

Napa Valley Dog Training Club

Class Descriptions

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To view description of a class, click its name below.

Not all classes are offered every session. Check [upcoming session page](#) for scheduled classes.

Visit our [registration page](#) for details on how to sign up for a class.

ALL CLASSES RUN 6 WEEKS UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE ON CLASS SCHEDULE.

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LEVEL 1 CLASSES

***These classes do not require previous training.
Some classes have age or weight limitations.***

PUPPY

Designed for young dogs 12 weeks and up to 5 ½ months of age.

Dogs must have received at least two DHPP immunizations by the start of class.

This class is an introduction to basic obedience, life skills, socialization, confidence building and bonding.

ADOLESCENT

Designed for dogs 5 ½ – 12 months of age.

This class focuses on young dogs who are new to the training class environment, or young dogs who participated in Puppy Class and want more practice with basic obedience, socialization and confidence building.

GOOD MANNERS 1

Designed for dogs 1 year of age and older.

This class is for dogs who are new to the training class environment or continuing from Adolescent Dog. Obedience skills are covered, expanded upon and proofed with distractions.

MIGHTY MIGHTS

Class for SMALL DOGS under 30 pounds at maturity. Dogs must be at least 5 ½ months of age.

Class will include basic obedience, activities to build confidence and techniques to reduce reactivity. Lessons and teaching methods are geared to the needs, learning style, and comfort level of small breed dogs and their owners. This class is for those who feel their small dog does best with similar sized dogs.

CONFIDENCE BUILDING

Dogs must be at least 5 ½ months of age.

Dogs learn by exploring different obstacles to walk on, climb over, go under, or stand on. Each week there will be new things to investigate, and owners and dogs are encouraged to participate at their own pace. This is a good choice for all dogs but can be very helpful for young dogs and shy / fearful dogs.

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LEVEL 2 CLASSES

These classes require previous training experience with successful completion of Level 1 class(es), like Adolescent Dog and Good Manners 1, or equivalent.

Dogs should be at least 1 year of age or with Instructor's approval.

Dogs are expected to have good understanding of :

Sit, Down, Stay, Recall, Leave It, Watch Me / Attention, Hand Target and Walking Nicely on Leash.

GOOD MANNERS 2

This class focuses on polishing known obedience skills plus learning heeling patterns, finishes (right / left), extended sit-stay and down-stay, stand and working with more difficult distractions. Owners will practice meet-and-greet, passing another dog closely, appropriate use of rewards and when / how to reduce frequency of rewards.

COMMUNITY WALKS

Dogs must be people and dog friendly.

The class starts at our training facility and focuses on new skills helpful for dogs to feel safe in public. Skills introduced include heeling on both sides of the handler, moving comfortably from one side of the handler to the other (cut / pass / flip) and the dog learning to potty on cue.

Exposure to items like balloons, food on the ground, and healthcare equipment, like canes and walkers, will be included. Other classes are held in downtown Napa to practice and proof skills in new situations and different obstacles. Examples of fieldtrip activities include riding comfortably in elevators and walking politely up and down pedestrian stairs and ramps.

DELIGHTFUL DISTRACTIONS

Dogs must be people and dog friendly.

Distractions are sight, sound, tactile, movement and smell. Learned skills are proofed in many ways and with different types of distractions. Distractions can be familiar, like a bouncing ball or food on the floor or unusual distractions, like a train whistle or moving toy. Distraction challenges are matched with the dog's age and skill levels.

STRENGTHENING the BASCIS

Dogs must be people and dog friendly.

This class strengthens and proofs basic obedience skills, impulse control, and loose leash walking. The owner and instructor decide together on the skills that need improvement. Class is then structured to improve those identified obedience skills. If you want to expand or refresh your dog's skills, this is the class for you. Dogs work at their own pace.

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LEVEL 3 CLASSES

These classes require previous training experiences and successful completion of Level 2 class(es), like Good Manners 2, or equivalent.

Dogs should be at least 1 year of age or with Instructor's approval.

ADVANCED OBEDIENCE

This class is for individuals who are interested in formal obedience, the foundation for several competitive canine sports including Rally. Competition requires precision and teamwork, and this class incorporates activities that increase the dog's attention and focus. The goals are to improve long sits and downs, recalls, and off-leash work plus practice standard exercises used in competitions.

CANINE GOOD CITIZEN

The program is open to all dogs, purebred and mixed breed.

Dogs who successfully pass the test earn a certificate and can apply for title.

The American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen (CGC) program is designed to encourage responsible dog ownership and recognize dogs who have good manners at home and in the community.

This class covers the exercises carefully and allow owners to solve problems. On the last class, the official CGC evaluation will be offered. Dogs who successfully complete the 10 part skills test can earn a certificate and can apply for an American Kennel Club (AKC) title.

To learn more about the Canine Good Citizen Program, visit

www.akc.org/products-services/training-programs/canine-good-citizen/

DINING OUT

Dogs must be people and dog friendly.

Dining out venues are a picnic with your dog, buffet at a park, and patio dining at a restaurant. Owners and dogs will train for each venue at the Club followed by a field trip the following week. Trouble shooting includes dogs working near each other, relaxing on a mat, and behaving calmly around and/or ignoring food.

INTRO to THERAPY DOG SKILLS

Dogs must be people and dog friendly.

This class is designed to give owners a better understanding of animal-assisted therapy. Owners will discover the skills genuine Therapy Dogs use to connect with others, how to help their pet remain focused and calm with distractions, plus exposure to healthcare equipment. The goal is to help each owner and pet (aka Team) learn to interact with new people in friendly, polite manner.

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SPORT CLASSES

RALLY

Minimum requirement is successful completion of Good Manners 1 or instructor's approval.

A rally ring contains a course of signs and stations that handler and dog must complete. Side-by-side the team navigates the course as the owner helps his/her dog perform different exercises successfully.

To learn more about Rally visit **www.akc.org/sports/rally/**

SCENT WORK

Dogs of all ages are welcome.

Puppies can start at 12 weeks of age, with at least two DHPP immunizations by the start of class, and with the instructor's approval.

This sport imitates the task of working detection dogs. In this sport, dogs are trained to recognize specific odors (birch, anise, clove and cypress) and alert the owner when the odor is detected.

To learn more about Scent Work visit **www.akc.org/sports/akc-scent-work/**

TRAINING PARTNER

CANINE FREESTYLE

Dogs of all ages are welcome.

Discover why dogs love to train to music ! The skills you master in freestyle class will enhance all other sports and goals. Deepen bonding, increase attention, and learn how to decode your body language to improve communication. Dogs work heel and right side so both the dog and handler develop a balanced structure. Dogs Can Dance offers a variety of classes because all dogs deserve to dance.

Visit: www.DogsCanDance.com and check out the listing of classes in Napa.

Questions: Judy@DogsCanDance.com

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