



FDTC Training Programs & Services

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Find us on Facebook!

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Welcome to Family Dog!

Thank you for your interest in our training center. We have been helping families train their dogs for over 30 years. During that time we've helped train thousands and thousands of dogs and their families. We hope you choose Family Dog for all your dog training needs! **(Please note that there is only one Family Dog Training Center. Although other "trainers" may use similar business names, only classes shown on this document and accompanying schedules are true Family Dog Training Center classes).**

Overview of Our Programs

We offer a wide variety of classes for all sizes, ages and breeds of dogs (regardless of pedigree!), as well as private lessons, seminars and workshops in our 5,200 square-foot facility in Kent. Group classes are limited in size to ensure individual attention. Our average class size is 8-9 dogs. Family members, including well-behaved children, are encouraged to attend class and participate with the dog. Instructors are available by phone and email to answer their students' questions and help with problems. Because many of our clients have multiple dogs, or take multiple classes with one dog, we offer a discount for additional dogs and/or classes on our 6-week sessions. (Note: Discount applies to dogs and/or classes from the same household when 6-week sessions of classes are taken concurrently & are paid for at the same time.) You will find the information about our packages online at: www.familydogonline.com/packages/

Schedule of Classes & Prices

We know how hard it is for the average family to make time for a dog training class! That's why we offer morning, afternoon, evening and weekend classes. Students who miss a week due to illness, travel or scheduling conflicts have lots of opportunities to make up their class during the session. Please refer to our Current Schedule for fees for the various classes. Fees vary based on length of classes & session. Currently we offer our sessions at \$210 for a 6-week session. You will find our most up-to-date class schedules online at: www.familydogonline.com.

Manners & Home Obedience / Canine Good Citizen / Therapy Dog

This is where most families begin their dog's education. This 6-week format allows plenty of time to learn new skills and make lots of progress. Many enjoy these classes so much they go on to earn their Canine Good Citizen certificate. Others get "hooked" and join our Agility, Rally and Competition Obedience programs! All participants receive a detailed Lesson Booklet covering the week-by-week instructions and exercises for each class, plus a copy of "Training Your Family Dog," an extensive reference tool covering all types of behavior problems, nutrition discussions, housebreaking, crate training, nail trimming and more. Each class includes time for student questions & problem solving.

Home Obedience Class Titles & Descriptions

HO1: Puppy Manners, Obedience & Obstacles – one hour per week for 6 weeks

For pups under 5 months of age when class begins &/or toy breeds under 8 months. Puppy socialization & obedience geared for young pups with short attention spans. Puppies are partnered up for play time based on size, personality and confidence level. Obedience portion of class includes walking on leash, sit & down, sit for greeting & come. Obstacles include puppy-sized agility equipment for confidence building & fun. Class also covers housebreaking, chewing & other behavior problems, nail trimming, teeth brushing & more. **The first week is for humans only; please leave your puppy at home until the second week.**

HO2: Beginning Home Obedience – one hour per week for 6 weeks

For most dogs over 5 months of age. (Very small dogs and/or very shy dogs under 8 months of age may do better in Puppy Manners class. Contact us if you have questions.) Lots of work on basic obedience & control, including walking on a loose leash, sit, down & stand stay, come, sit for greeting, go to a rug & lie down. Graduates of this class will learn to respond on the first command! For dogs with little or no formal training and dogs who've done little or no training away from home. Basic behavior problems are addressed in this class. This class is also appropriate for dogs who perform well at home, but are inconsistent around distractions. **The first week is for human training and discussion; please leave your dog at home until the second week.**

HO3: Advanced Home Obedience – one hour per week for 6 weeks

For dogs over 6 months of age who have successfully completed Beginning Home Obedience. Class works on basic exercises with food, toy, people & dog distractions in preparation for off-leash control. Drop on recall & stays out of sight are introduced. **Bring dogs the first week with current training equipment.**

HO4: Canine Good Citizen Practice & Prep & Off-Leash Control – one hour per week for 6 weeks

For dogs who have successfully completed Advanced Home Obedience. Class continues to practice basic exercises in preparation for the CGC test, plus off-leash control, drop on recall & stays out of sight. CGC tests are offered at Family Dog six times per year. **Bring dogs the first week with current training equipment.**

TD: Therapy Dog Practice & Prep – one hour per week for 6 weeks

For dogs who have earned their CGC. Class covers all the specialized dog training and human handling skills needed to pass tests offered by Therapy Dogs International and the Delta Society/Pet Partners. **Bring dogs the first week with current training equipment.**

Teaching your family. Training your dog.

