

LIFE SKILLS 2

This class is for dogs that have completed an entry level TCKC obedience class: Puppy Life Skills or K9 Life Skills 1, or have the permission of the Director of Training. We are pleased that you are committed to improving your dog's skills which will help him/her become a delightful companion. The goal of this class is to advance your skills so you can train your dog to any level you wish.

As your dog matures and becomes used to training, you may find that you can have longer practice sessions. It is imperative that you practice regularly with your dog - ideally, daily - if you want your dog to continue to improve his skills. In general, positive reinforcement and praising the behaviors you want to be repeated is the strongest motivator. Once your dog has clearly learned a behavior and he chooses not to perform it is where corrections should be used.

Remember to bring soft, easy to chew treats to class. A favorite toy that is reserved for training may also be useful. (Remember to consider the treats used for training as part of the total daily food allotment.)

You are encouraged to read your lesson plan before class each week. Although we will demonstrate and explain the lessons scheduled for each week, your book will serve as a good reference if you experience difficulty with an exercise. By reading the lessons prior to class you will have a better understanding of what is being taught.

Please do not hesitate to ask questions. We are here to help you with your dog. Many times it is easiest to ask your questions at the beginning of or during class. Chances are that other handlers in the class may have the same questions and will also benefit from the answers given.

We want you to enjoy your dog as you teach him to become a good canine citizen and loving home companion. We encourage you to check out the variety of dog sports that are offered at TCKC and other clubs in the area. If you are interested in pursuing more involved teamwork with your dog, feel free to ask one of your trainers.

Happy training.