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# TRAINING ORIENTATION GUIDE

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## WELCOME

Thank you for choosing Quinebaug Kennels where canine wellness and training excellence are at the forefront, blending passion and purpose into every wagging tail. As the premier facility in New England dedicated to the holistic care and training of our beloved canine companions, our team at Quinebaug Kennels takes great pride in keeping the highest standards of cleanliness, safety, and appearance across our expansive 50-acre campus, encompassing all facilities, equipment, and vehicles.

Our staff of professionals show pride in their work while supporting the appearance, cleanliness, and safety of Quinebaug Kennels, which includes a 50-acre campus, buildings, equipment, and vehicles. Surrounded by fresh air, daily exercise, and the joy of collaborating with dogs, QK provides an environment where exceptional care is the norm. It's not uncommon for us to log 10,000 steps by 10 am, ensuring the well-being of our cherished canine guests.

We have built lasting relationships with clients from each New England state, New York, and New Jersey and beyond. We are grateful for their continued support, and we appreciate your trust in allowing us to care for your dog.

This Training Orientation Guide will help answer questions you may have about our policies, procedures, and philosophies. It will also emphasize the significant role your cooperation and participation have in the ultimate success of your dog's training.

We understand how difficult it is to be separated from your beloved family member. Thank you for the privilege and responsibility you have given us to care for your dog. We will passionately treat your dog with kindness, as if it was a member of our own family.

On behalf of the entire staff, I welcome you to the Quinebaug Kennels family. We look forward to building a long-term relationship with your family.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Broome

## OUR STAFF

Quinebaug Kennels is a busy place. Each team member has a critical role in providing for your dog's care and wellness.

Jennifer and her husband Jason designed and built the entire QK campus encompassing The Cabin, The Lodge, The Arena, The Garage and the surrounding trails systems, fields and play yards. They take immense pride in its upkeep, preservation and continuing development. Our maintenance crew, supervised and led by Jason, gives us confidence that we can perform our jobs in a safe environment. They provide us with a comforting peace of mind when they repair, update, and support our buildings, equipment, and grounds.

At QK our cohesive staff works as a unified team, ensuring cleanliness and hygiene across all aspects of the facility, including dog enclosures, play areas, feeding bowls, bedding, and equipment. They cultivate relationships with your pets while overseeing their interaction with fellow canines in designated play zones. Additionally, our diligent team takes care of feeding, administering medications, and providing necessary supplements. Every task is thoroughly documented following a systematic series of Standard Operating Procedures. Under the guidance of our Executive Team, we uphold a vigilant stance on the health and well-being of every dog entrusted to our care. This includes wellness evaluation tasks such as weight monitoring, stool consistency assessment, dietary pattern tracking, all meticulously recorded for each individual dog.

Our trainers establish a bond with your dog through personalized one-on-one sessions tailored to address their individual requirements. They carefully document progress, support regular communication with you, and offer both private and group lessons. Through their daily interaction, our trainers gain a deep understanding of your dogs, promptly informing you of any health or behavioral issues.

Your dog will undergo weekly hygiene checks, including baths if necessary. If your dog gets notably dirty during a training session or playtime with other dogs, our groomer or kennel care team will give them a quick bath. Additionally, certain long-haired breeds or doodles may require or benefit from more regular coat maintenance and brushing. Our groomer offers a variety of services, including conditioning baths, grooming, clipping, and undercoat removal, upon request.

## PET INSURANCE

Jennifer Boome strongly advocates for obtaining pet insurance because such coverage has the potential to save thousands of dollars in veterinary expenses. Our recommended provider is [Healthy Paws Pet Insurance](#) which Jennifer has personally used for over 12 years for her beloved pack.

Pet insurance offers invaluable peace of mind, with a variety of plan options typically starting around \$55 per month and ensures access to high-quality specialist care in case of serious accidents or illnesses. It is especially advisable for dogs prone to conditions such as bloat and torsion.

## ARRIVAL PREPARATION

It is recommended that your dog must have received the required vaccinations for Rabies, Distemper (DHPP), Bordetella and CIV at least two weeks prior to arriving at Quinebaug Kennels. While this may seem like a stringent requirement, it is part of our diligence to canine health. This two-week window allows dogs to rest and recover if they do not manage the stress of a routine vet visit very well. In addition, your dog's immune system has sufficient time to process the vaccine, thereby providing greater protection against illness.

