

# CAPABLE CANINES CORNWALL



## Making the Most of your Training Session

Jackie Lawer | Making the Most of your Training Session | February 1, 2016

## BE PREPARED!

Make sure you have everything you need when you arrive at class. It is a great idea to have a dedicated dog training bag to keep all your necessary equipment in. This may include:

Dog toys	Scent cloth / item	Dog towel
Targets	Poo bags	Long line
Clicker	Treats	Water Bowl

## BE ON TIME!

Even better, arrive a little early. You can then give your dog time to relieve him/herself before class.

You may be asked to arrive a little early to help set up at the venue. The more people help, the quicker set up will be and the earlier you get to start your lesson.

If the venue is already set up for you, allow time to warm your dog up before class starts, that way you can go straight in and be ready for the first exercise!

## BE READY!

So much time could be saved during your lesson if people are ready to spring into action when it is their turn! Quick transitions also keep your dog focused and prepared to start work immediately. If you have to start looking for treats or ask questions before you have a go at the exercise, your dog will lose momentum and start looking for something else to do – probably not something you want to encourage!

## BE RESPONSIBLE!

Nobody is responsible for your dog apart from you! Be aware where your dog is and what s/he is doing at all times. Do not allow your dog to interfere with others. When you finish an exercise return quickly to your dog's bed / mat or crate. If your instructor stops you to explain or discuss something, either place your dog in a sit or down and ensure they stay there, or simply pop your dog back on lead if the exercise required you to take the lead off.

Please always pick up after your dog and dispose of waste bags responsibly. Try not to allow your dog to foul indoor areas including the riding school!

## **INTERRUPT UNWANTED BEHAVIOUR!**

Do not let your dog practise any behaviour you do not wish to encourage. If you need some help with this, do discuss it with your instructor. Unwanted behaviour can cause frustration but it is really important to remain calm and quiet, otherwise we end up giving our dogs a lot of attention for things we do not want and dogs then repeat the behaviour to get more attention!

## **REMEMBER TO REWARD YOUR DOG!**

You would not believe how many people spend so much time telling their dogs off (and therefore give their dogs a lot of attention) for unwanted behaviours but then forget to reward their dogs for good behaviour. If you want your dog's behaviour to improve, you have to reward the good stuff!!!

## **LISTEN TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR!**

Do pay attention to what your instructor is saying – they are there to advise and guide you. If you have specific questions regarding your dog, which may not be relevant to the class you are attending, you can always ask these at the end of the session or have a word with the assistant in class, they may well be able to help you.

Sometimes you will be advised to do something in a way unfamiliar to you, give it a go and see how you get on. We have all changed the way we do things over time; it is important to progress and try new methods. We will never ask you to try anything which would be harmful or punitive to your dog. We believe in reward based training methods and do not condone the use of aversives, e.g. check chains, spray or shock collars, rattle cans etc.

## **DO NOT ATTEND CLASS!**

If your bitch is in season or if your dog is suffering from any contagious disease or has been in contact with another dog suffering from a contagious disease you cannot come to class. If they have a contagious disease, you will require the all clear from your vet before returning to class and you should inform us as soon as possible so we can pass information on if it is likely to affect other dogs in training with us.

## **HAVE FUN!**

This is dedicated time you take to spend with your dog – enjoy it! Make it valuable and fun and enjoy the journey together!