

THE HUMANER TRAINER'S

Puppy Preschool Classes

Puppy Preschool is a six week puppy problem prevention and socialization class geared specifically to puppy issues and a puppy's developing physical and social needs. Like humans, canines have biologically prepared "critical" periods for social development commonly called socialization windows. Most of these windows of opportunity close by the time a puppy reaches 16 weeks of age.

FAQ:

What is socialization and why is it important?

Think of this time in your puppy's life as your opportunity to build the perfect dog. If you build a house, certain elements need to be in place for the house to be solid. The first thing you need is a good foundation. In canines, that's your puppy's genetics. Your puppy will never be larger or smaller than it is genetically programmed to grow. Your puppy's behavior is also genetically programmed and there will be certain behavioral barricades it cannot go beyond.

Socialization is the framework we put on top of that foundation to make the most of the behavioral constraints genetics have imposed on us. Without good framework, a house will not stand up. Without good socialization, a puppy is at greater risk to develop behavioral problems as an adult. Puppies need a wide variety of experiences to stimulate neuron connections in their brain. Puppies who do not receive this environmental enrichment, will never develop to their full potential.

Most of us prefer a house with indoor plumbing – that's what house training is – installing "indoor" plumbing! To complete the essentials of our house, we need to install wiring. Many "hard wired" behaviors that puppies need to learn to be safe and reliable adult dogs are best installed during this period. Behaviors such as bite inhibition, sharing treasures (aka: Object Guarding), and coming when called are critical to an adult dog's safety and life.

We only get one chance to build the perfect dog from scratch. Sure, we can install plumbing, wiring, and framework in a home after it's built, but it is messy, time consuming, and expensive. It will always be a "remodel" job rather than doing the job correctly in the first place.

After a puppy's socialization window closes, it may be *possible* for dogs to learn how to respond to situations in an appropriate manner, but it will never be as easy, nor will it have the same beneficial and long lasting effects as it does during this critical period in your puppy's life.

Over Please...

Puppy Preschool Classes

(cont.)

What can I expect from puppy classes?

Our Puppy Preschool is designed to put all the foundational elements in place and prepare your puppy for adult life. Every week we will work on house training, mouthing and bite inhibition, appropriate play and toys, dog/dog socialization, human/dog socialization, grooming, acceptance of handling, and confidence building with different objects, surfaces, and sounds. Classes are structured to address each puppy's individual needs, so that shy puppies learn to be more confident, and bolder puppies learn how to be more polite.

When can my puppy start Puppy Preschool?

The Preschool classes are ongoing so that no puppy ever has to wait to get into a class. Classes are on Monday evenings at 7pm. Puppies under 16 weeks of age can join anytime after their second round of vaccinations, and after having two dewormings or two negative fecal tests. Your puppy may join a class that is in progress, or there may be puppies who join your puppy's class midway through. This allows puppies the opportunity to meet many other puppies throughout the program.

Where are you located?

8618 McMeans Trail, southwest, in the Oak Hill area, near the Circle C golf course.

What does it cost?

\$150.00 for the six week program, or \$235.00 if you would like to add a one time house call to the program and have a trainer to come to your home to help with specific in-home issues.

How do I register?

Call (301-6886) or email us (humanertrainer@austin.rr.com) to request a Puppy Preschool Registration form. Complete and return the registration form with your payment. Your spot is reserved when we receive your paperwork (including veterinary records) and deposit.

What other services do you offer?

We also offer group classes, private lessons, and consultations for aggression, phobias (including Separation Anxiety), and other behavior problems. Please contact us by phone or email for more information on these services.

Thanks again for your interest!

*Robert K. Anderson DVM
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Puppy Vaccination and Socialization Should Go Together

TO: My Colleagues in Veterinary Medicine:

Common questions I receive from puppy owners, dog trainers and veterinarians concern: 1) what is the most favorable age or period of time when puppies learn best? 2) what are the health implications of my advice that veterinarians and trainers should offer socialization programs for puppies starting at 8 to 9 weeks of age.

Puppies begin learning at birth and their brains appear to be particularly responsive to learning and retaining experiences that are encountered during the first 13 to 16 weeks after birth. This means that breeders, new puppy owners, veterinarians, trainers and behaviorists have a responsibility to assist in providing these learning/socialization experiences with other puppies/dogs, with children/adults and with various environmental situations during this optimal period from birth to 16 weeks.

