FORTIS Canine LLC

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Owner / Master Dog Trainer

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$445 6-week Puppy Program

FORTIS Canine LLC proudly offers a six-week puppy training class incorporating the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy program. **This program consists of twice-weekly, one-hour sessions** designed to build confidence and good manners in your puppy, providing an excellent foundation for future training and preparation for the Canine Good Citizen title.

**Socializing:** This will focus on safe puppy interactions and learning how to properly greet other dogs and interact with play.

**Clicker training:** This is the foundation for all training that requires time for the primary reward (food or toy). Clickers are a bridge or a promise that says you’re doing what I ask, and your reward is coming keep it up.

**Sit:** Let’s start with a bait and lure technique setting the foundation for the handler to start training their puppy with positive reinforcement. This helps the owner learn that every training session is a game and it needs to be fun.

**Down:** This is the second most important position for a puppy to learn. A down is a submissive position for a dog. So, by teaching a down stay your dog will learn that this position means to calm down and listen. It is also the foundation for teaching good home manners and place.

**Come or recall:** **This is the most important skill in my opinion**. This is a safety fundamental that keeps the puppy out of harm’s way, like the road or away from dangers like other dogs or grills that smell so good to the unknowing and hungry pup.

**Heel:** The puppy should learn this a position not a movement when you start to walk. The heel position should not change during sitting, walking, running or making turns.

**Place:** Place is a command used to put your puppy into a down stay or extended sit stay. You can place the dog in a crate on a dog bed, and they should do so happily and wait for further instructions. This is critical for hyper dogs when guests come over, or just to keep them from getting under your feet in the kitchen. It has many useful applications.

**Door manners:** Does your UPS or Amazon delivery driver know your dog too well because they bolt out of the house when you open the door? I can fix that. This is also a big safety tool to teach your dog.

**AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy: $25 for evaluation any time after the 6- week puppy class**

The AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy program focuses on all the things every puppy and owner need to have a great start together.

STAR stands for Socialization, Training, Activity and a Responsible owner and in six weeks of STAR puppy classes, puppies and dogs learn the following behaviors and skills:

**OWNER BEHAVIORS:**

1. Maintains puppy’s health (vaccines, exams, appears healthy)

2. Owner receives Responsible Dog Owner’s Pledge

3. Owner describes adequate daily play and exercise plan

4. Owner and puppy attend at least 6 classes by an AKC Approved CGC Evaluator

5. Owner brings bags to classes for cleaning up after puppy

6. Owner has obtained some form of ID for puppy-collar tag, etc.

**PUPPY BEHAVIORS:**

7. Free of aggression toward people during at least 6 weeks of class

8. Free of aggression toward other puppies in class

9. Tolerates collar or body harness of owner’s choice

10. Owner can hug or hold puppy (depending on size)

11. Puppy allows owner to take away a treat or toy

**PRE-CANINE GOOD CITIZEN® TEST BEHAVIORS:**

12. Allows (in any position) petting by a person other than the owner

13. Grooming-Allows owner handling and brief exam (ears, feet)

14. Walks on a Leash-Follows owner on lead in a straight line (15 steps)

15. Walks by other people-Walks on leash past other people 5-ft away

16. Sits on command-Owner may use a food lure

17. Down on command-Owner may use a food lure

18. Comes to owner from 5-ft when name is called

19. Reaction to Distractions-distractions are presented 15-ft away

20. Stay on leash with another person (owner walks 10 steps and returns)

AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy prepares pups to move on to Canine Good Citizen training. For example, in STAR, puppies must walk on a leash in a straight line. In CGC, the task becomes more advanced with dogs walking in a pattern that includes right and left turns and stops.

The skills in AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy classes are practical and functional. Teaching puppies to tolerate grooming, handling, and basic exams of the ears, feet, and mouth will result in well-mannered puppies that veterinarians are happy to see.

**How It Works**

Attend an AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy class for at least 6 weeks. Your instructor will administer the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test at the end of the course. Upon passing the test, you’ll get an application to send to AKC® for the certificate or title (includes certificate). All dogs are welcome to participate in the program including purebreds and mixed breeds.