

# Bear Brook Kennels

## Group Training Classes with Bailey Atwood

Classes consist of 4-6 dog and handler groups. Our method of training is to always focus on positive reinforcement. We do not allow hitting, yelling, kicking, or jerking of the leash. We encourage as many family members are possible, as we believe that consistency throughout the household is important. We do ask that if you have children, please do not allow them to go over to other dogs or handlers, unless they have been given permission. Due to only having a very limited amount of time to work together each week, this is not a class where dogs will be off leash and playing together very often. This is still great socialization for our dogs, as they are learning to watch and be around other dogs, without interacting too much with them. We offer two classes. Puppy Class and Basic Obedience class. The only big difference between the two classes is the age. Puppy class consists of dogs from 8 weeks of age to 6 months. Basic Obedience class is for any dog over 6 months of age. Any dog is welcome if we have proof of these vaccines: Bordetella (kennel cough), distemper, and rabies. If your puppy is too young to have had his rabies vaccines, you are exempt. Your puppy is still expected to have his Bordetella vaccine and at least one round of his distemper vaccine regardless of age.

Examples of commands we teach:

- Touch - getting your dog to touch his nose to your hand no matter where you are.
- Sit - getting your dog to put his bottom on the floor.
- Down - getting your dog to lie down on the floor.
- Stay - getting your dog to remain where he is, no matter what distractions are around.
- Leave it - getting your dog to ignore the item he wants and focus on you instead.
- Recall - getting your dog to come to you in every situation.
- Leash walking - getting your dog to walk nicely beside you.
- Fun commands - we are not just hard work and no play, learn how to teach your dog to shake, turn, kiss, receive items and hand them to you, roll over, bow, and more.

Classes on Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 PM for five consecutive weeks. There will be one make-up class offered at the end of the session.

Training classes take place at Bear Brook Kennels. Classes will be held in our training room/doggy day care room. Park in the second parking lot and you will see a sign on the building directing the way to Daycare/Training room. This room is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

**What to bring:** Dogs must have some type of motivation to get them to do what we want them to do. Imagine if you went to work and did not get paid. The environment will be new, distracting, and potentially stressful for your dog. Therefore, you must bring three different levels of reward.

1. A low value treat/toy that they get daily that they eat/play with at home. Examples: kibble, cheerios, carrots, milk bones, tennis ball, or chew bone.
2. A higher value treat that is rarer and they do not get as often. This may be something that they only get while they are training or do something extra good. Examples: Chewy training treats, apples, a toy with a squeaker.
3. The HIGHEST value treat you can think of. Something that your dog has never gotten, or only on very rare occasions. This needs to be something that your dog will do anything for in any type of situation. Examples: Canned food, peanut butter, boiled chicken, cheese, beef, bacon, toy with pumpkin or peanut butter inside.

You must bring a standard 4' to 6' leash. Retractable leashes will not be allowed. I highly recommend a harness that attaches to the leash on the chest of the dog. The brand "Sensible" and "Sensation" are my favorite. These harnesses create the least amount of pulling. My second option would be just a regular collar that goes around your dog's neck. I try and advise people to stay away from harnesses that attach to the leash on the back of the dog, as they create the dog to pull MORE. I tell everyone to do what works best for them. If you have a certain training tool such as a choke chain or prong collar, I will allow you to use them in my class, but I do not recommend them, UNLESS you are trained how to use them properly. I do recommend the use of a Gentle Leader, but you must properly train yourself and your dog how to use them correctly. In summary, please bring 3 different types of treats/toys, a 4 to 6 foot leash, and some type of harness or collar.

The total cost for five weeks of class, including one make-up class, is \$100. The total cost must be paid in advance and is nonrefundable. Who am I? My name is Bailey Atwood, thank you for reaching out to Bear Brook Kennels about our training classes. Here is a little bit of background about me. I grew up in Embden (a very small town near Sugarloaf Mountain). Here, I found my passion for animals, specifically dogs. I traveled to California and received my associate degree in Business and Companion Dog Studies from Bergin College of Canine Studies. I worked as a vet assistant before arriving at Bear Brook Kennels, where I have trained since August of 2018. I recently became an apprentice trainer for Good Dog! Autism Companions, and will be receiving a puppy, Nala, to train to become a service dog for a child with autism. I currently live in Old Town with my boyfriend Dustin, a yellow lab named Caliope, a black lab named Paxton, a guinea pig named Winnie, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a cat named Maizey who only has three legs. I am looking forward to helping you train basic commands, solve behavioral issues, and give tips on socializing and stimulating your dog.