



Victoria Stilwell Academy
Basic Manners Group Class
8-Week Curriculum

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Instructions

The VSA Basic Manners Curriculum is an 8-week group class curriculum designed to help VSA graduates jump-start their ability to provide a basic-level group class offering to the public.

While this curriculum is comprehensive and should be a great starting point for any graduate of the Dog Trainer Course, it has been created with the understanding that graduates may tweak and adjust the curriculum to fit their individual needs. Each trainer and dog training market is different, and factors such as scheduling, client needs, and local availability may dictate the need to make changes to the timing and/or content of this curriculum as needed.

Class Setup

This curriculum provides for an 8-week course. The first week is considered ‘Orientation’ and clients should be advised that they leave their dogs at home for this class. This provides the trainer with the opportunity to review class goals and procedures while describing an overview of the benefits of positive training without the distraction of also trying to handle and train dogs.

Each class after the orientation includes three primary components:

1. **Weekly Skills.** This is when the trainer walks the class through various exercises to work on with their dogs in the class setting.
2. **New Skills.** These are new skills, cues and behaviors which the clients may not have encountered previously.
3. **Canine Chat Topic.** This wrap-up activity allows time for dogs to rest while the human clients engage in discussion with each other and the trainer on recommended topics related to previous or upcoming lessons and general dog behavior best practices. Students should feel free to introduce additional or different Canine Chat Topics based on things like seasonal topics, pressing events, or things happening in the community.

Curriculum Format

This document includes two printed sections for each class (except the first Orientation class): a Teaching Timeline and a Teaching Agenda.

The Teaching Timeline is designed as a rough guide to help you determine approximately how long to spend on each part of the class. It is also a handy way to see each week’s class overview in an easy-to-read outline format.

The Teaching Agenda is a more detailed breakdown of what is being taught in each section, a description of why it’s important that it be covered, and general reminders of how to teach various cues, behaviors and exercises. It also includes suggested outlines and key talking points for the Canine Chat Topics.

Weekly Curriculum Overview

Week 1 – Orientation:

Orientation for people, dogs do not attend

New Skills: Attention, Name recognition, Sit, Touch

Canine Chat Topic: Orientation topics

Week 2:

Weekly Skills: Attention, Name Recognition, Touch

New Skills: Settle on Mat, Leash handling, Luring, Default Sit, Default Stand, Find it!

Canine Chat Topic: Setting Up for Success

Week 3:

Weekly Skills: Attention, Settle on Mat

New Skills: Down, Stand, Lift

Canine Chat Topic: Training Equipment

Week 4:

Weekly Skills: Attention, Settle on Mat, Lured Sits

New Skills: Puppy Zen, Touch, Gotcha!

Canine Chat Topic: The 3 Ds of Training

Week 5:

Weekly Skills: Attention, Settle on Mat, Verbal Sits

New Skills: Polite Leash Walking

Canine Chat Topic: Manners in the Neighborhood

Week 6:

Weekly Skills: Attention, Settle on Mat, Default Sits

New Skills: Trade Ya, Not Yours,

Canine Chat Topic: Mouthing and Chewing

Week 7:

Weekly Skills: Attention, Settle on Mat, Lured Sits

New Skills: Name Recognition (cookie toss), Come when Called

Canine Chat Topic: Grooming

Week 8:

Weekly Skills: Attention, Settle on Mat, Verbal Sits

New Skills: Give Paw, Body Handling, Wait

Canine Chat Topic: What's Next?

Note: Class timelines are just recommendations, adjust as needed to fit your needs as you teach the curriculum. VSA does not provide timelines for the Orientation class since times will vary depending on class-specific guidelines.

Week 1 Teaching Timeline

45 minute class

Orientation Week for people only, ***without dogs***

- Introduce yourself
- Class Guidelines
 - What to Bring
 - How to prepare their dog for class
 - Policies (weather, cancellations, etc.)
- Demonstrate training methods
 - Capturing
 - Luring
 - Clicker skills
 - Shaping
- Demonstrate safe leash handling
- Introduce New Skills (for at-home practice)
 - Attention (Capturing check-ins)
 - Name Recognition
 - Sit
 - Briefly discuss introducing a release cue, such as “Free” or “Okay,” which clients will utilize with other behaviors.
 - Touch
- Provide handouts to support information and skills covered.

