



Guidelines Re: Children in Dog Training Class

Positive dog training is a fun, force-free training method that allows all family members to participate in the process! At Sidekick, children who can participate in the training are welcome to attend class.

We have put the following guidelines in place for the safety and enjoyment of all class participants:

1. 1) Children under six years of age must have adult supervision beyond the primary person handling the dog. All children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For Reactive Rover class, all class attendees must be 14 years of age or older.
2. 2) During training, we encourage children to participate by giving cues (“commands”) to the dog and delivering the treat. We ask that a parent or child 12 years or over hold the dog’s leash. This is for the security and safety of all students and their dogs. For younger children, we suggest that you attach two leashes to your dog’s collar, one for the parent (or older child) to hold and one for the younger child to hold.
3. 3) Children are asked to refrain from running, skipping and jumping in the classroom. These actions may startle or upset some dogs and may trigger a chase and/or nipping instinct.
4. 4) Some in-class exercises involve greeting and handling other dogs in the class, but during the majority of class time children and other handlers are asked to remain at their “station” with their own dog. This allows you to focus on building skills with your own dog with all family members as well as ensuring that other handlers and dogs are not interrupted.
5. 5) During puppy play time (if applicable), children are asked to remain seated at their “station.” There are many opportunities in class to meet, greet, handle and play with the other puppies in class, but off leash play time is a chance for the puppies to interact with each other. We ask that children refrain from interacting with the puppies during the off leash play time.
6. 6) If you expect your child may have difficulty concentrating during class, we suggest bringing a “down time” item such as a coloring book, reading book, video game or other toy that will engage him or her during slower times.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to working with you to develop a lasting relationship with your dog and family!