

## WAG Level 1 Class Announcements

- Welcome to WAG, introduce instructors.
- ADMINISTRATIVE STUFF:
  1. This program will be 4 sessions in length (~32 weeks) where we will teach you and your dog how to correctly and safely perform each agility obstacle and how to properly move between obstacles on the course.
  2. The bag you received has a clicker and a folder in it. The folder has a copy of our aggression policy and your first week's homework.
  3. We will provide a website link where you can access homework, video demos from class, and other useful information on agility that we don't have time to cover in class. Bookmark the link for future reference throughout the session, as it will be updated each week.
  4. You will have homework each week. Class time is for the instructors to show you what to do. The time in class alone is not enough for your dog to learn a lot of the skills we'll be teaching. It's very important that you do your homework each week. You and your dog will have difficulty progressing in the class if you do not do the homework. Some equipment is required in order to do the homework (contact plank and a set of jump wings). WAG has these items available for purchase, or you may make or buy your own. Next week, we will have contact planks available for sale for \$20. We will also have jump wings available for \$25.
  5. Timeliness – We have a lot of material to get through within the hour of class. We have a set amount of time for each dog for each exercise. Be ready when it's your turn. If you spend part of your allotted time getting your dog, gathering up treats, finding your clicker, and getting out onto the floor, you'll have less time to work your dog. If your dog won't wait or won't come back when you call him, you may get fewer repetitions on an exercise. To be fair to all students, we can't give one dog extra time due to misbehavior.
  6. We stress positive reinforcement – praise, treats, and toys. Agility is a game you play with your dog, so it's very important that your dog is having fun. The idea is not just to get your dog to do something, but to have your dog WANT to do it and to ENJOY doing it.
  7. Please stay in your assigned group for class. Safety is our main concern. Please listen to your instructors and keep chatting to a minimum during class. Follow instructions. Ask any questions if you don't understand something. We all started somewhere and we want you to succeed.
  8. Please keep your dog off of equipment until you are instructed to by your instructor. Cones on a piece of equipment indicate it is off limits for your dog. If you put your dog on equipment he's not ready for you can scare your dog and it will take a long time to retrain.
  9. Each dog will progress at the rate appropriate for that dog. Some people may seem a little more advanced because this is not the first dog they've trained. Please teach your dog at his pace. All dogs learn at different rates, just like people.
  10. There is a class before this class. Please watch your dog when coming in as it gets a bit crowded. Don't loiter near the door or the water bowl area.
  11. We will do our best to start on time, but there is set-up we need to do from the previous class. You will get your full hour of training each week. If you see instructors moving equipment before class, offer to help – it will help your class start on time if we have more help.

- WEATHER CONCERNS:
  1. Leave a number where you can be reached at one hour before class in case of bad weather. Also remind them to call WAG main number and encourage them to sign up for the student list.
  2. During snowy or wet weather, there are towels by doors. Dry dogs' feet and your feet before coming into the ring.
  
- HOUSEKEEPING DETAILS:
  1. Potty your dogs before you come in and you must pick up poop immediately and dispose of it in the garbage can outside. Keep your dog on leash outside and inside except when told by the instructor to work off leash. Watch your dogs around the posts, gates, lattice work and equipment – many dogs like to pee on them. Don't let your dog pee on the building or the garbage cans outside.
  2. If your dog has an accident in the ring, instructors will hold your dog while you clean up. Clean up materials are on the shelving unit near the office. Throw all clean up materials and waste into the trash can outside near the runs. To be fair to all students, time spent cleaning up after your dog counts as part of your floor time, and you may therefore lose part or all of your turn if your dog has an accident.
  3. Do not allow dog to dog interaction. Especially watch your dog at the water bowls and near the door (check-in window, entering and leaving building). Keep your dog on a short leash when not working and know where his head is at all times. If you can't focus on your dog, put him in a crate.
  4. Watching other dogs work can be very exciting for some dogs and we have young dogs in the class. If you hear 'Loose Dog' hold your dog's head close to your body until the loose dog is under control. Watch YOUR DOG, not the loose dog.
  
- MATERIALS NEEDED:
  1. Buckle collar (no tags), 6' leash, short tabs. No harnesses or corrective collars without checking with instructors first.
  2. Bring lots of treats! Treats should be small and soft, something the dog can eat quickly and will jump through hoops for. Cheese is great because it doesn't bounce and shows up well on the mats. Use high-value treats for class. Experiment with different treats – cheese, steak, and liver often work well. No kibble or cheerios – not exciting enough! Avoid crumbly treats that will leave a mess for the next dog.
  3. We suggest you don't feed your dog its dinner on class night. If the dog is full, the treats will have far less value. Also, there is less chance of having to clean up during class.
  4. If you have a toy your dog likes you to throw, make sure he'll bring it back to you (or at least not run away with it) before you use it in class. If they want to run off, tie a leash or string to the toy, so you can reel the dog in. Food tubes are a nice alternative to toys for dogs who aren't toy motivated or won't return a toy.
  5. Footwear – athletic shoes. During winter, recommend bringing a pair of shoes and change into dry shoes when they get to class. Boots, flip flops, sandals not appropriate.
  
- WEB SITE FOR COURSE INFORMATION / VIDEOS, ETC.