You may upload your dog's vaccination records in your Owner Portal as guided, or have your veterinarian forward them to us via email or fax.

Arrival Day is a busy time for everyone! To accommodate sufficient time for all we schedule 30-minute time slots between 8:00am and 12:00pm.

## ARRIVAL DAY CHECK IN

When you bring your dog for the drop-off, our team members will personally greet and welcome you. The first step of Arrival Day includes a Pre-Training Physical Evaluation. During this process, we'll discuss any past or present concerns you've noted or may have forgotten, such as injuries, surgeries, allergies, sensitivities, or other health issues requiring attention. This initial hands-on approach offers a valuable opportunity to understand and address any underlying challenges your dog may have. For returning clients, we'll also check for any updates since your dog's last visit.

All the gathered information, along with the results of our routine examination, is meticulously documented on a comprehensive health intake form.

For dogs arriving via our shuttle service or before the Program Start Date, the Physical Evaluation will be conducted on Day 1 of the Program. Prior to or after arrival the interview process can conveniently take place through email correspondence or a phone call.

Your remaining estimated balance is due on Arrival Day.

## PRE-EXISTING ILLNESS OR INJURIES

We employ a thorough record-keeping system to ensure our staff accurately administers medications, supplements, and adheres to any dietary or exercise restrictions your dog may have. This system also guides us in preventing further aggravation or escalation of any pre-existing injuries or illnesses your dog may be experiencing.

Many young dogs enrolled in our training programs have a history of destructive chewing and ingesting foreign objects in their homes. Please inform us if your dog has a history of this behavior. We've encountered numerous cases where dogs have expelled items such as golf gloves, underwear, socks, or other foreign objects days to weeks after being dropped off—a potentially life-threatening issue.

We ask that you be detailed and specific in the information you provide. We will use this information for tracking any health changes while your dog is in our care. If we observe significant changes in your dog's health at any time, we will promptly contact you to discuss the matter.

## ADJUSTING TO A NEW ROUTINE

Please understand that dogs live in the present moment, and your dog will be engrossed in its new routine of exercise, training, play, and rest. Rest assured, your dog will not forget you or hold a grudge for leaving it with us. Many dogs entering our program relish the structured training, stimulation, attention, activities, and socialization we offer.

However, your dog's normal routine will be disrupted. While confident and bold dogs typically thrive in our environment and adapt easily to the change in routine, some dogs manage it better than others. For sensitive dogs, being around unfamiliar people and/or dogs can be stressful. This stress may manifest as a loss of appetite, upset stomach, or loose stools. Additionally, a dog's immune system may be less effective in fighting off infections or illnesses while under stress.

To aid your dog's adjustment to its new environment, we maintain a consistent routine of exercise, feeding, rest, and play. We closely monitor your dog's comfort level and make necessary adjustments as needed.

## WELLNESS & HEALTHY WEIGHT

With a dedication to your dog's holistic well-being, we include our exclusive DEVOTION Daily Support Plus in your training program. This carefully crafted all-natural supplement is designed to enhance and support your dog's overall health. We strongly advocate for incorporating essential vitamins and minerals, Omega-3 fatty acids, joint support elements, as well as pre- and pro-biotic supplements into your dog's daily diet. These supplements play a crucial role in aiding digestion, optimizing nutrient absorption, and boosting the immune system to defend against illnesses.

Many healthy dogs may undergo weight loss due to increased exercise and socialization with other dogs during their stay on campus. Our attentive staff ensures that each dog is weighed at least once a week. If your dog exhibits weight loss, we will promptly inform you and may suggest supplementing their meals by increasing portion sizes and/or adding extra feeding.

On the other hand, addressing overweight or obese dogs is a top priority for us. Our goal is to improve your dog's fitness, reduce excess weight, and potentially extend their lifespan. We may recommend reducing food portions and transitioning to a diet more suited to your dog's nutritional needs.

For dogs facing significant health challenges due to excess weight, we may suggest introducing a low-impact, low-exertion program such as water treadmill workouts or an additional exercise regimen. Our customized physical fitness and therapy programs are tailored to enhance your dog's well-being and longevity. Don't hesitate to inquire about these beneficial programs!

## CONTACTING US AND TRAINING UPDATES

We understand that you'll miss your dog, but we urge you to trust in our ability to care for them. The training team and support staff be teaching, testing, pushing, and challenging your dog to work, problem-solve, and think in new ways.

