



## TRAINING PHILOSOPHY

### MADTA Policy # 01

Effective Date: August 1, 2018

Revised: November 2018

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Our philosophy is to educate our clients while using each dog's individual strengths, genetic make-up, and natural desires to guide them on a fun path to success. At MADTA we emphasize reward-based training, using positive reinforcement techniques to help dogs make good choices. Our aim is to make the experience fun for you and your canine companion, while helping you reach your training goals. Communication is the key to a successful relationship with your dog. Positive, reward-based training is and always will be the foundation of our training philosophy.

To carry out this philosophy, MADTA has established training policies for both MADTA instructors and class participants which define methodology, eligibility, class structure, registration, and continuing education. They help make dog training enjoyable and safe for all involved. The Training Director shall supervise the implementation of these training policies along with the guidance of the Board.

### MADTA INSTRUCTORS:

- MADTA instructors will be guided by our training philosophy, bylaws, and policies.
- MADTA instructors will be encouraged to continue their training development by utilizing MADTA's continuing education reimbursement. (See MADTA Policy #7)
- MADTA will have assistant instructors as needed. Assistant Instructors will be trained by the instructor with the goal that they will be able to teach a class.
- An orientation for new/assistant instructors will be completed utilizing the orientation worksheet.

### GENERAL CLASS GUIDELINES:

- Instructors are responsible for carrying out MADTA's rules and policies and maintain a safe, enjoyable class environment.
- Classes are pre-registration ONLY.
- The minimum and maximum class sizes will be established by each class instructor in consultation with the Training Director.
- Classes are filled on a first come, first served basis. Class registration for members will start 1 week prior to registration for the public. Classes range from 45 to 90 minutes in duration and generally run for a seven-week period unless otherwise specified.
- Classes are limited in size to provide individual attention and to ensure that you and your canine companion are successful.

- Class participants will be invited to complete a class survey which can be deposited in a locked container.

#### CLASS ATTENDANCE:

- Please plan to arrive at least 10 minutes early for your class.
- Please potty your dog before entering the building. Please clean up after your dog and dispose of the waste in either of the two designated waste containers.
- Please check off your name on the class registration sheet and check in with your instructor.
- If you miss class, please contact your instructor to discuss what was covered and to receive your handout/homework.

#### TRAINING:

- Our classes are taught using positive reinforcement training methods. “Clickers” “Lures” and “rewards” are encouraged. We DO NOT allow harsh corrections or rough handling of dogs.
- Electronic collars are not allowed at MADTA.
- Pinch or Prong collars are acceptable, the student must understand that it is a training tool and NOT a permanent collar. A secondary, back-up collar must also be used in conjunction with the pinch/prong collar.
- Other collars/training equipment will be supervised/accepted or excused by the class instructor.
- Flexi leads are not allowed except as a training tool inside the ring.

#### HANDLER BEHAVIOR

- Dog training should be fun for both you and your canine partner.
- Be considerate of others in the building and in the training ring. Ask the owners’ permission before you let your dog approach another dog.
- Please understand that the rules in place at MADTA are to provide you and your dog with a safe and enjoyable training environment.

#### DOG BEHAVIOR:

- Dogs must be on a leash, held by a handler or in a crate when not working.
- Students must have full control of their dogs both inside and outside the training ring.
- MADTA reserves the right to refuse entry or excuse from class any dog who bites, demonstrates unprovoked aggression or other behavior detrimental to the class or other members. This dog may be expelled from class at the discretion of the instructor or training director. Any disagreement between a student and instructor may be appealed to the Training Director for disposition. If you have concerns about your dogs’ classroom behavior, please contact us or speak to your instructor before the class begins.