



## Puppy School FAQ's

### **Why should my puppy attend puppy school?**

The critical learning and socialisation period for dogs is 8 to 16 weeks of age. For pups in this age group Puppy Class provides a safe positive environment for you and your puppy to learn important life skills that will allow your puppy to evolve into a friendly, well behaved, and social member of the family.

### **How old must my puppy be to attend Puppy School?**

We recommend puppies commence Puppy School training from 8-16 weeks of age.

### **My dog is older than the suggested age – can I still enrol?**

Unfortunately, we cannot accept puppies older than 16 weeks at the commencement of their first class. We are happy to recommend alternative dog obedience and training facilities in the area for puppies older than 16 weeks.

### **Can my puppy fail Puppy School?**

There are no puppy failures!

Some puppies take longer than others to learn desired behaviours, and some owners work harder than others to teach their dogs manners and obedience. Don't be discouraged if your puppy seems to be comparatively naughty compared to other dogs in puppy school. We can work with you

and advise you in your ongoing management of your dog's behaviour if you still need help at the conclusion of puppy school.

### **Do you offer any puppy behaviour guarantees?**

Whilst we are very confident in our Puppy School program, we are not able to offer a guarantee on puppy behaviour. Puppy behaviours are subject to elements beyond our control, such as its lifestyle at home, owner's level of commitment to training and even the natural tendency of personality that prevents us from being able to offer a behaviour based guarantee.

### **Can I expect perfect behaviour from my puppy after Puppy School?**

No Puppy Training school can offer guaranteed results. There are so many influencers that can affect the Puppy training including home environment, owner/s, other dogs, the puppy's behaviours and habits and many more.

Puppy School is the first step in a lifetime of behavioural guidance for you as a dog owner. What you can expect is to:

- build a very positive foundation for appropriate behaviours with your puppy
- receive expert guidance on how to continue rewarding positive behaviours
- foster a lifelong positive connection with your puppy

- gain a better understanding of natural dog behaviours and how to work with a dog's natural instincts
- learn positive training, basic commands and behaviour reinforcement techniques

### **What will my puppy & I learn by attending puppy school?**

- Socialisation/interaction - with people and other dogs
- Toilet training advice
- Familiarisation with the hospital - making visits less stressful
- Settling and calming techniques
- Troubleshooting - addressing any issues such as mouthing/biting
- Basic training - sit, drop, stay, mat training and recall training
- Handling- for grooming, vet examinations and medicating your pup
- Tricks and games
- Environmental enrichment
- Understanding dog psychology

### **If I miss a class, can I attend a make-up class or get a refund?**

We strongly suggest you attend all 5 consecutive weekly classes in our Puppy School course to get the full value of the learning opportunities we provide for you and your puppy. We do not offer make-up classes, nor do we offer partial refunds if you miss a single class.

### **Where are the puppy school classes held?**

Classes are held on site at Maroubra Veterinary Hospital, 88 Bunnerong Road, Pagewood on Thursday evenings 7.30-8.30pm and Sundays 12-1pm.

### **What are the class sizes?**

We limit spaces to 5 puppies to allow our puppy trainer time for individual assessment and coaching in each class.

### **Can my children or other family members come along?**

Yes! We believe that puppy obedience training works best when all family members are consistent in their puppy training techniques. However, please check with us if you plan on bringing more than 2 extra people to class.

### **Are there any other requirements for my puppy to attend Puppy School?**

Yes, your dog must have received its first vaccination. If your puppy was not vaccinated at MVH we will need to see your puppy's vaccination certificate prior to the commencement of class.

### **How much does puppy school cost?**

The series of 5 x weekly classes costs \$185 plus GST, payable in advance.

### **Who is the Puppy School Dog Trainer?**

Michelle O'Brien runs the classes and has completed the following accreditations: Certificate IV in Companion Animal Services (Delta), Bachelor of Science majoring in Brain, Behaviour and Evolution (Animal Behaviour).

Michelle has been training dogs for over 15 years and is qualified in using positive reinforcement training methods. She has also worked as an assistant Animal Wrangler for film and television, and has work for ASDOG training assistant dogs to aid people with physical disabilities.

### **How can I book in for Puppy School?**

Please contact our trainer directly to book into a class:

**Michelle O'Brien**  
**Mobile: 0410 343 110**