

AKC Canine Clubs-Community Dogs: Week 6

Training

- Skills Practice. (5 min)
- Service Dog In-Training. (3 min) What does a puppy raiser do? What does service dog in- training mean? Many organizations recruit puppy raisers to raise a puppy for a year before the dog goes in for formal training.
- Talk about your service dog or general dog training, and the importance of early training.
- Calming behavior. (5 min)
  - Taking my dog to all these different places, I need to make sure he is feeling comfortable and confident. In the first class we talked about signals dogs exhibit when they are stressed. Can you remind me what these are?<sup>36</sup> (Lip licking, scratching, shaking, pacing, etc.) When your dog is stressed, you need to evaluate the situation. How stressed is he? Does he need to be removed from the situation? Can you reduce one of your 3 Ds (duration, distance, distraction)? You can also calm your dog with slow, massage-like pets on their chest and throughout their body. Students can practice on the dog and see how the dog becomes calmer.
- Speak in depth about why your service dog is trained to do what they do. What goes into training a dog for this service? How does this help training help the person they are with?
- Dogs are not the best at generalizing in different environments. Speak on what skills your dog needs to know for the specific service they are performing.
  - Generalizing: applying something learned in one context and being able to apply it in another context. For example, if you teach a dog how to sit in your home, he will need a little more help learning how to sit in the car or on the street.
- Distraction proof training- The dog you are training will have to be able to do all commands not only in the house, but in public too. Everyday distractions are a good way to make sure your dog is trained for any and all situations. Practice the commands with the dog and have the students use different distractions to simulate a real life scenario.
- Take-Home Sheet