Group Classes @ UAF or Frontier Dog

****READ THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT BEFORE REGISTERING FOR A CLASS.****

Group classes offered at United Animal Friends or Frontier Dog are basic-obedience based, focusing on dog management skills that instill confidence and good dog manners in and out of your home.

Level 1 (outdoor) – *a series of 3 consecutive Saturday or Sunday morning classes* – focuses on building a strong communication system with your dog and therefore a better relationship. You'll be introduced to training methods, marker words, core exercises, and a sneak peek to fun agility.

Level 1 (indoor): Core Training & Canine Movement – *a series of 3 consecutive Tuesday classes from 2:30-3:30* – similar to Level 1 (see above), plus learn fun, practical agility and movement exercises you can do at home to keep your dog mentally and physically engaged—even when walks aren't an option. The classes are held in a retail space, so dogs must be comfortable in an enclosed area.
Note: this class is not ideal for dogs who are especially difficult to handle.

Level Up - *sign up a class at a time* - this class is offered periodically to help Level 1 graduates transition to Level 2. However, Level 1 graduates who prefer a smaller group OR Level 1 graduates who haven't attended class for some time OR someone who has not completed Level 1 but wants to be considered for Level 2 may attend this class.

Level 2 – *sign up a class at a time* – allows you to practice that communication system in more challenging situations and fosters teamwork. While Level 1 teaches the basics, Level 2 is where deeper development happens and where we can work on specific behavioral issues (if applicable in a group environment). Classes are fast-paced, dynamic, and may include agility or lure coursing (weather permitting). Completion of Level 1 series or Level Up is mandatory.

Level 3 - *sign up a class at a time* - for teams looking to strengthen reliability, confidence, and performance in more challenging settings. Completion of three Level 2 classes and CGC title is mandatory.

Activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Engagement and obedience exercises
- Short pack walks
- Dog agility or similar exercises requiring a dog to jump, balance, or perform physical tasks
- Dog tricks
- Calming exercises
- Skills needed for the **AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certification**
- Behavior modification (if applicable and doable in a group setting)

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENT:

Classes held at United Animal Friend's rescue ranch will take place on uneven surfaces such as a lawn, trail, or ranch land. Classes held at Frontier Dog & Co are in a retail space.

You will be standing and/or walking for the length of the class (1 hour, sometimes longer). It is important that you are able to physically participate and are steady on your feet.

VACCINATION REQUIREMENT:

Your dog must be current on core vaccinations: Rabies, Bordetella, Distemper and Parvo.

DOG AGE AND TEMPERAMENT:

Dogs attending must be at least 6 months old, as the class activities require a longer attention span.

Classes held at United Animal Friend's rescue ranch will include all dogs and all temperaments. Because of this, we can expect dogs working on behavioral or reactivity issues to participate.

Classes held at Frontier Dog & Co must be comfortable in an enclosed area. *This class is not ideal for dogs who are especially difficult to handle.*

RULES:
These rules are in place to ensure everyone has a safe and fun class.

1. **One dog per handler. No exceptions.** Managing multiple dogs in a group class is challenging -- dogs get excited around other/new dogs. An excitable energy may further excite other dogs. You will need to manage your dog and devote your full attention to that one dog.
2. **All dogs must be on a secure collar and 6' leash (or shorter).** All dogs are urged to be on a flat collar or a slip lead.
    a. Special training equipment (Gentle leader, martingale collar, prongs, etc.) are allowed. If you're not sure, bring the training tool that you've been using. *Regardless, please bring a flat collar.*
    b. Dogs on a harness must be backed up with a flat collar. (I've seen too many dogs back out of a harness.) If you don't know how to back up a harness, the trainer can provide instructions.
    c. Retractable leashes are not allowed as it provides little control.
3. **Always maintain a 6' distance between humans and dogs.** Ensuring space between handler/dog teams allows handlers to safely work on behavioral issues and keeps everyone safe. (See "Friendly Dog" notes below.)
    a. If your dog knows another dog/human participant, always get the consent of the other first before approaching. Otherwise, maintain a 6' distance.
    b. If time allows, proper dog greeting will be discussed at class.
4. **NO NOSE-TO-NOSE CONTACT (dog to dog that is)**. In dog language, a nose-to-nose greeting can be interpreted as a confrontation. As an extra precaution, there should be no dog-on-dog interaction during class. "Socialization" does not mean dog-on-dog

interaction; it actually means proper behavior around various environments and situations.

5. **Share the path**. If on a pack walk/trail, always move to the right to let others pass.
6. **Classes start on time**. Out of respect for everyone's time, we will start classes on time so that folks may leave to their other commitments.
    a. Dog/handler teams coming late to class is disruptive to the group. The moment the class starts (and even prior to start time), dogs are communicating and figuring out their role within the group or becoming comfortable with the group. When a new dog enters the established group, it will likely disrupt the group's cohesion.
    b. Classes may extend past the hour (participants often get so involved with an activity), but participants may leave as necessary.

FRIENDLY DOGS: Even "friendly dogs" are not allowed to interact with other dogs during class. Too often, unfortunately, "friendly dogs" are sooooo friendly that they forgo proper etiquette or dismiss a shy/fearful/reactive dog's request to give him space. When a growl/fight ensues, one easily forgets that the friendly dog was at fault for improper behavior. Therefore, no dog-on-dog interaction during class. After the class, dog owners are welcome to their own rules.

WHAT TO BRING:

- **Water** for you and your dog.
- **High value dog food** (e.g., small pieces of hot dog, cubed boiled chicken, freeze-dried dog food, other foods that your pup finds rewarding).
    - Do not give your pup breakfast or only give 1/4 of his/her morning meal. Your dog will be rewarded with food during the hour-long class.
- **Treat pouch** or wear clothing with loose pockets. Food should be easily accessed to timely reward your pup.
- **Doggie poo bag**s. Always clean up after your pet.
- **Covered shoes** for your feet. Exercises will take place on uneven surfaces.

WHEN/WHERE/HOW MUCH:

- Location, time, cost, and other information will always be in the Meetup event details.
- Classes held at UAF are $10 per class.
- Classes at Frontier Dog or locations requiring a permit or rent is $25 per class.
- Pay at class. *Payment for the Level 1 series (3 classes) must be paid in full at the first class.*

TO REGISTER:

1. If you are interested in attending a group class, you must complete and submit a **Contact Information and Release form**.
    a. Take special care in reading the Release section of the form.
    b. You only need to complete this form once.
2. Register at **www.meetup.com/unitedanimalfriends**.
    a. Level 1 series is limited to 12 dogs (UAF location) or 8 dogs (Frontier Dog location). Walk-ins may need to be turned away due to lack of training space or equipment.
    b. Confirmed registrants with a no show or a cancellation less than 24 hours notice may place you on a waitlist for future registrations.

We look forward to seeing you and your dog! Please contact SammiMaon@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns.