

K9joy®

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Introduction Course: "Bonding with Your Dog"

Overall frame:

6 lessons (2-3½ hours per lesson = 13-16 hours total) over 2½ days with a 1-3 week period between them, combining theory/workshops and practical training on a 1-on-1 basis. PUPPY SPECIAL is 2-3 hours extra.

Maximum 8 students with dogs per instructor for the practical training. Each student brings his/her own dog (same dog with same handler throughout the course).

Preconditions:

The dog must be at least 7 weeks old for start.

The handler must consent to "Conditions for Participation in K9joy's courses" and be bonded by the terms of those.

The lessons may be video taped, and the students must sign a release form for possible later use of the tape recording as part of a commercial production.

Objective

To give the handler such understanding of the dog and its natural behavior that he/she can communicate with the dog and develop an enjoyable affiliation with it, at the same time as he/she lays the foundation for an effective training of the dog.

Emphasis will be on giving the handler such practical tools and skills for developing a leadership relationship with the dog that he/she can continue the process of gaining a steadily increasing control over the dog's behavior in a public environment through the use of positive motivation, also after the course.

At the end of the course, an assessment is given of the personality of the dog and of the handler's potential as an affective pack leader for the dog, included the effort needed to train the dog as the handler desires.



Content:

The course will contain lectures, workshops, practical demonstrations, and individual training instructions covering:

1. The dog's fundamental instincts and how they can be used to control its behavior.
2. Effective communication with the dog, talking "Dog Language" and "reading the dog".
3. Personal instruction in training the dog in the following disciplines:
 - ◆ Sitting/lying on a spot until released, also at some distance from the handler;
 - ◆ Returning to the handler when called by command;
 - ◆ Playing with a toy, on handler's invitation, without being abusive;
 - ◆ Letting go of a toy on command;
 - ◆ Fetching the toy on command;
 - ◆ Finding hidden treats and toys (mental activation through search work);
 - ◆ General manners, including
 - "dress for walk" (getting collar on),
 - walking without pulling on the leash,
 - walk ahead/behind,
 - avoiding obstacles,
 - disentangling the leash,
 - peeing/pooping on command,
 - greeting people without jumping,
 - curbing/reversing unacceptable behavior,
 - useful ceremonies around feeding and the car and other situations with high stress/excitement involved, like meeting other dogs.

(Please see Generic Schedule for more details)

PUPPY SPECIAL:

As a special courtesy to puppy owners, your instructor may include **two extra lessons of about 1 hour each**, covering:

- House breaking – the dos and don'ts;
- Crate training – home alone – when and how to do it;
- Kids and puppies – and your responsibilities as a parent/owner;
- Walking in public – meeting other dogs – when and how;
- Exercise and rest;
- Teething, growth, feeding schedule;
- Playing with the puppy – and how to make the puppy play without biting people;
- Spaying/neutering – why and why not, and when – what alternatives are possible?
- Establishing house rules for the puppy – what it can chew on and what not.

The PUPPY SPECIAL is exclusively for owner of puppies that are less than 10 weeks of age at the start of the course. It may or may not be offered by the individual instructor – please inquire locally.



Good reasons for going on *now* and not later...

The earlier you get started on training your puppy, the better a result you get for less effort. On top of that, the results you can achieve go way beyond what you can achieve anytime later...

The optimum time to get started is when your puppy is 7-10 weeks of age (less than 2 ½ months!), so you can prevent obnoxious behaviour from developing. Problematic behaviour in older dogs can still be corrected by you acquiring the pack leadership, but you will have to work much harder at it! The training takes place in private or public surroundings, but generally outdoors for the practical parts, unless special arrangements have been made with the instructor. The point is that we want you to learn to control your dog, also when it is most difficult! Also, be aware that when you want to build an attractive and enjoyable relationship with your dog, you should not let it learn that it is more fun to play with other dogs than being together with you...

What you get out of training with a K9joy instructor:

We want you to understand your dog and its fundamental needs. We want you to respect the dog's nature as a carnivore pack animal. We want you to be the leader of the pack, literally. Not because you own the dog, but because you earn the right to the leadership position by virtue of your demonstrated pack leader behaviour – in the eyes of the dog! We cannot achieve all that in the short Introduction Course, but we most certainly can get you started and have you experience how rewarding a sound relationship with a dog can be...

