THE CANINE BEHAVIOUR ACADEMY

**Foundation Course**

This 4-week foundation course introduces several important dog training principles developed for less experienced handlers with dogs of any age. Jane has developed this course specifically for handlers wanting to improve communication with their companion dogs. The classes teach a series of foundation skills which are useful on their own but can easily be built on.

**Lesson 1**

Theory

* What is positive reinforcement training
* Equipment - what is suitable for training your dog
* What is a marker (clicker or short word i.e YES) and reward system
* Understanding cues - verbal and gestural

Practical

* Body positions - sit, drop and stand.
* Teach your dog how to go to a place (mat, bed or crate) and settle.
* Established a release word
* Teach your dog to make good eye contact and focus on you

**Homework**

* Charge your marker
* Establish/practice your verbal cues and gestures and teach your family
* Find and prepare some great treats
* Practice your 3 x body positions

**Lesson 2**

Theory

* Dominance - difference between a wolf pack and a dog family
* Discuss loose lead walking and healing what is the difference
* Why is play so important and such a great reward

Practical

* Teach your dog loose lead walking and healing.
* Practice verbal and gesture cues
* Self-control exercises using focus and our release cues
* Teach you dogs some new tricks spin and a roll-over
* How to play with your dog

**Homework**

* Charge your marker
* Practice your 3 x body positions
* Go to place and settle
* Focus and self-control exercises

**Lesson 3**

Theory

* How to introduce the three D’s - duration, distance, and distraction
* Recall explained how to develop a reliable return to handler
* What is the difference between wait and leave it and how these may save your dogs life
* Body language explained. Is your dog happy, scared or angry?
* How to keep your dog safe and how to advocate for your dog!

Practical

* Polite loose-lead walking and passing other dogs
* Recall using long line leads
* Polite door and gate behaviour
* Teach your dog to reliably leave something alone
* Adding distance to several established behaviours
* Adding a few new tricks “back-up”, “high five” and “leg weaves”

**Homework**

* Waiting politely at the door and gate
* Practice your 3 x body positions add distance and duration
* Go to place and settle add distance and duration
* Focus and self-control exercises
* Practice leaving something alone

**Lesson 4**

Theory

* Intermittent reward schedule - Phasing out food rewards
* Managing reactivity and interaction with other dogs
* How to proof behaviour or make it stronger and more reliable
* Dog sports discussed: Rally O, Agility, Obedience, Dancing, IPO/IPG and Scent Work.

Practical

* Politely loose-lead walking and passing other dogs
* Recall on long line leads
* Polite door behaviour
* Introduction to Rally-O signs and simple Agility obstacle course

**Homework**

* Self control exercises
* Heal with me games
* Recall, recall, recall
* Study your dogs body language