

SAN JOAQUIN DOG TRAINING CLUB INFORMATION

Welcome to San Joaquin Dog Training Club Obedience classes! Our instructors will be helping you to teach your dog good behavior at home, in public, in the presence of other dogs, and to listen to you. You will work with your dog on such things as walking on a leash 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 to please you. Your dog will look forward to practicing their training exercises at home or while out on a walk with you, and to coming to their weekly classes.

All SJDTC 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 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 attend all class nights. Each lesson is built on the previous one. If your dog is sick, leave him/her 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 before class. Exercise your dog before coming to class to help him/her settle and use up excess energy. Play and exercise also gets your dog in sync with you.
5. Respect the privilege of using the Grape Festival facility. Everyone is responsible for cleaning up after their own dog in class or anywhere on the grounds. There are some grassy areas near the building. Keep a poop bag in your pocket in case needed.
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 the unused portion towards a future class.

EQUIPMENT

1. **Collar:** For training, use a flat buckle collar, martingale, slip chain, slip nylon, or prong collar. A harness does not work well for training. Your instructors will evaluate collar needs at the first class.

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 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 constantly as it will choke the dog, possibly damaging his trachea. You may need to pop the slip collar to keep the dog with you at times but immediately release the pressure to loosen the collar! This is much more effective and kinder than constant choking.

Slip chain, slip nylon, and prong collars are used for training only! They are unsafe to be worn as an everyday collar. Use a breakaway or flat buckle collar 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 that are easy to swallow like cheese, hot dog pieces, chicken or beef pieces, packaged soft treats, doggy jerky torn into small pieces work best. A toy might work well for a toy motivated dog.

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/she can exercise and go potty before coming to class or before practicing at home. Keep water available. It is best to incorporate play time into your practice routine. Your dog needs daily exercise, play, and time as part of your family to satisfy canine needs. This makes for a happier, more cooperative, easier to train dog.

Practice and Praise: Practice is necessary for quicker 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. Help him/her. Be patient. Smile. Use Praise. **Dogs need lots of Praise.** Praise is their paycheck!

Vaccinations: All dogs must have current **DHPP & Bordetella** vaccinations. **Canine Flu** is highly recommended, especially if the dog is boarded, travels with you, or goes to dog parks. Dogs 4 months of age and older must have proof of **Rabies** vaccine by law.