

WHAT TO BRING TO YOUR **FIRST CLASS**

YOUR DOG'S COLLAR should be a plain buckle or snap-type collar, choke chain, pinch or prong collar, or Gentle Leader. Your instructor will check the fit of the collar and may make recommendations to alternative types of collars for your dog for better control and training. Collars should NOT have tags on them. Many students use a different collar for training that they keep free of tags for class. Do not bring your dog on a harness; they offer very little control and are not permitted.

YOUR DOG'S LEASH must be a 4-6' long

flat leather or flat nylon leash in good condition. Soft leather leashes, which are not too thick or bulky to hold in your hand are best. Recommended width is between 1/4" – 1/2" for smaller dogs, and 1/2" – 5/8" for larger dogs. Flexis or leashes made of chain are not permitted.

A VARIETY OF SMALL, SOFT TREATS should be brought each week. Your dog will learn much faster and be able to pay better attention to you if you train with food. The treats should be pea-sized (small dogs) or grape-sized (larger dogs) as they will be earning lots of rewards as you train. You will learn how to lure and/or reward your dog instead of "bribing". More advanced classes will deal with using a variable schedule to reward. A BAIT BAG is useful for keeping your training treats handy these can be found at some pet stores and are inexpensive. Treats should be quickly accessible and not in a baggy stuffed in your pocket. Some people use a fanny pack for their treats.

IDEAS FOR TREATS: Hotdogs (sliced and nuked in microwave), firm cheese such as string cheese, chicken, beef, any SOFT treats that can be easily broken off into small pieces. Do not use kibble; training treats should be something more special and valuable than their regular meal.

WEAR COMFORTABLE SHOES with low or no heels such as sneakers. You will be walking and turning with your dog so comfort is essential. Shoes with high heels, open-toed shoes or sandals are not permitted.

KEEP YOUR DOG ON A SHORT LEASH and do not allow them to visit with other dogs. Your dog may be friendly but other dogs may not be, so be safe and keep your pet close to you.

We want your class experience to be pleasant, fun and rewarding for both you and your dog.

Sincerely,
Cathi Winkles
Sportsmen's DTC Training Director