Week 2 Teaching Timeline

45 minute class

Weekly Skills

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| • Attention | 5 minutes |
| • Name Recognition | 3 minutes |
| • Touch | 3 minutes |

New Skills

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • Settle on Mat | 5 minutes |
| • Leash handling demonstration and practice | 3 minutes |
| • Luring Behaviors | 8 minutes |
| ○ 4 Steps and Reward | |
| ○ Luring around a cone | |
| • Default Sit | 4 minutes |
| • Default Stand | 4 minutes |
| • Find It | 3 minutes |

Canine Chat Topic:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Setting Up for Success | 7 minutes |
|------------------------|-----------|

Week 2 Teaching Agenda

Weekly Skills

- Attention (capturing check-ins)
 - Why we teach it: Being able to get your dog's attention is useful in virtually every situation with your dog, whether it's at home, on a walk, at class, or at some other location.
 - Tips: Ask handlers to watch for eye contact and mark and reinforce to help keep dogs focused as they enter the training area.
- Name Recognition
 - Why we teach it: All dogs should recognize and respond to their name, and teaching it ensures our dog has a positive association with his or her name.
 - Tips: At first, mark and treat any acknowledgment to their name, e.g., an ear flick, a head lift or tilt), then reward close to your body. Soon, your dog will be turning attention to you upon hearing his or her name.
- Touch
 - Why we teach it: Focus, and a great foundation for Recall and other behaviors.
 - Tips: Touch is a great skill for new handlers learning their marker and treat delivery timing, so encourage practice with both hands.

New Skills

- Settle on Mat
 - Why we teach it: Teaches relaxation, impulse control, provides a "home-base" during class and other situations, and more.
 - Tips: To reduce distractions during this exercise, divide the class so that half of the dog/handler teams practice Settle on Mat while the other half of the dog/handler teams practice Attention. After 30 seconds, have the groups switch to practice the other behavior. Remind handlers of the importance of a high rate of reinforcement.
- Leash handling demonstration and practice.
 - Why we teach it: Safety for owner and dog, preventing intentional or inadvertent leash corrections.
- Lured Behaviors
 - Why we teach it: Jump start behaviors, showing dog the movement of the behavior.
 - Tips: Explain the importance of fading the lure as quickly as possible.
 - Practice exercises:

- Luring 4 Steps
 - Luring around a cone
- Default Sit
 - Why we teach it: Foundation for other behaviors, encourages dog to offer a desirable behavior.
 - Tips: At first, deliver food on the ground to “reset” for another repetition.
- Default Stand
 - Why we teach it: Foundation for other behaviors, teaches body awareness, and encourages dog to offer a desirable behavior.
 - Tips: Instruct handlers to deliver food so that the dog’s head is parallel with the ground.
- Find It!
 - Why we teach it: Helps to build focus, great for mental stimulation.
 - Tips: Ensure adequate spacing between dog/handler teams and encourage handlers to toss the treat just a short distance.

Canine Chat Topic: Setting Up for Success (tips for both the handler and the dog)

Help handlers get their dogs settled on their mats with chill-out chews, then ask questions to initiate a discussion. Here are some possible questions.

- Who was stressed coming in?
- Who was worried their dog would be the “worst” dog in class?
- Was your dog’s body language indicating any stress?
- Were you showing signs of stress that your dog might have noticed?
- How can we make learning easier for our dogs?
- What is success? How can we succeed in small steps?
- Share ideas for setting up for success in classes, for example:
 - Private training suites
 - Relax on the mat
 - Sniffy breaks
 - Find it

Week 3 Teaching Timeline

45 minute class

Weekly Skills

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| • Attention | 4 minutes |
| • Settle on Mat | 4 minutes |

New Skills

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • Down | 5 minutes |
| • Stand (on cue) | 5 minutes |
| • Lift | 5 minutes |
| • Practice exercises: | |
| ○ Settle on Mat | 2 minutes |
| ○ Sit to Down to Stand | 4 minutes |
| ○ Stand to Down to Sit | 4 minutes |
| • Settle, down stay on mat, handler increasing distance | 5 minutes |

Canine Chat Topic:

Training Equipment	7 minutes
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Week 3 Teaching Agenda

Weekly Skills

- Attention (capturing check-ins)
 - Why we teach it: Being able to get your dog's attention is useful in virtually every situation with your dog, whether it's at home, on a walk, at class, or at some other location.
 - Tips: Ask handlers to watch for eye contact and mark and reinforce to help keep dogs focused as they enter the training area.
- Settle on Mat
 - Why we teach it: Teaches relaxation, impulse control, provides a "home-base" during class and other situations, and more.
 - Tips: Encourage handlers to help their dog to settle in between class exercises. Remind handlers of the importance of a high rate of reinforcement.
 - Provide suggestions for when and where they can practice this exercise at home.

