

# Getting ready for orientation/first class in DeLand

[bestpaw@bestpaw.com](mailto:bestpaw@bestpaw.com) [www.bestpaw.com](http://www.bestpaw.com)

**5:30 p.m. Tuesdays by appointment, Spring Oaks Animal Care Center  
152 McGregor Road, DeLand, Florida 32720 386-736-6747**

Big discount for Spring Oaks Animal Care Center at this site!

47 minutes from Best Paw Forward Inc. Osteen home base

Arrive at parking lot on the right of the building as you approach Spring Oaks. Come in to the air-conditioned training room accessible through the back gate.

## **From I-4**

- Exit 116/County Road 4116/Orange Camp Road
- West 3 miles on CR4116/Orange Camp Road (becomes McGregor Road as you cross U.S. Highway 17-92)
- First right (north) after Checkers/Walgreen shopping center into office park for Spring Oaks Animal Care Center

## **Or U.S. Highway 17-92**

- West on CR4116/ McGregor Road/Orange Camp Road
- Right into office park next to Checkers/Walgreen shopping center

If it works better for your schedule you may attend orientation in Osteen at a different time and day of the week (confirm the time & location, and watch for our new online appointment calendar soon!) and take your other 6 classes in DeLand

Free makeup sessions, extra class time & agility introduction are also offered at our home base:  
Best Paw Forward Sports Club and Home Office

1835 Oak Haven Plantation Rd., Osteen FL 32764-8872

during your 7-week DeLand series.

[bestpaw@bestpaw.com](mailto:bestpaw@bestpaw.com) [www.bestpaw.com](http://www.bestpaw.com)

407-321-1006 home office 407-415-6601 cell (mostly used when away from property, so always call home office first)

Print & follow directions from web page or from our e-mails.

GPS & mapping programs may have serious routing errors – just use to generally confirm our directions. Always change route to avoid Boy Scout Camp Road or Lake Ashby Road (unless you live on or just off those roads, of course, and know how to navigate the sugar sand).

Watch for our new online appointment scheduling system to begin soon.

We are glad to provide in-home private sessions for friendly older dogs or friendly dogs with compromised immune systems. Dogs with social issues must come to the Osteen site for the greatest improvement rate.

Cell phone reception spotty out here for urban mobile phone carriers

## **Advance registration required for PuppyLove, Basic Manners sessions**

**PuppyLove & Basic Manners also require orientation class (first class, different time from rest of series) which makes it possible for you to start right away.**

- **Orientation at Spring Oaks Animal Care Center 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays (by appointment)**
- **First session of PuppyLove, Basic Manners.**
- **Other suggested times listed on class schedule page.**

Entire family welcome for most programs (especially PuppyLove & Basic Manners). Two adults must be present, please, in each family with children younger than age 5. Children must remain with parents or guardians at all times. Group sessions with shy, nervous, aggressive dogs do not include young children.

Bring to first class:

- Your dog, hungry and rested.
- Vaccine or titer records. Show us your printed version; download to show us on your smart phone or tablet; or scan/send in as attachment with registration forms. We follow your vet's protocols on distemper, adenovirus, parainfluenza, parvovirus; rabies for dogs older than 6 months, and recommend bordetella, canine influenza, leptospira.
- Treats – see details below.
- Dogs must be clean, healthy, free of parasites such as fleas, ticks etc.

### **No full dog tummies for class, orientation, workshops!**

- Morning class: no breakfast until after class
- Evening class: light breakfast before 9 a.m.; no other food until after class.
- Very shy or nervous dog: no food for 24 hours before first session.
- Provide fresh water at all times for your dog. No need to withhold water before any classes nor usually at any other time.

**For a quick doggie attitude boost, if your dog is annoying you in many ways:** For one week or more prior to first class it is helpful to hand feed a few pieces of dry or specialty dog food at a time throughout the day & evening (no food from his bowl during this time if possible).

### **Bring great treats to every class**

- 3-4 different items, high-protein special treats such as all-meat or low-fat hot dogs, cheese; cooked boneless chicken, meat like drained lean ground beef or fresh liver (cheaper and healthier than most dog treats). Soft high-value treats cut into tiny bits (puffed rice to frozen pea size) or in chunks that can be easily ripped apart during class
- Avoid sugar-heavy, chemical-laden, grain-filled dog treats. No artificial sweeteners (especially Xylitol which is toxic to dogs). If you like, save healthy all-meat dog treats for walks in your neighborhood.
- 1 lb. or more for medium to large dogs, 12 oz. and up for small to medium dogs.
- Something novel & exciting that pup does not get at home already.
- In easy-open treat pouch, treat bag or carpenter/kitchen apron with pockets.
- Plastic baggies containing treats **not allowed** (large pup or dog can rapidly swallow entire yummy-smelling plastic bag). Dump treats directly into dog treat training bag or apron. Plastic baggies are also slippery and slow down your response time, leading to

confusing communication with your pet. Leave the plastic baggies in a cooler in your vehicle if you like.