Many veterinarians are making this early socialization and learning program part of a total wellness plan for breeders and new owners of puppies during the first 16 weeks of a puppy's life -- the first 7-8 weeks with the breeder and the next 8 weeks with the new owners. This socialization program should enroll puppies from 8 to 12 weeks of age as a key part of any preventive medicine program to improve the bond between pets and their people and keep dogs as valued members of the family for 12 to 18 years.

To take full advantage of this early special learning period, many veterinarians recommend that new owners take their puppies to puppy socialization classes, beginning at 8 to 9 weeks of age. At this age they should have (and can be required to have) received a minimum of their first series of vaccines for protection against infectious diseases. This provides the basis for increasing immunity by further repeated exposure to these antigens either through natural exposure in small doses or artificial exposure with vaccines during the next 8 to 12 weeks. In addition the owner and people offering puppy socialization should take precautions to have the environment and the participating puppies as free

of natural exposure as possible by good hygiene and caring by careful instructors and owners.

Experience and epidemiologic data support the relative safety and lack of transmission of disease in these puppy socialization classes over the past 10 years in many parts of the United States. In fact; the risk of a dog dying because of infection with distemper or parvo disease is far less than the much higher risk of a dog dying (euthanasia) because of a behavior problem. Many veterinarians are now offering new puppy owners puppy socialization classes in their hospitals or nearby training facilities in conjunction with trainers and behaviorists because they want socialization and training to be very important parts of a wellness plan for every puppy. We need to recognize that this special sensitive period for learning is the best opportunity we have to influence behavior for dogs and the most important and longest lasting part of a total wellness plan.

Are there risks? Yes. But 10 years of good experience and data, with few exceptions, offers veterinarians the opportunity to generally recommend early socialization and training classes, beginning when puppies are 8 to 9 weeks of age. However, we always follow a veterinarian's professional judgment, in individual cases or situations, where special circumstances warrant further immunization for a special puppy before starting such classes. During any period of delay for puppy classes, owners should begin a program of socialization with children and adults, outside their family, to take advantage of this special period in a puppy's life.

If there are further questions, veterinarians may call me at 651-644-7400 for discussion and clarification.

Robert K. Anderson DVM, Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine and Diplomate of American College of Veterinary Behaviorists

THE HUMANER TRAINER'S
PUPPY CLASS
REGISTRATION FORM

Your Name(s) _____ Dog's Name _____

Dog's Breed _____ M/F Age ____ Age Obtained: _____ From: _____

Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone-Day _____ Eve _____ E-Mail _____

Your Occupation(s) _____ Family Members _____

Referred by _____ Veterinarian _____

First dog? Y/N Prior dogs (breeds/types): _____

Why choose this breed? _____

Why choose this dog? _____

Describe your dog's personality: _____

What do you like best about your dog: _____

What concerns you most about your dog: _____

Approx. % time your dog is: Indoors: _____ Outdoors: _____ Without Humans? _____

Where is dog when: Left alone _____ Guests visit _____ Sleeping _____

Brand of Food: _____ How much/often: _____

Who feeds? _____ Where: _____

Other treats: _____ When given: _____

Other Pets: _____

How many minutes per day do you: Walk your dog _____ Play with your dog _____

What Toys/Games does your dog like: _____

How does dog react other animals? _____

How does dog react to unfamiliar people? _____

How does dog behave at veterinarians? _____

Please check all that apply to your dog & rank in order of importance:

