



*Unleash your dog's potential!*

WELCOME Owners and Dogs to...

## Level 2 Tricks Class

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I am excited that you and your canine companion have decided to join me for another FUN filled tricks class! Before we begin, give yourself a pat on the back, you've earned it. By completing Level 1 Tricks Class you have demonstrated that you are enthusiastic and dedicated to having a great relationship with your dog. When you work as a team you can achieve amazing things together!

### **What can I expect from Level 2 Tricks Class?**

Level 2 tricks class will provide many more opportunities for learning, challenges and FUN! The foundation skills and behaviors learned in Level 1 will serve as the groundwork for accomplishing more advanced tricks and behavior chains.

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

The tricks in the higher levels utilize skills and knowledge that were acquired earlier in the foundational level. You will learn how to build on these known behaviors by using progressively greater hints with your dog to encourage them to respond to more subtle cues. You will be also focusing on the four key elements of training to ascertain strengths and weaknesses in your communication with your dog.

### **Key Elements:**

**Timing** – The key to teaching any trick is to reward success at the instant the dog performed it correctly. Learn to progress and regress your criteria and reward with accurate timing to achieve optimal improvement.

**Technique** – Develop a better understanding of the different ways to elicit behavior and relate them to your dog's learning style to determine the best methods for your trick team's success. Learn to develop consistent verbal cues and hand signals that your dog can easily understand.

**Motivation** – Build a better understanding of what is motivating for your dog. Make the most of interactions with your dog by giving them your full attention and using a variety of rewards.

**Building on Known Behaviors** – Build on your dog's existing skills to teach more sophisticated tricks. You will learn to transition known tricks into the maintenance phase, allowing you to reduce your dog's dependence on treats.

## What will I need for class?

Plan on bringing the same items as needed for Level 1. Props will be provided in class but you are welcome to bring any props you have been working with at home.

To review:

1. Your adorable and talented teammate - your dog!
2. Lots of yummy treats cut into small bite sized pieces
3. A treat pouch or bag that you can easily dispense from
4. A collar or harness and lightweight leash. (*Leashes are required as all dogs may not feel like making new doggie friends while at tricks class*)
5. Clickers are welcome but not required

## 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!

## Training in order...

Make training sessions more successful by arranging your practice in a specific order.

1. **Known tricks** – Start off with tricks that your dog is confident with to get them into a working and learning mindset.
2. **Athletic tricks** – Train these skills while your dog's energy and motivation is at its peak.
3. **New tricks** – Now that your "warm-up" is complete, work on new tricks. Only spend a few minutes on each trick and make sure to give lots of feedback, praise and don't forget- treats!
4. **Fun trick** – End your session with something fun so that your dog always ends training in a positive way.

## 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. For those interested in achieving Trick Dog Performance Titles that have successfully accomplished Intermediate or higher tricks totaling 12 points, you may submit your Intermediate trick dog title application to Do More With Your Dog!, the official sanctioning and organizing body for the sport of Dog Tricks. Some teams may even be ready to complete the Advanced title (5 points in Advanced or Expert). 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.



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