New Skills

- Down
 - Why we teach it: Teaching your dog to lie down on cue is a foundation for teaching impulse control and relaxation.
 - Tips: Demonstrate this behavior with a lure, but also explain to clients how to capture it.
- Stand (on cue)
 - Why we teach it: This behavior is useful in many daily situations, such as standing still while we're clipping on a leash or harness, wiping muddy paws, even for veterinary exams and grooming.
 - Tips: Demonstrate using a hand target, and feed so that the dog's head is parallel with the ground.
- Lift (Sit from a Down)
 - Why we teach it: Being able to ask your dog to "stand" in response to a cue is useful for clipping on a leash or harness, wiping muddy paws, even for veterinary exams and grooming.
 - Tips: This behavior uses different muscle groups than Sit from a Stand, so it takes some dogs time to develop the muscle coordination.
- Practice exercises:
 - Settle on Mat
 - Ask handlers to have their dogs settle briefly while you introduce the practice exercises.
 - Sit to Down to Stand

- Practice these three behaviors in this order.
- Stand to Down to Sit
 - Practice these three behaviors in this order.
- Settle on Mat (increasing the distance dogs moves to the mat)
 - Tips: Instruct handlers to deliver treats to their dog on the mat and also toss treats to reset for another repetition.

Canine Chat Topic: Training Equipment

Help handlers get their dogs settled on their mats with chill-out chews, then discuss the variety of training equipment and tools which can make their training easier. Here are some possible talking points.

- Quick review of how to safely hold a leash
- Waist Leashes
- Clickers (different types) and wrist coils or lanyards
- Treat Pouches, different types and benefits
- Harnesses and head collars
- What are some of their favorite training tools?

Week 4 Teaching Timeline

45 minute class

Weekly Skills

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| • Attention | 4 minutes |
| • Settle on Mat | 4 minutes |
| • Lured Sits | 2 minutes |

New Skills

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • Puppy Zen | |
| ○ Step 1: Capture the initial back off from food | 4 minutes |
| ○ Step 2: Build duration | 2 minutes |
| ○ Step 3: Capture eye contact/check-in | 2 minutes |
| • Touch | |
| ○ Review Touch – Right and left hand | 2 minutes |
| ○ Touch a Post-it Note | 4 minutes |
| ○ Go Say Hello | 6 minutes |
| • Gotcha! | |
| ○ Collar hold | 4 minutes |
| ○ Explain and demonstrate other Gotcha! variations: | |
| ▪ Gotcha! Paw | 2 minutes |
| ▪ Gotcha! Bum | 2 minutes |
| ▪ Gotcha! Nose | 2 minutes |

Canine Chat Topic:

The 3 Ds of Training	5 minutes
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Week 4 Teaching Agenda

Weekly Skills

- Attention (capturing check-ins)
 - Why we teach it: Being able to get your dog's attention is useful in virtually every situation with your dog, whether it's at home, on a walk, at class, or at some other location.
 - Tips: Ask handlers to watch for eye contact and mark and reinforce to help keep dogs focused as they enter the training area.
- Settle on Mat
 - Why we teach it: Teaches relaxation, impulse control, provides a "home-base" during class and other situations, and more.
 - Tips: Encourage handlers to help their dog to settle in between class exercises. Remind handlers of the importance of a high rate of reinforcement.
- Lured Sits
 - Why we teach it: By now, most dogs will reliably Sit in response to a lure. This exercise helps handlers fade the lure and begin to cue with a hand signal.
 - Tips: Ask handlers to lure their dog into a Sit two or three times, then cue the behavior with just a hand signal.

