



Decatur Obedience Training Club

Warrensburg, Illinois

What to bring checklist

- ☐ your dog
- ☐ small soft treats
- ☐ Vaccination Form* (completed by veterinarian)
- ☐ Liability Release *

*required to participate in class

Training Tips

- Our goal is to train you to train your dog. While you will be the dog's teacher, both of you will be students. It is our goal to show you how to make your dog a better member of society, to have fun while both of you are learning, and to develop a lifetime of trust, respect and friendship between you and your dog.
- There are many ways to motivate and instruct your dogs. We all train our dogs differently and different things work for different dogs. If you feel your dog is not responding to one method, please feel free to speak to your instructor or assistant about using alternative techniques.
- Because all dogs are different, they will learn at different paces. Do not judge your dog's progress by comparing it to other dogs in the class.
- How successful you and your dog are will depend on your willingness to take instruction, be open to new ideas, and your ability to spend about 5-10 minutes per day practicing that week's lesson.
- Regular class attendance is encouraged, for each week's lesson builds on the previous one. If you are unable to attend a class, let your instructor know or email us at dotcobedience@hotmail.com.
- It's a good idea to wear casual clothing and comfortable shoes to class. (Tennis shoes or soft-soled shoes are requested.) No flip-flops or high heels.
- Do not leave your dog unattended or allow your dog to sniff and/or visit other dogs. Be respectful of dogs in crates and do not approach.
- Please clean up after your dog. Baggies are located inside the door and outside in the mailbox on the far corner of the building. Should your dog have an accident inside please use the blue buckets on the gates to clean it up.
- Children who are not the handlers should observe from the sideline preferably with an adult and remain seated. A child may be the handler per the instructor and director of obedience's discretion. Please do not allow children to visit with other dogs or get near kenneled dogs or play on equipment. This is for both your child and the dogs safety.
- Refrain from feeding your dog before class. Your dog will be less likely to have an accident in the building or your car. We will be using food as a reward, and a slightly hungry dog will be more likely to work for their meal. You can then feed them when you get home after class or use their dinner as part of your treats.
- Bring treats! Small, soft treats are recommended.
- Most dogs are stressed on their first few visits to our building. It is a new environment with strange sights, sounds, and smells. Your dog may begin to scratch at his/her collar, pant

heavily, bark, pull to get at the other dogs and not respond to rewards. This is normal; do not get discouraged. Take the skills you have learned in class and practice them in low-distraction environments, gradually increasing the distraction level. Typically, your dog will be far less stressed after a few visits and able to work with you in class. Don't give up!

- Let instructors know if your dog has food allergies.
- Let instructors know if your dog is reactive to people or dogs.
- No dog will be allowed to participate in class without a current vaccination form and liability release.
- Please ask questions! Have fun!

When coming to class...

When should I arrive?

Please arrive 10-15 minutes before the start of your class with your dog to get checked in and allow your dog to get used to being around the other dogs/in a new place.

What should I bring with me?

You should bring your dog, your vaccination and liability release pages filled out, and small soft treats.

Should I let my dog socialize with other dogs?

We ask that you not let your dog go up to any other dog when coming into the building or waiting for class to start. We don't always know if a dog has a behavior issue and we would not want you or your dog to get hurt. There will be times when we will work on certain skills in class where your dog may interact with other dogs or people, but we ask that you wait until asked to do so by your instructor.

Where should I potty my dog?

When you get to our facility please use the grass across the parking lot from our building or near the railroad tracks to potty your dog. Please do not enter the fenced in area behind the building or potty your dog at the library across the street. There are poop bags in the mailbox at the far end of our building. Please be a responsible pet owner and clean up after your dog.

What if my dog goes into heat or becomes sick?

If you have an intact female who goes into heat or your dog is sick please do not bring them to class. You can still come but please leave your dog at home.

Do I need a certain collar or leash for training?

We recommend using flat buckle collars, chain or prong collars. Halters and harnesses are also allowed. No prong collars are allowed in puppy class without approval from instructor. For leashes we recommend either 4' or 6' leather or nylon leashes. **NO RETRACTABLE OR CHAIN LEASHES!** Do not travel here or home with specialized training collars on. Use a flat buckle collar with identification tags for traveling.

How will I know if class is cancelled due to the weather?

If we have to cancel class postings will be made on Facebook (so make sure to follow us www.facebook.com/DOTCIllinois) and will be posted with both the TV and radio stations.

How many people are allowed in the ring during training?

We only allow one handler per dog in the training ring. Family members are encouraged to come and watch class but will need to remain outside the ring.

What vaccinations are required?

We only require Distemper, Parvo, and Rabies, but we do recommend discussing with your veterinarian what additional vaccinations they recommend for your dog.

***On the first night please bring the following two forms completed.
Can also be found at www.decaturdogclub.com/classforms***

I, the undersigned, hereby agree that DOTC, Inc. shall not be held responsible for any injury, damage or loss that my dog or I might receive while attending training classes or while on club property. I further agree to pay for any injury or damage that my dog may cause to any other animals, people or property while on DOTC property.

Dog and handler may be dropped from class with no notice at the discretion of the class instructor, the Director of Training, and/or the Board of Directors. Violation of club rules may result in your being asked to leave DOTC. Examples of behavior that may necessitate expulsion include, but are not limited to, aggression, abusive training, lack of cooperation, and intoxication. Decatur Obedience Training Club has the right to deny training/class privileges and/or membership for any reason, provided the reason does not violate state or federal laws.

Owner/Handler Name: _____

Owner/Handler Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____

Dog Vaccination Form

To Be Completed By Owner

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone Number: () - Email: _____

To Be Completed By Veterinarian

Dogs Name: _____

Breed: _____ Gender: _____ Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____

Vaccines and Dates Administered

Distemper: _____

Parvo: _____

Rabies: _____

Rabies Tag Number _____

Is this dog known to be aggressive towards humans or other dogs? _____

If yes please explain:

Clinic Name: _____

Veterinarian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Phone Number: () - _____

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Stamp Required

