



Puppy Training Manual

All you need to know to succeed with your puppy

Management and training are the best ways to combat problems before they arise. The most critical time in a dog's life is right now – puppyhood! An adult dog's temperament and behaviour habits (both good and bad) are shaped during this time.

How Dogs Think

All you need to know to succeed with your puppy

It's helpful to understand how dogs think so that we can understand the best way to train them! Dogs are opportunistic creatures and can be quite self-centered. They are amoral which means they learn what is safe and unsafe, not what is right and wrong. Dogs are social throughout their entire lives. They are chewers – which you'll learn more about as you read. Dogs are always learning from their actions through the cause and effects.

How Dogs Learn

The inner workings of your puppy

Dogs learn through cause and effect. If a behaviour they perform attains a desired outcome for them they will repeat it. They don't understand right from wrong and do nothing out of spite, that motivation is unique to humans. Our dogs don't do anything with the intent to harm or upset us.

They simply do what they are naturally driven to do. Like us our dogs want to be happy and comfortable, for them resources such as food, comfort and attention, make them happy. Getting and keeping these resources is a survival instinct. Dogs do understand that something can be fun or scary, safe or unsafe.

It's important to know that a reward will strengthen a behaviour. If our dogs jumping up means they get the desired attention, they will continue to jump up. If they get food off the counter they will continue to look for the opportunity to reward themselves by jumping on the counter.

If you're attempting to stop a behaviour or asking your dog to do something else, you're giving them attention. If an unwanted behaviour continues or increases it means that behaviour is being rewarded somehow. Attention is one of the most valuable rewards you can give your dog, one of the best ways to solve behaviour problems is controlling the resources and environment to ensure dogs receive no reward for their unwanted behaviour and instead learn that earning their resources is the best way!



Shaping Their Behaviour

Management through controlled experiences

Dog's behaviour can be composed by a multitude of different contributors throughout their lives. First we look at genetics; this is the part we cannot control. A dog's genetics can be influenced by their parent's behaviour and specific breed group characteristics.

Then there are the experiences a dog has; which we can control. By providing our dogs with exposure and experiences with people, animals, and environmental experiences (places, surfaces, sounds, etc.) we can impact their development and future behaviours. Lastly, there is learning. Providing positive learning experiences by making them fun instead of just neutral is the greatest thing we can do to shape our puppy's behaviour. Advocate for your puppy to ensure they are in a safe learning environment!

You'll learn more about this in our socialization section.





Normal Management and Prevention Training

Early training is essential to the prevention of unwanted behaviours!

Dogs naturally bark, chew, jump, demand attention, guard valued resources and more! If we want our dogs to behave according to what we find polite we need to teach them what behaviours we want to see. Behaviour “problems” are usually normal dog behaviours that we as people don’t see as appropriate and we want our dogs to behave differently. The success of an appropriate behaviour and a good human canine bond depends on us teaching puppies the rules and regulations of domestic living. Management and training are the best ways to combat problems before they arise. The most critical time in a dog’s life is right now – puppyhood! An adult dog’s temperament and behaviour habits (both good and bad) are shaped during puppyhood. Instead of being reactive, we can be proactive and set our puppies up for success.

Punishments are often used when a dog is participating in normal dog behaviours, physical and or verbal abuse as well as isolation can be detrimental to the human canine bond and the trust you share. Dogs don’t know what we want and don’t want unless we teach them to understand. Many will blame a dog’s “misbehavior” on “dominance” and believe that punishing, instilling fear, or correcting will stop the unwanted behaviour, this is far from the truth. Instead, all we stand to do is stifle a dog’s natural communication and it is counterproductive to the learning process. A dog loses the ability to think, learn, problem solve and make good choices as a result. Punishment causes fear, anxiety and stress, which can often lead to aggression.

Use this manual to help create a happy puppy!



