

Durango Agility Dogs (D.A.D.) Agility Class Policies for Students

General Policies:

Dogs must be at least ten months of age and in good health to participate in D.A.D. agility classes. The minimum class size is four dogs and handler teams.

Rain Policy:

Agility classes will only be cancelled in severe weather such as high winds and an active downpour of rain. Because it is difficult to judge the weather at the agility field from surrounding areas, your instructor will be at the training field for every scheduled class. If it is misting lightly or raining off and on, agility classes will be held. There are no refunds for classes cancelled due to weather. If a class is cancelled due to inclement weather, a make up class will be scheduled.

Bitches In Heat Policy:

Bitches who are coming into heat or who are in heat will be excused from class until they are out of season. The owner of the bitch is welcome to audit the class without the dog at no charge. A prorated refund will be given for weeks missed.

Refund Policy:

A pro-rated agility class refund may be offered under special circumstances that would prevent a dog or handler from participating in class. Please contact your instructor if a situation arises.

Concerns or Complaints:

The Durango Agility Dogs is a volunteer organization with volunteer instructors. The club works very hard to maintain the quality and professionalism of our agility classes. If for any reason, you have a concern or a complaint about your agility class we encourage you to communicate the concern directly to your instructor. We will do our very best to resolve your concerns or complaint.

DO YOU HAVE A DOG THAT IS AGGRESSIVE TOWARDS OR HAS SPACE ISSUES WITH OTHER DOGS? IF SO, WE ASK THAT YOU READ AND WORK WITHIN THIS POLICY IN DURANGO AGILITY DOGS AGILITY CLASSES.

1. If your dog has exhibited aggression towards or has space issues with “in your face” behavior with other dogs, then the Durango Agility Dogs (D.A.D.) Club asks “extra” of you if you want to attend D.A.D. Agility Classes. It is important for you to know that we support the training of dog-aggressive dogs. The following policy is based on our belief that the majority of dog aggressive incidents occur because dog owners fail to manage their dog-aggressive dogs in a class setting. In order for dog-aggressive dogs to be in our agility classes, the following applies:
2. Be prepared that your dog may have to wear a red bandana during classes, so that other students remember to give your dog some extra space.
3. You will be asked initially to keep your dog on a leash at all times during the class. Your instructor will assist you to complete exercises while your dog drags a leash. If your dog demonstrates a reliable “come when called,” the “on-leash during exercises” requirement will be re-evaluated.
4. You will be asked to work constantly (and effectively) on your “come when called” training. You may have to lure your dog using food to come when called even if you don’t have to do that outside of the class setting. The other members of the class have a right to feel assured that your dog will come when called.
5. It will be your responsibility to remind students if their dogs come too close, that your dog has space issues.
6. You will not be allowed to walk away from your dog (leaving him or her on a “stay”) unless an instructor is assisting you in this exercise or holding the dog for you while you go to the other side of a piece of equipment.
7. You will be asked to be extra vigilant, noticing what your dog is doing, where he/she is looking (or fixating), and whether he/she is pulling towards another dog, etc.
8. If your dog runs off during any of the exercises, it is your responsibility to immediately get control of your dog, again using food and/or a toy to lure your dog to you. If you have made the choice to keep a dog-aggressive dog (many of us have), it is your responsibility to chase and contain your dog when necessary.
9. If another dog runs up to your dog, it will be your responsibility to get your dog’s attention; grab your dog’s collar, grab your dog’s muzzle or pick your dog up to prevent an incident.
10. Since you have made the decision to keep a dog-aggressive dog (again, a lot of us have) and to train your dog-aggressive dog, **it is your responsibility, physically, to wade into a dog fight that your dog is involved in and get your dog out of it by whatever means you have. If you aren’t prepared to physically wade into a dog fight that your dog is involved in, then our agility classes aren’t for you.**
11. Obedience training is essential with dog-aggressive dogs. Let your instructor know if you need a referral.

Additional notes: The D.A.D. is aware that the size of the dog makes a difference in how much damage that dog can do to another dog and we are aware that the amount of control/management might be adjusted if you have an obnoxious dog that weighs 5 pounds versus a dog that weighs 50 pounds. Other class members will be notified that your dog is dog aggressive or has space issues and they will also be encouraged to call their dogs away, and work on their “come when called.”

If you chose to discontinue classes because it is too hard to manage your dog in the classes and/or it is no fun for you or your dog, we completely understand. Our refund policy will apply.