## **TRAINING EQUIPMENT**

- Safe equipment required at all sessions.
- Secure leash & snug-fitting collar for private or orientation class

### **PuppyLove** dogs (8-18 weeks old at first class) **or private class for pups under 18 weeks old**

- Buckle or snap collars.
- No harnesses in PuppyLove – ask us about safety issues, play times and agility equipment.
- \*Leather or soft nylon leashes. Leather recommended, especially for pups already pulling hard on leash before coming to class. Instructors may elect to demonstrate with dogs on leather leashes to make it easier & safer to hold onto wiggly pups.
- \*\*Gentle Leader or Snoot Loop head collar for pups already pulling hard.

### **Basic Manners** dogs (older pups & adult dogs) **or private class for friendly older pups & adult dogs**

- Snug-fitting, thin, **all-nylon slip collars**
- **All-nylon limited choke/slip collars**
- \*Leather leash, 4' long, no wider than. 5/8" for most dogs, lighter for smaller dogs.
- \*\***Gentle Leader or Snoot Loop** head collars

When wearing a slip collar or limited slip, all other collars must be removed.

**No** chain nor partial chain collars allowed in beginning nor agility classes.

**No** harnesses allowed on dogs in Basic Manners nor PuppyLove sessions, nor on any agility equipment, for safety reasons. Feel free to contact us for any clarification.

For friendly smaller dogs or dogs that do not pull on leash around distraction, we may allow snug-fitting buckle or snap collars, & leash variations, but we reserve the right to require safe, easily-handled equipment at any & all sessions.

**Female dogs in season** may not attend Basic Manners level classes. They are still welcome in advanced sessions at owners' discretion with careful management and wearing appropriate sanitary gear. Owners who attend Basic Manners classes without their dogs during those weeks get free group make up sessions later.

**What you should wear:** Comfortable clothing and non-skid shoes such as tennis or athletic shoes (no sandals nor flip flops allowed, please). Pockets are a big plus!

**Cell phones and pagers:** Your dog deserves your undivided attention at least once a week during class. Mute or turn off cell phones, tablets & pagers during class unless you are taking pictures or video to share with us for class credit. Let your instructor know about a special need to leave one on during class, or if you are filming/shooting pictures to share. Step at least 20 feet away from an outdoor class in Osteen, or outside an indoor class in Osteen or Spring Oaks if you must take an emergency call during a class.

**If your dog has serious social or noise issues, please register for Best Paw Forward Inc.'s private classes, or Detouring Doggie Delinquents workshops/growl classes when available.**

**Work Study available!** We love students who exchange their help or barter items for discounted group sessions and workshops. Details available at [www.bestpaw.com](http://www.bestpaw.com)

**Discounts available with advance registration, payment before first session:**

BPF Continuing/Returning Students

Seniors

Multiple Dogs In Household

Experienced Trainers

Rescue Volunteers

Referring Rescue Groups

Law Enforcement, firefighters, active military

Emergency Services Personnel

Service Dogs, Service Dogs in Training

Veterinary staff

**Class postponement** Class cancellation announcements are posted on the web page, answering machine and via Facebook. Rainy, cold and hot weather will not affect indoor classes, and we have provisions in place to work around those conditions at other sites.

### **Group Class Locations**

Best Paw Forward Inc. Sports Club, Home Office  
1835 Oak Haven Plantation Rd., Osteen FL 32764-8872  
Spring Oaks Animal Care Center  
152Gregor Road, Deland 32720

\* **Best leash for all ages: 4' to 6' leather** or cotton, easy to hold, handmade latigo

- \$22 plus tax for 5/8" by 4'
- No wider than 5/8" for medium to large dogs, 1/2" for most smaller dogs.
- Usually required for Basic Dogs, recommended for puppies.
- We use, sell & recommend handmade HMI's locally hand-made leather leashes
- HMI leashes available in variety of lengths, widths at prices that meet or beat other local sources and most online (holding price line where we can sell at same price for at least 15 years!).
- Why no nylon leashes for older pups & dogs? Come in pretty colors but can hurt hands if dog pulls on leash.
- Chain leashes prohibited for all classes. Extendable leashes prohibited except in some advanced obedience class exercises.
- **Private or orientation class:** We can check leashes there to see what is working for you.
- You are welcome to purchase or order one online elsewhere as long as you have it by your 2nd class (the one following orientation) or you must buy one of ours.

\*\***Gentle Leader or Snoot Loop** head collars

- Available online, at some big pet supply chains (the brand does matter – don't give in on other brands) and sometimes at Best Paw Forward Inc.
- For easy, gentle control of dogs new to our program
- To ensure that dogs cannot slip away, not for leash corrections.

- Great choice for dog or puppy that's pulling hard.
- Walks can improve quickly.
- Dog wears regular collar with tags as well as head collar – the two work quite well together.
- Talk to us about how to work with a dog who is uncomfortable with strangers closely examining the fit. A snug-fitting buckle collar may be best for orientation or a private session in that case.