Resource Control and Rewards

Managing food, treats, and affection

Training becomes a lot easier when you make a point to include it in daily life. Teach your dog to understand resources should be earned. A resource is anything your dog finds rewarding or valuable, be that food, treats, toys, off leash play, their spot on the couch or cuddling etc. Make sure your dog has to earn whatever it values by performing a cue you have previously taught. Ignore all demands for attention, walks, food, play etc. Remember touching or talking to your dog when they're demanding is giving them attention! Give your dog all the love, attention, and fun you want, but, only when you initiate (with the exception of your dog needing to relieve itself).

If your dog has to earn everything it values your dog will recognize you as a leader. Your dog will soon be offering behaviours and responding to cues without the use of force, intimidation or fear. Your dog will be offering polite behaviours and it will make fading food lures – which you will read more about later – and rewards much easier when training.



Training tools

Your Arsenal

Treats: treats are merely a tool to help your dog respond reliably to a cue. If you practice cues wherever you go your dog will soon begin to generalize them and learn to respond no matter where you are or what the distraction. You should start by asking for simple behaviours like “sit” in a low excitement environment then slowly begin to increase the level of difficulty by adding distractions.

Treats are not a bribe; they should be used as motivation, and reward, for creating, fine tuning and luring behaviours.

Leashes, Collars and Harnesses: all you need when you bring home a new puppy is a well-fitting flat buckle or martingale collar and a flat or round braided 6' leash. Harnesses can be used as well but, keep in mind most harnesses promote pulling. Many harnesses that are designed to attach to the leash at your dog's back or shoulders distribute the “weight” and make it easier and more comfortable for the dog to put pressure on their handler. Think of dog sledding. If you opt for a harness, choose a “no-pull” harness like the Freedom harness, Easy Walk harness, J-walk harness, Positively no pull harness, or other similar front or side clip harnesses.

Clicker or Verbal Marker: a clicker or a verbal marker (i.e. “yes!”) is a way to communicate with your puppy using positive reinforcement. It is used to teach or improve behaviours while your pup is learning. The clicker is a handheld acoustic device that is paired with the presentation of a treat. The click marks the behaviour; click = treat, no click = try again!



Socializing vs. Socialization

Learning the difference

Socialization is the process of learning to behave acceptably. Socializing on the other hand is the act of interacting with others. It's important to understand the difference. The value of socialization is very underestimated.

Socialization and exposure to novelty is an active process that will take a little preparation and planning. It is not simply about exposure; rather, it is about making exposure fun and positive (i.e. treats = positive). Always try to be proactive rather than reactive. Assume your puppy could potentially be afraid of the situation and use treats liberally. Prevent a fear response and make a positive association from the start.

During the socialization period, attempt to have one or two positive novel experiences every day!



The socialization period is a period of time in your puppy's development that will dramatically affect your puppy's personality. This period happens from 3 to 12 weeks of age. At this time, puppies are developmentally open to new experiences. They are learning about dog communication, play and about the human domestic environment.

Many people believe that having another dog at home or and meeting a couple of people means the dog is thoroughly socialized, they are surprised when the dog becomes overwhelmed by a combination of uncomfortable things. It's important to introduce your puppy to as many people, dogs and other animals, of different shapes, sizes colours and energy levels as possible. Sights, sounds, environments, textures and surroundings are just as important. It's crucial that all these experiences be as positive and fun as possible, while ensuring we go at the puppy's pace! Remember that anything your puppy isn't introduced to or has a bad experience with during this socialization period can create fear and avoidance later in life, sometimes leading to fear aggression and fear biting.

Signs your puppy is afraid

- Ears back or down to the side
- Tail tucking
- Hiding
- Freezing
- Shaking
- Pacing, running, or escape behaviour
- Not taking treats
- Seeking close human contact
- Panting

What to do if your puppy is afraid

- Use treats liberally!
- Allow your puppy to investigate at their own pace
- Get your puppy to a non-stressful starting point
- Avoid coddling or reprimanding





Take this opportunity, let people know your puppy is in training, get a “sit” and have them offer a cookie. This helps teach your puppy to be polite and sit to greet people as well as helps to socialize them with strangers of all types.