You are always welcome to check in via texting or emailing through your Owner Portal or calling our front desk at 860-546-2116 for general information and questions. Specific inquiries regarding your dog's training will be directed to the training team for follow-up.

Our trainers are obligated to provide you with a routine status update at least once a week.

We've found that video updates allow you to see your beloved companion and provide us with the opportunity to showcase some of their training progress. When you see your dog in a video update, please understand that they're in a focused, concentrated, and learning mindset. They're not wild, wiggly, or hyper, and it's common for owners to mistake this demeanor as unhappiness. However, this isn't the case at all; your dog is actively problem-solving and using their brain! The calmer and more composed they appear, the more engaged they are in the learning process.

Your trainer will designate specific times for phone calls, if necessary, but for efficient time management, we prioritize updates via videos or email. Phone call updates often consume extensive time, and we'd prefer to utilize that valuable time for all dog's receiving training. To streamline communication and avoid phone tag, we'll request one phone number or email address to send updates to. If we reach your voicemail, we'll leave our update in a message.

In addition, often our staff may send photos throughout their stay via our central text messaging platform.

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and trust.

## ILLNESS

While we take considerable pride in our cleaning and disinfecting procedures, we cannot prevent your dog from being exposed to a parasite, bacterium, or virus that lives in the natural environment on our campus.

There are a variety of reasons why your dog may become sick while they are with us, or after returning home to you, although they have been vaccinated. Vaccines are not 100% effective in preventing an infection. Just as a human flu shot does not protect someone from all strains of the virus, neither does a dog's vaccination guarantee protection from illness. A vaccine will not prevent an underlying, low-grade infection from exhibiting clinical symptoms. Your dog may have harbored an infection/illness before it was vaccinated. The vaccination may stress the immune system to the point where your dog then begins to show symptoms of illness. In addition, the stress of changing your dog's normal routine at home to our kennel routine can quickly exacerbate an illness.

Some dogs are curious and leave no territory unexplored. They may gnaw on sticks, eat a clump of grass, run through a puddle, and then lick their feet. They can hike on trails and swim in ponds. Giardia is a natural parasite that is found in parking lots, grassy areas, lakes, rivers, streams, and other wet areas. A young dog, an old dog, or an unhealthy dog may have a suppressed immune system, thereby making them more susceptible to illness, particularly parasites. Over 50% of puppies often contract worms, giardia, and other fun illnesses simply due to their explorations of putting everything into their mouths. It is simply a "puppy rite of passage".

Your dog may be exposed to intestinal illnesses such as Coccidia or Giardia. It may also be exposed to an airborne virus and contract an upper respiratory infection (commonly known as canine cough). These illnesses are like those in our human environment that congregate in schools, daycares, workplaces, and busy public places. We can all contract colds, stomach bugs, or flus but fortunately they are not life threatening; they just make us feel bad for a bit. Tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease, Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever are prevalent in the northeast region. The most obvious clinical signs of these diseases include lameness, joint pain, loss of appetite, lethargy, and fever. We strongly encourage tick protection! We suggest a topical or oral flea and tick protection while at QK. We do not allow flea or tick collars at QK because they unfortunately can get chewed off during playtime.

We understand the distress that arises if your pet falls ill, which is why we prioritize swift communication. Our staff is keenly aware of your dog's everyday habits and wellness condition. When we notice and record signs of health concerns in your dog, such as sneezing, a runny nose, goopy eyes, vomiting, loose stool, or changes in behavior, we consider each of these as potential warning signs. While the team keeps a close watch on your dog's appetite, general condition, and temperature a trainer will promptly inform you if symptoms persist for more than 48 hours (roughly 2 days).

Should your pet display any clinical signs of illness, we will promptly notify you or your designated emergency contact, providing a detailed report of your dog's symptoms along with our recommendations. If we are unable to reach you or your emergency contact, and if we determine that your dog needs veterinary care, we will either arrange a visit with our on-site veterinarian or transport your pet to a local veterinary office.

## INJURY

Although uncommon, your dog may sustain an injury while engaging in play with another dog or participating in a training session. Dogs unaccustomed to socializing with others, traversing uneven terrain, or navigating agility obstacles could experience muscle strains, ankle tweaks, or general stiffness and soreness. During the warmer months, dogs are prone to insect bites or bee stings that may cause a reaction, and scratches from vegetation or sticks while on hiking trails.

Our competent staff is equipped to address various bumps, bruises, and superficial wounds. Any injuries and treatment plans will be thoroughly documented in your dog's records.

