



Is a group class appropriate for my dog?

Our dog training classes use positive, gentle, and fun training methods. You will learn to teach your dog to respond to voice cues (commands) and hand signals for all the basics such as "sit," "down," "come," and "stay." You will also work on "leave it" and leash manners. Additionally, your dog will receive the benefits of socialization and learn to work around distractions. Our classes address a wide variety of training and socialization goals for you and your dog.

However, certain behavior issues are not effectively addressed in a group setting, and therefore will not be addressed in group classes. Some dogs need one-on-one training to alleviate behaviors such as aggression toward people, separation anxiety, or to prepare them for group classes. Other dogs may benefit from a specialty class such as our ["Reactive Rover"](#) or ["Shy Dog Manners."](#) In some cases, such as when a dog has separation anxiety, a manners class will help support the work you are doing at home but will not directly address the underlying anxiety issue.

If you have questions about whether the behavior you are trying to improve will be addressed in a group class, please read the class descriptions and call us at (425) 641-0080 or email dogtraining@seattlehumane.org if you have further questions.

If you have questions about whether your dog will do well in a group class, please take a look at our Self Evaluation:

If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, please contact dogtraining@seattlehumane.org before signing up for class:

- Does your dog bark when he/she sees people?
- Does your dog lunge at people?
- Does your dog bark when he/she sees other dogs?

If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, please see our recommendation and contact us if you have questions:

- Does your dog growl at people? *
- Does your dog show aggression toward people? *

- Does your dog bark when he or she sees other dogs? **
- Does your dog lunge at other dogs? **
- Does your dog growl at other dogs? **
- Does your dog show aggression towards other dogs? **
- Does your dog shy/back away when people pet him/her? ***
- Does your dog resist allowing strangers to pet him or her? ***
- Does your dog shy/back away from other dogs? ***

** It is likely that private lessons will be the most appropriate for you and your dog at this time.*

*** [Reactive Rover](#) may be the right class for your dog, please read the class description for more information.*

**** [Shy Dog Manners](#) may be the right class for your dog, please read the class description for more information.*

If you don't know how your dog reacts around other dogs, we suggest you take him/her to a safe on-leash area where he or she will see other dogs, and observe his or her reaction.