Walks can be great for socializing but don’t burn a lot of energy. They can create frustration if your pup is full of energy or hasn’t had much mental stimulation that day. Doing some off leash play or fetch once your puppies recall is reliable can help a lot and burns energy much faster.

Socialization and exposure is a lifelong process for your pup. Even a well-socialized young puppy might regress if positive exposure does not continue into adolescence (between 1 to 2 years old). As the puppy gets older and becomes more suspicious of novelty, positive exposure should be equally important. Strive to have at least 3 to 4 positive experiences a week with the juvenile and adolescent dog

Puppies will go through a number of developmental stages as they mature. Expect that your puppy will from time to time explore boundaries for control of a resource or ignore well known cues when there’s something in their environment more exciting than you. All you need to do is stay consistent, ensure you ignore demands and have your pooch earn everything of value and stay positive and patient.

Socialization Check-List

- Environment
- Sounds
- Novelty
- People
- Surfaces
- Animals

House Training 101

Introducing house training rulesets

The first step in house training is to have an area of confinement set up for when you are away from home or unable to keep a close eye on your puppy (see Confinement Training on page 7 for more details).

The Proactive Benefits

- Prevent mistake around the house (i.e. chewing and potty training accidents)
- Teaches them to settle down quickly, quietly & calmly
- Helps to recognize when our puppies need to eliminate

Confining a puppy to their bed and eventually a small puppy play area helps to strongly inhibit indoor urination and defecation which then leads to successful potty training and may reduce the chance of separation anxiety/distress.

Being able to predict when/if your puppy needs to eliminate helps you to be there and teach where to eliminate, allowing you to reward your pup for doing the right thing in the right place at the right time. Every accident is a regression and every time you catch your pooch in an accident by interrupting and redirecting them outside is a great learning experience.



Guidelines to House Training

- Clean all soiled areas thoroughly with a pet odor remover cleaner
- Create a bathroom schedule: morning time, lunch time, dinner time and before bed at the minimum!
- Implement confinement training
- Take your pup out first thing in the morning
- Then every half hour to hour during beginning stages of training
- Take out a few minutes after eating or drinking
- And after waking up from a nap
- As soon as you see your puppy begin sniffing the floor
- Or immediately after coming out of their crate or puppy play area
- Praise your pup after all outdoor elimination!
- Patience is key!

When you take your puppy outside to eliminate it is best to keep the pup on a leash to avoid them getting distracted. Once your puppy eliminates enthusiastically pet, praise and reward your puppy with treats or play. Follow house training rules consistently and immediately after bringing your puppy home. This sets the precedent for future mistakes or triumphs. If you catch your puppy mid accident it's important you never punish them but rather interrupt them, say "outside", and immediately take your puppy to their designated bathroom area. Punishing your puppy for eliminating in the house will quickly teach your puppy to hide when they need to eliminate or create a puppy that is afraid to eliminate in front of you.

Confinement Training: Crate and Puppy Play Areas

Segregating the important areas

It is important to introduce both short term and long term confinement training to your new puppy. Not only does this help your puppy with potty training and inappropriate chewing but, it also helps your puppy with independence training as it helps them to learn to happily be alone. Using both a crate and puppy play area creates errorless training.

People often give a new dog freedom right away and only when an accident occurs, whether its house soiling or chewing the leg of a favourite arm chair, people then crate the dog which makes the use of this tool become a punishment to the dog. Instead, we strongly encourage new pet parents to create a safe place in the beginning and allow a gradual introduction to free reign; your couch and carpets will thank you!

Introducing the Crate

- Sizing: your pup should be able to stand up and turn around completely in crate. Please note that too much space in the crate may enable your dog to eliminate in one area of the crate and snooze in the other which can hinder your house soiling training.
- Set-up: ensure your crate has a soft blanket or towel, a bowl of water, a variety of toys and long lasting treats – you'll read more about this!
- Stepping in: encourage your puppy to explore in and around the crate. Make sure the door is securely fastened open so it won't swing and frighten your pup. Start by dropping small food treats near it, then just inside, and then finally, all the way inside the crate. If he refuses to go all the way in at first, that's okay – do not force him to enter. Continue tossing treats into the crate until your pup walks willingly and calmly all the way into the crate to get the food. If food isn't working, try a toy.
- This may process may take a few minutes or several days so do not use until your puppy is comfortable with the crate!



