

Prairie Skies – Dog Training for Open Spaces

Kindergarten Puppy Training

Please be on time. Our class time is limited and we'll want to use it efficiently

Please, no chain leashes, or flexi-leads (retractable leashes). Chain leashes are heavy, they make too much noise and they're hard on your hands. Flexi-leashes are clumsy, difficult to handle, and they give the pup too much freedom during class. We will talk more about appropriate equipment on the first night.

While class is in session, keep your puppies separated and their attention on you. Puppy class is a place to 'socialize' your puppy and we will talk about socialization, what it is and how to do it right; however many dogs suffer more in the long-term because they can't or won't pay attention to their owners. Appropriate to your puppy's age, we will strive for a balance between interaction and separation, and your puppy will come to understand that the terms of interaction are something that you (his leader) will specify. Keep in mind that not all puppies have natural social skills -- as a point of courtesy, before you allow your dog to interact with another dog outside of class, you must get the other owner's permission FIRST. However during class, we'll help your puppy learn to 'settle' and his attention should be on YOU.

During class, if a puppy demonstrates a behavior problem (mouthing, biting, growling, barking, etc.) we will take that opportunity to observe and learn about that behavior, and I will discuss and demonstrate the steps to its prevention and 'cure'. This means that there might be times when I use you, and/or your puppy, as an 'example'. Please do not be offended, or feel singled out. At one time or another, ALL puppies do these things. It is a better learning experience for everyone if we train the puppies we have in front of us, rather than speak more generally, or more abstractly, about puppies somewhere 'else'. These are opportunities to watch, listen and learn from our puppies and from each other.

Kids and interested family members are always welcome. Please supervise smaller children.

Please clean up after your dog. If you take your dog to public places on walks, for training practice or for socialization, take clean-up supplies with you when you go. Set a good example. Thanks.

Owning a dog, and training him, is fun – and we want you and your dog to look forward to coming to class, and to enjoy practicing your skills. Fostering your relationship with your puppy, and teaching you good canine communications skills -- these are our primary goals for the course.

Week I – How dogs learn (and how they don't), introduce sit, down, stand and puppy push-ups; how to stop your puppy's biting/chewing.

Week II – Loose-leash walking, yielding; housebreaking.

Week III – Coming when called, 'leave-it', and general problem-solving (barking, jumping up, etc)

Week IV – Review of all exercises, grooming and nail-trimming, teaching 'stay' and 'wait'.