

RSPCA WOODSIDE ANIMAL CENTRE

PUPPY-INTRODUCTION TO TRAINING

AIM

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

ELIGIBILITY

Puppies must be fully vaccinated on starting –a minimum of 8 weeks and should be no older than 4 months old at the course start.

ASSESSMENTS

Woodside's training is not competitive and assessment will be continuous over the 7 weeks. To pass puppies 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 can sit, lie down and stand.

Exercise 3 – recall

In an enclosed area the owner will be distanced from the puppy 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 10 seconds/ Wait.

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

Exercise 5 – Health check and groom

Puppies 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 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 will include off-lead play with other puppies where feasible.

Exercise 8 - Food manners

Owners will be encouraged to ensure puppies 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 getting used to unknown adults and to reduce clingy, stress related behaviour (also fun to fuss other people's pups!)

Exercise 10 – Socialization with an adult dog

Pups will be introduced to an unknown adult dog of the instructor's choice; this will encourage the correct type of interaction in the big wide world