

SAN JOAQUIN DOG TRAINING CLUB INFORMATION

Welcome to San Joaquin Dog Training Club Obedience classes! Our instructors will help you teach your dog to behave at home, in public, and in the presence of other dogs. You will work with your dog on such things as walking quietly at your side without pulling, sitting, lying down, standing for exam, grooming, petting, staying in place, coming when called, and more. Your role is to work with your dog at home during the week to prepare him for the next lesson. Dogs love having a "job" to do with you and will look forward to coming to class each week.

All San Joaquin DTC instructors are club members with dog handling and training experience, who volunteer to share their time and knowledge. We strive to make learning for the handler and the dog a very positive experience.

GUIDELINES

1. Be on time. Class will start on schedule.
2. Wear comfortable clothing and sturdy shoes.
3. Attendance is important to the success of your training. Please try to make every lesson. Each lesson is built on the previous one. If your dog is sick, leave him home and come to observe so that you can practice later. Females in season may come to class with permission of instructor. Family members, visitors, parents, children are welcome to watch so long as they do not disturb the class.
4. Do not feed your dog right before class. Exercise your dog before coming to class to help him settle. Take dog to the provided potty area before class begins.
5. The Potty place is the gravel area near the building. Everyone is responsible for cleaning up after their own dog in class or anywhere on the grounds. A pooper scooper and garbage can are available.
6. Keep your dog quiet, on a short leash, under control at all times. Keep your dog far enough away from others to prevent any aggressiveness. Dogs that are strange to one another will sometimes quarrel when crowded together.
7. There will be no cash refunds for the class. Should your dog or you become injured or ill, we will credit you the unused portion towards a future class.
8. Respect the privilege of using these lovely grounds. Please drive slowly down the driveway especially in front of the houses. Keep your dog on leash while on the grounds. Dogs are not allowed around pond or adjacent grass area or homes.

EQUIPMENT

1. **Collar:** You may use a flat buckle collar, martingale, slip chain or slip nylon. Your instructors will evaluate collar needs. A slip type collar should be about 2 inches longer than the circumference of the dog's neck. *Facing the dog*, make a letter "P" with the chain by putting the length through one ring, then slip the "P" over dog's head. The loose ring, where leash attaches, comes up and over the top of the dog's neck. This way, the collar can remain loose. A slip collar must not be pulled up tight as it will choke the dog, possibly damaging his trachea. You may need to pop the collar to keep the dog with you at times, but always immediately release the pressure to loosen the collar! Much more effective and kinder than constant choking.

Slip chain and slip nylon collars (or prong collars) are used for training only! They are unsafe to be worn as an everyday collar. Use a flat buckle for identification tags.

2. **Leash:** A four to six foot leather leash is preferred, a nylon leash is okay. No chain leashes, as they can hurt your hands or injure your dog.

3. **Food treats** for reward are an option, and help the dog to learn faster with less stress. Soft, small treats like cheese, hot dogs, chicken, packaged soft treats, doggy jerky torn into small peices that are easy to swallow work best.

WORKING WITH YOUR DOG

Attitude: A happy, positive, take charge attitude on your part is important when training. If you are upset or angry, wait until you calm down before working with your dog. If your dog has been confined to a house, pen, or crate, be sure he can exercise and relieve himself before coming to class or practicing at home. While practicing with your dog, it is best to incorporate some play time into the routine. Your dog needs daily play, exercise, and time as part of the family to satisfy canine needs. This makes for a happier, more co-operative, and obedient dog.

Practice and Praise: Practice is necessary for learning. Short practice periods done every day are much more effective than an occasional long workout. Work on what you learned in class. Praise correct behaviors verbally, with petting and/or with treats. This motivates your dog and teaches the behavior you want your dog to do. Your dog wants to please you, and make you happy. Help them. Be patient. Smile. Praise. **Dogs need lots of Praise.** That is their Paycheck!

Vaccinations: All dogs must have current **DHPP** vaccinations. **Bordetella** highly recommended. All dogs over the age of 4 months of age must have proof of **Rabies** vaccine by law.