Atlas Assistance Dogs®
Teams Set in Motion™ Course Syllabus
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Course Description

This course is designed to help you understand all that goes into training a confident dog. They might be a future service dog, a future emotional support dog, a future therapy dog, or a well-adjusted happy companion. It is much more than teaching basic obedience and tasks. In fact, when you first start training a service dog (or any dog) most people think it is about obedience. It's not.

It's about building:

- Confidence – so that your dog can work in new environments and around new things

- Focus and attention – so that your dog can work around distractions

- Calmness – so that your dog can be still for many hours at a time

- Impulse control – so that we don't have to micromanage our puppies and adolescent dogs

- Understanding for your training system – so that the dog can easily learn and not become frustrated or bored

- A solid relationship – so that your dog will trust you and want to work with you

This course will teach you how to get your dog to engage with you, to focus on you, and to pay attention to you. It will teach you clean mechanics (the timing and delivering of a treat), positive reinforcement, and how to build a strong foundation for your puppy or dog. It will help you develop and implement training plans. It will help you and your dog learn how to problem solve.

This course is broken into modules. Each module is broken into sections or pages with step-by-step instructions, downloads, videos, and info graphs to help teach you the skills you need to train your dog. At the end of each module will be a check point to ensure you understand what is being taught.

As you complete a module, you will be able to advance to the next module. Each module builds on the next.

For example:

- Module two focuses on creating and implementing training plans.

- Module three focuses on markers, mechanics, and reinforcement procedures.

- Module four focuses on cues and the ABCs of dog learning theory.

- Module five focuses on dog body language.

- Module six focuses on the different training methods.

Once you've completed the first six modules you will start on Targets and be able to implement a training plan with clean mechanics and an understanding of how to train a target behavior using positive reinforcement. How cool is that!

There is no time limit on this course.

Course Objectives

This course will:

- Teach participants best practices for setting up successful training plans
- Teach participants about the different markers
- Teach participants how to refine mechanical skills
- Teach participants principles of rate of reinforcement
- Teach participants proofing and fluency
- Teach participants skills and principles to help a dog gain confidence
- Teach participants about basic Learning Theory
- Teach participants about dog body language
- Teach participants how to identify and use different training methods to train basic obedience and advanced behaviors

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the participant will be able to:

- Create training plans which can be adjusted to a client's and dog's changing needs
- Describe examples of good mechanics
- Contrast different rates of reinforcement and describe how they are used
- Describe how to refine a behavior with proofing and fluency
- Identify and apply basic Learning Theory in their approach to dog training
- Identify and describe different training methods
- Describe training methods to help build confidence in both clients and dogs
- Describe what a dog is communicating through his body language

Outline

- Creating and Implementing a Training Plan
- Markers, Mechanics, and Reinforcement
- About Cues
- Dog Body Language
- Different Training Methods
- Proofing and Fluency
- Targets
- Walking Together
- How to Build Focus
- How to Build Attention
- Foundation Skills
- Play Skills
- Exercise
- Impulse Control
- Life Skills
- Recalls
- Retrieval
- Body Awareness Exercises
- Behavior Management Approaches
- Outings and Novelties

Don't forget to join the Facebook group (Links to an external site.). This will be a great place to post videos, have discussions, and ask for help.

We will have Q&A's via Zoom to answer any questions. Remember, we are all in the same "training boat." Be kind to yourself and be kind to others who are on this training journey.

Let's get started!