Sometimes a dog's excitement may override its caution, thereby causing a more significant injury. In such cases, we will immediately notify you and/or your emergency contact and take decisive action to seek the medical attention your dog may need.

Note: Dogs in our hunting dogs programs are always susceptible to field dangers such cuts, scratches, impalements, and other injuries as most often their intense drive overrides their self-preservation.

## UNEXPECTED VETERINARY CARE

In the unfortunate event of a significant injury or illness lasting more than 48 hours, we have access to the services of a local veterinarian, Dr. Kristin Williams, who attends our facility. Your pet's well-being is our utmost priority, and we emphasize the importance of providing us with a dependable Emergency Contact should we be unable to reach you. In case of an inability to contact you or an emergency contact promptly, we will prioritize your dog's care as if it were one of our own, making decisions in its best interest.

Additionally, we have two emergency veterinary clinics located within a 45-minute radius of the kennel. While emergencies can occur after hours, on weekends, or during holidays, these clinics provide vital services, albeit at a higher cost.

Rest assured, we are committed to making ethically appropriate and potentially life-saving decisions for your dog, irrespective of associated expenses. We respectfully ask you to fill out this section in your Owner Portal, stating your preferences concerning emergency situations in the event immediate contact with you is not possible.

Following treatment, we may recommend that your dog recuperate in the comfort of your home. Any outstanding training owed to you will be honored and completed once your dog has sufficiently recovered to resume training.

Please be aware that all veterinary visits (including transport charges in necessary) will be at your expense.

## IMPORTANCE OF YOUR DOG'S BACKGROUND

Dogs are known for living in the present moment, without dwelling on the past or pondering the future. However, their past experiences significantly influence their success in our training programs.

For instance, puppies raised by reputable breeders receive high-quality diets, frequent exercise, exposure to various stimuli like loud noises, interactions with other animals, and handling by both children and adults. On the other hand, dogs arriving later in adolescence or young adulthood may lack formal training, socialization, and exercise, leading to a deficiency in manners and obedience to their owners. Such dogs often struggle with social issues and tend to overreact to stimuli due to being overly pampered or insufficiently taught to behave properly.

We recognize that every dog is unique and may not neatly fit into predefined categories. Regardless of where your dog falls on the behavioral spectrum, we're here to assist you. We approach each dog individually and tailor our training methods, accordingly, avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach.

Consequently, we cannot guarantee that your dog will be completely "fixed" at the conclusion of a specific program. Instead, our training programs should be viewed as an important initial step in your dog's ongoing journey of training and development.

## DAY ONE OF TRAINING

On Day 1 (Arrival Day) of our full immersion training programs, our trainers meet with you (if present) and conduct a physical evaluation of your dog. They assess your dog's comfort level by having their entire body examined, including from head to tail, back to belly, and from eyes to toes. Additionally, they spend time getting acquainted with your dog.

Throughout the day, as your dog joins the pack on the Patience Line (like a child sitting at their desk in a classroom), our trainers observe their energy level, general manners, focus, and attention. They pay close attention to how your dog interacts with other dogs, their response to being restrained on a short, secure line, and their ability to learn patience and accept training.

Further evaluation occurs while your dog is on leash with us, where we assess their baseline understanding of basic obedience commands, leash behavior, tendency to jump on people, and attitude towards other dogs. We also evaluate if they display fear, confidence, or aggression and assess their willingness to engage in activities like climbing stairs, retrieving toys, or navigating agility equipment. This initial assessment helps us identify your dog's strengths and weaknesses.

The initial training sessions primarily utilize the patience line to teach your dog to focus, practice confinement, relax, and prepare for training. Our goal is to teach, nurture and practice self-composure which truly sets them up for their BEST learning, with a stable and receptive mindset. This sets the groundwork for the remainder of your dog's training, as it helps them understand that disruptive behaviors like pulling, digging, barking, or biting only hinder their progress. Once they learn to accept pressure on their necks to lie down and relax, they are ready to progress to leash-led training.

During this evaluation process, each dog is assigned to a trainer best suited to match their needs and begin their training journey.

## EVALUATION OF PROGRESS

We assess each dog individually, and our training program goals for your dog adhere to the SMART acronym: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely. We keep detailed notes on each dog to monitor their behaviors, reactions, and progress documenting any significant events, breakthroughs, or regressions. Upon completing a training program, you'll receive a summary of training notes.

