



AKC S.T.A.R. PUPPY®

Sample 6-Weeks Class

Numbers indicate the number of the S.T.A.R. test item

Week 1

#1 - Shows proof puppy is in care of vet (vaccine records)

#9 – Puppy tolerates collar, harness, etc. (owner choice)

#10 – Owner can hug or hold puppy

#14 – Walks on leash, follows owner in straight line

#15 – Walks by other people

- Intro to our classes
- #1- Collect/look at proof of vet care if you haven't done this already
- Rules (what to wear, clean up after your pup, etc.)
- Explain the general format, explanation of earning STAR Puppy (show the medal on the poster), hand out the STAR brochure to show them the skills their puppy will learn, Responsible Dog Owner's Pledge.
- Intros- good idea to have students introduce themselves and their puppy ("So, now let's take a minute and get to know each other...Tell us your name, and your puppy's name, age, and breed")
- #9- Instructor goes around room and checks to see collars/harnesses fit.
- #10- Attempt to pet each puppy, as owners hold puppies
- #14- "Let's try an exercise... I'd like to see how your puppies are doing walking on a leash. One at a time, you're going to walk from ___ to ___ in a straight line. Ready?" (They walk about 15 ft. Remember to praise each student and puppy). Other students and dogs are standing away from the student who is working.
- #15- "Now let's make this a little harder. Let's have a few people stand here (show them where) and I'd like you to walk by the people and their dogs." Do this at a distance of 5 ft. away. If a puppy has a hard time, remind the owner to talk to and encourage the puppy and if necessary, try the exercise with the puppy further away.

Ask students if they are having any problems, have any questions.

Homework: #3 – "For next week, please write down your dog's exercise schedule and bring it to class." (alternative: ask about this in class). Bring a favorite toy to class along with your training treats. Bring a clean up bag to every class.



Week 2 AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Class

- #2 – Puppy appears healthy & active for breed
- #3 - Exercise and activity schedules
- #7 – Free of aggression toward people
- #8 – Free of aggression toward other puppies
- #11– Puppy allows owner to take away treat or toy
- #16– Sits on command (owner can use food)

- Welcome to Class #2. Did anyone have any problems this week with their puppy's behavior? (instructor gives tips; for extensive problems, help after class)
- #2 and #3- You can combine talking about their breeds and the exercise plans. Let's have a look at your written exercise plans (alternative: ask them to tell you what they do for exercise with their puppy). Give feedback, suggestions
- #7- Ask if anyone has had problems with aggression toward people. Play Pass the Puppy for young pups, have a helper go around and pet older pups. Visitors without puppies to manage can help by petting other peoples' puppies.
- #8- In a puppy play session, observe to see if there is any puppy to puppy aggression. While puppies play, supervise carefully, ask owners if they've had any problems with dog to dog aggression. If there was a dog/puppy who had an aggression problem, to keep everyone safe, this dog should be removed from the group—consider private lessons until the dog is under control.
- #11- Owners play with pups and their favorite toys or gives the puppy a treat. When puppy is playing with the toy, the owner says, "give" and takes the toy for a second, then rewards puppy with a small treat.
- #16 – Sits on command (owner can use food). Show owners how to use a food lure to teach sit on command. Go around the class, giving each owner/puppy a turn.
- End of class—any questions?

Homework: practice sit with fading of lure, practice walk on leash, get puppies out for neighborhood walks for socialization. Invite people encountered on the daily walks to pet your puppy.



Week 3 AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Class

#5 – Owner brings bags for clean up to class

#6 – Owner has obtained some form of ID (e.g. tag)

#12 - Allows petting by someone other than owner

#17 – Down on command (owner can use food)

#18 – Comes to owner from 5 ft

- Welcome to the 3rd class, everyone. You're halfway to the STAR Medal for your puppy! Any questions from this week?
- #5- Remember how we've talked about being ready to clean up after your puppy? Let's do a bag check...raise your hand if you brought a clean-up bag..GREAT Job! (or you can ask to see bags if it isn't obvious)
- #6- In the STAR brochure you got in the first class, you saw one of the STAR test items is having an ID for your puppy. This can be a collar tag, tattoo, or microchip. In the last class, we'll check for these. Does everyone have a form of ID?
- #12- Instructor and/or helpers/visitors go around to meet puppies and pet them.
- #17- Demo down on command using a lure, owners practice with their dogs. Instructor gives feedback.
- #18- Introduce and demo with 1 dog "comes to owner from 5 ft." Practice the recall; a helper can hold the puppy while owner calls the puppy to come.
- Any questions?

If there is time, have a puppy play session or outdoor walk.

Homework: practice down with fading of lure, practice come from 5ft and lengthen distance if puppies can do this, continuing socializing your puppy in the community and having people pet your puppy.



Week 4 AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Class

- #19 – Reactions to distractions
- #20 – Stay on leash with another person

- This is the 4th class. The puppies are looking great—does anyone have any problems or questions?
- Let's take a few minutes for a review. Everyone get in a line about 6 ft. apart, puppies on your left side and when I say, "forward", walk forward with your puppy (#14).
- Now let's practice sit. I'll come around and see how you're doing. (#16)
- Next, we'll practice down. One at a time (#17)
- #19- This week, introduce Reaction to distractions. Have some distractions ready and expose the puppies to these. In STAR test, distractions are 15-ft. away. If puppies can do this, you can move the distraction closer (in CGC test it is 5-ft).
- #20- explain how there are times when you'll need someone to watch your puppy. Instructor or helper/visitor holds puppy in the STAR test while owner walks 10 steps away and returns. If puppy can't tolerate, use shaping with going away 1 step at a time. Older puppies who can do this can practice a longer distance.

If there is any extra time, take a walk to practice walking on a leash or have a puppy play session.

Homework: practice exposing your dog to new places, things (distractors), if possible have your puppy stay on leash with another person while you walk away and return; practice sit, down and come. Next week: bring your puppy's brush or comb to class.



Week 5

AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Class

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

- Welcome to Class #5. Are there any questions, problems teaching the skills, or behavior problems anyone would like to ask about?
- #13- this week, we're going to talk about grooming. For the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test, you'll need to be able to briefly handle your puppy's ears and feet. In the CGC test, someone else will check the puppy's ears and feet. We're getting your puppy ready for grooming and being handled by a veterinarian. Instructor goes around and watches students handle ears/feet of their puppies. If puppy can do this, the instructor can try the CGC version where the instructor handles the ears/feet.
- This isn't on the STAR test, but I'd like to see how your puppies do when you brush/comb them.
- Demo of nail clipping. (if the instructor is not permitted to do this re: liability, a groomer can come in, or the instructor can simply show types of equipment). Check puppy nails to make sure they are not too long.
- Practice of skills learned so far—is anyone having any trouble with any of the skills? What is the hardest one for your puppy?
- You're all doing just great—most of the STAR items have already been checked off for you; next week, we'll do a quick review and have graduation.

If there is time, have a puppy play session or go for a walk and practice walking on a leash, meeting another person, and doing sit, down and come (on leash) in another area.

Homework: practice anything you've had a problem with, remember to bring your dog's ID (microchip papers) if you don't have a collar tag we can see.



Week 6 AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Class

#4 – Attends all classes.

This week, there will be a quick review or the instructor will have students demonstrate any skills not yet seen in class. This can be the final play session for puppy's and a graduation party and photo opportunity. OWNERS FILL OUT THE AKC S.T.A.R. PUPPY REGISTRATION FORM.

HAPPY GRADUATION!

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
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)