

## Welcome to Obedience Class!

We are so excited to have you joining our training team, and look forward to you and your dog being in class! If you have questions at any time, please never hesitate to contact us:

[info@phillyunleashed.com](mailto:info@phillyunleashed.com)

### Class requirements:

Dogs are required to be up to date on vaccinations including Rabies and Canine Distemper. We highly recommend a Bordetella vaccine as well. Your dog should not be positive for any parasites, and be generally healthy when coming to class. If your dog has been coughing or sneezing, please do not come to class, and schedule an appointment with your veterinarian instead! Dogs coming to obedience classes should be generally people and dog friendly. Please bring a copy of your vaccination record to your first night of class. Puppies should have age appropriate vaccines, and do not need a Rabies vaccine until recommended by their veterinarian.

### What should you bring?

- Treats and a hungry dog! Bring some tasty treats and/or a favorite toy to use as reinforcement for good behavior in class. You should also have something to carry the treats in for easy access, like a treat pouch. Your dog should be hungry coming to class.
- A leash and collar/harness. The leash needs to be a flat 6' leash. Please **do not bring a retractable leash**. Collars should be a regular buckle or martingale. Please do not bring your dog on a choke chain or prong collar.
- Comfy clothes and closed toed shoes. You will be moving around quite a bit and your clothes should be comfortable enough to do so.

### Class Descriptions:

All classes are 50 minutes long

- Puppy Club and Puppy Kindergarten (under 6 months of age)

*Puppy Club* is a safe socialization group for puppies under six months of age. Generally run drop-in style, Puppy Club encourages off-leash supervised socialization between puppies. Emphasis is put on watching and teaching puppy body language, practicing relaxation techniques,

and puppy- related manners. We also allow time to discuss those nuisance puppy behaviors that drive owners nuts! Topics may include: chewing, puppy biting, house breaking, crate training, the puppy crazies and the list goes on.

*Puppy Kindergarten* follows the American Kennel Club's STAR Puppy program which encourages owners to get their puppies started off on the right paw! This class covers responsible dog ownership, body handling, socialization and obedience. Class culminates when the puppy/owner team earns their AKC Puppy STAR Certificate, or are recommended to move on to Level 1 Obedience.

- Level 1 Obedience

Level 1 Obedience class is designed to teach dogs of all ages foundation-level obedience, including the commands sit, down, stay, come, leave-it, as well as polite leash manners and greetings with people and other dogs. We will work through mild distractions and each week build upon what we learned previously. Problem solving and troubleshooting for basic nuisance behaviors will be addressed as needed. Treats and positive reinforcement techniques are used to teach this class.

### Behaviors Taught:

- Sit
- Look
- Down
- Stay
- Loose Leash Walking
- Recall
- Leave It
- Touch
- Meet and Greet with people and dogs



### *How to Test Up from Level 1:*

All obedience class testing should be done without food lure or food reinforcement. That's right, no treats! All behaviors should be performed in three cues or less, using visual and/or verbal cues. The dog and handler must pass all test items in order to level up to the next class.

Sit (dog sits in front of handler)

Down (handler may not bend down to the floor or crouch down with the dog)

Touch (dog intentionally touches nose to handler's hand)

Leave It (dog is able to leave a low value treat on the ground)

Stay (one minute, no distraction, no food reinforcement)

Loose Leash Walking (dog and handler can walk in a figure 8 around two cones maintaining a loose leash. Cones should be set 10 feet apart)

Recall (dog can perform a restrained recall from 15ft)

- Level 2 Obedience

In this class, we will build upon all the foundations in Level 1, while adding in some new commands! We will learn fun tricks and strengthen our stays and recalls through increased distractions. Continued practice in appropriate greetings to new people and dogs will be included. We will start to wean off using treats with some behaviors and discuss alternative positive reinforcers. Be prepared to learn new games to strengthen skills!

Dogs must have completed and passed a Level 1 test up before being eligible for this class.

Behaviors Taught:

- Heel
- Stay with distractions
- Tricks

- Recall with distractions
- Go to Place
- Strengthening and Proofing cues taught in Level 1

### *How to Test Up from Level 2:*

All obedience class testing should be done without food lure or food reinforcement. That's right, no treats! All behaviors should be performed in three cues or less, using visual and/or verbal cues. The dog and handler must pass all test items in order to level up to the next class.

- 3 minute sit or down stay
- 15 step on leash heel
- Recall past low value treat
- Trick
- Go to place from 6ft away

After Level 2 the sky is the limit! We offer different extra curricular classes to help your dog excel in whatever they love best. Please visit our website for our current class offerings, schedule and pricing. While you're there, check out our trainer bios and shoot us an email if you have any questions.

### Class Cancellation Policy:

When registering for classes online you will pay in advance. If you need to cancel your reservation, please cancel 8 hours before the class time to get the credit back on your account. If you cancel class within 8 hours of class time, or do not show up to class, your class payment is forfeit. We do understand emergencies happen, and please contact us if this is the case.