



*Unleash your dog's potential!*

WELCOME Owners and Dogs to...

## Level 1 Tricks Class

Noelle Saladin, CTDI | [supernovadogs@outlook.com](mailto:supernovadogs@outlook.com) | 716.573.5042

I am excited that you have decided to take this journey with your dog and jump into the world of dog tricks! Trick training is a great way to spend quality time with your canine companion. While you learn and work together you will form a stronger bond with your dog while also building their confidence and most importantly, having fun!

### **What is Tricks Class?**

Tricks Class will teach you how to communicate with your dog in order to achieve a desired behavior. Through working with reward and positive reinforcement your dog will learn different types of tricks to show off just what a great trick team you are!

### **What will I need for class?**

You will of course need a dog! If you are planning on bringing more than one of your canine family members to class I recommend bringing a helper along to assist. You will want to get the most out of your tricks class with each dog!

Please bring lots of yummy high value treat rewards to class with you. Some great treat rewards are small pieces of cheese, chopped up hot dog or Bil-Jac. We do have Bil-Jac available for \$2 per ½ lb bag if you would like to purchase some before class. We will be using lots of treats in our training so make sure pieces are bite sized. If you normally feed your dog before class time, you may want to only feed part of their meal so that they are hungry and ready to work for those treats. If your dog is not treat motivated, please pack a favorite toy or two instead!

Make sure you have a quick and easy way to access your treats during class. You are welcome to use a treat pouch or store treats in a pocket. Since you will be working with hand signals and other training tools and props, you will want your hands as free as possible.

Your dog should wear a collar or harness with a standard leash. If you typically walk them with a leather leash or double leash, you will want to switch to a lighter, single leash for tricks class. Although the other dogs in class may be friendly, tricks class is not the best time to try and make new canine friends. Dogs are typically engaged and focused on you while learning but please do your very best to keep your dog from going "visiting".

Clickers are not required but you are welcome to bring one and use it for training during class if you would like.

## **What will we be learning in tricks class?**

Dog tricks encompass a range of sports categories including: agility, disc dog, dog dancing/freestyle, helper/service dog, hunting/retrieving, obedience, search and rescue/police dog, therapy dog and tracking. We will be training a variety of tricks covering multiple categories in this class. Since this is a Level 1 Tricks class we will be learning many foundational behaviors which will be used for building higher level tricks!

As the owner/handler you will be learning techniques for eliciting desired behaviors from your dog. You will also learn how to use a reward marker with correct timing to efficiently communicate the goal behavior to your dog. Below are definitions of some training terms you may hear. (The most utilized are indicated with an asterick)

**Luring\*** - *The process of encouraging a dog to follow a treat to get into the correct position.*

**Shaping\*** - *The process of building a new behavior by gradually rewarding approximations of the behavior, requiring the dog to come closer & closer to the goal behavior.*

**Capturing\*** - *The process of waiting for the dog to offer the behavior unprovoked & then rewarding that behavior.*

**Mimicking** - *The tendency of a dog to do what the trainer or another dog is doing.*

**Modeling** - *The process of physically guiding or manipulating your dog into position.*

## **How does my dog benefit from learning tricks?**

Not only do dogs need daily physical exercise but they also need to be exercised cognitively. Keeping them mentally challenged and constantly exposing them to new things is just as important as taking them for walks and will keep them from getting bored and destructive. Trick training is a great way to mentally challenge your dog and push their intelligence to the next level!

## **What happens when the 6 week session is over?**

All trick teams (owner/handler and dog) will receive a class completion certificate recognizing the number of trick points they accomplished through teamwork. With so many tricks to learn, Level 1 graduates are encouraged to continue their training together in Level 2.

For those interested in achieving Trick Dog Performance Titles that have successfully accomplished tricks totaling 15 points, you may submit your Novice trick dog title application to Do More With Your Dog!, the official sanctioning and organizing body for the sport of Dog Tricks. More information regarding titles can be found at [www.domorewithyourdog.com](http://www.domorewithyourdog.com). I will have applications available and can answer any questions you may have regarding trick titles.

## **Practice Makes Perfect!**

Tricks class is designed to provide you with the training tools to teach and challenge your dog with new skills. The real work begins at home! Set aside time for short training sessions in your weekly schedule: meal time, commercial breaks or a morning routine. Your dog will enjoy the quality time and you will be amazed at how much you can learn together!



**When training, remember to...Be consistent, Be patient & Have Fun!**