In order to get your dog used to their crate and “play area” for extended periods of time, start by giving them a long lasting treat; such as a Kong, treat dispensing chew toy or safe bone. Leave them alone to chew and be merry, after a few minutes or before they finish the treat, let them out but do not make this exciting. Repeat and gradually increase the time they are left alone in this area without you leaving the house. Be patient as it could take time to get your dog comfortable with their confinement area but don’t give in!

If your dog begins to howl, whine, bark or scratch, wait until they have been quiet for at least a few moments before you respond, by either letting them out or rewarding the quiet. If you give attention to these behaviours your dog will learn that these behaviours get them attention and will repeat these behaviours to be let out or granted attention later.



Chewing & Chew Toy Training

The bite is worse than their bark

Dogs are inquisitive and social animals, they need to do something, especially when left alone. Dog's chew as a natural and necessary behaviour. It helps to pass the time, relieve stress, relax, burn energy, clean teeth and helps a teething puppy's gums. It often serves the purpose of relieving tension when alone.

Some breeds are much more orally fixated due to genetic influences. Although chewing “problems” may occur in any breed they are common in dogs breeds bred to retrieve.

Puppies explore their world with their mouths just as human babies do! When a new puppy comes home it will bite on anything available. This is a good thing as it helps to acquire bite inhibition later in life. To help accomplish this it is important to allow ample play time with other healthy and friendly dogs and puppies.

Setting your puppy up for chewing success:

- Always provide your puppy with a variety of safe toys and treats to chew
- When unable to supervise, confine your puppy with appropriate chew toys and treats (i.e. Kong or frozen treat)
- When your puppy is chewing something inappropriate – whether it is a shoe or your hand – redirect them onto something they can and should chew

Remember that chewing is a natural behaviour and punishing inappropriate chewing causes stress and may worsen destructive chewing!

By confining your puppy and offering appropriate chew toys when you are away or can't keep an eye on your puppy you eliminate the possibility for destructive chewing mistakes. You also create a habit and teach your puppy to actively look for appropriate toys when they want to chew. Eventually you can make your puppies play area and confinement larger and larger until you trust your puppy to make appropriate choices.





Teaching Bite Inhibition

Negating the negative

Puppies bite and it's good that they do! It's a normal, natural and necessary behaviour; in fact a puppy that doesn't bite is unusual! Puppy play biting is how dogs learn bite inhibition and a soft mouth: teaching them to respect both dog and human flesh. The more a puppy bites and receives appropriate feedback the safer their bite in adulthood. It's a puppy who doesn't bite and play at a young age whose bites may have the potential to do serious damage in adulthood. A puppy should learn that his bites hurt long before they are strong enough to inflict injury. The puppy needs to learn to control the force behind their bite and to bite gently. Once that happens we can eliminate all unwanted biting!

Good bite inhibition doesn't mean that your dog will never lunge, nip or bite. It means that should the dog do this their teeth will seldom make contact and if they do, the bite will cause little or no damage. Bite inhibition is irrefutably the most important part of your puppy's education and luckily it can be easy to teach your puppy good bite inhibition.



It is not necessary to reprimand a biting puppy but it is essential to let your puppy know that bites hurt! If your puppy bites with too much force follow these simple rules:

Leave the Room

Offer a non- reward marker such as “ouch” or “too bad” (marking the moment your puppy made the wrong choice) and immediately leave the room, leaving your puppy confined to the room. As soon as your puppy is calm and quiet, go back and resume whatever you were doing. It’s very important that the **MOMENT** there is inappropriate or forceful contact from puppy’s teeth to skin or clothing, all the fun ends. Repeat this every time it happens.

