

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 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. You can also bring “pre-made” treats such as Zukes, Buddy Biscuits soft treats, Lean Treats, etc., but in a new, distracting environment, you want extra special, high value treats. You want small soft treats that are easily chewed and immediately swallowed. You can mix up a variety.
- ♦ **Clicker.** I recommend one that has an opening 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 martingale, 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.
- ♦ **Mat** for your dog to lie on and to teach go to mat. This can be a fleece crate mat, towel, yoga mat, etc.
- ♦ **Water bowl** (hey, learning is thirsty work!). 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. Please come to class about 10 minutes early to purchase what you need.

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 many 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 http://www.luckydogsportsclub.com/pdf_files/Dunbar_Before_You_Get_Pup.pdf to get this free book. It is a quick and easy read and contains important and helpful 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 many times a day to devote to these homework assignments. Work training into you and your dog’s regular schedule. It should be easy, fun and quick, but it should be consistent. Your relationship with your pup will grow the more you put into it.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please give me a call or e-mail me. You can also call your instructor, Stacey Perry, at 561-632-6161 with questions or concerns. I think you and your puppy will enjoy the class. Looking forward to seeing you soon. Please come 10 to 15 minutes early the first night to purchase any needed supplies and allow your pup time to eliminate before class begins.

Woofs and wags,
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