



GROUP CLASS GROUND RULES

Rules for Group Class:

1. Class starts on time. Please arrive and get settled up to 5 minutes prior to the class start time. Please wait in the car until it is time to enter for class. Your instructor will link a youtube video with instructions for parking and entering the building.
2. Puppies that are not yet fully vaccinated (attending Puppy Preschool) must use the grassy area behind the training building, just to the left of the entry door, for potty breaks. All other dogs may not use that area, fully vaccinated dogs can use other grassy areas at the exit side of the training building or across the parking lot in the grassy lawn area.
3. Be aware of what your dog is doing as you transition in and out of the training space. Gigi's houses shelter dogs, and you may see team members walking the dogs on the grounds. Please give them space.
4. If your dog (or you) need a break, it is ok to leave the training space and return.
5. Be prepared to clean up potty accidents if they happen (bags) – we provide mop/spray/paper towels.
6. Be prepared with plenty of treats, two kinds of chews or stuffed toys, and a mat for your dog to rest on. Toys that make noise should be avoided – they will likely distract other dogs.

Safety – Priority #1

1. The safety of all people attending, your dog, and the other dogs in class is always the first priority.
2. Safe place – each family will have their own space while in class. Visual separation will be provided for dogs that need it. Be mindful, avoid letting your dog jump on the barriers.
3. Equipment should be checked before class for fit and wear and tear. Maintain your leash handling during class – keep the leash in your hand, secured under your foot, or tethered unless directly asked to do otherwise by your instructor.
4. When working with your dog, be aware of nearby dogs, and avoid moving into their space unless directed by your instructor. Increase distance if another dog is too distracted by or seems to be avoiding or upset by your dog. Do not allow face to face introductions, unless specifically directed to do so by your instructor.



5. See something, say something! Advocate for yourself and your dog, speak up if you see something you are worried about or uncomfortable with. Even if the instructor (or another pet professional or person you interact with) has said to do something, you have the final say in keeping you and your dog safe and comfortable.
6. Health requirements are for everyone's safety – if your dog is sick, please let your trainer know and do not attend class. Make-up sessions may be an option, please discuss with your instructor.

Fun – Priority #2

1. We will focus on building behaviors in a positive, kind, low stress way. If at any time you feel your dog is upset or distressed, please stop working so we can address their state of mind.
2. If your dog is having trouble focusing on you, you should stand so you are facing the action and work on getting your dog to face you (and therefore away from the other families). Make yourself interesting to your dog! Take a break and offer a foraging/chewing activity or to be fun (play with your dog with a little care about distracting other teams), before returning to the task at hand.
3. Be aware of what body language and behavior indicates your dog needs a break and stop before the training stops being fun for both of you.
4. Use toys, treats and cues to engage your dog. Interrupt them when staring or barking at another family.

Please consider the following, let your instructor know if you have any concerns:

Learning how each dog is different and respecting that some dogs need more space or slower approaches and greeting to be comfortable is part of what you can expect to learn in class. Some handlers are not comfortable in a group environment and may find they prefer more one on one coaching. If you or your dog are not comfortable in the group class environment, we reserve the right to request you move to private sessions. Once more comfortable, you may choose to return to group sessions.

If you are aware that your dog may have difficulty working in a space with other dogs and/or people, we expect you to have a conversation with us to express that prior to joining a class. We cannot refund payments for dogs that must be removed from class due to fearful, aggressive, or frustrated behaviors that prevent them from participating in the exercises in class or disrupt the ability of other teams to work effectively. We cannot fill the space after class has started.