

K9 NOSE WORK® Class Structure and Rules, and What You Need to Bring

1. One dog works at a time. Other dogs will remain secured in a vehicle or crated until their turn.
2. When you enter the room with your dog, don't let him or her wander into the designated search area until further instruction.
3. When entering and exiting the room, or out in potty area, please keep dogs a safe distance from one another (at least 10 feet). No meet and greets. Reactive dogs will wear a red bandanna around their neck so others know to give them even more space.
4. Make sure to potty dogs prior to class and possibly once more about half way through class. The nature of the work may trigger the desire to pee and poop anyway. In that case, be ready to stop them BEFORE they start, but if not successful, DON'T reprimand the dog. And don't drag them out while they are still peeing. Let them finish, put the dog up and we will clean it up.
5. Minimize chatting during other dog's runs.
6. The dogs will work on leash at first but will eventually work off leash. When the dog is on leash, your job is to keep up with it as it searches so it doesn't get corrected or re-directed by a tight leash.
7. If someone else's dog wants to say hi to you during their search, just ignore them. No petting or eye contact.
8. Please leave toys and treats in the crating area when it is not your turn so that the workspace floor is clear of distractions.
9. Be patient with your dog. Stay positive and curious about what your dog is telling you.
10. If you need the dog to move away from someone or something, just encourage it by taking a step and saying something positive like "OK, let's go." Don't say 'No' or leash correct the dog.
11. If you want a video of your dog working, you can ask another student if they will video your run. No videotaping of other students/dogs runs. There may be some videotaping done by the instructor for educational purposes, which will only be used if student have signed the photo/video release.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO BRING

1. Flat collar (buckle or Martingale style) or a harness during the class. No head halters, choke/pinch collars or Easy Walk harnesses during runs but they may be used to and from the search area as needed.
2. Leash: A six or eight foot leather or nylon leash (no chain or retractable). All dangling items, rings, charms, poop bags holders must be removed so as not to distract the dog.

3. Toys and/or treats: HIGH VALUE toys and treats! Bring a few things in case what you thought was going to work doesn't. Sometimes, your usual food reward for other activities is not high enough value for Nose Work. Some very motivating treats include salmon, blue cheese, chicken sausages, meatballs, liverwurst, and hot dogs. Please avoid crumbly/crunchie cookie-type treats. If you are not sure if your dog is more food or toy motivated, bring both.
4. Treats/treat pouch: Both you and the instructor will be using treats to reward your dog. So bring some in a baggie or container to give to the instructor, and have some for yourself – what works best is a small treat pouch that you can wear around your waist or clip to a belt. Or you can keep treats directly in your pocket. You need to be able to get to them quickly.
5. Hungry & motivated dog: Either don't feed your dog before the class, or feed a reduced meal so that your dog is hungry and motivated. Also please don't burn them out with a long hike or play session before the class.
6. Crates – the instructor will provide indoor wire crates for your dog to stay in between its runs. Dogs may be alternatively be crated in vehicles, weather permitting. If you want, you can bring a blanket for the dog to rest on in the crate.
7. Potty/poop bags – there are poop bags and a bucket on the left side of the building, near the door. Potty your dog only in this area – we want to keep other exterior areas free of doggie smells so we can search there! And PLEASE pick up after your dog! It makes it nicer for everyone.