



Thank you for your interest in supporting Canine Companions as well as Collar Scholars at CSU as a Puppy Sitter! Please look through this document as it contains puppy sitting guidelines for both Canine Companions and the CSU chapter.

Why We Need Puppy Sitters:

When puppies are placed with their Puppy Raisers, they arrive at 8 weeks old and stay with their raiser until they return to Canine Companions for advanced training. However, there may be times that the puppy is unable to go with their raiser somewhere (i.e. college labs, events that are not age appropriate, etc.). Puppy Sitters are utilized to support the puppies during this time period, by providing safe, loving care for puppies for short durations of time, typically a few hours. This is also extremely beneficial for our puppies to get practice working with new handlers and practicing adjusting.

Your Role:

Puppy Sitters support Puppy Raisers by providing care for a puppy for a short duration of time - typically a few hours. All necessary supplies will be provided by the Puppy Raiser and/or the Collar Scholars Raiser Pantry. We ask that you follow the guidelines provided by Canine Companions and Collar Scholars at CSU to help both you and the puppy be as successful as possible together.

Sitting shifts typically are a few hours up to a week, and sitters are invited to pick up any shifts that work with their schedule and housing (i.e. if it is an overnight sitting shift, the sitter may not live in the dorms).

Guidelines for Puppy Sitters:

1. All Canine Companions puppies must be on leash at all times, unless in a secure, fenced-in area. Even in a fenced area, you must be able to restrict the puppy's access to toxic plants (sago palms, etc.) using a secure barrier. Safety of our puppies is our biggest priority.
2. Canine Companions puppies are not allowed in CSU residence halls at this time.
 - a. They may enter classroom areas within residence halls (i.e. AV commons, Walnut classrooms, etc.)
3. Puppies under 6 months of age should be kept on a drag leash inside the house (under supervision) at all times unless in the crate - this allows you to monitor behavior and prevent bad habits.
4. Puppies should be crated whenever you cannot supervise them directly, when they are home alone, and at night.
 - a. Remove the collar and leash whenever the puppy is in the crate.
 - b. A good rule of thumb for reasonable crate time for a puppy is they can *typically* handle one hour of crate time per month of age they are up to 5 hours (i.e. a 3 month old puppy can typically handle 3 hours of crate time, with reasonable exercise and needs met beforehand).
 - i. Puppies can only be kenneled for 4-5 hours max without a toileting break (if age appropriate)
5. Puppies are not allowed on any furniture. If they jump, they are to be redirected to the floor.
6. Canine Companions puppies are not allowed to visit dog parks.
7. Do not allow the puppy to meet any dogs that you don't know personally or that is not vaccinated. Generally, only allow the puppy to meet other Canine Companions puppies, with previous approval from the PR.
8. Please follow feeding guidelines from the Puppy Raiser carefully. Canine Companions puppies are not allowed human food aside from occasional peanut butter in Kongs or chew toys. Kongs should be given on a blanket or in kennel (not on the floor).
 - a. Always check for xylitol in peanut butter as it is toxic for dogs.

9. Puppies should only have approved toys and should be monitored at all times with soft toys or anything that may cause an obstruction (a list will be provided). Rope toys are not permitted.
10. Canine Companions puppies should never eat off the floor - they should only eat out of a bowl or a hand.
11. Puppies are not allowed to pull on the leash. If the puppy pulls, stop moving and wait for the puppy to slacken the leash and then make eye contact before continuing on. Please use the Gentle Leader head-collar unless it has not been introduced to the puppy.
12. Puppies may only greet people appropriately, by sitting to be petted. If the puppy jumps up, regain the puppy's attention and take a step back until the puppy is sitting.
13. Please teach the puppy to be gentle with its teeth when playing or taking treats from your hand. Licking should be discouraged as many of our graduates dislike it.
14. Please follow the Puppy Raiser's guidance as to what outings the puppy is ready for. Please ask for clarification if you are unsure!
 - a. Young puppies should not go on big outings, including into public, until they are ready and have gone a few times with their raiser.
 - b. Instead, consider a walk around your neighborhood or a quiet part of campus once the dog is vaccinated.
15. Puppy sitters are not utilized to "train" the dog, instead as practice for the dog with a new handler. Dogs sometimes struggle to generalize cues within people, so don't expect a pup to do its most advanced commands right away with a puppy sitter.
16. Puppies must always be in vest in campus buildings, and generally in vest anywhere outside of the home. This serves to identify them as Future Service Dogs, have access to buildings, and deter petting.
17. Puppies under 4 months and that are not fully vaccinated may not do outings or walks longer than necessary to hurry. They may enter the Gifford Play Area, but only if carried there. Wiping off the paws upon returning home is encouraged.
 - a. Ask the raiser or Emily if you are unsure about vaccination status.