Time Out

Keeping a leash on your puppy is important. The moment inappropriate contact happens, offer your non-reward marker and taking your puppy by the leash, put your puppy, in their time out area, whether that’s a puppy proofed powder room, small bathroom or behind a barrier in a closed hallway, etc. They should be safe so you can ignore them. Do not use their crate or play area as a punishment, we want these areas to stay positive! Do not pick your puppy up; reaching towards your puppy should always be a good thing. If you don’t have a leash on your puppy then leave the room.



Your puppy will quickly begin to learn what is appropriate. They will quickly offer a much more controlled mouth while playing. The goal is to create a soft mouth before your pup begins to develop their adult teeth which occur around five months old. This is the perfect example of how our puppies learn through cause and effect. Cause: a hard bite, effect: all the fun ends. Our puppies want our attention and to be with us, by learning that a hard bite makes us leave they will in turn learn to control their mouth.

Play to Train

Making the mundane fun

Playing with your dog is an important part of communication and relationship building. Structured play is play that trains your puppy. Puppy play is instinctive so, it's a great way to build drive and desire as well as teach simple commands. It also helps with bite inhibition, control and body awareness. Here are a few games to get you started:



Choose to Heel

Choose to Heel: this helps to build a more reliable heel on lead and helps build your dog's desire to be at your side. You can do this in the house or in a fenced off area. Grab some treats with your furry friend off leash. Begin to walk around if your pooch chooses you and begins to walk at your side reward! It's that simple. You can make this game harder by picking up your pace or quickly changing direction. This builds your dog's desire to be with you, it also increases the likelihood your dog will choose you in a new and exciting environment. Working a heel off leash also makes it much easier to transition to on leash.

Hide and Seek

This game helps to build a reliable recall which can be turned into a "come". Start by hiding just feet away from your puppy in a very easy place to be found, call their name as loud as you can. When your puppy finds you have a party, pet them, play with them, tell them how well they've done! You can choose to reward with food but, just the love they're getting is more than enough for most dogs. Make this game harder by hiding in more difficult places or further away. This again helps to build desire to be with you.

Tug

Tug helps to build toy drive, adding another reward to your repertoire. It also helps to teach a soft and controlled mouth and teach a reliable "out" or "drop it". Pick up a toy and tug away. If your dog doesn't have a very big toy drive you can build that by playing keep away. Throw a toy and race your dog to it then play with it. Do the same, race your dog and tie. Then play tug. Lastly repeat but allow your dog to win the race. Then tug like crazy. In order to end the game trade your dog a high value treat for releasing the tug toy. Eventually you can put that to a cue like "out" or "drop it".

During play you not only lay down the foundations for later training but, you teach your puppy how to stay focused and engaged.



Structure is important when playing with your puppy so here are the rules:

The Do's

DO offer rewards. Positive reinforcement is important not only in relationship building but also to reinforce appropriate behaviors.

DO pay attention. Watch your pooch, choose the best times to play, when your pooch has the most energy. Keep your dog interested. Play should be fun!

DO be inventive. Keep your puppy engaged by changing up the play and rewards! Think outside the box!

DO keep games short. The longer you play the more excited your puppy will get. The more excited they are the less control they have. Always follow play with a cooling off period. When our puppy is calm, the game can resume. The more self-control your dog learns the longer you can play.

The Dont's

DO NOT be the toy. Don't allow your dog to grab your hands or body parts. Teach your dog that the play ends the moment they make inappropriate contact. No matter how hard or if by accident. This teaches your dog to avoid using their teeth to be allowed to keep playing. Make sure they know you're off limits.

DO NOT allow inappropriate initiation. Allowing your dog to initiate play by jumping on you or your lap or by demanding play with a bark is rewarding the behaviour in itself if you play! If you don't want it to become a habit then don't allow it.

DO NOT let them rule. Make sure your pooch understands if you say play ends, it's over. Remove yourself or their toy from the equation.

