



HUMANE SOCIETY OF BROWARD COUNTY

Intermediate Obedience for Dogs

Orientation Handout

Instructor : Stephanie M. Rodgers CPDT
Director of Animal Care and Behavior

Class Rules

1. Positive methods only are used. No hitting, choking or yelling at your dog.
2. All dogs must remain on a leash.
3. Everyone is required to clean up after their dog.
4. Do not allow your dog to approach other dogs.
5. Keep the gate closed at all times.
6. Non participants remain outside the gate.
7. Adults (16+years) must handle the dog in class- no exceptions.
8. You will have the best results if one person handles the dog through the classes.
9. Follow the directions of the instructors
10. It is best not to feed your dog before class
11. Bring water & a bowl
12. NO FLIP-FLOPS. Sneakers are recommended.
13. Your dog must have successfully completed the Basic Dog Obedience Class.
14. Your dog should be at least 6 months old.

Rainouts

If it is raining, or there are puddles on the ground from previous rain, class will be cancelled. To be sure, please call **954-989-3977**. A decision will be made by **8:00 AM** whether to cancel or hold the classes for that day.

Equipment

- Recommended collars: limited slip collar, nylon choke, buckle or snap collar
- Clicker (optional)
- Recommended leashes: 6 foot nylon or cotton or leather
- **NOT ALLOWED:** prong or spike collars, metal link leash or retractable leash
- Recommended treats: small pieces of soft treats that dogs can eat quickly: dried liver, hotdogs, cheese.
- A treat bag or fanny pack is recommended. At this point treats should only be used as to reinforce learning a new behavior.
- Bring water and a water bowl for your dog.

How Dogs Learn

- Timing: Mark behavior immediately as it happens with a treat. It must be immediate so your dog associates the reward with his action.
- Always show the dog first what you want him to do rather than correct for what you DON'T want.
- Repeat the training exercise several times. If your dog seems unmotivated don't continue, go back later.

- Consistency: Do exactly the same thing each time.
- Practice 15-30 minutes each day, making your sessions short, frequent, and ALWAYS end on a positive note.

Goals for Intermediate Class

- Increase response, decrease latency
- Variable reinforcement – dog does not get a treat every time for something he already knows
- Proofing – Using cues some place other than the backyard or living room
- Concentration on duration, distractions and distance
- Your dog should perform cues with accuracy, speed and attention
- Develop and fine tune basic cues to competition obedience standards
- Prepare for the Canine Good Citizen Class and Testing

New Cues That will be Introduced

- Stand
- Front
- Finish
- Targeting
- Recall with a front sit
- Heel
- Stop