

# **PFOC General Training Rules**

Teaching your dog to heel, sit and down is only preliminary to the basic objective. Once your dog has learned a few basic commands, he is ready to begin real obedience training: to obey the command immediately and in a specific way. This takes patience, consistency and dedication on the part of the owner. Basic obedience is also crucial to any other special training. To help your dog become a good citizen, please follow these basic guidelines:

1. Come to class every week and please be on time.
2. Follow instructions to the best of your ability. Ask questions if you don't understand something.
3. Do your homework. Your instructor will give you instructions on what to practice at home.
4. No smoking is allowed on the training grounds.
5. You will need both hands and all of your attention on your dog. Leave valuable items at home or in a safe place.
6. You are responsible for controlling your own dog. Aggressive behavior from your dog toward other dogs or people will result in dismissal from class.
7. If your dog relieves himself on the training grounds, immediately make use of the provided cleanup equipment.
8. Make sure your dog has had necessary vaccinations for parvo, distemper and rabies.
9. Keep your dog on leash at all times on the training grounds.
10. Electronic collars are not permitted at PFOC classes.

## **EQUIPMENT NEEDED**

### **Collars**

For Puppy KPT classes, please use a plain buckle collar on your dog. It should fit reasonably snug so that the puppy cannot slip out of it. For all other classes, use a chain or fabric slip collar. It should be only long enough to fit over the dog's head. Chain collars should have links giving them smooth action for quick release. Gentle leaders may also be used.

**IMPORTANT:** Slip collars (sometimes called choke collars) can be dangerous if incorrectly used. They should be used only in a supervised activity. They can choke your dog if he is wearing it in the yard and the live ring gets caught on an object. Your dog should wear a buckle collar with identification and license tag when he is not under supervision.

### **Leashes**

A 6-foot leather leash is recommended. Some nylon or fabric leashes are acceptable. Chain or retractable leashes are not acceptable.

## **FOR THE HANDLER**

Wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes. Open-toed shoes, sandals or thongs are not recommended. Be prepared to do considerable walking. Have pockets or a bait bag for carrying treats. Bring dog treats that can be eaten quickly.