We refrain from comparing your dog to a specific standard or another dog, considering variables like age, breed, and history. Our objective is to observe steady and incremental progress in each behavior, achievement, and skill every week.

If our trainers notice your dog struggling in a particular aspect of training, we'll reach out to you. Additionally, if your dog displays a dangerous level of aggression at any point during our program, we'll promptly contact you.

## A TYPICAL WEEKDAY

At 7:00am all dogs are transitioned from their indoor enclosures to the outdoor area of their kennel runs. Breakfast is prepared and served, alongside any required medications or supplements. Following this meal, dogs are given time to allow their stomachs to settle before beginning their training day.

During this period, wellness reports are documented, and food and water bowls undergo sanitization. All interior and exterior enclosures and service areas are diligently cleaned and disinfected. Meanwhile, trainers convene for their morning meeting to discuss training progress, set goals, review daily events, address bathing needs, and share any updates regarding dog health or owner updates.

In the morning or afternoon, dogs partake in tailored exercise sessions based on factors such as age, size, fitness level, sociability, and any exercise restrictions. This may entail activities such as running safely in harness alongside an ATV, land or water treadmill workouts, or other exercise options, subject to daily or seasonal weather conditions. Exercise plans are continuously reviewed and adapted for puppies and dogs according to their individual condition.

Throughout the day, trainers engage with their assigned dogs, spending time in various training areas featuring the Patience Line. Here, dogs learn the art of patience, rest, watching other dogs and engaging in various training sessions focused on obedience tasks, manners, and navigating the QK Challenge Course or specialized hunting skills. Training sessions typically range from 15 to 40 minutes, with dogs receiving either one long session or multiple short sessions, contingent upon the task at hand and their performance.

Depending on the phase of the training program, sessions may also encompass activities such as off-site excursions, pond trips, woodland hikes, hunting exercises, acclimation to nail care, baths and grooming, and other life skills.

Socialization to a variety of people, handlers, and dogs remains a cornerstone of the training program, facilitating impolite dogs in learning manners, shy dogs in gaining confidence, and hyperactive or anxious dogs gaining composure of their excess energy.

At approximately 3:30pm, dogs return indoors to rest, followed by the evening meal served between 4 and 5pm. Outdoor access remains available until 5:45pm, after which dogs are brought indoors and settled for the evening.

## A TYPICAL WEEKEND

During Saturdays and Sundays, your dog will relish a well-deserved break after a busy week. They may participate in morning runs alongside ATVs and indulge in afternoon play yard time. While formal training sessions are not held on weekends, we continue to prioritize generalized obedience and manners. The kennel staff adheres to the same cleaning routine and feeding schedule as on weekdays. This weekend respite offers dogs the chance to recharge tired muscles and unwind from the mental challenges of learning new behaviors.

## LANGUAGES AND TIMING

Training your dog to understand commands in English can be challenging. Your dog must grasp your vocabulary as it pertains to commands (spoken words), interpret your body language (posture and actions), and comprehend desired behaviors.

### Consistency is key:

- Are you using the same words consistently?
- Are you delivering commands in a firm or gentle tone?
- Your posture and actions also play a role—do you stand tall and confident, or do you slouch?
- Do you correct mistakes promptly, or do you let them slide?
- How do you reward your dog?
- Is everyone in the family on the same page, using consistent language and methods?
- Imagine the confusion for your dog with different household members speaking different "languages".

**Timing and repetition are also crucial for your dog's success.**

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*Commands must be clear,*

*Corrections should occur immediately when your dog misbehaves,*

*Rewards must be given promptly when desired behaviors are displayed.*

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Our trainers are fluent in the language of dogs and effectively communicate with them. They can help your dog expand their language, but the challenge lies in teaching owners how to communicate effectively with their dogs using this language.

That's why we provide a comprehensive Group Go Home Graduation at QK, where you spend an entire day with your dog, our team of trainers and other graduates before returning home. This immersive experience ensures that both you and your dog are equipped with the necessary tools, skills and understanding for successful communication and continued success training

## THE GROUP GO HOME GRADUATION SEMINAR

The Group Graduation Seminar brings together the QK Training Team and other staff members to collaborate as a unified team in assisting you effectively. This session typically runs from 9 am to 3 pm and takes place outdoors in our covered arena, or during cold seasons in our indoor training room. Please dress appropriately for the weather and wear closed-toed, comfortable shoes, as you will be walking in our outdoor arena and taking part in a group trail hike.