Classes, private lessons & problem solving for puppy manners, home obedience, competition obedience, off-leash control, conformation handling, agility, tricks & games, canine good citizen & more! All breeds. All ages. Mixed breeds & rescue dogs welcome.

We Solve Behavior Problems

In addition to teaching basic obedience commands and exercises, we also address common behavior problems all dog owners encounter, including chewing, barking, digging, mouthing, housebreaking and stealing, as well as jumping up on people and counters. This is done as part of the class curriculum—at no additional charge. Our extensive experience with all breeds of dogs allows us to provide no-nonsense solutions to the annoying habits that some dogs develop. In our classes you'll also learn to clip your dog's toenails, clean his teeth and ears, and get all your doggie questions answered! We're also happy to help via private lessons!

Private Lessons

Individualized training is a great way to work through problems, get a head start on classes or work toward specific performance goals.

Description	Cost
In-facility private lessons For families who prefer one-on-one training or dogs with specific behavior problems. Also beneficial for agility, breed ring, competition obedience and/or rally students wanting extra assistance to achieve performance goals. Call or email us with your specific requirements. See our web site for the private lesson questionnaire. In-facility lessons conducted at FDTC's main facility in Kent.	\$135.00 / hour & Includes unlimited email monitoring & email follow-up
In-home visits & private lessons For families who prefer one-on-one training or dogs with specific behavior problems. Call or email us with your specific requirements. Lessons conducted in owner's home or centrally located park. (Travel outside the FDTC service area may result in mileage charges.)	\$200.00 / hour & Includes unlimited email monitoring/email follow-up
Telephone, video & email private lessons Used most often by families living outside the FDTC service area. Call or email us with your specific requirements.	\$95.00 / hour & includes email follow-up
Seminars & Workshops FDTC staff members are available to make presentations to all types of groups on a variety of subjects ranging from behavior problem solving to choosing the right dog, competition obedience, conformation handling, dog/owner relationships, etc.	Varies – please call with your specific requirements.

Agility, Tricks, Nose Work & Dog Sports

These classes are a great way to continue your dog's education and increase off-leash control, while having lots of fun together. Agility is one of the fastest growing dog sports in the country! To see some of these sports in action, visit Family Dog's youtube channel or do a general internet search. Some of these classes are offered on a workshop or occasional basis as we take names for a waiting list. Contact our office for more information.

Class Titles & Descriptions	First week notes	Class Length
Beginning Agility For dogs who have successfully completed Advanced Home Obedience. Obedience at a distance & off-leash control are emphasized while simple agility obstacles are introduced.	Bring dogs & current training equipment the first week.	One hour class meets once a week for 6 wks
Advanced Agility Classes & Coursework These classes allow the dog & handler to progress as far as they would like to go in the sport of agility. Handling & Coursework prepares the team to compete and earn titles.	Bring dogs & current training equipment the first week.	One hour class meets once a week for 6 wks
Tracking Teach your dog to follow a human track. For dogs that have completed Beginning Home Obedience or equivalent. First class meets at FDTC. Future classes meet at parks & fields in the area.	Bring dogs & current training equipment the first week.	One hour classes meet once a week for 6 wks
Dog Sports Sampler For dogs who have successfully completed Advanced Home Obedience. Fun introductions to rally, agility, jumping & retrieving, plus obedience reviews in every class.	Bring dogs & current training equipment the first week.	One hour class meets once a week for 6 wks
Tricks & Games For dogs who have successfully completed Advanced Home Obedience. Class teaches lots of fun tricks & takes requests from students.	Bring dogs & current training equipment the first week.	One hour class meets once a week for 6 wks
Nose Work / Scent Work For dogs who love to sniff and find hidden treasures! This is a new sport that can be done for fun or competition. No obedience training is necessary, but basic manners are helpful. No aggressive dogs. No severe behavior problems. Due to the nature of the scenting activity, dogs will be working one at a time while all of the humans observe the dog's body language and listen to the instructor's comments.	Bring dogs & current training equipment the first week.	One hour class meets once a week for 6 wks

Competition Obedience & Rally Obedience - For Titles or For Fun

Our instructors are experts at working with beginning handlers. Our students regularly achieve the highest titles and winning scores. Whether or not your interest lies in competition, these classes are beneficial for handlers who want to work on attention around distractions, and for handlers who enjoy the process of learning and teaching. Handlers develop a deeper understanding of dogs, dog body language, improving the dog-owner relationship and the science—and art—behind training complicated behaviors.

