

Obedience Club of Chattanooga
Pre-Class Preparation
www.chattanoogaobedienceclub.org 423-517-1448

All Classes:

- Please come a few minutes early so that we can start classes on time.
- Please potty your dog before class. The field next to the training building is our potty area. We expect you to pick up after your dog inside and out. Baggies are available on a stand near the field.
- We use positive teaching methods and do not tolerate abusive behavior towards dogs or people.
- Family and friends are welcome to come observe. Young children must be supervised by an adult other than the handler. All visitors must sign a waiver.
- Smoking is not allowed in the training building or on the agility field.

Immunizations: All puppies must have at least 2 rounds of vaccines before attending class. All dogs over 12 weeks of age must be vaccinated for rabies per Georgia and Tennessee law unless otherwise recommended by your veterinarian. Proof of this vaccination must be provided at or before the first class. Bring a photocopy for us to keep. It is recommended for the safety of all dogs that dogs be current on all vaccines prior to attending classes.

What to wear to class: Wear comfortable clothing and athletic-type non-skid shoes; no sandals, flip-flops, boots or high heels. Dog training is a physical activity that requires a lot of moving around, though we can offer suggestions for those who need a different approach. If you don't have a treat bag consider wearing loose-fitting pants with easy access pockets to store your treats; no zip-lock or plastic baggies.

Equipment

Collar: buckle, martingale, or snap collar for puppy classes. For adult dog classes training collars may be recommended by the instructor. No harnesses or head collars unless recommended by your instructor.

Leash: 4-foot leash, preferably leather or cotton. No chain leashes. No flexible or extendible leashes may be used unless recommended by your instructor.

Treat Bag: fanny pack or workman's pocket apron.

Feeding & Treats: Fresh water should be provided always.

Class can be a stressful and confusing place for your dog, and high-value food is an excellent way to keep him focused. Please do not feed your dog before class - motivating with treats works best when your dog isn't full.

Bring several types of soft treats broken into pea-sized bits. Treats should be something special that your dog only gets during training sessions. Try several before the first class and see what your dog likes best. Popular choices include: Red Barn (available at Bone Appétit in Chattanooga), steak, or chicken, jerky strips, cat treats, freeze-dried liver, and cheese (string cheese in tubes works great!). Kibble, biscuits, or anything crunchy or extra chewy will take the dog too long to consume and won't work well in class.

The fine print:

- No refunds will be given after the first night of class, although credit for a future class may be permitted.
- Classes are progressive, so we strongly advise attending all classes. However, we know that other priorities can interfere. Please notify your instructor if you're going to miss a class to find out what will be covered.
- Female dogs in heat are not allowed in the training building or on the agility field.
- For everyone's safety, aggressive dogs (any dog that shows inappropriate challenge, threat, or contest to another dog or human) are not recommended for class situations. Handlers should work with the Training Director to determine alternatives.

Now that that's out of the way--

Relax!

Have fun!

Dog class is about people having fun with dogs having fun with people!