

Welcome to My AWESOME DOG Puppy Kindergarten Class

For the class you will need:

- § 6 foot leash. No flexi-leads.
- § Collar – buckle, martingale, prong, or choke.
- § (No head-halters or harnesses unless your vet has determined your dog has a medical condition and can't wear a collar)
- § Shoes that will stay on your feet when you back up quickly
- § Commitment of at least 15 minutes per day to train your puppy

Points to remember:

- § Enforce any and every command that you give.
- § Use your parenting voice when you are giving a command. Tell the puppy to do the command - don't ask.
- § You are the leader of your pack even if your pack consists of just you and your dog. Your dog wants you to be the leader, if you aren't, he will try to take over.
- § Your puppy should be wearing a 4' to 6' leash **at all times**. Not the same leash you use for walking him...get an inexpensive thin leash that won't catch on furniture...cat leashes work great. **And yes, that means he wears it in the house**. The only time he should not be wearing it is in his crate. Depending on how fast the puppy learns, that leash may be on for months or a year. This is so you can enforce every command that you give.
- § Don't repeat commands. If you do, it becomes just a suggestion and the puppy doesn't know when you want him to do it...is it after you say sit 2 times or is it after 4?
- § Praise your puppy sincerely and enthusiastically when they do it right.
- § Always end your training on a good note and give your puppy success
- § **Always** give a chin-touch release after every command. This signals to the puppy that he is done with the command. Your release word is NOT your praise word. Don't confuse the puppy.
- § Every member of your household that will be working with the puppy must give the command the same way. "Quiet, Koko" and "Koko Quiet" are two different commands to the dog. And what does the dog think "shhhhhhhhh" is?
- § Daily training is a must. Do random "comes" as you are cleaning your house or washing your car. Practice Sit or Down as you are waiting for the pizza deliveryman. Do commands while you are taking them for their daily walk.
- § Your dog needs exercise. "A tired puppy is a good puppy". You should try to walk your dog at least a ½ hour in the morning and 45 minutes to an hour each night. In the summer, walk them during the early morning hours or after sunset to avoid the heat.

- § If you have a little dog that is misbehaving, don't pick him up...that reinforces the naughty behavior by bringing the dog up to your alpha level. Make him do some sits and downs and get him re-focused
- § Enjoy your puppy...they are cute, fun and don't stay little for very long. Take him to as many places as possible for socialization. Pet stores, parks, school yards, etc.
- § Have fun with your puppy when you are training. Training your puppy builds an incredible bond between you.