



Dog Obedience Courses

A well-mannered, socialized dog is a joy to live with. Teaching helps you and your dog communicate, ensuring that he/she becomes a well-behaved family member. Our classes address not only basic cues but also socialization, house training, chewing, barking, play biting and other behavior concerns.

Our teaching method is based on kindness and respect. We use positive reinforcement such as praise, toys, playtime or treats to motivate, reward and correct behaviors.

Humane Society of West Michigan offers a wide variety of canine courses for you and your dog's needs. To learn about each of these unique opportunities read the descriptions below.

Puppy Kindergarten

Get your pup off to a good start with this puppy class! Learn to safely socialize your puppy and enjoy the playtime! Your puppy will not only learn basic skills, but how to be calm and relax. You and your puppy will learn how to play properly to avoid inappropriate mouthing and chewing. Puppy class is a great way to prevent some behavior issues from happening while learning effective ways to teach your puppy!

Please note that we have limitations on puppy ages to protect the rest of the group. Therefore, once a puppy reaches 16 weeks they are unable to participate in further classes with the group. Please see our other obedience classes.

This open enrollment program is 5 weeks with a limit of 8 puppies and 8 handlers. Therefore, sign ups will be posted weekly to not go over class size limitations. Please check back weekly if classes are full.

AKC S.T.A.R. ® Puppy

Get your pup off to a good start with this new program designed by the American Kennel Club. You'll learn how to effectively communicate with your dog and your pup will be able to socialize with other dogs. Upon completion of the course your puppy will be eligible for the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy evaluation through the American Kennel Club. Designed for puppies aged: 4 months - 1 year old.

This class is 5 consecutive weeks with a limit of 8 dogs and 8 handlers.

Elementary School: Manners Matter

This class is designed for dogs 5 months and older who have never had a previous training class and for those who will benefit by taking the class again. The focus of the class is on good doggy manners and the basic cues of sit, stay, down, come, "leave it," and walking on a loose leash.

This class is 5 consecutive weeks with a limit of 8 dogs and 8 handlers.



High School Jocks: Reactive Dog Class

This unique class is designed to help you better understand your dog's reactivity towards other dogs and how to best manage their impulses. The basic manners focus, sit, down, focus, recall, stay, polite walking and leave it are reviewed in this course. You will learn how to recognize and reward behaviors you want to keep as well as develop skills to change your K9's undesirable behaviors.

Dog to human reactivity is not addressed in this class. Please contact our behavior staff if your dog is experiencing this type of reactivity.

This class is 5 consecutive weeks with a limit of 4 dogs and 4 handlers.

Manners Refined!

A prep course for the intermediate AKC Good Citizen Course ®

A new 5-week course for those wishing to continue training their dog, bridging the gap between Manners Matter and the Intermediate Course (AKC's CGC Evaluation). Our newest course is designed for those who have taken Manner's Matter or equivalent course. Let's sharpen skills already acquired by adding distractions and increasing difficulty. The goal is to prepare for the Intermediate CGC course.

Must have 4 – 8 dogs signed up for each session. This class is 5 consecutive weeks with a limit of 8 dogs and 8 handlers.

Location

Humane Society of West Michigan Training Center
3077 Wilson Dr. NW Grand Rapids, MI 49534

Cost

All Fees are Non-Refundable and classes are Non-Transferable

\$99 / dog or \$85 / dog if adopted from Humane Society of West Michigan

*Rebate available for Argus Alliance qualifying dogs. Check our website for information on Argus program.

How To Register:

Sign Up here: <http://www.hswestmi.org/obedience-classes.html>

Owners are required to send proof of current vaccinations for Distemper, Bordetella, and Rabies.
Please consult your primary veterinarian for assistance.

Please Bring the Following to Class:

- Leash: (4 -6 foot leather, nylon or cotton leash). Do NOT use chain as it is too hard on your hands during training and is harder to give clear signals to your dog.
- Please NO retractable leashes.
- Collar: Nylon collars or martingale collars are both acceptable
- Desirable dog treats!lit of body text

Questions? Email obedienceclass@hswestmi.org