



PLAY DOG EXCELLENT



Puppy Manners Class Curriculum

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Week 1



1. Introduction to Adolescent Dogs: Why they do what they do.
2. Name Recognition – positive association with name.
3. “Take it” cue– taking treats gently with a “soft” mouth.
4. “Give” cue– relinquishing objects on command.
5. “Sit” cue – shaping behavior and adding verbal cue/hand signals.
6. “Cradle and Massage” – desensitizing your puppy to touch and handling.

Week 2



1. “Gotcha” cue – allow handling of collar
2. “Down” cue – shaping behavior and adding verbal cue/hand signals
3. “Loose-Leash” Walking – learning to walk on leash without pulling, lagging
4. “Wait” – pausing on cue (doorways, food bowls, treats)
5. “Stay” – Learning to hold the sit and down position on cue

Week 3



1. Positive reinforcement of cues (sit, down, wait, stay, loose-leash walking) through exercises and games.
2. “Settle” – Dealing with the “Puppy Crazies” and learning to “chill-out” on cue
3. “Focus” – paying attention to handler on cue
4. “Leave it” – learning to ignore objects on the ground/animals



Week 4

1. Moving to Heel Position (“pass” and “around” cues)
2. Recall – Learning to come when called.
3. Positive reinforcement of cues through games and exercises.



Week 5

1. Increasing duration for “focus” and “stay” cues
2. “Heel” – learning to focus and walk in heel position.
3. Manners: Learning to sit politely to be greeted, walking through distractions/crowds
4. Problem-Solving: Barking, Digging, Chewing, Begging, Jumping
5. Tricks and Treats: Learning fun tricks
6. Safety



Week 6

1. Review the Cues
2. Positive Reinforcement of “Heel” cue
3. “Survivor Obedience Challenge”!
4. The Next Step: Discussing options for continued training
5. Graduation!