Preventing Unwanted Behaviours

Identifying the negatives

Resource Guarding

It's important to remember that resource guarding is a natural and necessary canine behaviour. It is our job as pet parents to teach our puppies to enjoy things that they may naturally dislike. It's good to remember that educated and respected canine behaviourists and trainers no longer subscribe to the dominance theory. We are aware that we need to be benevolent leaders in order to teach our dogs and keep them safe. It is now known that dogs do not attempt to "dominate" people in order to rise in rank. They know we are not dogs.

Attempting techniques such as physical punishment, "alpha rolls", verbal abuse and intimidation are counter-productive at the very least. Intelligent and assertive dogs do their best to control resources as a survival instinct. A dog that controls their resources well is more likely to survive if the need arises than one that does not. So if we control the resources there is no need to "dominate" our dogs. With the understanding that the dominance theory involves threat, intimidation and physical manipulation, we realize there are better ways.





Proactive Food Bowl Exercises

- At every mealtime ask your puppy for a sit before putting the bowl down, this way they are earning their food
- As soon as they start eating, start to approach them and toss something extra tasty in the bowl! Something better than their kibble like a piece of cheese, liver, hotdog etc.
- Do this every time your puppy eats, gradually making your way to placing treats directly into the bowl. Quickly they will be happy to have you approach while they are eating and will learn that hands in their bowl is not a bad thing

Other proactive ways to prevent resource guarding issues include training "leave it", "drop it" and always practice "trading up". By which we mean, if your dog has something that you do not want them to have, trade for something of equal or higher value.

Jumping Up

A jumping dog is soliciting attention. If they get that attention they will continue to jump up on people. So it is very important we prevent rewarding our puppies for jumping up. We do this by first, ignoring this behaviour by not talking to, looking at, touching or moving your puppy. Or second, by turning your back and walking away when your puppy jumps on you.

Very quickly your puppy will realize jumping gets them nowhere. Asking your puppy to sit, pushing them away or even yelling at them is giving them attention and all attention is good attention to your puppy! If your dog continues to jump on people it means someone is rewarding the behaviour with attention.

Handling

It's important to teach your puppy from a young age that being handled is enjoyable. This helps to prevent any aggression caused by fear or intolerance. Your dog will be handled by many people through their life; veterinarians, groomers, trainers, strangers, and children. A dog that enjoys being handled or restrained is less likely to act out. It's easy to teach your dog to love being handled. Pair handling exercises with yummy treats all through puppyhood and beyond.

The Proactive Benefits

- Lift up your puppy's lips and play with their mouth
- Inspect and gently handle both ears
- Starting at the shoulder slowly move down your puppies leg handling the elbows and feet
- Handle and play with their toes, paws and nails
- Handle your dog's back and tail
- Handle the inside of your puppy's legs
- Move up their chest and belly

It's important that if you find a "hot spot", an area your puppy doesn't enjoy being touched you pair it with treats and desensitize that area. Not only does this make a veterinarian and groomers life easier, but your puppies happier as well. The more positive associations the better!



Manners and Essential Cues

Negating the negative

Dogs and puppies seem to always get excited at the worst possible times. A fun outing at the park can quickly become a nightmare with an ill-mannered pooch. To have an attentive, well-mannered puppy is way

Essential Training Cues to Help with Manners

- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| • "Look or "attention" | • Stay | • "Drop it" or "out" | • Recall or "come" |
| • Sit | • Loose leash walking or "heel" | • "Place" or "bed" | • "Leave it" |
| • Down | • Door routine or "wait" | • Stand | • "Take it" |
| | | • Settle | |



The Toronto Humane Society Training Class

The Toronto Humane Society is proud to offer a variety of training classes for you and your canine companion. We are passionate about advocating for, and educating pet owners about humane, compassionate, and trust building training practices. We pledge our commitment to providing you and your best friend with a constructive, supportive, and inspiring environment for strengthening the human-animal bond!

