
- Teach “Heel” (shaping or target stick)
- Teach “Loose Leash Walking”
- INTRODUCE PUPPY TO NEW THINGS (umbrella, Dremel tool for nails)
- Introduce exercises around the food bowl (avoid food protection)
- Self-Control – Exercises: Parking, Calming Ovals, Getting from point A to point B (for pups 16 weeks and older)
- Review “Leave-It” add (Step 3) and discuss as the third step in bite inhibition to decrease frequency of mouthing.
- Discuss techniques for dealing with Barking

Class 6 – Graduation (1-1/2 hours)

- Pass the puppies (People stand and can wear hats, sunglasses, use canes, etc.)
- Review any behaviors class would like reviewed
- Review anti-biting exercises and discuss how to check for lifelong bite inhibition
- PLAY PERIOD
- Discuss vaccinations
- Discuss pros and cons of dog parks
- INTRODUCE PUPPIES TO ADULT DOG
- Discuss psychological/health benefits of spaying/neutering
- Discuss the importance of continued training
- Introduce emergency recall (taught more in-depth in Elementary and Clicker High)
- Games & prizes (tail wag/recall race/sit-stay (5 sec.)/down-stay (10 sec.)/leave-it)
- Graduation ceremony, certificates, prizes, photos, refreshments
- Sign up for next class