Competition Obedience - Rally Class Title & Descriptions	First week notes	Class Length

Rally Obedience Classes For dogs who have completed at least one HO or OC class. Rally is a version of obedience involving teamwork and basic obedience commands performed in the order prescribed by a course. Students begin in Rally 1 to learn the “stations” and progress to Rally 2 for advanced coursework.	Bring dogs to each class with current training equipment.	One hour class meets once a week for 6 wks
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Our Philosophy & Training Methods

Every dog is different. Some are hyperactive and others are laid back. A few dogs are shy and need more self-confidence, while others have too much confidence! And some dogs are serious while others are silly. We know all dogs are different, and that's why we have developed a training program that works with a wide range of dogs. We treat each dog and his family as individuals, and we modify our techniques to suit your needs.

Our training methods are based on an understanding of animal behavior – how dogs learn and communicate with one another. Whenever we teach the dog something “new” we begin in a quiet, calm environment and we gently help the dog understand what's expected of him. The atmosphere in our classes is conducive to learning. We are always calm and under control. We do not “hype” the dogs up; we soothe and relax them. One more important thing we don't do – we don't repeat commands. Our dogs learn to obey on the first command. This is especially important when “come” and “stay” might make the difference between life and death in an emergency situation. (Repeating commands is a very bad habit that teaches dogs to ignore their owners. Repeating commands is a form of nagging...and you know what happens when you nag your spouse, friend or child to do something that needs to be done!)

One question that often comes up: our policy on “clicker training.” We are not fans of the clicker, although we do utilize the concept of behavior modification. Dogs cannot differentiate between “clicks” in a class environment. (Which click is for which dog?) With clickers dogs do not understand when to continue a behavior vs. when to end a behavior, whereas our voice with a marker word allows us to give degrees of reinforcement and truly communicate with the dog (rather than click and feed). We find that our approach teaches dogs to take responsibility for their actions and pay attention to their owners without the crutch of a clicker. We also find that many clicker trained dogs have a better “relationship” with their clicker than with their owners! (And we find that former clicker trainers ultimately change their approach after attending our classes.)

Another question we're asked has to do with collars, head halters and body harnesses. There are pro's and con's to each and every type of collar, halter and harness. Some work for most dogs, while others tend to be more specialized. We discuss training equipment in our orientations, so we recommend you wait to purchase any new training items until after orientation. (In fact what you already have will probably be just fine to get you started!)

Our Staff Makes the Difference

Kathy Lang, founded Family Dog Training Center and has been teaching canine classes since 1977. In April 2021 she sold the business to Liz & Doug Fifield who now run Family Dog Training Center. Prior to buying the business Liz was Kathy's office manager and in charge of the day-to-day operations for nearly 3 years and has been a home obedience instructor for 7+ years as well. Doug has been a home obedience, agility and trick dog instructor for 9+ years but they started training 12 years ago with Family Dog with their German Shepherds and want to keep the traditions that Kathy started going.

Family Dog Instructors & Staff

Family Dog Training Center's staff members are experienced dog professionals, who are actively involved in the local dog community. All Family Dog instructors train and show their own dogs in all venues and all dog sports, including obedience, rally, agility, herding, tracking, conformation, field trials and more. Many of them are involved with local rescue organizations, animal shelters, 4-H groups and dog clubs. Everyone connected with Family Dog Training Center has gone through an extensive one-year apprenticeship and training program to ensure consistency in techniques, as well as philosophy. Continuing education helps keep the staff up-to-date on the latest changes in all aspects of canine training, behavior and health issues.

