

AKC Canine Clubs-Community Dogs: Week 8Skill Building

- Skills Practice. (5min)
- Peer discussion on how to train the skill agreed upon during the previous class.
 - Students must work together and decide on what steps they need to teach the dog to shape the skill. (about 15 min). Be there to listen and answer any question, but you will primarily serve as an observer while the students work.
- Training the designated skill. (25 min)
 - Once the students have agreed upon how they will train the dog. They can start training the different steps. Training sessions are best in about 5 min sessions.
 - Students are arranged in a circle. Each student works with the dog for 5 minutes working on the skill the students have discussed.
 - Student A is working with the dog in the center of the circle. The other students are quiet and watching.
 - After Student A works with the dog for 5 min, the student and dog take a quick break while the other students spend 2 min giving feedback to Student A on his/her training skills, ways to problem solve any obstacles that arise, and next steps.
 - Student A then has a few minutes to practice again with the feedback they have just received.
 - Then the next student takes a turn and we repeat the process for each student.
 - There will be a sheet of guidelines for how to offer constructive feedback and participate in the discussion. As a teacher my role is minimal, simply keeping track of time while the students discuss and problem solve amongst themselves.
 - Only a few students will have a chance to go during this time. The rest of the students will get to practice next class.
- Wrap-up. (3 min)
 - Students tell me what they think the dog still needs to work on before the next class so I can work with the dog at home and prepare him for the next class. Students also know what they need to practice before the final class.