

MidMo Dog Training Orientation

Congratulations on deciding to build a relationship with your dog. Our furry friends really are mans-best-friend. The love they give back to us is immeasurable. While building a wonderful relationship with your dog you are also learning communication skills, confidence, leadership skills, and making new friends. Below are some suggestions and information that will help you feel more comfortable at your first class. If you ever have questions, don't hesitate to ask. There is no such thing as a bad question.

Myths and FAQ

My dog doesn't listen at all. My dog is not trainable.

Not true. This program is perfect for dogs with issues. Most dogs do have issues. Including dog-to-dog problems. Every dog is different. Their behavior goes through cycles. Exposure and training is the perfect way to over-come these problems. But remember if you don't bring your dog to class, then the issues definitely won't get better.

Our puppy is too young for class.

Not at all! In fact, at the tender age of eight weeks, your puppy already has the same learning capacity as an adult dog. Studies have proved that dogs over 4 months of age actually don't pick up on new behaviors as well as younger dogs do. Unfortunately puppies that are not exposed at younger ages sometimes develop inappropriate behaviors that could have been prevented if they had been trained when they were younger. With some breeds of dogs, waiting until they're six months of age could mean you'll have a serious behavior problem before class even starts. However, one concern to be aware of is that puppy's vaccinations might not be complete. Another concern is the growth plates of certain bones do not close until 6-13 months of age. Jumping and twisting activities with your puppy before the growth-plates close can cause damage in the cartilage that prevents the bones from growing. This would be important to remember when we are doing agility in class.

Is class ever cancelled due to weather?

No. We have indoor training facilities.

Are there people bathrooms?

Yes. Definitely.

Parking?

There is plenty of parking. Please park up by the training yard of on our side of the street. Please do not park on the neighbor's side or in his yard.

Can we get on the agility equipment any time?

No. You need permission for safety reasons, but just ask. You can also attend the agility class and get checked out on the equipment. Children are never allowed on the equipment!

Supervision of Handlers and Siblings

Parents need to supervise siblings at all times and handlers that are 18 years old and under. This means that you are welcome to participate with them during class. All handlers should have a parent or guardian on the property during class.

Keep your distance from others in class

Do not let your dog get closer than 6 feet to any other dog. Once the dogs establish their relationships with each other, then we can shorten up the distances. Remember each dog is different and not all dogs get along with others. Keep a tight leash.

Can we bring a muzzle?

If you know your dog has issues, please bring a muzzle for you dog. It is especially important since our group has junior handlers. We do not want anyone to get hurt. Muzzles are wonderful! They help dogs get some much needed help, while keeping everyone safe.

Final things to remember:

- 1) Bring your supplies (leashes, collars/harnesses, dog treats)
- 2) **Don't feed your dog 4-6 hours before class meets.** We want them hungry.
Don't forget your treats!
- 3) **Potty your dogs** in the potty area before class. Marking the ring gates and equipment is not allowed, and you will be responsible to clean up afterward.
- 4) **No smoking or alcohol** is allowed on property

You will need: (we have extras of everything, so if you forget something or just want to try out something different, please just let us know)

A dog (actually we can loan you one if needed)
Weather appropriate clothes (we will be outside or in a garage)
Good traction shoes
Buckle collar
Leash (we recommend a leather leash)
Copy of Dog's shot record
Lots of Dog Treats (string cheese, hot dogs, commercial dog treats)

You might want:

Dog Crate
anti-pulling collar or harness or head collar
fanny pack for treats
personal dog water bowl
plastic tub to carry supplies in