

February Playful Pups Training Class Schedule

Puppy Manners & Social Skills: *Saturdays at 10:30 am; Mondays at 6 pm.* **Rolling Enrollment:** Start immediately and join the series of 6 classes at any point in the cycle, coming to either day—or both!--each week until you've been to six classes. This off-leash class is for young puppies between 8 and 18 weeks. It provides positive socialization experiences, solutions to common puppy nuisance behaviors (for example, housebreaking, chewing, nipping, jumping), and a strong foundation in obedience training. **NOTE:** If your pup turns 18 weeks before you've attended your six sessions, he must be evaluated before remaining in class with the younger pups. (6 weeks, \$140)

Adolescent Puppy Obedience: *Mondays*, next class starts February 18, at 7:15 pm; *Wednesdays*, next class starts February 20, at 6:00 pm. This class is the next step for Puppy Manners grads, as it switches the focus from social skills to on-leash obedience training. The same skills are taught that are taught in Basic Obedience, but your adolescent (5 to 12 months, approximately) pup may best be served in this class, since it addresses the energy level of most teenage dogs! (6 weeks, \$140)

Basic Obedience: *Wednesdays*, next class starts February 20, at 7:15 pm.; *Thursdays*, next class starts February 21, at 6 pm. If you haven't taken a Playful Pups group class before, this is the class to start with. Puppy Manners grads are also welcome in this class, as it teaches the same skills as does the Adolescent Obedience class. You will learn to apply numerous positive reinforcement games and exercises which will enable you to teach your dog basic manners and obedience. Skills taught include loose-leash walking, sitting instead of jumping up, staying when told to, and coming called. Most of all, you and your dog will develop a strong, mutually respectful relationship. (6 weeks, \$140).

Intermediate Obedience *Thursdays*, next class starts February 21, at 7:15 pm. If you have already taken a Playful Pups class and your dog has some Basic Obedience skills, taking this class will refine and strengthen them. Continuing to use the foundation skills, you will now apply them to off-leash heeling, distance recalls, and solid stays. This a great course for a dog that already has basic manners and an owner who wants to do more! (6 weeks, \$140)

Advanced Obedience: This is a class for Intermediate Obedience graduates who want to maintain or expand their obedience skills. It will be conducted mostly off-leash and will introduce behaviors needed for Obedience and Rally competitions. But don't worry: the format is relaxed and fun, since skills are often practiced while playing games, such as Musical Chairs or Recall Relays! (6 weeks, \$140)

Novice Rally: This class is for dog/handler teams who have developed good Obedience skills and want to continue working together! Teams are asked to heel on-leash through a numbered course of 12 to 17 stations requiring simple obedience skills, such as sits, downs, and Call Fronts. Because Rally is a competitive sport, you and your dog can enter events and even earn AKC Rally Obedience titles! (6 weeks, \$140) *[Note: Consider coming to Friday's Competition Practice nights when you get ready to trial!]*

Advanced/Excellent Rally: This session introduces the Advanced and Excellent level maneuvers for Rally teams who have completed Novice Rally. It also can introduce the skills needed for AKC Obedience titles, specifically the Beginning Novice and the Novice. (6 weeks, \$140)

[Note: Consider coming to Friday's Competition Practice nights, during the trial season... Drop in (no set fee, just an envelope for voluntary donation...!)]

Just-for-Fun Agility: *Saturdays*, next class starts February 23, at 12:30 pm. Why not see what the sport of Agility is all about? Scaled down equipment will be introduced, then used in sequences designed to have your dog stay connected to you as you run near him, but at increasing distances. The emphasis is in enhancing your relationship with your dog, through "team building" exercises; however, many teams will decide to go on to full-sized equipment and competitions! *Dogs will be working off leash, in a group setting!* (6 weeks, \$140)

Specialized Classes: 1 to 5-week classes, offered on occasion

Therapy Dog/CGC Prep: These sessions acquaint the dog and handler team with what they will need to do when being evaluated to earn their Canine Good Citizen designation and/or to become a registered Therapy Dog team. Additionally, it addresses the situations that can be faced when going on a therapy dog visit. Your dog may be tested without this class; however, we offer it for those who would like to refine their skills as well as practice at the test location. (3 weeks, \$90). *Saturdays*, next class starts February 23, and runs from 2 till 3:30 pm.

Next test March 10 @ 1 pm; pre-registration with Jean Nohle is required. Contact her directly at jnohle@verizon.net.

Intro to Dog Sports: Why not see what you and your dog can do together as a team? In this class you'll learn what is involved in Agility, Rally, Obedience, and even Nose Work! The first part of every class you'll learn to keep your dog connected to you as you negotiate Agility sequences; the second part will introduce one of the other sports. Who knows? You may decide you'd like to go on and compete (earning AKC titles!) in one or more of these sports! Dogs will be working off leash. (4 weeks, \$100)

Click-a-Trick: *Saturdays*, next class starts March 16, at 2 pm. This class teaches handlers the underlying principles of using a *clicker* to train an animal, as they introduce this communication tool to their dogs. They will then use the clicker to teach their dogs to understand (and relish!) the concept of learning something new. Finally, they'll apply this method to teach their dogs a variety of tricks. Introduced also will be "platform training," which helps dogs develop precise obedience skills. (Note: a clicker is used ONLY in the initial stage of training a new behavior; you won't use your clicker, once your dog has learned the trick.) (3 weeks, \$75.00, clicker included!)

Click-to-Calm: So your dog is not aggressive, just *overly reactive* when he sees another dog, a squirrel, or anything unusual on his walk. Although you know several "avoidance" techniques, you may want to see if you can teach him to notice the "trigger" but remain calm and in control of himself. No more lunging and barking! (3 weeks, \$75.00)

Dog About Town: These one-time classes meet at a variety of locations, each of which offers an environment in which dog and handler can practice obedience skills out in the real world. Classes typically end with our eating lunch, either at a picnic table or an outdoor café. Limited enrollment. (One day, \$25, lunch not included).

Beachwalking 101: Ever picture yourself walking along the beach while your dog frolics close by, occasionally stopping to sniff a horseshoe crab shell, then racing to catch up with you? Well, it CAN happen! All you need is a long line, some yummy treats, a beautiful spring day...and this class! (One day, \$25)

Stay/Wait! . In this class you'll learn how to teach your dog to stay until released. You'll teach a stay for when we plan to return, a wait for a momentary pause, and a "Go to your mat" command. You'll also teach your dog to go into a "settle" at your feet when you sit down and to resist bolting through an open door. Best of all, you'll practice these skills by playing *games!* (3 weeks, \$75)

Loose-Leash Walking: Wouldn't you like to enjoy taking your dog for a walk? We'll show you how to walk your dog without either one of you pulling on the leash! And we'll do it without using the painful corrections made with so-called "training" devices (like e-collars, prong collars, or slip/choke collars). In other words, your dog will learn to stay near you because he WANTS to, not because it hurts when he strays too far from you! We may also introduce heeling, on and off leash! (3 weeks, \$75)

Playful Pups & Performance Training

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