

Thank you for joining our puppy class. I know you will enjoy it. **Please read this letter carefully** as there is important information for you before you come to class.

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, homemade liver treats, cooked chicken, liver, or roast beef, cut into very small pieces, or “pre-made” treats such as Zukes, Charlee Bears, Lean Treats, etc. You can also bring some or your puppy’s dinner kibble. You want small soft treats that are easily chewed and immediately swallowed. You can mix up a variety.
- ◆ **Clicker.** I will be providing one clicker. You may purchase a wrist coil at class if you wish.
- ◆ **Bait bag** (or a large pocket will do). These are nylon bags with a drawstring closure, which can be clipped onto a belt, belt loop or the edge of a pocket. The bait pouches may also have a pocket to hold the clicker.
- ◆ **Tug toys.** Please bring one or two of your pup’s favorite. If he’s not an avid tugger now, he should be soon!
- ◆ **Plain buckle collar** (absolutely **no choke chains or pinch collars**). You may have your dog on a Gentle Leader Head Halter in addition to a regular collar.
- ◆ **Soft, 6-foot lead** (cotton webbed or soft leather are nice)
- ◆ **Mat** for your dog to lie on.
- ◆ **A drinking bowl**

You may visit your local pet store or Harmony Animal Hospital in Jupiter to purchase many of these items.

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 some 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 hungry. 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.

Here’s a great free download for you to read by Ian Dunbar, noted behaviorist and trainer. It’s called “Before You Get Your Puppy” (but ignore the name, because it’s relevant now also!). Go to www.jamesandkenneth.com, click on puppy, and start your download. I will be providing “After You Get Your Puppy”. I encourage you to read both. They are quick and easy reads but contain critically important advice.

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 (not more than a couple of minutes) 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 puppy) will enjoy the class. See you soon (please be prompt; come a little early to settle in)!

Wags and woofs,
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