



GRADE 1 – Lesson 1

1. Welcome to WCOC grade 1, introduce self and each other – what do you want to get out of this - lots of talking to begin with.
2. Introduction to class:
 - a. Classes are limited in numbers so proper attention may be given to each of you. If there is a specific learning point a dog and handler may benefit from, I may call in another trainer to provided 1:1 training.
 - b. After most of the classes, I will email you with a list of what we learnt, what to remember and what to practise at home.
 - c. Practise at home is ESSENTIAL:
 - 10 mins a day, twice a day
 - Every day
 - Start by thinking about what you want to practice and how you will go about it
 - Little steps, just one element at a time
 - We want to concrete in the basics from which all other training is built on
 - Be PATIENT and CALM with your dog (the Ps and Cs)
 - Be PATIENT – be patient some more, and then be more patient
 - Remember your dogs are just young, and their frontal lobes are not fully functioning – patience, repetition, reward
 - We are wanting to build a **relationship** between you and your dog so you can understand your dog, and your dog can understand you.

3. What we will learn today

- a. The rules
- b. Things to bring to every class
- c. Truisms of the dog training universe
- d. What is a marker and how to use it
- e. What you will be graded on in week 8

4. The rules

- a. NO DOG IS TO TOUCH ANOTHER DOG UNLESS YOU HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DO SO – Once your dog is past 16 weeks of age, socialisation will need to be trained, if they have not got it already. Training is now about training you to manage your dog, not about other dogs.
- b. YOU ARE IN CONTROL OF YOUR DOG
 - You will hold onto your dog's leash at all times. Never let it go. Some dogs will be reactive to a rushing dog – it is about keeping all dogs safe in this environment.
 - You are the handler, you are responsible for training your dog. Your dog does not train you.
 - It is about having a relationship with your dog, so that you can control your dog in all situations.
- c. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR DOG
 - This is the law – you must take all reasonable steps to ensure your dog does not injure any person, endanger any person, intimidate them or otherwise cause them any distress.
 - YOU must take responsibility for your dog and your dog's bad behaviour – if your dog is not doing everything everywhere you want, it is not trained yet.
- d. WE DO NOT USE EXCUSES FOR OUR DOGS EVER

- Examples – she doesn't like big dogs, he gets scared of X, doesn't like the rain...
- NO EXCUSES – you will be reminded of this.
- No excuses because YOU are responsible for your dog.

Reactive dogs

If we have an issue with dog impulse control, you and your dog will move from the group to do focus exercises and to regain calm and control.

What to bring to every class – set your dog up for success!

1. A hungry dog – do not feed your dog before class
2. An exercised dog – they should have the tickle taken from their toes, and should have relieved themselves (more comfortable for them with their training)
3. Bring A grade treats - \$2,000 a day treats
4. Poo bags – they should always be with you when you are out and about with your dog
5. Bring your patience
6. Bring your calm

Truisms of the dog training universe

1. Rewards work – dogs like working for reward – just like us
2. Your dog wants and needs to be told when they are doing what you want IMMEDIATELY – so we use markers – “YES!” and “Uh oh!” with the appropriate tone and facial expression
3. Eye contact with your dog is essential for training and good dog behaviour – we use focus exercises

Exercise 1 – eye contact through focus

Sit your dog in front of you holding the lead.

Look at your dog with a treat to your eye

Say their name

The second your dog looks at you, mark the behaviour with a “YES!” and reward immediately

Do this 10x

Repeat with a treat in hands outstretched x10

Repeat with a delay of 5 seconds before you mark and reward 10x

Exercise 2 – command to sit

Say it once with the hand motion, if no action, hold the chin up and wait there. Wait wait wait. Be patient. The moment their butt heads to the ground mark with a “yes!” and reward

Exercise 3 – the weave and leave

Use focus exercises and sit while another weaves on a loose leash.

Introduce the word “leave”

Exercise 4 – down

Start with a sit, use “down” as a command, and the hand motion. Use a reward to lure the dog’s nose down to the ground. The second they lie down, mark and reward.

Exercise 5 – temperament

No signs of aggression or rushing – owner plays with all paws in turn, and mouth,

trainer runs hand over dog and does a collar grab. Then takes the lead from the owner and walks a few steps with the dog being comfortable.

GRADING

1. Controlled heelwork on lead, straight lines, right turns, about turns, sit on halt.
2. Recall on lead
3. Sit stay on lead 30 seconds
4. Down stay on lead 1 minute
5. Recall of 10m on a long line held by assessor
6. Socialisation and temperament – meet examiner, be patted without aggression or excessive timidity, remains calm when another dog walks by at a distance of 2 to 3m, dog comfortable with collar grab by owner and moved 2 or 3 steps
7. Meets legal requirements – displaying current rego, owner carrying poo bags
8. 5 questions correctly answered on your legal responsibilities as a dog owner.