

Who the course is intended for:

- Employees/volunteers of rescues and shelters
- Private people who want to learn how to train dogs.

This is a twice a week, 10 weeks long training course in which you will be taught how to train dogs at our training arena in Carlton. During each class you will be working alongside our trainers and work with your own/foster dog as well as other dogs in our kennel.

Course schedule :

10 weeks course , Monday and Thursday 2pm - 5pm

Course goals

- Master basic and intermediate obedience cues.
- Develop reliable responses in the presence of distractions.
- Address common behavioral challenges.
- Build a foundation for good canine citizenship and advanced skills.
- Learn a variety of training techniques and how to apply them in different situations
- Understand different dog temperaments and needs and how to address them.
- Developing an easy exercise option through retrieving.
- Learning how to get a dog to conquer its fears.
- Learning how to socialize dogs with other dogs and humans safely.

Week-by-week curriculum

Weeks 1–2: Foundation and focus.

Introductions: Class and equipment overview, safety, dog handling and basic commands and exercises.

Engagement: Teaching “ Natural focus” to establish focus and build a strong foundation for future commands.

- Core commands: Introduce and begin practicing "sit" and "down".
- Luring and shaping: Learn how to use treats as a lure and fade the lure as the dog understands the command.
- Introduction to the "resistance" exercise to help develop “sit” and “down” commands.
- Name recognition: Practice calling the dog's name for immediate attention.
- Conditioning a reward marker: Introduce a verbal marker ("yes") or clicker to tell your dog when they've done something right. How to activate the clicker and introduction to all of its uses.
- Introducing “place”
- Introducing recalls
- Leash manners: Begin loose-leash walking. Practice starting and stopping without pulling.
- Introducing Weiss Walkies and Prong collars
- Introduction to the "Leave it" command.
- Introduction to Impulse control exercises (send to place, walk around and stay on place exercises.
- Introduction to proper leash handling

Weeks 3–4: Leash skills and self-control (12 hours)

- Developing longer time durations for “sit stays” and “down stays”.
- Introduction to proper long line handling.
- Developing farther distance between us and the dogs through deeper “Impulse control” using the (stay-on-place, send to place and the walk around exercises).
- Goal of performing all “Impulse control” exercises and “recalls” from halfway across the arena.
- “Stay” introduction: Introduce the “stay” command, starting with short durations and no distance.
- Doorway manners: Teach the dog to wait calmly at doorways before being released.
- Introduction to the “heel” command and practical purpose of “heeling”.

Weeks 5–6: Reliability and distance (12 hours)

- “Come” (recall): Develop a reliable recall, starting in a low-distraction environment at full distance.
- Building duration and distance: Increase difficulty of the (stay on place, send to place and walk around exercises) in a low-distraction environment. The goal is to perform each exercise at full distance with low-distractions.
- Advanced leash work: Practice heeling and handling in more distracting environments.
- Advanced “leave it”: Practice “leave it” with higher-value food and moving objects.
- “Drop it or Out”: Teach the dog to release an item from their mouth on command.
- Introduction to retrieving to hand and how to avoid teaching “catch me if you can” game with toys.

Weeks 7-8: Socialization

- Proofing behaviors: Practice all learned commands in new and challenging environments with different distractions.
- How to use “pattern breaking” to find flaws in our training.
- Handling and grooming: Accustom the dog to being handled for grooming and vet visits.
- Group socialization: Structured exercises to teach dogs to remain calm around other dogs using “puppy piles”, heeling next to other dogs.
- How to introduce dogs to other dogs: leashed introductions, using walks.
- Learning to read dogs body language cues. (reading ears,tails,body stiffness,eyes,play bows,teeth snapping and role reversals)

Weeks 9-10: Using obedience training on walks - preparation for off leash training

- Refining recall: Practice recall with a long line around maximum distractions.
- Advanced loose-leash walking - Walking outside the kennel on short and long line
- Polishing skills: Practice all commands with a focus on speed, accuracy, and consistency. Using “pattern breaking” technique with all exercises at max level.
- Advanced problem-solving: Discuss common behavioral issues like jumping, barking, and digging, and provide strategies for managing them.
- Jumping:dragging leashes,leashed greetings,praising desired behavior,inadvertently rewarding jumping,how to calmly greet a dog.
- Digging:using poop in holes,creating a digging pit,not teaching dogs how to garden,avoidance corrections through off leash training.
- Barking:Attention seeking from humans,seeking other dogs or animals attention,barking out of fear,barking to alert in home.
- Introduction to muzzle conditioning. Both soft and bite proof and knowing when to use each style of muzzles.

- Introduction to “Counter Conditioning” to help dogs get over their fears: fear of humans and objects.