New Skills

- Puppy Zen
 - Why we teach it: This is a great exercise to teach impulse control; the art of giving up what you want in order to get it!
 - Tips: Use low-value treats in the hand offering the food, and high-value treats as rewards. Promote this exercise as great "TV time" training, since clients can do it from their chair!
 - Break the exercise into three steps:
 1. Capture the initial back off of food
 2. Build duration
 3. Capture eye contact/check-in
- Touch – New variations
 - Why we teach it: To build new skills utilizing the Touch behavior.
 - Tips: Begin with a warm-up to review Touch, then introduce and practice the other variations.
 - Introduce and practice these variations of Touch:
 - Review and practice Touch.
 - Post-it Note Touch
 - Go Say Hello

- Gotcha! (Collar hold)
 - Why we teach it: By practicing this skill, your dog will be less likely to be startled or fearful if you ever need to hold onto him or direct him by his collar.
 - Tips: At first, touch the collar while the dog is eating a treat. You can use the same cue for all variations of Gotcha. With all of these exercises, always work at the dog's pace and comfort level.
 - Introduce and briefly practice these variations of Gotcha:
 - Gotcha! Paw
 - Gotcha! Bum
 - Gotcha! Nose

Canine Chat Topic: The 3 "D's" of Training

Help handlers get their dogs settled on their mats, then introduce the three "D's" as they relate to how clients can progress with toward their training goals. Here are some sample talking points.

- Distractions
 - When practicing around distractions, increase your distance from the distracting stimulus.
 - Use high value reinforcement and keep the rate of reinforcement high.
- Duration
 - When building duration, work in short sessions in order to avoid boredom or mental or physical fatigue.
- Distance
 - The two sides of distance:
 - Distance is your training friend when you use it to get away from distractions.
 - Distance in your training enemy when you are too far away to get your dog's attention and/or ask for the behavior you want.
- How the three D's work together – the importance of reducing one criteria while working on another.

Week 5 Teaching Timeline

45 minute class

Weekly Skills

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| • Attention | 4 minutes |
| • Settle on Mat | 4 minutes |
| • Verbal Sits | 2 minutes |

New Skills

- | | |
|--|------------|
| • Polite Leash Walking | |
| ○ Intro to Polite Leash Walking – Box Step | 7 minutes |
| ○ Polite Leash Walking | 6 minutes |
| • Practice exercises: | |
| ○ Join-Up Game | 10 minutes |
| ○ Settle on Mat | 2 minutes |
| ○ Attention (with dog at side) | 3 minutes |

Canine Chat Topic:

Manners in the Neighborhood	7 minutes
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Week 5 Teaching Agenda

Weekly Skills

- Attention (capturing check-ins)
 - Why we teach it: Being able to get your dog's attention is useful in virtually every situation with your dog, whether it's at home, on a walk, at class, or at some other location.
 - Tips: Ask handlers to watch for eye contact and mark and reinforce to help keep dogs focused as they enter the training area.
- Settle on Mat
 - Why we teach it: Teaches relaxation, impulse control, provides a "home-base" during class and other situations, and more.
 - Tips: Encourage handlers to help their dog to settle in between class exercises. Remind handlers of the importance of a high rate of reinforcement.
- Verbal Sits
 - Why we teach it: Now that the dogs know the hand signal cue for Sit, handlers can also introduce a verbal cue.
 - Tips: Ask handlers to say "Sit," then do their hand signal to easily transfer the cue for Sit.

New Skills

- Polite Leash Walking
 - Why we teach it: Polite leash walking is a goal of every dog owner everywhere!
 - Tips: Instruct handlers to deliver treats at their side. Also, remind handlers of the importance of a high rate of reinforcement.
 - Break the exercise into two steps:
 1. Intro to Polite Leash Walking – Box Step
 2. Polite Leash Walking
- Practice exercises:
 - Settle on Mat
 - Ask handlers to have their dogs settle briefly while you introduce the practice exercises.
 - Join-Up Game
 - Attention (with dog at your side)
 - Up to now, handlers have likely captured Attention with their dog in front, this exercise captures Attention while the dog is at the handler's side, which is a foundation for teaching Polite Leash Walking.

Canine Chat Topic: Manners in the Neighborhood

Help handlers get their dogs settled on their mats, then lead a discussion on how to successfully handle their dog while out in the neighborhood. Here are some possible talking points.

- Review the behaviors and strategies they have learned so far that they can use to keep their dog's focus.
- Should they let their dog greet other dogs? How to decide, how to do it, when to skip it!
- Potty etiquette – where to go/where not to go. How to clean up.
- How to handle encounters with bikes, kids, strollers, etc.

