BASIC MANNERS I COURSE

Module 1 Lesson Plan

1 HOW WE TRAIN

- We employ a positive, reward-based, modern & scientific approach. We do this because 1) it is incredibly effective and 2) we love our dogs.

- We do not hurt, frighten or startle dogs to train them, under any circumstances.

- It's our responsibility to be proactive, rather than reactive. We set up the environment to make it easy for our dogs to do the right thing.

- We will focus on teaching our dogs what **to** do rather than what **not** to do.

2 MOTIVATION

- We use a lot of food because it is quick, convenient and easy to use.

- All dogs are motivated by food - they eat it every day! To increase their motivation for food, we need to stop giving so much of it away for free.

- Placing small canisters of treats around your house can ensure that you can give your dog timely feedback when he does the right thing.

- This is not bribery! This is payment for a job well done.

- Remember that what your dog works for at home may not cut it out in the messy real world where distractions are higher.

3 ENRICHMENT

- In the wild, dogs would have spent the vast majority of their time focused on acquiring food - stalking, hunting, dissecting, etc. This was enormous mental and physical stimulation, and all that energy has to be expended somewhere in their domestic lives.

- Some ways to combat this are 1) work-to-eat toys, 2) scatter feeds, 3) long walks with ample time to sniff to their heart's content, 4) walking in new environments and 5) training (we've got you covered there!).

4 COMMUNICATING WHAT WE DON'T WANT

- "Leave It" vs "No!" - Yelling or sternly exclaiming "No!" at our dogs might stop the behavior in the moment, but that's only because we've startled them into not behaving at all. A cue like "Leave It" achieves the same goal, while also giving them valuable feedback.

- Timeouts are an effective, yet kind way to stop problem behaviors that persist **after** we've shown our dogs what we'd prefer they do instead.

5 RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

FOOD LURE ➡ HAND SIGNAL ➡ VERBAL

- First, build a behavior to reinforce. Then, remove the food lure so behavior is done with out food in sight and use a hand signal. Once the dog is reliable with hand signal, use it to define the verbal.

- Dogs are better at reading our body language than they are at understanding verbal communication.

- Separate your verbal cue from your hand signal rather than giving them simultaneously. Otherwise, we don't know which cue the dog really responded to.

- Practice a "quiet body" so your hand signals are clear and verbal cues are not associated with movement.

- Pay every time the dog gets it right to start. This is our contract with them as we're building a solid foundation.