

**WINSTON SALEM DOG TRAINING CLUB**  
**FAMILY DOG CLASS DESCRIPTIONS**

*Updated March 2024*

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## Puppy

This class targets the developmental stages of puppies up to 5 months of age. Although basic obedience is taught as part of this class this is not an **obedience class**, rather a class that focuses on all the things puppies in this age group need to learn including obedience. You will learn about socializing your puppy and basic training behaviors.

**Prerequisite:**

For puppies 8 weeks up to 5 months old on the first day they attend class.

***Please follow your veterinarian's recommendation when to begin classes.***

Emphasis will be on manners and socialization. Other topics of interest as needed; i.e., housebreaking, grooming, barking, etc.

- Basic Obedience: i.e., sit, down, stay, come, and walking on a loose leash
- Manners, i.e., jumping, mouthing, going to bed, accepting handling and restraint, and "leave it" when there is something they should not touch.
- Socialization and enrichment: accepting interaction with people, other dogs, and objects.
- As needed-trouble-shooting, i.e., housebreaking, grooming, barking, jumping, biting, etc.

Your class may include an AKC STAR Puppy Evaluator, unfortunately not all of our puppy classes will have an evaluator available; please inquire if this is of interest to you.

For classes that do have an AKC STAR Puppy Evaluator available, upon completion of the class and passing a 20-item test, you and your puppy can earn the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Award. You'll receive a certificate from AKC, a monthly email newsletter and your puppy's beautiful gold AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy medal.

**Food and toys are encouraged.**

## Barkour

**Prerequisite:**

Successful completion of Beginner II or Instructor Approval

This course will build confidence in your dog, improve their physical condition and engage their brains. The two of you will solve challenges together and have fun doing it. It's not about competition or getting into a routine. It's about finding new ways to keep active and have fun together.

In class we will

- Develop confidence in our dogs by exposing them to novel situations and using proper reinforcement techniques
- Learn how to use objects at home to build indoor obstacle courses that can help exercise your dog. Perfect for those rainy days!
- Discover how to create games to challenge your dog mentally, which is just as exhausting as physical exercise.
- Identify new ways to improve your dog's conditioning and physical fitness

To enroll in this class your dog should

- Not be reactive or aggressive to other dogs
- Be able to work off leash in a controlled environment
- Be able to follow your commands.

## Beginner Obedience

### Beginner I Manners & Obedience

**Prerequisite:**

For dogs 5 months and older

This class is for owners with new dogs or those with graduating puppies. The class will introduce the manners and obedience skills needed for the home:

- Name recognition
- Collar grab
- Stationary attention
- Use of Marker and Release Words
- Sit
- Down
- Place
- Leave it
- Leash skills and walking on a loose leash
- Coming when called
- Manners when approached by a person

A combination of food and other reward/motivators may be used in most classes. If there are any exceptions, such as "no food" the Sessions Notes will display and give the requirements for that class.

### **Beginner II Manners & Obedience**

**Prerequisite:**

Successful completion of Beginner I or Instructor Approval

This class is the next in the progression for dogs that have successfully demonstrated they can perform basic manners and skills. Emphasis is placed on teaching your dog more advanced handler focus and improved compliance with the basic skills learned in Beginner I. Skills included will be

- Down on a mat
- Touch / Target
- Stationary attention
- Moving Leave it
- Stay and Wait
- Progressive walking on a loose leash
- Recalls from greater distances
- Manners when approached by a person

A combination of food and other reward/motivators may be used in most classes.

Successful completion and graduation from this class would enable the handler/dog team to advance to Advanced Manners & Enrichment, Canine Good Citizen (CGC) or any introductory Obedience, Rally or Foundation Agility classes and other classes as they may be introduced.

### **Advanced Manners & Enrichment**

**Prerequisite:**

Successful completion of Beginner II or Instructor Approval

This class is for those students who want to do more with their dogs but are not interested in showing or competing in dog sports. This is for the owner who wants better manners and wants to have fun with their dog through enrichment activities.

The course will include a smorgasbord of activities including:

- Improving recall, loose leash walking and impulse control
- Exercises you can do with your dog as part of an overall strength and conditioning program (for the dog, not the handler)
- Learning some fun tricks
- Moving through obstacle courses
- Using their nose to find things.
- And whatever else we can conjure up

This class is about strengthening the bond you have with your dog and having fun together.

## Therapy Dog

**Prerequisite:**

CGC Certification or Instructor Approval

Handler sincerely intends to seek therapy certification and volunteer in the community.

Therapy dog training class prepares you and your dog for what you will face when taking your dog into hospitals, schools, or other facilities to volunteer for animal assisted therapy. We will reinforce much of your training from CGC and add some other skills.

You will understand the liabilities, rules, and behavior required of you and your dog and we will help you learn how to handle particular situations that you may face in the real environments that you will be working in with your dog.

This class requires Flat buckle collars, your dog must be on a 6 foot leash, no flip flops.

We do not promote any particular therapy organization, but the skills learned in class will help you pass any of the current pet therapy organizations' certification exam.