



Congratulations!

Welcome to the K9 Penn Family!

Congratulations on taking this next step with your dog. Here at K9 Penn, we train all breeds of dogs from German Shepherds to Mini Dachshunds. There is an enormous personality difference amongst dogs, not only from breed to breed, but within a breed. We do not rely on a single training method, but we gear the training to your dog's individual needs; a spunky puppy may need more of a firm handler to command his respect and attention whereas that same firm handling may not work for a shy, abused, or recently adopted dog.

Dog training is an interactive experience which cannot be successfully accomplished without your full participation. By going through our obedience packages, we will help you transform your dog into a well-trained, mannerly and valued member of your family. To achieve this goal you must understand the essence of our classes. By coming to K9 Penn, we are training both you and your dog; you are both the students together. Feel free to ask questions at any time throughout the training process, we want you to feel as comfortable as possible during this

experience with your dog. For training to be successful, you and your dog must develop a mutually respectful relationship, trust, communication and an understanding of what each is expecting from the other.

At K9 Penn, our number one rule is safety with both the handlers and their dogs. To attend lessons, we require proof of vaccines (Rabies, Distemper) prior to beginning lessons. This is to ensure the safety of the trainers as well as other dogs that are brought into the facility. During lessons, please wear appropriate clothing to class so you may safely work with your dog; high heels, sandals, and dangling jewelry are difficult to work in and could result in a serious injury. Please wear casual clothing that is comfortable to work in throughout the lesson and shoes that are closed toed.

## **Equipment for Lessons -**

Our method of training is using a correction collar, whether it be a metal or plastic depending on the dog. The purpose of this collar is to simulate the mothers correction that is used to teach the puppies right and wrong behaviors from day one and even to this day all dogs remember that sensation. Both the metal and plastic prong collars have space throughout the collar so there is never constriction on the trachea to restrict blood flow and oxygen to the dog. We recommend to have this training collar on whenever you are doing obedience work and on walks, but you can leave the collar on throughout the day if desired. We highly recommend to not have your dog sleep in the collar as it may be uncomfortable in some positions.

We prefer to use leather leashes with somewhat of a rougher surface to them rather a nylon leash because of safety. If a nylon leash is suddenly jarred through your hand, it will create a burning sensation which can leave a burn mark on your hand as well as a loose dog. By using a leather leash, you are eliminating the possibility of a dog becoming loose and can gain more control of an unannounced situation. Both the collars and leashes are available for purchase at the facility and any of the staff will be able to assist you in selecting one for you and your dog.

## Commands -

Throughout our obedience packages, we use the same commands following from basic obedience to advance obedience as well as into specialty training areas such as protection, tracking and trailing. Dogs learn by repetition and consistency, so it is crucial that these commands are practiced in the same fashion each and every time training is done.

Sit	Give a straight double pop of the collar straight up when giving the command to sit. If the dog needs guidance, give a tap on the butt while giving a verbal command.
Down	Have the dog go into a sit position first. Flash your hand closest to the dog three times then give the command for down. If the dog needs guidance, gently pull on the leash towards the ground while giving a verbal command.
Stay	When giving a command to stay, show your whole palm with your fingers spaced out for the dog to see visually then follow by giving the command.
Hold	Following a stay command, make your hand into a downwards fist with a verbal command. This is a reinforcement command that is over an extended amount of time.
Heel	When walking with your dog, they should stay next to your side with their front shoulder to the trunk of their body. If the dog gets out in front of you, by giving a heel with a verbal command and a pop of the leash from head to tail as a reinforcement.
Come	This movement is exaggerated for the purpose of a dog being a large distance from you. Cross your arm across your chest to touch your shoulder then extend your arm out while giving a verbal command of 'Come Here'. Do not use the dogs' name in the command.

K9 Penn Homework:

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