



www.caliper-ridge.com (416) 505 8908

Overview of Level 1 Basic Obedience

The Level 1 Basic Obedience course is open to dogs older than 16 weeks. The program is designed to help your dog become a well-mannered companion both inside and outside the home and to understand and follow basic obedience commands. The course will give you the knowledge and skills to continue training on your own.

The program runs for seven (7) weeks with weekly classes of one hour in length. Classes are deliberately kept small (no more than eight dogs) so that Caliper Ridge can provide personalized attention to each client and dog. There is additional time after each class to discuss individual concerns and answer questions. Classes begin promptly at the designated start time each week. Each session will start with a brief review of the prior week's lesson and ask participants to share their successes and struggles with training.

Who Can Attend, What You Need To Do/Bring and What Will Be Provided

To participate in Group Dog Training – Level 1 Basic Obedience, you must understand, agree to and sign (1) Caliper Ridge's Dog Training Agreement and if applicable, (2) Use of Property – Release of Liability Agreement.

You can bring others with you to observe and join in the training, but there is a maximum of three (3) people per dog. Only one person can handle the dog at a given time unless otherwise instructed and other participants are reminded to be quiet and only observe during these times. Please bring a suitable mat (or bed) for your dog to "go to place", a leash, a suitable collar (Caliper Ridge may suggest an alternative after observation), poop bags and dog treats (or toys) appropriate as rewards. Caliper Ridge does not provide these items to participants. If your dog has any special requirements, please discuss them with us in advance.

Caliper Ridge will provide all other necessary tools for the training sessions. At the introductory class, you will be given a clicker (which we use as a "marker" – please see the article "Marker Training" on the Caliper Ridge website: www.caliper-ridge.com). Prior to each class, ensure your dog has relieved himself or herself and has been exercised, but not to excess. Ideally, your dog should be eager to engage in training and should be relatively hungry if food motivated.

Course Objectives – Level 1 Basic Obedience

The goals upon completion of the program are two-fold: (1) for you to have the knowledge and skills to continue and refine training and (2) for your dog to:

- Greet people and other dogs in a controlled and appropriate manner;
- Maintain a stay position until released
- Focus on you in the presence of distractions
- Ignore objects at your command
- Walk on a loose leash (practiced at every session)
- Come to you when called

Class 0: Introductory Session

This session is 30 minutes and is hosted on-line via Zoom. We will reiterate the objectives of the program and answer questions.

Class 1: Sit, Down, Loose Leash Walking

In this class, we get our dogs used to working in the presence of other people and dogs (and in a strange environment) by focusing on basic commands that require the dog only to interact directly with the owner. Because of its importance to daily life, loose leash walking is an activity practiced in every class.

Class 2: Greetings, Manners, Place

We teach our dogs how to greet other people and dogs in an appropriate manner. Go to place (a mat or bed) is essential to helping our dogs maintain composure and understand their “safe spot”.

Class 3: Stay, Touch

We begin teaching Stay (in various positions) to teach impulse control and focus on the owner. Touch is a classic command that asks the dog to focus physically on the owner in the presence of distractions.

Class 4: Look at Me, Leave It

Look at Me is a critical command to redirect a dog’s attention on the owner via a verbal cue. Leave It is essential to your dog’s ability to ignore objects (animals, food, etc.) at your command.

Class 5: Recall on and off leash

We will help you understand and train the components for successful recall.

Class 6: Mixed Session

We start with basic commands and work as a group to practice Look at Me, Leave It and Recall in the presence of distractions.

Class 7: Assessment

We “test” each owner and dog on the following:

- Stay for 30 seconds
- Loose leash walking as a group
- Leave It
- Recall

Everyone receives a Certificate of Achievement (and a photo with their dog) and some ideas for further training. We also reserve some time for participants to offer feedback either to the group or privately.