Puppy Socialization Class

- \$160
- Group
- 1 Pre-Class Online Orientation Video, 30 Minutes
- 4 Consecutive Weeks, 60 Minutes Each
- Puppies may enroll between 8 to 12 weeks of age, & should be graduating between 12 to, and no later than, 16 weeks

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Online Orientation Video

Register for Puppy Socialization Classes, and access our online orientation video! This video will help prepare you with the basics in order for you and your puppy to get the most out of classes! Once you have completed the online orientation video, you and your puppy can attend your first class.

Health and Handling

Focuses on creating positive experiences around handling your puppy, as well as helpful tips on how to make vet visits fun and rewarding. Learn how to problem solve when it comes to issues such as crate training and elimination training.

Outfits and Appearances

Focuses on meeting familiar people who might be dressed in unfamiliar attire! From lab coats to baseball caps, adventure and lots of treats await puppies for this week's focus. Learn how to problem solve issues all situations.

Obstacles and Sounds

Focuses on fun and exploring around novel items! Your puppy can traverse new and interesting surfaces, and will have the opportunity to build positive associations around the presence of every day house hold items, as well as objects they might come across during regular walks and adventures. Learn how to problem solve

Wheels and Motion

Focuses on items that may be in motion. Puppies will have the opportunity to get the scoop about skateboards, scooters, strollers, and more! Learn how to problem solve issues such as pulling on leash, independence training, and counter surfing.



Foundation Skills Tier 1

- \$220
- Group
- 6 Consecutive Weeks, 60 Minutes Each
- Dogs may enroll at 16 weeks of age and up

Our Foundation Skills Tier 1 classes emphasize the importance of trust and teamwork for you and your dog! Learn how to support your dog through the learning process with positive reinforcement based training practices. Discover the basics of learning theory, and how to recognize constructive learning opportunities in everyday situations! Grow together with your dog while building foundational skills and strengthening the human-animal bond!

- Week 1 Rewards, reinforcements, markers and adding cues the right way!
- Week 2 Motivation, generalization, targeting and attention exercises
- Week 3 Impulse control, Solid stays, stationary behaviours
- Week 4 Excellent expectations, targeting and building on stationary behaviours
- Week 5 Successful sessions, Recalls and leash handling
- Week 6 Review, games and problem solving

Foundation Skills Tier 2

- \$220
- Group
- 6 Consecutive Weeks, 60 Minutes Each
- Pre-requisite: Foundation Skills Tier 1
- Dogs may enroll at 22 weeks of age and up

Our Foundation Skills Tier 2 classes expand on the skills you and your dog acquired during Foundation Skills Tier 1. Continue strengthening the human-animal bond by building trust and practicing teamwork with your dog! Further refine your skills and learn how to keep training interesting, fun, and motivating for the both of you!

- Week 1 Tier 1 Review, Building on Behaviours
- Week 2 Attention, Moving Exercises & Stationary Exercises
- Week 3 Attention, Moving Exercises, Adding 3 D's of dog training To Stationary Behaviours
- Week 4 continuing tricks, Loose Leash Walking, stationary behaviours, Recalls and Retrieves
- Week 5 Moving Exercises, Tricks, Retrieves and Stationary Exercises.
- Week 6 Review, Q&A, Graduation



Problem Solving and Behaviour Modification

- \$250 + applicable tax
- Private
- 2 Sessions, 60 to 90 Minutes Each

Our Problem Solving and Behaviour Modification classes are specifically designed to offer training and support to you and your dog where needed the most. If your dog struggles with issues relating to anxiety, fear, or aggression, we can help by providing a full evaluation, as well as a thorough management and behaviour modification plan. Your dog's individual history and needs, as well as realistic goals will be discussed in a private class setting. Receive comprehensive, compassionate, and dependable care for the emotional and mental health and well-being of your dog.

Two 60-90 minute sessions are provided at our shelter location within a flexible 4 month window from date of purchase, as well as additional correspondence by email or phone between sessions, and up to one month after the second session. This ensures that we can allow for appropriate adjustments to management and behaviour modification plans where needed, as well as being able to track any new developments and progress.