All of our staff members “give back” to the dog community through volunteer activities, educational programs, dog club involvement, rescue group support and free workshops. We are very proud to have these individuals associated with Family Dog. Here is a brief review of our staff members. Be sure to visit our web site for photos and more complete biographies. *(Please note: Only the following individuals are endorsed and approved by Family Dog.)*

Liz Fifield – President & Training Director/Instructor & CGC Evaluator Liz is a true animal lover (including cats) who took her first class with her husband Doug with their German Shepherd female in 2013, then in 2014 they added a male German Shepherd to the pack and in Feb of 2025 added another female German Shepherd puppy. After the basic levels of home obedience, they then started in Competition Obedience and Agility. She started teaching home obedience over seven years ago and also was the office manager for the previous owner. Her previous job allowed her to use her already great customer service skills and the love of talking to people! Liz trains in multiple dog sports and has taken nosework classes with goals of trialing in future. She currently teaches Puppy Manners, Beginning Home Obedience and Advanced Home Obedience, Continued Advanced, CGC class and others and does private lessons as well. One of the things she enjoys is helping show people how they can have a dog with good manners and build a good foundation with them. She loves to educate people about many topics in dog training and teach people that you can have a dog to train that does activities/sports for fun or to compete besides being a well-mannered pet.

Doug Fifield – Vice President & Instructor & CGC Evaluator Keeping with the family theme, Doug is Liz's husband and actually has a sister Annette who is an instructor too! Doug and his wife, Liz, started training their German Shepherds at Family Dog 10 years ago. Doug also joined the instructor training program and started teaching Oct 2016. Doug is currently teaching home obedience, trick dog, Rally, CGC and agility classes and is currently doing multiple sports with his dogs and has titled both German Shepherds in obedience, rally and agility and hope to start in to compete with their newest working line GSD. Doug has really enjoyed teaching home obedience classes of the levels where the dogs start thinking and making the right choice but his most favorite sport is agility.

Natasha Komen – Office Manager & Instructor & CGC Evaluator Natasha was introduced to Family Dog because her third pug was a handful and she knew she needed to do something to challenge her. The success she saw with her pug led to her taking more classes with a family member's dog (that turned into her dog) and made a huge difference! Natasha starting teaching over 4 years ago and then became also the office manager in Aug 2021. She works on both Agility and Competition Obedience with her own 7 dogs which consist of Pugs, Shepherd/terrier mix, Boxer, German Shepherd and a Bullmastiff. Sometimes she will foster pups and helps implement the same steps she teaches in class with the fosters. Natasha loves teaching home obedience and agility because she wants to help others have the same success she's had.

Linda Lay, Instructor & CGC Evaluator Linda started training at FDTC in 2005 and probably has taken every class offered, she says she just got hooked on training. She has had dogs all her adult life; and all kinds of breeds as well as terriers, spaniels, herding, hounds and retrievers. She currently owns 4 dogs (a lab, an aussie, a sheltie and the newest member a bullmastiff puppy). Her older dogs have different titles as she enjoys competing with them and testing their skills. She enjoys agility, competition obedience, rally and Nosework and hoping to try truffle hunting. She currently teaches, puppy manners, beginning home obedience, advanced and trick dog.

Annette Franklin, Senior Instructor Annette started training at Family Dog, when her brother and sister-in-law (Doug and Liz) talked her into signing up for class after she got her first Jack Russell Terrier 2014, then adding her second one a year later. Annette and her energetic Jack Russell Terriers continued on and became hooked on this wonderful dog world. Annette's background leading tours and educational programs at Wolf Haven makes her a great public speaker. She has been a instructor for 7+ years and currently but due to her regular full time job currently is subbing when she is available in classes or private lessons. Annette's dogs trained in agility and they have obedience and agility titles.

Veda Viles, Instructor & CGC Evaluator Veda fell in love with obedience and recognized the learning required for rally, the natural talent brought out by tracking and the fundamental usefulness of AKC's Canine Good Citizen program. She became a CGC Evaluator over 20 years ago, attended many seminars and classes taught by well known instructors. Veda is on her fourth generation Manchester and has many titles on them. Her love of helping pet owners better understand their dogs and enhance their relationship through training. She believes training should be FUN!