While we encourage all family members to attend the Group Graduation, we understand there may be exceptions such as college-bound kids, elderly parents, or conflicting work schedules. Please note that children under 8 years old may find this event lengthy and may be easily distracted.

The seminar encompasses an educational segment where trainers delve into our methodology, training equipment, canine behavior, language, and more.

After the instructional part concludes, the training team will showcase your dogs' grasp of a new language. Witnessing your dog's ability to respond to directions from the guidance of a composed, confident leader is crucial.

Following this demonstration, you will be reintegrated with your dog. Expect that your dog may exhibit previously learned undesirable behaviors, as they know your weaknesses and past allowances. Now, the trainer transitions into a coaching role, guiding you on proper handling techniques.

The trainers are invested in your success and aim to equip you with insights into consistency, repetition, and timing. They'll highlight your strengths and areas for improvement, emphasizing that your behavior may need adjustment for your dog to improve theirs.

Sustaining your dog's progress hinges on your comprehension, execution, and dedication to working with them. Failure to uphold these principles may result in a regression to previous behavioral issues.

Remarkably, once taught the comprehensive QK Foundation program, your dog will forever retain these skills. The success of the training transitioning to YOU will endure solely on your thorough practices. Commitment to consistent training practices.

## READJUSTING TO HOME LIFE

Anticipate that your dog may exhibit signs of fatigue or appear different from usual upon returning home. We've heard it referred to as "The QK Hangover" Dogs are simply exhausted from the intensive schedule as well as all of the mental focus – much like after your first semester of college. Having undergone an intense regimen of training, exercise, and social interaction in an unfamiliar (at first) setting, your dog is now back in the familiar comforts of home, allowing for rest and recuperation from the demanding routine. While it's natural to want your dog to feel at ease, it's important to avoid reverting to old habits of excessive pampering and indulgence. USE the new tools and skills you've learned AND maintain structure, consistency and Leadership with your dog

However, if your dog continues to display signs of being "off" even after a couple of days, please contact us or reach out to a Training Team member. If you have any concerns whatsoever regarding your dog's health, it's advisable to promptly seek guidance from your veterinarian.

## YOUR KEYS TO MAINTAINING SUCCESS

Completing a training program doesn't mean your dog is fully trained; it's an ongoing process akin to maintaining a muscle's strength. Just like skipping the gym leads to weakening muscles, neglecting training can result in loss of discipline. Thus, it's crucial to uphold discipline consistently wherever you go. We believe there's always room for improvement in a dog's behavior. Continuously working with your dog fosters a solid, trustworthy, and healthy relationship.

Our trainers may strongly recommend that you schedule a private lesson with them on a periodic or a regular basis. In doing so, they can help strengthen weaknesses in your dog's training, or help you become more fluid, confident, and skilled in your handling abilities. The Quiet.Kue Clinic with Jennifer Broome is another opportunity to maintain and hone your skills.

**Practice:** Engaging in daily practice and training sessions significantly enhances the likelihood of positive changes in your dog's behavior. Instead of viewing practice as tedious work, consider it an opportunity to strengthen your bond with your dog. Utilize everyday moments, such as commercial breaks or loading the dishwasher, to integrate training exercises like "Come," "Sit," and "Down" or sending your dog to a designated spot. These moments provide valuable opportunities for your dog to exhibit good manners in various situations. Keep these training sessions brief and enjoyable for your dog to maintain a positive atmosphere. By incorporating these mini sessions consistently throughout the day, you'll establish a pattern of behavior that can easily evolve into habits and eventually become a part of your lifestyle.

Top of Form

**Consistency:** One of the key factors in your dog's success lies in consistent communication. It's essential that all family members adhere to the same commands, tone of voice, corrections, and meaningful rewards.

When everyone in the household maintains consistency, your dog will be more inclined and enthusiastic to please you. For instance, avoid using the words "OFF" interchangeably with "DOWN." The command "OFF" indicates placing all four feet on the floor, whether it's getting off the sofa, stepping off you, or coming down from the counter. Conversely, "DOWN" signifies lying down and relaxing.

Moreover, it's crucial for every family member to enforce the same rules regarding acceptable behavior! For instance, if Mom prohibits the dog from licking dirty dishes in the dishwasher while Dad sees no issue with it, such inconsistency can send mixed messages to your dog. This inconsistency can lead to confusion and ultimately strain the relationship, creating a scenario where the dog listens to one family member but not the other, which is detrimental.

