

Back to School Training Tips

Though Woody Allen once said “ninety percent of life is just showing up,” simply showing up for your dog training class is just the beginning!

Here are **10** tips that will help you get the most out of your training classes and start you on your way toward developing an enjoyable lifelong partnership with your dog:

10. Think short term---and long term. Create a job description for your dog that defines what you think your dog’s “job” should be today, six months from now and six years from now. Then, set your dog up for success by preparing him with the skills he needs to succeed at each stage of the lifelong partnership.

9. Your dog doesn’t just learn during class-time, she’s learning 24/7. So be sure to maintain your alpha status in-between classes too. Apply what you’ve learned in even the most basic everyday interactions with her.

8. Observation is as important as participation. Take advantage of our FREE class audits. Sit in on classes you’ve already taken and review. We guarantee you’ll learn something new....*again!*

7. Don’t feed your dog before you come to class; she’ll have a better work ethic on an empty stomach allowing you to be more proactive not reactive. (Don’t forget to bring your “bait-bag” full of tasty treats & kibble!)

6. Send your dog to **+ dog** day school. We’ll get your dog into training mode, set her up for success and then pass the leash to you. Your job will be to maintain, our job is to train!

5. Take notes in class and review them as soon as you get home while the information is still fresh to clarify and expand key ideas.

4. Arrive on time for classes so you don’t miss the pre-class question and answer sessions...you’ll be surprised how much you can learn from your classmates’ experiences.

3. If you don’t understand the class exercises, don’t be embarrassed to ask your trainer to repeat the instructions. Someone else may be unclear as well and will be happy you asked!

2. Practice, practice, practice.

1. Call **+ dog** anytime with any questions. No matter how small, we are always happy to help you and your dog develop an enjoyable lifelong partnership!

Happy Training!