

Puppy Class FAQs



Thank you for signing up for Puppy Classes here at Columbus Humane! We're so excited to help you and your puppy live your best lives together! We hope this document will help answer your pre-class questions. If you have questions which are not answered below, please reach out to us at training@columbushumane.org. We will respond within 48 hours.

What should I bring to class?

Check out the pre-class webinar!

Can my kids come to class?

Sure! We ask that children under 16 are well-behaved and accompanied by an adult, other than yourself, that is not responsible for handling your puppy during class.

I don't understand the "rolling start" structure. Can you explain?

Of course! We wanted to ensure folks could attend class as quickly as possible after adding a new puppy to their family, and we only have one puppy class per week. If we had a traditional, 4-week long sequential class structure, families would have to wait at least 4 weeks before starting class. That's a lifetime for a puppy!! We decided to teach 4 individual classes which families can start at any time. Classes are taught consecutively, so when you sign up for your first class, you will automatically be signed up for the next 3 weeks too. What this means is that some families may be on their first week, while others will be on their 2nd, 3rd, or 4th weeks. That's why it's so important to watch the pre-class webinar to make sure you're prepared for your first week!

What will my puppy learn?

Our focus is on helping your puppy understand the world around them is a fun place, with nice people and dogs, while increasing the bond between them and you! We want them to grow up to be confident, polite members of your family. We also go over problem prevention, manners, basic skills, and enrichment to help your puppy learn how to be their best selves.

My puppy barks at other dogs. Can they come to class?

Usually, yes. We can help you work with your puppy, using visual barriers and distance, to help them focus during class. If you have specific questions about your puppy and whether our classes are a good fit, please reach out!

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What vaccines are required to attend class?

Your puppy must have at least one DA2PP and one Bordetella vaccine, given at least 7 days prior to the start of class. Only veterinarian- or shelter-administered vaccines will be accepted; no breeder- or owner-given vaccines. Please contact us if you have questions.

Why can't my puppy walk outdoors at the shelter?

We're so glad you asked! Despite having vaccines, your puppy's immune system is still developing, and they are vulnerable to illness. Our sheltered population of dogs is generally healthy, but they may still be shedding pathogens which could make your puppy sick. To best protect your puppy, we take extra care to disinfect the Learning Center at the shelter just before your puppy enters each week, and immediately after any accidents. We also fully disinfect the space after each class.

That sounds scary. Should I just keep my puppy at home until they are fully vaccinated?

We recommend talking with your veterinarian about the risks and benefits of puppy classes. Reputable puppy classes which require proof of vaccines, like ours, are a low-risk activity that will help your puppy be their best self, for the rest of their life. We believe the long-term risk of an unsocialized puppy needs to be weighed against the short-term, but serious, risk of disease. Disease can be fatal, but lack of socialization can cause severe behavior issues later in life. For additional reading, check out this article written by a veterinarian: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/early-immunization-vs-ear_b_9518780

My dog, or I, are not feeling well. Should we come to class?

We ask that people or dogs exhibiting symptoms of illness (coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, fever) do not come to class. We will be happy to provide you with that week's homework and help you catch up the next week.

I've changed my mind. Do you offer refunds?

We can provide a full refund up to 1 week before your first class. No partial refunds will be offered for late cancellations or missed classes.