



TRAINING PHILOSOPHY

MADTA Policy # 01

Effective Date: August 1, 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 in order to guide them on a fun path to success. At MADTA we emphasize reward-based training, using positive reinforcement techniques to help dogs 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 to define methodology, eligibility, class structure, registration and education for MADTA instructors and class participants. They are meant to make to make dog training enjoyable and safe for all involved. The Training Committee shall supervise the implementation of these training policies under the direction and in consultation of the Training Director.

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. Classes are 50 to 60 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, as long as the student understands 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.

HANDLER BEHAVIOR

- Dog training should be fun for both you and your canine partner.
- Be considerate of other 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 that are in place at MADTA are to provide you with the best and safe environment to train your dog.

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 Committee for disposition. If you have concerns about your dogs’ classroom behavior, please contact us or speak to your instructor before the class begins.

- If the instructor decides that it is in the best interest of you, your dog and/or the class that your needs will best be met by a private trainer than you will be provided a full refund. MADTA will not accept the liability of any dog (s) that is disruptive or has consistent behavioral issues.

CLASS CANCELLATION:

- In case of severe weather or other unforeseen circumstance, please contact your instructor to see if she/he is cancelling classes.
- It is the responsibility of the class instructor or training director to notify the students if classes are cancelled and how/if that class will be made up.

REFUNDS:

- In general, no refunds will be granted after the first night of class.
- For more information on the refund policy please review the Refund Policy on the MADTA website. www.madta.org
- Applicants shall be assessed a fee of \$25.00 in the event a check is returned for non-payment.

FOOTWEAR:

- Please wear close-toed shoes. If proper footwear is not worn, you will not be able to participate in class. However, you may remain and audit the class. For more information on footwear please refer to Footwear Policy on the MADTA website. www.madta.org

SMOKING:

- There is no smoking allowed in the building or near or on the agility field at any time. No tobacco products tobacco products or their substitutes including "E Cigarettes" are allowed.

DOG HEALTH

- Class participants are responsible for the health and well-being of their dogs.
- Owners should adhere to a vaccination protocol developed in consultation with your veterinarian. Dogs that are ill should not be brought to class.
- Bitches in season (BIS) may attend regular classes within these guidelines:
- A bitch in season (BIS) must be wearing a garment that prevents soiling of the facility.
- If a BIS is a distraction to other dogs/handlers so as to prevent normal class activities from occurring, the Instructor of the class may excuse the BIS from the class. The decision to excuse the BIS is only that of the instructor teaching the class.
- Consecutive classes that are missed due to BIS (up to 3 classes) per heat cycle may be credited by the instructor to the next class. Owners/handlers are encouraged to attend the class without the BIS in these circumstances.

PUPPY CLASSES:

- Puppy Kindergarten is open to puppies up to 4 months of age.
- MADTA requires that all puppies participate in a vaccination program developed with the owner and a veterinarian.
- Owners will be required to provide a vaccination plan/history at the first class.
- If your puppy shows any signs of illness please do not bring the puppy to class. If you are uncertain about this, please call the instructor to discuss. You are welcome to attend the class without your puppy to receive instruction/handouts/and/or homework.
- MADTA requires a signed waiver of liability for puppies to participate in a short “puppy play time” near the end of the puppy class where puppies interact with each other under supervision. A participant is not required to participate in “puppy play time”.

AGILITY CLASSES:

- Only one working dog may be off leash at any given time in the agility ring.
- Dogs must be crated or on a leash when not working.
- Dogs should not be left tied to poles, fences, furniture, or other structures, or left in a down stay while the handler is not able to supervise the dog. Dogs must be crated while the handler is walking the course, assisting with course set up, or is otherwise away from the dog.
- Dogs are not allowed on the agility field unsupervised.