

Class Etiquette

(For Your Thoughtful Consideration)

When someone joins a class or group they do so because there is something they are hoping to gain. While this should be readily obvious, what might not be as apparent is the fact that it is not possible to achieve those gains without contributing and participating within that group. As a valued member of a “Tsuru Dog Training” class, you have the right to expect certain things (as you realize your goals) and we in turn, have certain expectations of you as a member of this class.

Some of the reasons people take a class rather than private training are:

1. They want the social experience of working their dog around other dogs and people.

The training environment is created by each person in the group bringing their dog to the class. If you are to be a part of this group, you must accept your role as an intricate and important part of the training environment - others will notice when you don't show up. If you cannot make it one week, please let us know.

2. The group structure motivates people to do their homework and practice.

If you miss any of the class instructions (because you had to miss a class or come late) it is unfair to the rest of the class to have to wait while everything is repeated. If you are going to miss any of the instruction, you can make arrangements so you can keep from falling behind.

Being a part of a group provides additional incentive to do your part and keep up with the group. Just as you derive motivation to work from being a part of the class, you (as a part of that group) provide others with incentive. You have a responsibility to both keep up with the class and, by your example, help others keep up as well.

3. Classes generally are more economical.

While this is true, it also means there is much less individual time and attention available for each participant. Some of the gains you will make come from observing others working in the class, therefore it is important to pay attention. The instructor cannot keep as close a watch on each individuals progress - responsibility for keeping “up to speed” must rest with you.

In addition to the points mentioned above, there are a few other expectations that will maximize the learning experience for all participants:

- i) Who trains the dog?

Someone must take ultimate responsibility and the training must be one of their daily priorities. For the duration of the course, it is best if only one person is doing the training. When the responsibility for training is spread among several family members, there is too much chance for inconsistency and often things don't get done. When “everyone” is going to be responsible to do the job, the result often ends up as “no one” did the job.

Children are not responsible for seeing to it that the dog gets trained. If the training is to be a family project or if you want the children involved in the training, private training sessions are indicated.

If a second family member is going to be involved in the training (as an assistant to the primary trainer) for consistency sake, they must also attend class.

Because of space restrictions, only those involved with training the dog can attend the classes. If you want to bring a guest, arrangements must be made ahead of time.

ii) Cell phones: If you are able to leave your cell phone in the car, please do so. If you have to bring it into the class, please turn the ringer off.

iii) Smoking: No smoking in the class - this includes sessions we hold outdoors.

iv) Drinking: Do not come to class if you have been consuming any alcoholic beverages.

Our aim is to provide the best learning environment that we possibly can because when you succeed, we succeed. We at Tsuru Dog Training thank you for your consideration of the above.