Week 6 Teaching Timeline

45 minute class

Weekly Skills

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| • Attention | 4 minutes |
| • Settle on Mat | 4 minutes |
| • Default Sit | 2 minutes |

New Skills

- | | |
|------------------------|------------|
| • Trade Ya! | 12 minutes |
| • Not Yours | 12 minutes |
| • Practice exercises: | |
| ○ Polite Leash Walking | 6 minutes |

Canine Chat Topic:

Mouthing and Chewing	5 minutes
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Week 6 Teaching Agenda

Weekly Skills

- Attention (capturing check-ins)
 - Why we teach it: Being able to get your dog's attention is useful in virtually every situation with your dog, whether it's at home, on a walk, at class, or at some other location.
 - Tips: Ask handlers to watch for eye contact and mark and reinforce to help keep dogs focused as they enter the training area.
- Settle on Mat
 - Why we teach it: Teaches relaxation, impulse control, provides a "home-base" during class and other situations, and more.
 - Tips: Encourage handlers to help their dog to settle in between class exercises. Remind handlers of the importance of a high rate of reinforcement.
- Default Sits
 - Why we teach it: Foundation for other behaviors, encourages dog to offer a desirable behavior.
 - Tips: At first, deliver food on the ground to "reset" for another repetition.

New Skills

- Trade Ya!
 - Why we teach it: This exercise teaches your dog that giving up a valued item is reinforcing, which helps to prevent resource guarding.
- Not Yours
 - Why we teach it: This exercise teaches your dog to ignore or leave alone things you do not wish them to have – before the item is in the dog's mouth – which can prevent the ingestion of inappropriate items.
 - Tips: Remind handlers to use a friendly tone of voice both when teaching this behavior and when utilizing the cue in real-life situations.
- Practice exercises:
 - Polite Leash Walking

Canine Chat Topic: Mouthing and Chewing

Help handlers get their dogs settled on their mats, then talk about ways to satisfy their dog's desire to chew. Here are some sample topics.

- Describe and show examples of appropriate chew toys.
- Point out considerations such as size and durability appropriate for their dog's size and chewing style.
- Talk about mouthing on people and how to incorporate games with toys to provide an alternative outlet. For example, how to incorporate toys during door greetings.
- How to identify when mouthing and chewing might be a sign of stress.

Week 7 Teaching Timeline

45 minute class

Weekly Skills

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| • Attention | 4 minutes |
| • Settle on Mat | 4 minutes |
| • Lured Sits | 2 minutes |

New Skills

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • Name Recognition (practicing with distractions) | |
| ○ Name Recognition with mild distractions | 2 minutes |
| ○ Cookie Toss Game with name as cue | 3 minutes |
| • Come When Called (Here) | |
| ○ Settle on Mat | 4 minutes |
| ○ Introduce the cue, "Here" | 2 minutes |
| ○ Cookie Toss Game with "Here" cue | 5 minutes |
| ○ Restrained Recall | 10 minutes |

Canine Chat Topic:

Grooming	8 minutes
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Week 7 Teaching Agenda

Weekly Skills

- Attention (capturing check-ins)
 - Why we teach it: Being able to get your dog's attention is useful in virtually every situation with your dog, whether it's at home, on a walk, at class, or at some other location.
 - Tips: Ask handlers to watch for eye contact and mark and reinforce to help keep dogs focused as they enter the training area.
- Settle on Mat
 - Why we teach it: Teaches relaxation, impulse control, provides a "home-base" during class and other situations, and more.
 - Tips: Encourage handlers to help their dog to settle in between class exercises. Remind handlers of the importance of a high rate of reinforcement.
- Lured Sits
 - Why we teach it: By this point in the class, most dogs will know Sit on a hand signal cue. Dogs tend to be very focused on body language, so clear hand signals are a great option for cueing many behaviors.
 - Tips: Encourage handlers to fade the lure if they haven't already.

New Skills

- Name Recognition (practicing with distractions)
 - Why we teach it: By this point in class, most dogs will be reliably responding to their names in low-distraction situations, and this exercise will introduce mild distractions.
 - Tips: Introduce mild distractions as handlers practice.
 - Introduce and practice these two exercises:
 - Name Recognition with mild distractions
 - Cookie Toss Game with name as cue
- Come When Called (Here)
 - Why we teach it: Having a reliable recall is the dream of all dog owners, and when we break it down and keep practice sessions fun, dogs develop a deep history of reinforcement with the behavior.
 - Tips:
 - Settle on Mat
 - Ask handlers to have their dogs settle briefly while you introduce the practice exercises.
 - Introduce and practice these three exercises:
 - Introduce the cue "Here"
 - Cookie Toss Game with "Here" cue
 - Restrained Recall

- Start with handlers close together, and slowly increase distance. Always be mindful of safety.