**Patience:** When it comes to patience, it's important to take into account the age of your dog. A young puppy lacks extensive life experience and hasn't had much time to develop naughty habits. However, dealing with a puppy's short attention span requires patience. Conversely, older dogs have had more opportunities to engage in undesirable behavior. While it's possible to "teach an old dog new tricks", it may take additional patience, time and effort (reps) to un-train bad habits and instill good behavior.

**Challenges in Desired Behavior:** Training your dog to sit in the comfort of your living room is relatively simple. However, training your dog to stay focused on you and resist pulling on the leash amid distractions, like neighborhood kids playing Frisbee, is more challenging. It's essential to be aware of these potential distractions and difficulties and be prepared to ramp up your efforts to maintain high standards regardless of them. This underscores the importance of always having the e-collar ready and on.

## SOME ADDITIONAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Can I bring my dog's bowl, bed, and toys?

A: We provide all essential items your dog requires during their stay with us. Our priority is the health and well-being of your pet. Consequently, we exclusively offer items that are resistant to chewing, easy to disinfect, and safe for your dog. This approach not only safeguards your dog's health but also helps mitigate any potential possessive aggression issues.

Q: Can I come and visit my dog during the training?

A: Although we don't outright forbid you from visiting your dog, we advise against it as it can hinder your dog's progress. Your presence may make it harder for your dog to adjust to your absence once more, potentially setting back their progress. Furthermore, it disrupts our training routine as it requires our trainers' time and attention, impacting not only your dog's training but also that of our other client dogs.

Q: My dog has a high-maintenance coat. Can you brush him daily?

A: While we pride ourselves on treating your dog with the same care as our own, we don't offer daily maintenance brushing or grooming. However, we promptly remove any burrs, ticks, or debris from your dog's coat and provide weekly hygiene checks or baths. If your dog gets dirty outdoors, we're happy to give them a quick bath to ensure their well-being and maintain cleanliness in our facility. For more comprehensive grooming services, please contact our office to explore the extensive options offered.

Q: Will my dog need to wear an e-collar constantly?

A: Your dog will wear the e-collar during all training sessions and when addressing undesirable behaviors like jumping on guests or chasing the cat. Without the collar, correcting poor behavior becomes challenging. As your dog becomes accustomed to it, they'll better respond to verbal commands or corrections. Eventually, many owners find their dogs no longer need the electronic collar. However, we recommend regular e-collar practice to maintain your dog's compliance, especially in distracting situations. It's better to have the e-collar and not need it, than to need it and not have it, particularly in emergencies like your dog running toward a road while chasing a squirrel.

Q: Do you offer a guarantee for your training programs?

A: The effectiveness of our program relies significantly on your dedication to practicing and upholding the training your dog has received. We assure you that we have equipped your dog with ample training, exercise, and socialization. We've played a key role in establishing a strong foundation of obedience for your dog. However, the ultimate success hinges on your ongoing leadership and consistent reinforcement of the training.

## CONCLUSION

We want to express our genuine gratitude for taking the time to review this Training Orientation Guide. Once again, we sincerely appreciate your trust in Quinebaug Kennels and our team to care for your family pet. Our commitment to assisting you and your dog remains steadfast, and we encourage you to reach out with any questions or concerns.

For your future needs, we offer comprehensive Boarding services with Enrichment options, Continued Education training, and Rehabilitation Programs. We also provide a canine shuttle service operating three times weekly between New York City, Boston, and their surrounding areas. Additionally, we offer private lessons and many extraordinary events throughout the year designed to expand your knowledge.

One of particular importance for you is The.Quiet.Kue Clinic. This event is offers the opportunity for you and your dog to take part in an exclusive learning opportunity with QK owner, renowned trainer and now author - Jennifer Broome, the mastermind behind The.Quiet.Kue™ methodology and teaching system. We understand that everyBODY - humans and dogs - often need a "refresher" to brush up and practice what has been forgotten over time, and Jennifer's expertise promises to reignite your understanding and connection with your dog.

We deeply appreciate your support, and we would be extremely grateful for any recommendations you could provide to others who may receive help from our services. Your referrals enable us to reach more families in need of aid, allowing us to continue our mission of providing a high-quality life for companions and sporting dogs and their owners.

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***QK-Quinebaug Kennels 2024***

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