

GADE DOG TRAINING SOCIETY

Induction and Beginners Course

Guidance Notes Part 1



A FEW DO'S AND DON'T'S:

- DO** wear soft flat shoes and preferably trousers, as there will be lots of bending and kneeling.
- DO** please exercise your dog to enable him/her to relieve themselves before coming in, and clear up after them. Not where children play or people walk. Be careful on the way in and out that the 'boys' don't cock a leg on the steps, doors and walls.

If there is an 'accident' it is **YOUR** job to clean it up. We have disinfectant etc. just in case.

- DO** be aware at all times, from the car park onwards, of what your dog is doing. Avoid eye contact between dogs as this can start a fight.

DON'T feed your dog for several hours before coming.

DON'T bring your dog if it is unwell. Watch out for symptoms of Kennel Cough (dry, hacking, coarse cough, retching and gagging). It often sounds like your dog has got something caught in the back of his throat and he is trying to cough it up. Although most cases clear themselves without any treatment within 7 - 14 days, please seek vets advice before returning.

DON'T bring bitches while they are in season – this lasts for at least 21 days.

DON'T throw sticks or small rubber balls, they can kill.

BASIC EQUIPMENT:

- Handler:** soft, flat shoes.
Somewhere to put titbits. (Pocket, bum-bag or plastic bag pinned to your top).
- Dog:** Buckle collar with nametag, suitable training collar, e.g. half-check, suitable lead. We will advise on suitability when we see the dogs in action!
Tasty titbits and toy (non-squeaky)

TRAINING:

Never be embarrassed if your dog is naughty. We've seen it all before, and we're here to help you. The exercises we teach will help you with every day life. We aim to help you have a sociable, obedient dog that will give you much pleasure and not be a nuisance to other people.

During the course we will cover:

- General good behavior
- Attentive response to name
- Socializing
- Responsibility and care
- Behavioral problems
- Basic obedience:
 - 3 positions, sit, stand, down
 - Recall
 - Walking close on a loose lead
 - Stay
 - Retrieve

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Guidance Notes Part 2

STONE OF VOICE:

This is very important. Dogs have excellent hearing so you don't need to shout, but vary the tone from quiet and gentle in the stays, bright and jolly for heelwork, exciting and bubbly for play, deep and quiet for bad behavior.

PRAISE:

This is the dog's wages for being co-operative. We want the dogs to be happy and enjoy pleasing you. So be generous with praise, but only when the dog is correct. This how they will learn what you want from them.

Praise can be your voice, stroking, playing (with or without a toy), and titbits.

Be careful **not** to praise your dog for inappropriate behavior, e.g. by stroking when they are noisy or afraid.

IGNORE mistakes as far as possible, although you may have to interrupt some behavior, for instance **barking**. In class, barking is usually because a dog is worried. It is normally triggered by dogs making eye contact, so if any dog starts to bark, please **all help out** by making eye contact with your own dog. The barking dog should be **instantly** turned to face his handler and made to sit. You may need to change position in the class if some dogs don't get on.

HOME TRAINING:

This is vital. We show you the exercises, but the dog needs to keep practicing them. So practice in short bursts of a minute or two throughout the day. **Be consistent**, using the same word of command each time and the same body signals. Also **praise** the dog for getting it right and ignore mistakes. **Punishment** must be reserved for real problems, like snarling at people or attacking other dogs without provocation. And it must be **instant**.

ANY QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions or are not sure of what to do, please speak up in class. If you would like to discuss anything after class, assistant trainers are usually available.

REMEMBER – WE'RE HERE TO HELP