Canine Chat Topic: Grooming

Help handlers get their dogs settled on their mats, then talk about the importance of grooming. Here are some sample topics.

- What to look for in a professional groomer.
- What grooming should you do yourself and how often?
- Tools for keeping toenails groomed including manual clippers and Dremel.
- How to determine the best type of brush or comb for their dog.

Week 8 Teaching Timeline

45 minute class

Weekly Skills

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| • Attention | 2 minutes |
| • Settle on Mat | 2 minutes |
| • Verbal Sits | 2 minutes |

New Skills

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • Give paw | 4 minutes |
| • Body Handling (demonstrations) | 10 minutes |
| • Wait (demonstrations) | |
| ○ Food Bowl Politeness | 2 minutes |
| ○ Doorway Politeness | 2 minutes |
| • Practice exercises: | 15 minutes |
| ○ Handler dog teams rotate through stations to practice the behaviors demonstrated above. | |

Canine Chat Topic:

6 minutes

What's Next?

Week 8 Teaching Agenda

Weekly Skills

- Attention (capturing check-ins)
 - Why we teach it: Being able to get your dog's attention is useful in virtually every situation with your dog, whether it's at home, on a walk, at class, or at some other location.
 - Tips: Ask handlers to watch for eye contact and mark and reinforce to help keep dogs focused as they enter the training area.
- Settle on Mat
 - Why we teach it: Teaches relaxation, impulse control, provides a "home-base" during class and other situations, and more.
 - Tips: Encourage handlers to help their dog to settle in between class exercises. Remind handlers of the importance of a high rate of reinforcement.
- Verbal Sits
 - Why we teach it: By this point in the class, most dogs will sit either in response to a hand signal or a verbal cue.
 - Tips: Remind handlers to say the cue just one time.

New Skills

- Give Paw
 - Why we teach it: A great exercise to help get your dog comfortable with you holding a paw, which is valuable.
 - Tips: Explain that the focus of this exercise is teaching their dog to willingly offer a paw. We will also work on getting their dog comfortable with having his paws handled below.
- Body Handling (demonstrations)
 - Why we teach it: We can design training sessions to practice and help our dogs become more comfortable with the various procedures they will experience during visits to the veterinarian or groomer.
 - Tips: Ask handlers to think about which exercises their dog will benefit from, and then encourage additional practice at home.
 - Demonstrate body handling exercises (which handlers will then practice below in the Practice exercises). Some possible options for body handling exercises include:
 - Touching a paw, ear, or other body part
 - Shaping to wear a muzzle
 - Putting on a Thundershirt or a T-shirt
 - Putting on booties
- Wait (demonstrations)

- Why we teach it: Teaching your dog to wait – to simply pause in place – is useful in a variety of circumstances, including waiting at door thresholds, waiting as you deliver food, waiting to get out of the car, the bathtub, etc.
- Tips: Begin with a review of release cues, and confirm that all handlers have a consistent release cue. Remind handlers that there's no need to say "No," or otherwise point out when their dog makes a mistake. Instead, with these two exercises, they can simply lift the food bowl or shut the door to indicate to their dog to try again.
- Demonstrate these two versions of Wait (which handlers will then practice below in the Practice exercises):
 - Food bowl politeness
 - Doorway politeness
- Practice exercises:
 - Set up practice stations so that handlers and dogs can rotate through and practice a variety of exercises. Instruct clients to practice their Polite Leash Walking skills as they move between the stations.
 - Tips: Set up at least as many stations as you have students and use a timer to keep track of when handlers should move to the next station. Ensure adequate spacing between stations and dogs.
 - Practice station ideas (set these up and/or add your own):
 - Brushing station
 - Muzzle station
 - Thundershirt or T-shirt station
 - Booties station
 - Ear cleaning station
 - Nail trimming station
 - Wait for your food bowl station
 - Wait at the door station

Canine Chat Topic: What's Next?

Help handlers get their dogs settled on their mats, then initiate a discussion about options for continuing their training. Here are some sample topics.

- Congratulate everyone on their accomplishments over the past eight weeks!
- What was the most valuable thing they learned?
- Provide tips on how to continue to integrate what they've learned into real life.
- Provide a couple of examples of behaviors; where they are now and future goals and uses for the behaviors.
- Share upcoming classes and training opportunities to encourage clients to continue training.