



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHERE DO CLASSES MEET?

Richmond SPCA training classes are held in both the Track and Training Center of our Robins-Starr Humane Center as well as in our Smoky's Training Center, which is in the same building as our Susan M. Markel Veterinary Hospital. Please refer to class descriptions and your reminder email for where your specific class will be held. To park, turn from Hermitage Road onto Rhoadmiller Street and take a right into the second or third parking lots. You may also park on the street.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO CLASS?

Some classes meet the first week without dogs. Please check your class description and reminder email to determine if you should bring your dog to the first week of class. If unsure, your instructor's contact information has been provided in a reminder email.

Equipment:

- Flat or martingale collar
- Head halters and harnesses if needed
- 4' or 6' leash that you can hold onto easily and won't slip through your hands
- Clickers will be provided
- Treats – lots of small soft food items your dog loves
- Treat pouch, fanny pack, or pockets
- Water and bowl for your dog
- Poop bags
- A hungry dog

DO I NEED TO BRING MY DOG'S VETERINARY RECORDS?

For your dog's health and safety, we require that certain vaccinations be up to date and ask that you provide your dog's veterinary records prior to your first class. You may email records to our Training and Education Administrator at gbirdnecklace@richmondspca.org or fax them to 804-823-7788.

WHAT TYPES OF TREATS SHOULD I USE?

Small, soft, high-value treats are the best for training. Each dog is different, so we recommend finding out what your dog really likes before coming to class. You can test this by offering your dog a variety of treats while outside with some distractions, such as while on a walk. If your dog gets very excited about the treats, they are probably good paychecks! Introduce new foods slowly to your dog every day for a week before class starts, to give his system time to adjust.

Bring lots of treats as well as a variety of different treats. Common treats are cut-up hot dogs, chicken, cheese, meatballs, or soft dog food such as Bil Jac's frozen food or Happy Howie's treats.

MAY I BRING FAMILY MEMBERS WITH ME?

Multiple handlers are okay and even encouraged. Spectators are usually welcome. Children are welcome to participate in training or they may sit quietly and observe.

MAY I BRING MY OTHER DOG?

Due to space and time constraints, please only bring the dog(s) registered for class. Please speak with your instructor if you have a special circumstance.

WILL THE DOGS BE “SOCIALIZING”?

Only in the puppy and adolescent classes (where appropriate) will dogs be playing together. In all other classes, handlers should avoid having dogs meet, play, approach one another or pass too closely. All dogs need training and are welcome to attend classes whether or not they enjoy interacting with other animals. Classes are about your dog learning to listen to and focus on his person.

Please keep leashes short and provide lots of space between your dog and other animals when in the parking lot and when entering and exiting class.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

Wear comfortable clothing and rubber soled/non-slip shoes. Please do not wear high-heeled shoes or sandals.

MAY WE ATTEND CLASS IF MY DOG DOES NOT GET ALONG WITH OTHER PEOPLE OR DOGS?

If you are concerned about your dog’s behavior around other dogs or people, please contact the Manager of Training Education at 804-521-1382 for more information. Admission to class is determined on a case-by-case basis, and we are happy to help you determine the best fit for you and your dog.