

# Basic Canine Manners Classes

Welcome to the Manners classes for your dog.

The goal of this program is to enhance the bond between guardians and their pets through positive reinforcement training.

The introductory Manners class is a five week course that will provide guardians the knowledge to have a more rewarding relationship with their dogs. The first week of class we ask that pet parents leave their dogs at home so they can focus on the theory of how dogs learn and the basics of positive reinforcement training. This first week will set the foundation for the entire course and for training your pup for years to come. Unfortunately due to the nature of this first class we cannot do make ups and attendance is required.

Manners classes are held at the Second Chance Humane Society located at 177 County Rd 10 Ridgway CO.

The Manners class instructs pet parents how to teach, encourage, and lead their dogs to behave well, be safe, and be their best selves. Lessons include watch me, sit, down, loose leash walking, wait, come when called, and more. However, classes are NOT just about learning “commands” they are also a great, fun way for guardians to interact with their dogs and develop a deeper understanding of each other. Guardians will learn the theory behind how dogs learn and how to communicate effectively with their dogs and bond with them through attention, praise, treats, and positive leadership. Students should then be able to apply those skills to many different behaviors in the future.

Classes fill up quickly and no-shows cause another pet owner to lose out. Consequently, we ask for a \$50 deposit for all trainees. Pet owners who adopted their dog from SCHS will be reimbursed this if requested at the end of class. To cover staff time and resources for the class, all other pet owners are asked to donate \$50.00 -\$100 dollars per dog attending.

All participating dogs must be altered (spayed or neutered) and current on Rabies and DHPV. We cannot accept aggressive dogs into class. (If your dog has issues with aggression please talk to our trainer about more appropriate individual training sessions.)

All dogs will be on leash at all times.

## Plan for a successful class:

Please arrive at the shelter 15 minutes prior to class the first day.

Please bring the following tools with you for weeks 2-5:

Well-fitted flat collars only.

4 or 6 foot leashes – no retractable leashes

A lot of soft small treats, hot dogs or other high value treats.

Comfortable shoes, layered clothing. We may be outside at some point and should expect mud.

Positive training requires using many treats. Do not feed your dog prior to class to ensure an interest in the treats and a limited weight gain.

Walk your dog 20-30 minutes prior to class to drain excited energy.