Jayne Widhalm Bosch, Senior Instructor Jayne's childhood passion for animals both large and small turned into an Animal Science degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Growing up in Illinois, Jayne did research work with dairy cattle and swine, while living with dogs, birds and fish. After moving to Seattle Jayne adopted her Australian Shepherd mix. A few years later Jayne and her husband added another dog and two children to their family and recently added their newest addition a GSD/Mal mix. Jayne started teaching classes and conducting private lessons in 2011 but in 2015 became a mom and took a maternity leave for awhile and during that time she subbed, but in Nov. of 2022 started Home Obedience classes during the day. Jayne's educational background, veterinary assistant skills, and kennel experiences make her a valuable member of the Family Dog team.

Mary Stratton, CGC & Therapy Dog Instructor Mary's passion for Canine Good Citizen and Therapy Dog Prep classes started many years ago with her Therapy Dog Partners Miss Ollie, a Miniature Dachsund and Beau, a Great Dane/Lab Mix. In addition to volunteering with her Therapy Partners, Mary has participated in all types of training with her dogs including Obedience, Rally, Agility, CGC and Urban Disaster Search and Rescue. She enjoys helping clients improve their teamwork and partnership with their dogs.

Melissa Hogan, Instructor Melissa started with FDTC in 2020 after a recommendation from their vet. Her family has a pack of Schnauzers! She started teaching in late 2023 puppy manners, beginning home obedience and then in August of 2024 went on baby leave to be a new mom. Along with motherhood, a full time job outside of here, Melissa is currently doing agility with her mini and standard schnauzers and does compete in the sport earning and working toward titles. She feels training is a life long journey that takes continuous work to strengthen and maintain.

Proven Track Record

Over the years we have helped train more than 100,000 dogs. Our students are referred by friends, relatives, neighbors, veterinarians, groomers, breeders and pet store personnel. We have clients who travel from Portland to Bellingham to train exclusively with us.

If you are looking at various options for training your dog, we recommend that you contact several instructors/schools and speak with them about their methods, the size of their classes, the types of dogs they have personal experience with, their success rate and their graduating percentages. Ask about their background in animal behavior, class organization, verbal communication and group instruction/motivation and dynamics. When possible go observe classes in progress. Get a feeling for the class environment, the instructor's expertise and communication skills. Look at the facility. Is it clean? Look at the staff members. Are they professional in their appearance and approach?

Beware of so-called trainers who do a great "sales" job but in reality have very little actual dog training experience, as well as individuals who *attempt* to represent themselves as being affiliated with Family Dog. Avoid individuals who learned to train dogs via correspondence course or by purchasing a franchise. It is impossible to become a respected dog trainer simply by reading a book, watching a video or participating in a two-week program. Also beware of training offered in store aisles, parking lots or other locations that are not dog proof and safe. (Only non-aggressive dogs that are properly vaccinated and healthy are allowed in our facility, unlike pet stores where anyone can walk their dog through the aisles.) Our training center is customized for training dogs. Our floors are Everlast brand rubber flooring for traction and safety, and our building is routinely cleaned, disinfected and sanitized. We have comfortable seating for family members, and our facility is well lighted and heated, as well as wheelchair accessible. Our parking lot is paved and spacious.

Registering for Classes

Our web site is an easy and secure way to review our schedule, read about our classes and register. If you prefer to complete a paper form, refer to our current Schedule of Classes to find the days and times that your preferred class is offered. Classes that do not meet the minimum registration requirements will be cancelled and students who did pre-register will be contacted so that a suitable replacement class can be found. After we receive your registration, we will send you a confirmation email.

Methods of Payment

We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover debit cards, AMEX, personal checks and cash. NSF checks and declined credit cards (for any reason) resulting in late payment are also subject to a \$30 administrative fee. You may also register online via our secure web site.

Make-up Classes, Refunds & Cancellations

Please refer to the Registration Form for our cancellation and refund policies. Please note that we have the most liberal refund policy of any training establishment in the area. We work with our students in the event of illness, dog injury, changes in work schedule, etc. Because we offer so many classes on different days and times, it's easy for students to make up classes when they need to miss a week here or there. Make-up schedules are provided when students attend their first week of class.

For more information

Please contact us if we can answer any questions or help with the registration process. Be sure to visit our website for even more information about Family Dog Training Center, our staff, facilities and various programs. Check out the "Articles" section of the website for lots of great reading on dog-related topics.

Thank You!

Thank you for your interest in Family Dog Training Center. We look forward to meeting you and your four-legged companion! Be sure to contact us if you have any questions or we can help in any way!