House Training Jumping Recall/Attention Chewing Finicky Eater

Digging Barking Item Stealing Shy Pulling on Lead

Doesn't like to be handled (please list where) _____

Other _____

Your Signature: _____

Date: _____

**ASSUMPTION OF RISK, WAIVER OF LIABILITY
and HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT**

1. ASSUMPTION OF RISK. I am aware of the inherent risks of injury to myself or my dog involved in dog training, including without limitation, risks due to dog bite, the use of equipment, condition of premises, or infectious disease. I am aware of the risk of injury that may result from, among other causes, the active or passive negligence of THE HUMANER TRAINER, Inc.; its shareholders, directors, officers and employees; MARGARET A. JOHNSON; ROBERT A. DOLLARS - owner of the property (the "PREMISES") located at 8618 McMeans Trail, Austin, Texas 78737; and all current and future assistants – including, but not limited to: LISA WOLVERTON, LORI FENNELL, ALYSSA CARPENTER, LARRY BABB, KIM KULPA, MARK BUTTERWORTH, and their successors and assigns – (collectively the "RELEASED PARTIES"), including without limitation, the risk of negligent instruction or supervision. I am voluntarily engaged in dog training as a recreational activity with knowledge of the risks and I assume any and all known and unknown risks of injury, death, and property damage that may result from participation in dog training, practice, and events.

2. RELEASE OF LIABILITY. I release and agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless all of the RELEASED PARTIES named above from all liability to me and my representatives, guardians, successors, assigns, heirs, children, and next of kin for all liability, claims, damage, or demands for personal injury, death, or property damage, to me or my dog or dogs, arising from or related to this agreement or to participation in dog training, practice, and events, whether the injury, death, or property damage occurs on or off the PREMISES, including, without limitation, any injury, death or property damage caused by me or by my dog or dogs. **This release includes, without limitation, any personal injury, death, or property damage caused by the active or passive negligence of any of the RELEASED PARTIES. I bear sole responsibility for any loss.**

3. KNOWING AND VOLUNTARY EXECUTION. **I acknowledge that I have carefully read this agreement, understand its contents, and understand that this agreement includes an assumption of the risk of the RELEASED PARTIES' negligence and a release, waiver of liability, and hold harmless agreement.** I acknowledge that the RELEASED PARTIES are materially relying on this waiver in allowing me to use the PREMISES and to engage in dog training, practice, and events. I acknowledge that The Humaner Trainer, Inc. materially relies on this agreement in agreeing to render training services to me.

X _____
Signature Date

X _____
Print Name Dog's Name/Breed

If handler is a minor, Responsible Adult/Parent/Guardian:

X _____
Signature Date

DIRECTIONS TO THE HUMANER TRAINER:

From Mopac:

South on Mopac. Stay on Mopac past William Cannon, Slaughter Lane, and the Wildflower Center. Don't be frightened when it's no longer a freeway, it's still Mopac.

You'll go past the Wildflower Center, the Veloway, and Circle C golf course.

After a couple of dangerous high-speed curves, Mopac becomes Texas 45. 45 dead-ends at a flashing red light at RR 1826 (aka: Camp Ben McCollough Road, aka: the road to the Salt Lick). Take the right turn yield at RR 1826. You will see a Diamond Shamrock station, that's Bubba's Country Store. Just to the left of Bubba's (by a row of mailboxes) is a gravel road with a subtle green sign that says McMeans Trail. Turn left onto that gravel road.

McMeans Trail goes straight for about 1/3 of a mile, then goes into a lazy "S" curve. You'll see a pole gate on the right with a dog windsock. Turn in that gate. Follow the drive around to the pens on your left. Park off the drive to the left of the pens, or in the open area by the metal shed on your right.

Call 301-6886 if you're lost.

From Hwy 290:

From Austin, go west on Hwy 290 past the "Y" in Oak Hill toward Dripping Springs. Go past ACC's Pinnacle Campus (it will be the 2nd light past the "Y").

Turn left at the next light onto RR 1826 (aka: Camp Ben McCollough Road, aka: the road to the Salt Lick). It will be the 3rd traffic light past the "Y," across from the Conoco. You'll be going south on RR 1826. *If you're coming from the Dripping Springs area, turn right onto RR 1826, before you get to the ACC Pinnacle Campus.*

Approximately 3.5 miles down RR 1826 you will see a flashing yellow light and a Diamond Shamrock station on your right, that's Bubba's Country Store. Just past Bubba's (right next to it by a row of mailboxes) is a gravel road with a subtle green sign that says McMeans Trail. Turn right onto that gravel road.

McMeans Trail goes straight for about 1/3 of a mile, then goes into a lazy "S" curve. You'll see a pole gate on the right with a dog windsock. Turn in that gate. Follow the drive around to the pens on your left. Park off the drive to the left of the pens, or in the open area by the metal shed on your right.

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