

Group Dog Training Class: Basic Manners

Description: In-person, 8 week, basic manners, training class for most dogs.

- **Where:** At Double Play Community Center (please enter at the main door)
- **What & How:** This class covers basic dog manners, including: sit, down, pay attention, go to spot, and remain in spot. If you are looking for militant obedience, this class is not for you! Instead, build a cooperative, respectful, healthy relationship with your dog through kindness, communication, and reward-based training without resorting to fear, pain, intimidation, force, or punishment. We will be using what is known as marker training, which works with all species from insects to gorillas.
- **Who:** Katenna Jones, grew up in Lowville and recently returned with 25+ years of experience and skill. She is one of less than 100 Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists in the world, a Certified Dog (and Cat!) Behavior Consultant, a Certified Fear Free Trainer, a published author, educator, consultant and respected expert in the Dog behavior Community. Katenna is NOT a dog trainer who teaches "obedience," she is an animal behaviorist with an Ivy league masters degree in psychology (animal learning, behavior, and cognition). To see even more credentials, please visit:
<https://www.jonesanimalbehavior.com/credentials>

Weekly lesson Content:

1. **Orientation, marker & attention.** Humans only, no dogs attend this session!! This session will review logistics, rules, supplies, expectations, and more so everyone knows exactly what to expect, is safe and set up for success. We will review the training methods to be used in this course, why we use them, and how they work. You will receive your first homework of: loading the marker, attention & focus.
2. **Attention, focus, movement:** The second session is our first session with dogs in the training space. We will continue working on attention and focus from last week, but in a novel environment amidst big distractions, which will be difficult for most dogs. You will also practice communication, cooperation and teaching your dog to move with you.
3. **Sit, and down:** Finally, we get into some traditional skills. In this session we will perfect or introduce sit and lie down, depending on where your dog's skill level is currently.
4. **Down in place:** In this session we will introduce the concept of stationing, or settling down in a specific "spot" or "place." Please ensure you have your dog's bed, rug, or blanket for this session.
5. **Go to place:** This session builds on last week by working on *sending* your dog to their spot from varying distances and locations. This is helpful for relocating your dog away from guest arrivals, barking at the window, etc.

6. **Relax in place:** Here, we will help your dog understand how to settle, or relax, on their spot after being sent there. The goal with this skill is to train your dog to *choose* to remain on their place after being sent there.
7. **Release from place:** In this session we will work on telling your dog when they are free to leave their place. This is a modern version of the traditional “break” or “release” from stay.
8. **Polish, graduation:** This is our final session where we polish any rough edges for graduation. This is also an opportunity to celebrate what you and your dog have achieved together as a team.

Student Guidelines

Canine participant details:

- Older than 1 yr
- Spayed/neutered
- No history of aggressive behavior directed toward other dogs or humans
- House trained
- Able to be physically controlled/managed on leash/non reactive, explosive, disruptive

Human participant details:

- At least one, adult, legal owner/guardian per session
- Up to 3 people per dog per session
- At least one adult handler per dog, strong enough to manage/physically control the dog
- Children who are cognitively and/or developmentally able to refrain from distraction throughout the duration of the classes are welcome to attend. Children unable to do this are also welcome, with an adult dedicated to their one-on-one supervision.

Registration requirements:

- Completed registration paperwork, including proof of current rabies, parvo combo, and bordatella (kennel cough) vaccines
- Pre-payment in full

Supplies

- Please bring to each session. Additional details regarding each will be provided
 - Poop bags
 - Water bowl and water
 - A bed/mat/rug/towel
 - Plenty of small, high value food rewards
 - A large capacity training pouch/treat bag
 - Optional/recommended: a phone or other video recording device (Fully charged with plenty of storage space)

- A helper (for assistance with recording, notetaking, clean up, etc)

Rules:

1. Be on time. Attendees are expected to arrive at least ~15mins prior to session start time
 - To allow opportunity for dogs to relieve themselves - unrushed - outside
 - To allow dogs to adapt to the new environment
 - To allow handlers to get settled in and ready to begin
 - Plan to allow plenty of time for travel, traffic and weather
2. No dog-dog interactions.
 - Dogs may approach another dog to sniff or say "hello" - even if they are friends outside of the class.
 - All dogs are expected to stay at least 6 feet away from all other dogs at all time
3. No human greetings.
 - Please do not stare at, wave, talk to, feed, distract, or otherwise interact with another dog during the session unless that is specifically what we are working on
 - Not all dogs enjoy or feel safe with strangers while some dogs are highly distracted by attention and struggle to get back on track.
4. No aversives.
 - No shock collars, choke chains, prong collars, or other "training" equipment may be worn during training (including invisible fence collars)
 - No physical or verbal corrections (including but not limited to striking, yelling, leash jerking etc.)
5. Clean up after your dog.
 - Feces deposited inside or outside of the training space should be completely contained inside a tied poop bag and disposed of in the provided/designated bins.
 - Urine that is deposited inside the training space should be completely wiped up as soon as possible.
 - After any urine or feces is removed, the soiled area should be sprayed and wiped with the provided sanitation spray and paper towels.
 - Soiled paper towels should be disposed of in the provided/designated bins.
6. Have fun
 - This class is design to be an engaging and rewarding experience for both humans and dogs. Confusion, anxiety, stress, fear, agitation and other such emotions are not only unpleasant for everyone, they impede learning.
 - The emotional and physical well being of all participants will always be a priority.