

When you feel frustrated with your dog's behaviour, remember that someone must teach a dog what is acceptable behaviour and what is not. A dog that hasn't been given any instructions, training or boundaries can't possibly know what you expect of him. By teaching your dog how you want him to behave, you'll not only have a saner household, but a healthier and happier dog as well.

In group classes, dogs learn to listen and respond in the presence of other dogs, accept handling by your family, and respond to you despite all of the distractions. At the Calgary Humane Society our instructors are regularly updated their skills and expertise to train you with positive and humane methods. You will also learn by observing other people interacting with their dogs and benefit from the camaraderie. Enrolling your dog in a training class will help build strong, respectful relationships between your dog and your family. The whole family is welcome to attend class. We use positive reinforcement training methods and offer a fun setting for you and your dog to bond, learn and acclimate to the world that lies beyond your backyard. You can't control what your dog (whether it is adopted or not) has learned in the past – but you can focus on teaching them new habits and skills. A dog must be taught what acceptable behaviour is and is not. By teaching your dog skills and boundaries everyone in the house including you and your dog will be much happier.

Benefits of dog training classes:

- Develop bonds that will form the basis of your entire relationship
- Increase probability of your dog having in forever home
- Socialization with people other dogs
- Learn ways to mentally and physically stimulate your dog
- Learn to communicate clearly with your dog
- Resolve problems
- Learning will be more effective, faster and less stressful when you have an instructor to help you succeed with your dog
- Learn to communicate humanely and effectively with your dog
- Learn to communication using your body language and start to understand your dog's body language

All dogs must be current on age appropriate vaccinations, and adult dogs (over 6 months) must be spayed or neutered to participate in classes.

CLASSES OFFERED AT THE CALGARY HUMANE SOCIETY

Precocious Puppies – Tots and Tweeners

Precocious Puppies is for puppies 10-20 weeks old with their second vaccines. This class provides the perfect opportunity to learn how to properly socialize your puppy to new sights and sounds in a safe and positive environment. Get the latest tips on housetraining and relationship skills, along with starting basic skills like name attention, position commands and recall. The Tellington Touch method is integrated into all the classes to add increased handling ability along with relationship growth.

Polite Pooches - basic adult dog obedience

This course is a great first step in developing a lifelong friendship with your four legged best friend. Learn positive, gentle methods to communicate how you want your dog to behave. Basic obedience skills are covered along with Tellington Touch, and leading and teaching your dog self-control.

Reactive Rover - reactive dog class

Reactive Rover is for dogs aged 6 months and over with known aggression or reactivity issues. This concern will be addressed through learning how dogs communicate, examining your relationship with your dog, teaching appropriate behaviour and rewarding it. The small class size (maximum of five dogs) provides encouragement and a positive learning environment for the dogs and handlers! The Tellington Touch method is integrated in to all the classes to add increased ability to handle and lead, along with relationship growth. Reactive Rover addresses dog to dog aggression and the techniques can also be used with other fear based aggression issues.

Hop, Skip & a Jump - level 1 agility

Hop, Skip & a Jump focuses on building confidence and teamwork while learning the agility equipment foundations. Dogs will learn to perform jumps, tunnels, 6-weave poles, tires, table, A-frame, dog walk and teeter at a low beginner height.

Move'n Right Along - level 2 agility

Move'n Right Along continues to build on the foundation started in Hop Skip & a Jump. Dogs will begin to learn contact equipment (A-frame and dog walk) at full height along with the beginning of short sequences.

Agile Addicts - level 3 agility

Agile Addicts introduces dogs to direction cues and handlers to sequence running. You and your dog will develop a new level of understanding about the body language that you communicate with!

Canine Challenge

The Canine Challenge class has been developed for dogs that are ready for the next step in their training. Along with obedience and tricks, dogs and handlers will be taught the skills necessary to test for a Canine Good Neighbour certification. The Canine Good Neighbour certification identifies and rewards responsible, caring owners and their canine partners throughout Canada. Canine Good Neighbours can be counted on to present good manners at home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs.

Toto Recall

Toto Recall is a course designed to improve your recall. You will work on your dog's attention, teach a cue to come, and develop many rewards/interactions that your dog will enjoy. These skills have many practical applications and will improve your bond with your dog. Your dog will get the benefit of both physical and mental exercise. A reliable recall will be developed through consistency and motivation and by rewarding good behaviour.

How to register for classes at the Calgary Humane Society

Go to www.calgaryhumane.ca on the top menu select Behaviour and then Obedience Classes and then click the link to download the registration and release forms for the class that you are interested in. To register, please return the registration and release form with payment, to the Behaviour Department.

- Mail: Calgary Humane Society, 4455 110 Avenue SE, Calgary, AB, T2C 2T7
- Fax: (403) 723-6053
- Email: training@calgaryhumane.ca
 - If you have any questions about dog training classes, please e-mail training@calgaryhumane.ca or call (403) 723-6019

By training your dog, you can help prevent tragedy and develop a better relationship. Keep in mind, however, that even educated dogs need supervision, instruction and boundaries – sometimes even physical boundaries.