



Elementary Clicker Class Description

The Elementary Clicker Training Class is a 6-week class designed to teach people how to train their dogs to do basic behaviors including: sit, down, stand, heel, walk on a leash, come, stay, leave-it, and off. In addition, we discuss how to deal with issues such as jumping up on people, rushing out doors, digging, barking and chewing.

Focus of Elementary Class

The focus of this class is for the dogs to learn to pay attention to their people as opposed to all the other dogs and distractions in the class. This is a great beginning level training class for dogs older than 18 weeks. Ideally, clients start with a Puppy Preschool then take a Puppy Enrichment before moving into Elementary Clicker Training.

I find that the dogs and people, who have taken a previous clicker class, benefit even more from this class. However, if that is not possible, this is a good beginning-level training class. The Elementary Clicker Class is also the basic class required before clients move on to more advanced training classes such as Clicker High, Musical Canine Freestyle, Rally-O or Agility.

Safe & supervised play

The more enthusiastic and larger dogs are placed together. Occasionally, just two puppies are put together in an X-Pen or separate area to play. The point is we would like each puppy to have a positive interaction with another puppy and, hopefully, more than one other puppy. Sometimes, by the last class, all puppies can play together. More often, they are still divided into groups. This depends on the temperament of the puppies attending class.

Class Instruction

In the instruction part of the class, we begin teaching basic behaviors such as sit, down, leave-it, come, stay, walk on a leash and touch (hand targeting). We also discuss housetraining and crate training.

Addressing puppy behaviors

In addition, we talk about how to work with preventing puppy behaviors that most of us don't want, such as jumping up, barking, digging, and chewing. We talk about how important management is at this age. We also discuss how to begin teaching the puppies self-control. Another hot topic is puppy "mouthing" and how to instill good bite inhibition (a light bite if a dog does bite) in our puppies from an early age.



Why classes are important for puppies

I often tell my clients that if they can make it to only one class because of time or financial considerations, the puppy preschool is the most important. As I continue to work with shelter dogs and private behavior consultations, I think what a different world this would be if each and every puppy owner took their puppy to a positive, safe puppy class. It is a class that is very important for the puppy's socialization and also extremely important for the puppy's person to get off on the right foot in training and raising their puppy.