Helpful Tidbits:

1. If the dog is pulling, do not allow the dog to continue while the leash is taut. Instead, plant your feet and back up a bit until the puppy starts to follow you, and then lure them back into a side or heel. Get their attention before continuing. Repeat as many times as needed for the puppy to be successful and not have tension on the leash.
 - a. This is crucial as our puppies struggle to generalize, so if they are allowed to pull by one person, this will set back their training.
 - b. If unsure how to redirect or if struggling, reach out to Emily or Lauren.
2. For dogs over 4 months of age or under 4 months of age with approval by raiser and an officer, you are welcome to take them to the [Gifford Play Area](#) on the Southwest side of the Gifford Building. This is a fenced turf area where you can play fetch or just run the dog.
 - a. There are no toys there, so bring some with you.
 - b. With there being a sand pit, many dogs will attempt to eat the sand or crab apples. Please try to redirect this behavior with a toy or running around.
3. For dogs newer to public or who may have a harder time settling, the best spots to start taking them is to the Behavioral Sciences Building (each floor above 1 has a little study nook in each corner) or the LSC in a quiet corner. As they get better, you are free to take them to settle anywhere on campus, after asking the raiser.
4. Dogs may ONLY attend classes with their sitters with approval from the raiser, and may only attend class after successfully attending with their raiser a few times prior.

Cue Sequence:

Canine Companions uses a cue sequence that is the same between all dogs to provide consistency between handlers as dogs do not generalize well between different situations. Puppy Raisers introduce this sequence from the very beginning of training, and it will continue to be used throughout the dog's training and working life. Remember to not progress from one step of the sequence until the previous was successful (i.e. don't tell the dog "sit" until it is looking at you)

1. Get the dog's attention - using the dog's name, kissy noises, tapping on your legs, etc.
2. Give the cue - use an assertive yet objective tone (i.e. "sit." instead of "sit?")
3. Follow through - if the dog does the cue correctly, praise with "yes!" and treat, if not, use a treat lure to help guide the dog into the desired cue.

Cues Utilized by Age:

2 Months - 6 Months:

Cue	Description
Name	The dog should turn to look at you, but not move towards you. Never use the dog's name as a verbal correction.
Okay	Tells the dog that it's okay to eat from a bowl. <i>Note: Canine Companions dogs can only eat from hands or a bowl, never the floor!</i>
Hurry	Tells the dog to go to the bathroom. <i>Note: Puppies should only relieve themselves on cue.</i>
Kennel	Tells the puppy to go into its crate or kennel and stay there until released.
Wait	Tells a puppy to not cross a barrier (such as a doorway) until invited.
Release	Tells the dog that it is free to do as it wishes within the realm of appropriate behavior.
Sit*	Tells the dog to put its rear on the ground.
Down*	Tells the dog to lie down.
Let's go	Tells the dog to walk at your side with a loose leash, neither ahead or behind you. The pup's ear should be in line with your pant seam.
Don't	Tells the dog to stop what it is doing. <i>Note: Avoid using this - attempt to get the dog's attention other ways instead.</i>

Drop	Tells the pup to drop whatever it has in its mouth and look at the handler.
Here	Tells the dog to come directly to you and sit.
Dress	Tells the dog to put its head through the vest or Gentle Leader.

6 Months - 10 Months:

Cue	Description
Roll	Tells the dog to roll onto its back exposing its belly.
Stand*	Tells the dog to stand on all 4 feet without moving.
Shake	Tells the dog to place either of its paws in your hand.
Car	Tells the dog to get into a car. <i>Note: Ask the Puppy Raiser where the puppy typically rides in the car before taking the puppy anywhere in the car.</i>
Under	Tells the dog to lay under something such as a table or chair.
Heel	Tells the dog to sit on your <i>left</i> side.
Side	Tells the dog to sit on your <i>right</i> side.
Bed	Tells the dog to go to its bed and lay down.
Jump	Tells the dog to get onto an elevated surface with all four paws.
Off	Tells the dog to get off of a surface or out of the car.
Speak	Tells the pup to bark.
Quiet	Tells the dog to stop barking and/or whining.
Kennel	Tells the dog to enter the kennel and lay down

Over 10 Months:

Cue	Description
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Out	Tells the dog to go out a doorway and face the handler.
Back	Tells the dog to walk backwards.
Lap	Tells the dog to put its front legs across your lap, resting on its elbows.
Up	Tells the dog to put its front paws up on a surface.
Visit	Tells the dog to rest its head on your lap.

* These cues have an implied stay: The dog must stay in the command given (down, sit, stand) until given another command. The “stay” command does not need to be said.