



**Congratulations!**

## CLASS INFORMATION

The Tallahassee Dog Obedience Club welcomes you and your canine partner to our training classes! We are happy that you are taking the leap into dog training so you and your dog can have an even more wonderful life together!

**LOCATION:** Sue Herndon McCollum Community Center, Lafayette Park, 501 Ingleside Ave., Tallahassee

**PARKING/ENTRY:** Dogs are not allowed in the building lobby. Please enter through the back door directly into the gym. Drive past the main entry to the back left corner of the building.

**TIME:** Your class time was communicated to you when you talked to our Registrar. **On the first night, please arrive 15 minutes prior to your class time for introductions and class information.**

**EQUIPMENT & SHOES:** **Collar** (no harnesses or head halters - exception: very small dogs in **Puppy class** can use a harness, if desired). **Six-foot lead.** Leather is best for grip. TDOC sells good quality leather leads if you are interested. Bring lots (more than you would think!) of excellent soft **treats!** **Clothes** - comfortable! **Closed-toed shoes,** sneakers are best. For safety, absolutely no flip-flop or sandal type shoes.

**THIS NOTE IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THE FIRST NIGHT OF CLASS! Be aware of your dog and others at all times. Don't get distracted when you are near other dogs. Maintain an arm's length distance, and keep your dog on a very short lead; maybe even hold him by the collar when other dogs are nearby. Remember, your dog might be friendly, but others may prefer not to be greeted. Please ensure that your dog respects other dogs' space. Make sure your dog is focused on you and is not staring at another dog.**

Each night, try to arrive 10-15 minutes early to allow your dog to stretch, relax and potty outside. PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG!! If your dog has an accident in the building, we will have clean-up supplies for you to use.

If a child under 16 is training a dog, a parent MUST BE PRESENT. We recommend that the same person bring the dog to class each week. Learning in a new place is hard, and slight differences between two trainers can create confusion.

Do not feed your dog prior to class (or just reduce their meal and feed the rest after class). We use food as a motivator, and treats are not as motivating to a dog that has just eaten. Come to class with a variety of treats. Soft treats work best - string cheese, cooked hotdogs, Zukes Mini's, etc. Dogs have to stop and chew hard biscuits, which causes them to lose their focus. An easy and inexpensive treat holder is a nail bag from the hardware store.

At home, short training sessions are best kept at 3-5 minutes versus a long one, and KEEP IT HAPPY! Unfortunately, we can't have you come to class for five minutes 10 times a week! So be prepared to help your dog clear his/her mind and get the happy going if he/she starts to feel too much pressure. Bring a favorite toy and take him out for a minute to play. Better to miss a few minutes than to have your dog think that training isn't fun.

**OUR ROLE AS INSTRUCTORS:** We will be TRAINING YOU TO TRAIN YOUR DOG! It's as simple as that. We are ALL VOLUNTEERS and participate in AKC Performance Events from Obedience & Rally to agility, field work, Scent Work, lure coursing, Barn Hunt, and dock diving. We teach because WE LOVE DOGS! Like you, we want you and your dog to have a wonderful bond. Your instructors have years of experience, attend training programs to remain current, and use proven material and methods. Talk to your instructor if you are having a problem, we are here to help!

**FEES & REFUNDS:** Your class fees go towards equipment, seminars for instructors, building rental, and labor to roll out the floor mats each week. Refunds can be requested before the end of your first class. Let your instructor know, and then you will follow up with an e-mail to the registrar: Randi Cohen, rcohen\_shelties@comcast.net.

**CLUB MEETINGS** - We would like to invite you to our meetings of the Tallahassee Dog Obedience Club which are held on the LAST MONDAY of the month. Visit our website at [www.tdoclub.org](http://www.tdoclub.org) for more information.