



can you DIG IT?

## OBEDIENCE TRAINING – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. What age can puppies start classes?

As soon as your puppy comes home at 8 weeks, we have the 4 week online 'What The Pup Have I Done!' Course for you. For the 8 week face to face classes your puppy can start classes one clear week after their last vaccination. Week one is without your puppy as this is demonstration and theory class so depending on your puppy's vaccination dates, you may be able to book onto class a week earlier than you currently anticipate. As a general rule we accept dogs into the puppy classes until approximately 6 months of age.

### 2. What level should I enrol on with my dog?

The entry level for dogs over 6 months of age is the Bronze Good Citizen Award and from there you can progress to the Silver and then the Gold Award.

### 3. If I miss a week can I attend another session?

No, as course start dates are staggered therefore the course material in other classes will not be in sync with your current course. In addition, once dogs are settled working with each other in one class it can be upsetting for all for a new dog to join for just for one class. Your instructor will provide detailed homework including videos for each session of your course and you have access to the Facebook Group. If you only miss one week it should be very easy for you to catch up by practicing the exercises at home.

### 4. I work shifts can I attend multiple days?

Unfortunately this is not possible due to the reasons outlined in question 3. above.

### 5. Why do I need to pay up front/can I pay weekly?

Dig it Dogs is an incredibly busy club; we have multiple enquiries for courses every day and our courses are often oversubscribed. Previously we have held places for people who have filled their booking forms in on the trust that they would pay nearer to the start, or on the first week of their course and have turned other bookings away on the basis that the course was fully booked. However, we have experienced people starting a course paying weekly and drop out. We have also had people change their minds at the last minute and not show up at all. Therefore, we have ended up turning other people away unnecessarily. It is for these reasons we can no longer accept bookings without payment up front.

### 6. Can my daughter / son do the training?

We welcome members of the family attending and helping to train your dog. We do however have a policy on children attending class, which you need to refer to when considering bringing children to the obedience hall. The policy can be found at:  
[https://dig-it-dogs.s3.amazonaws.com/Info/Children\\_guidelines.pdf](https://dig-it-dogs.s3.amazonaws.com/Info/Children_guidelines.pdf)

### 7. Can other members of my family come to train?

We welcome members of the family attending and learning to train your dog. We would ask that only one person handles the dog at one time as otherwise it can be very confusing for your dog.



## 8. What should I bring with me?

- Plenty of very high value treats such as a variety of freshly cooked meats or cheese and a mix of lesser value treats such as kibble or biscuits.
- A variety of toys for your dog but preferably not ones that squeak, as these can drive other dogs a little crazy!
- A mat for your dog to settle on or work with (for example a piece of vet bed or a flat mat will do).
- A flat lead and collar with your dog's tags with correct legal information inscribed on it. Please see the following link for the legal requirements of your dog's identity tag (this will also be required if you would like to take any of the Kennel Club Good Citizen Assessments). <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/training/good-citizen-dog-training-scheme/information-for-dog-owners/dog-identification-tags/>
- Any other equipment you normally walk your dog in, such as a head collar or harness.
- Some poo bags and cleaning wipes to clear up after your dog should they have an accident in the hall.

## 9. How long are the sessions/course?

All courses are 8 weeks long with an additional optional assessment week in week 9 for Bronze, Silver and Gold.

## 10. My dog doesn't always like other dogs. Can they still attend?

It would be best if you emailed [obedience@digitdogs.co.uk](mailto:obedience@digitdogs.co.uk) to discuss your particular circumstances with one of our team who can then offer you the best advice.

## 11. I want to train my dog but don't want to undertake the test.

That is absolutely fine, you can still undertake the training and just miss the ninth week's assessment. Your instructor will be best placed to advise you as to whether your dog is ready to progress to the next level of training should you wish to continue training after your initial course.