

RSPCA WOODSIDE ANIMAL CENTRE

JUNIOR-INTRODUCTION TO TRAINING

AIM

Woodside Animal Centre Junior training aims to provide a means of socialising puppies and to lay down a foundation for education.

ELIGIBILITY

Puppies must be fully vaccinated and a minimum of 5 months old. This training class is suitable for dogs up to 10 months of age with no training.

ASSESSMENTS

Woodside's training is not competitive and assessment will be continuous over the 7 weeks. To pass puppies/juniors must demonstrate a good level of skill on all exercises.

Exercise 1 – Collars/ Leads/ I.D and cleanliness

The object of this exercise is to educate the owner on the basic principles of owning a puppy. All attire will be checked by the assessor and owners will be expected to bring a suitable poop scoop.

Exercise 2 – Basic Commands

The owner will be asked to demonstrate that their puppy/ junior can sit, lie down and stand.

Exercise 3 –Recall

In an enclosed area the owner will be distanced from the puppy/junior and encouraged to call their puppy back, concluding with praise. Other distractions may include other puppies. Any reasonable incentive to return may be used.

Exercise 4 – Stay for 30 seconds/ Wait.

Owners will be encouraged to ask their puppies/juniors to stay in one position with a little movement being acceptable. Dogs will also be taught to wait at the door/ gate.

Exercise 5 – Health Check and Groom

Puppies/juniors should allow a full inspection of their body in preparation for grooming. Any aggressive behaviour will be seen as not ready.

Exercise 6 – Lead Walking

The owner will aim to keep the puppy/junior under control, on one side preferably with no weaving. A tight lead on occasion will not constitute a not ready.

Exercise 7 – Playtime/ Toys

Puppies will be encouraged to play under control and asked to 'leave' objects when told. Playtime may include off-lead play with other puppies/juniors where feasible.

Exercise 8 - Food Manners

Owners will be encouraged to ensure puppies/juniors take treats well with no snatching and also wait for treats from the hand/ on the floor and out of a food bowl.

Exercise 9 – Pass the Puppy

A socialisation exercise for puppies to familiarise with unknown adults. Reduces clingy, stress related behaviour (it's also fun to fuss other people's pups!)

Exercise 10 – Socialisation with an adult dog

Puppies/Juniors will be introduced to an unknown adult dog of the instructor's choice. This exercise will encourage the correct type of interaction in the big wide world.