

Intro to K9 Nose Work® Class

WHAT TO BRING

Treats - The best kind for nose work are HIGH VALUE, wet and/or stinky treats, such as cheese and meat, rather than commercially made dog treats. Please cut the treats into small pieces, about 1/3"-1/2". For nose work, it's a good idea to use something different than the treats you use for obedience and other training. If you're not sure what your dog likes, bring a few kinds of treats or see the Treats handout for ideas. (When you practice nose work at home, you can use your dog's high value meals instead of treats, but please don't bring the meals to class because it can get a bit messy!)

Ziploc Bag - Please bring your treats in a small ziploc bag rather than Tupperware or other container, so that I can easily put the whole bag in my treat pouch during your dog's search. If you have a Sharpie please write your dog's name on the bag so I can identify which bag belongs to which dog.

Water and water bowl for your dog

Toy - If your dog is extremely toy motivated, then please bring his favorite toy. If your dog tends to play 'keep away' with his toy, then it would be best to bring 2 of the same toy, such as 2 tennis balls or 2 Frisbees. You may also put a rope on the toy so that you can easily grab the toy to initiate play. It's best if this toy is used only for nose work, so that it becomes your dog's 'special' toy. Some dogs love toys, and will play fetch and tug at home, but will not hunt for a 'dead' toy. Please bring treats too in case the toy doesn't motivate your dog.

Chair - Please bring a comfortable fold-up chair or stool.

Collar or Harness - Please use a back-clip harness or flat buckle collar on your dog. Slip collars, prong collars, front-clip harnesses, and head halters may be used until you reach the start line of the search area if needed, but please switch to the back-clip harness or flat neck collar at the start line.

We will talk about equipment for their new "job" in class. You will want your dog to have a unique harness that he will only wear when he is in nose work mode, so it should not be the same one your dog wears for its day to day walks etc. Use whatever you have available for week one and we will discuss options for the future. Flat neck collars are okay to use, but I find that it causes the leash to get tangled under their leg.

Below are some nice, lightweight, easy to use harnesses that are popular with nose work enthusiasts:

<http://www.julius-k9.com>

http://www.cleanrun.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=product.display&Product_ID=1771

Leash - A lightweight narrow leash, a minimum of 6 feet in length (no chain or retractable leashes please). All dangling items, rings, charms, poop bags holders should be removed so as not to distract the dog. If you have an even longer leash, please bring that too.

Long line – If you have a long leash, please bring that too. Many nose work students use long biothane lines with no handle from Ruff Stuff based in Wahiawa:

www.k9ruffstuff.com (tracking line on Leashes page; can be made without handles)

You can also try the following if you like fancy colors:

<https://www.palominelines.com/>

Treat Pouch – If you have one, please bring a treat pouch.

Below is a treat pouch that works well for nose work. It has a magnetic closure so it's easy to get treats quietly (rather than your dog hearing the sound of velcro or a zipper). It also closes easily so the treats won't fall out when you bend over:

<https://www.doggonegood.com/index.cfm/product/1/rapid-rewards-training-pouch.htm>

Crate - Plastic, wire or canvas crate, where your dog will rest in between searches/turns. Canvas crates are easiest to transport. If your dog is new to crates, please read my blog article with tips on how to get your dog used to crates:

<http://woofpackhawaii.blogspot.com/2012/08/getting-your-dog-comfortable-with-crate.html>

Among the collapsible-style crates, there are a few kinds. The ABO-brand Dog Digs crate is nice because it collapses into the vertical shape of a foldable chair and can be carried over your shoulder. There are some other brands of canvas crates that collapse into a square shape – they are a little harder to transport. Pop-up tents or covered playpens are also a good option for dogs who will not chew or scratch through the netting.



Hungry & motivated dog - Please either don't feed your dog right before the class, or feed a reduced meal so that your dog is hungry and motivated. Also if you have a high energy dog, please *don't* burn them out with a long hike or play session before the class.

Poop Bags - Please be sure to pick up any poop and take it with you as there is no garbage pickup at the class location. Mahalo!