Your instructor is the dog's advocate, and we want for your dog that it will be enjoying its relationship with you. The first step is that you start communicating with the dog on its own terms. The dog's response to this will normally always be a very welcoming accepting of your invitation to affiliate, and you can see and feel the change in the dog's appreciation of you within a few days! (The very few exceptions to this will be dogs with no imprinting on people and dogs with severe physical or mental handicaps – with such a dog, you need private guidance.)

At the end of the Introduction Course, you will get a written assessment of your dog's personality and potential for training as you desire. The assessment will address:

- the dog's major instincts
- its Imprinting on people
- its Socialization on people
- its potential for accepting you as its superior
- the responsibilities and liability you are facing as owner of your dog, based on its personality traits and their fit with you as the person you are, as seen by the instructor during the course.

The assessment will include a recommendation as to whether or not any further training should take place in public classes. (Private lessons will normally always be an option, regardless the assessment at the end of this course – your instructor is there to help, also the "criminal" dogs that have difficulties beyond normal with their owners...)

All dogs are different – just like people. That is why this course is structured so the instructor can tailor it directly to what you and your dog need in order to get the best out of each other.



GENERIC SCHEDULE

Lesson # and type	Contents of lesson (green text refers to practical exercises with the dogs)
1. Theory (no dogs) 2 – 2½ hours (Evening)	Questions and answers about the video “The Dog’s Social Behavior”. Objective for course. Outline of course program. The fundamental principles of training: The Four Boxes. Choice of commands. Payment of balance of fee for course + course materials.
2. Practical with dogs 2 – 2½ hours (Morning)	Dealing with fear reactions. Showing peacefulness. Acknowledging submission. Greeting in Dog Language. Getting in and out of the car. Controlled play. Go pee – go potty. Reversing unacceptable behavior – and accepting non-reversible behavior. Sitting on command, until released.
3. Practical with dogs 2 – 2½ hours (Afternoon)	Control of toy-games: Waiting for permission to grab toy and Fetching toy. “Name-game” (start of formal recall with first recall name). Walking without pulling - use of second recall name – searching for treats. Reversing unacceptable behavior, such as launching and pulling on the leash.
1-3 weeks	Homework – individual training on individual basis
4. Practical with dogs 2 – 2½ hours (Morning)	Dress for a walk. Walk behind – walk ahead. Keeping the leash free of objects. Parking. Feeding ceremony. Recall over short distances (only if homework results for Name-game are sufficient) Search for hidden treats and toys.
5. Practical with dogs 2 – 2½ hours (Afternoon)	General manners in public. Disentangling the leash. Keeping the dog close. Recall over moderate distances (first name). Helping the dog searching (second name) – making it more challenging. Responsible manners in public.
6. Combined Theory & Practical with dogs 3 – 3½ hours (Evening)	How to develop/maintain control. The role of the family. Time perspectives. Options for training. Follow-up on specific problems. Follow-up on homework – all exercises. Individual assessment of dog/handler relationship and training potential. Handout of Assessments - Return of Course Evaluations.



Puppy Special – for puppies 10 weeks or younger at start of course	
Puppy special A (after lesson 3) 1-2 hours	Home alone – housebreaking - crating. Daily walks – where and how and how much. Lifting the puppy – and carrying it over longer distance. Inspecting the puppy on a table - simple grooming. Authoritative play with toys. Establishing taboos with dominance.
Puppy special B (after lesson 5) 1-2 hours	Feeding, teething, and growth. Vaccination and spaying/neutering - why/why not/when. Walking the puppy in public, dealing with other dogs. Follow up on homework, emphasis on authoritative play. Establishing taboos.
Puppy Specials may or may not be offered in conjunction with the Course	

What past students have said about this course:

"I really enjoyed the course, and I feel Casey did too! It taught me a lot about how to better understand my dog's behaviour. I liked the use of positive reinforcement - it is nice to see motivated dogs with wagging tails! I now feel a sense of control when I'm walking Casey off the leash - my recall word has worked every time.

I feel I got a lot out of the course, and I recommend it to any dog owners I meet! Thanks for a great course."

"Great course - allows a good understanding of the dog's behaviour and more importantly - why the behaviour takes place and how to work with it or change it.

The instructors were all personable, knowledgeable, and extremely helpful."

"I have attended 3 courses of the "choke-chain" school of thinking prior to this course. In comparison, I have found the results that I am achieving from my dog now much better than before. My dog is now 3 years and 7 months - my regret is that she did not (+ I did not) have the Human Dog Leadership training from the beginning. I really appreciate the interest and efforts of everyone to help me become a pack leader. Thank you!"