

Congratulations on your desire to improve your relationship with your dog. **Please read this letter carefully** as there is important information for you before you come to class.

In the class you will enhance or create the positive working relationship with your dog that will make you an effective team. If your goal is a better mannered family pet, our goal is to provide you with the skills and tools to improve that. If your goal is to train to do agility, teaching the dog to perform the obstacles is the easy part of agility training. The hard part is for the two of you to learn to work together as a team with focus and attention to perform the obstacles correctly and in the proper sequences.

These are some of the things you will need to **bring with you to class**.

- ♦ **Small soft treats.** Bring **lots!** The size of the treats should depend on the size of the dog, but in general, each individual treat should be no larger than your pinky fingernail. Some good things to use for training treats are string cheese, hot dogs, home cooked liver, cooked chicken, or roast beef, cut into very small pieces. You can also bring “pre-made” treats, in addition to the human food previously mentioned, such as Zukes, Buddy Biscuits soft treats, Lean Treats, etc. In a new, distracting environment, you want extra special, high value treats to keep your dog engaged. You want small soft treats that are easily chewed and immediately swallowed without the distraction of dropped crumbs. Please mix up a variety and come prepared.
- ♦ **Clicker.** I recommend one that has way to attach a rubber band or wrist coil so it’s easy to hold and manipulate. We have clickers and wrist coils for sale if you need them.
- ♦ **Treat bag.** These are nylon bags which either clip onto your pants or come with a belt to hang around your waist. The treat pouches may also have a pocket to hold the clicker. The best ones open and close quickly and securely so treats don’t drop out easily and distract your dog. We offer good ones for sale.
- ♦ **Tug toys.** Please bring one or two of your dog’s favorite.
- ♦ **Plain buckle collar or matingale, or harness** (absolutely **no choke chains or pinch collars**). You may have your dog on a Gentle Leader Head Halter in addition to a regular collar, or in an Easy Walk harness.
- ♦ **Soft, 6-foot lead** (cotton webbed or soft leather are nice). No retractable leashes please.
- ♦ **Water bowl** (we have a water fountain).

We have many of these items at Lucky Dog, including treat bags, treats, tug toys and clickers, at a **10% discount** for class participants.

You should wear a good pair of **sneakers or comfortable shoes**.

Our training techniques are completely positive; we use a lot of food incentives, combined with clicker training for new concepts. Accordingly, please **do not feed your dog after noon on the evening you will be coming to class**. Your dog will be more responsive if he is a little eager for treats. Also, you may want to cut down on your dog’s food a little as he will be getting a lot of calories from his training treats and you don’t want him to gain weight.

A special note – you will be given homework assignments many weeks. It will be virtually impossible for your dog to advance if you do not **practice the exercises at home**. We suggest you spend small amounts of time many times a day to devote to these homework assignments. It should be easy and quick, but it **will** take a little time and effort. Your success with your dog will be dependent upon your dog’s being able to perform these simple tasks.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please give me a call or e-mail me at woof@LuckyDogSportsClub.com. I think you (and your dog) will enjoy the class. Looking forward to seeing you soon (please be prompt; come a little early to settle in and to purchase any needed items)!

Woofs and wags,
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