

Napa Valley Dog Training Club

Devoted to dogs & dog training in Napa Valley, California

WRITTEN MATERIALS TO READ BEFORE ATTENDING YOUR FIRST CLASS:

Reading the written materials will be a huge plus for you and your dog when you arrive for your first class!

Click on the three titles below for individual PDFs of all the materials you need to read before attending your first class.

[Club Rules, Guidelines, Training Equipment and More](#)

Napa Valley Dog Training Club
68 Coombs Street, Building N
Napa, CA 94559
(707) 253-8666 NVOTC.org

CLUB RULES

- All dogs must be on-leash while on the premises, including the parking lot. Exceptions would be exercised inside the training facility as directed by the instructor.
- Pay attention to and be responsible for your dog at all times. Keep your dog next to you and the other leash at 2-3 foot length, unless otherwise instructed. Don't let your dog visit with the other dogs.
- Please no smoking in the building or near the building entry. Dispose of any butts properly, as ingesting cigarettes is hazardous to dogs.
- Please clean up after your own dog both inside and outside the training building. Cleaning supplies are available, including plastic bags, paper towels, and cleaners.
- There is a bucket located near the main door reserved especially for your dog's waste.
- Dogs may eliminate in the lawn area with the large fig tree, which is located between buildings "C" and "D." Do not allow your pet to relieve itself anywhere else on the property.
- Only one handler per dog permitted on the floor at a time. If there are multiple handlers for a dog, instructors may make adjustments.
- Human visitors are welcome. However, please stay off the training floor during class.
- Vaccinations MUST be kept current.
- Please drive slowly. Be aware of pedestrians, both the two and four-legged variety.

CLASSROOM GUIDELINES

- Each week's lessons build upon the previous week, so regular attendance is important. If you anticipate an absence, please inform the instructor and get the dog with someone else unless they have been working together.
- Do not allow your dog to greet another dog unless directed by the instructor.
- If your dog comes into season leave her at home. You may continue working her independently at home.
- Please do your best to be on time.
- If your dog has already had some training, please be patient. Every dog and person, learns at a different rate and in a different way. When training your dog, along with most of the class.
- If you have advanced another dog, please bring it to class.

Napa Valley Dog Training Club
Location for classes: 68 Coombs Street, Building N
Mailing address:
68 Coombs Street #7, Napa, CA 94559
www.nvotc.org | (707) 253-8666

What You Need for Training Class

- You must be pre-registered to take a class. To pre-register, call the office at (707) 253-8666. Once you are signed up through the office, visit nvotc.org/training-for-classes/ for instructions on completing your registration. If registration is closed for the current session, check our year-round session schedule at nvotc.org/pdf/NVOTCTrainingSchedule2022.pdf for date registration opens for the next session.
- A copy of your dog's current vaccination records must have been provided to the dog club along with your payment, and filled out registration documents (training application and questionnaire) by the payment deadline as shown on our year-round session schedule: nvotc.org/pdf/NVOTCTrainingSchedule2022.pdf.
- Payment is by check. PayPal and credit card payments are not available at this time. Payment along with registration documents and shot records must be received by NVOTC by the payment deadline as shown on our year-round session schedule: nvotc.org/pdf/NVOTCTrainingSchedule2022.pdf by mailing check to Napa Valley Dog Training Club, 68 Coombs Street #7, Napa, CA 94559 or placed in an envelope with your name on it and deposited in the club's drop box located outside next to the entrance to the Napa Valley Dog Training Club (located at 68 Coombs Street, Building N) in Napa. If payment and paperwork are not received on time, your spot will be given to someone on our waitlist.
- Review of the Club Rules by going to nvotc.org/pdf/ClubRulesGuidelinesTraining_andMore.pdf.

Bring to Class Each Week for your DOG:

- 6' leather or nylon lead (leash). If you use a flex-lead (retractable leash) at home, please switch your pet over to the more sturdy lead before entering the training facility.
- Flat buckle or quick release collar. If you feel your dog is uncomfortable wearing a collar, please contact us.

Bring to Class Each Week for YOU:

- Wear comfortable clothing and closed-toed, closed-heeled shoes during training sessions for safety purposes. Tennis shoes are encouraged, sandals and flip-flops are not appropriate for training sessions. Our training facility is located in a greenhouse, so please dress appropriately for weather.

[What You Need for Training Class](#)

[Getting Started at Home](#)

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Getting Started at Home

Refer to the Orientation Videos Part 3 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAz2mSjQwQ>

Release Word
The purpose of this word is to let your dog know an exercise is finished. You will select your own release word, or short phrase. It is easy to remember and works for everyone in your home. This word lets Fido that the exercise is over (which is an important concept when having a dog learn to remain in position for an extended period of time). Think of this word as your "off switch." Sit, Down, Stay or Wait cue word is the "on switch." Cue words like "dismissed", "break", "noises", "sit down", "that's enough", and "at ease" all work well. However, "okay" is NOT RECOMMENDED because it is used frequently in everyday conversations and this can lead to confusion for the pet.

At first your dog will not understand what the word means, so you will have to show him. Ask your dog to "sit", reward the action with a small treat and then say your release word. As the cue encourage him to break his position by clapping your hands and encouraging him to move. You do NOT have to reward the release with a goosie, but rather your enthusiastic praise should be the reward! Take a 20-30 second break and repeat. Do the exercise a few times each day for no more than 10 repetitions at each session. Within a few days, you will understand the concept.

Marker Sound
This word, or sound, can be a powerful tool when trained and used correctly you to mark a successful behavior instantly and, after some time, the sound may also act as a reward itself.

Pick a single note that:

- Everyone in the household can say and remember.
- Can be said with a sharp, quick sound.
- Comes to mind when you are happy.
- Can't be confused with other cue words in your dog's name.

Words like "yes", "yip" and "good" are perfect examples of successful marker words.

TO BEGIN: Measure a portion of your dog's dinner into a cup that way you'll be sure you don't over feed further. (Yip, your dog will be learning and getting a meal at the same time - what a deal.)

- Say the word and immediately give your dog a treat.
- Repeat the word in varying contexts and in different locations throughout the day.
- Practice this activity for a few days, with 10-15 repetitions at each training session.

NVOTC - Getting Started at Home
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