

Training Classes Update, June 2008

As you may know, we have been pleased to offer our training classes free of charge since early in 2004. These classes are a very important part of our services as class participants have shared how advice and training has turned frustrating situations into successful human/canine interactions, strengthening bonds and allowing animals that may otherwise have been surrendered to stay in their homes. Many training class participants have made a donation in appreciation of the benefits they have received from these classes. We truly wish we could continue to offer these classes free of charge, but the demand for training assistance grows and donations are not covering the cost.

We have surveyed training class participants for almost 6 months to gain an understanding of what participants are willing to pay for classes. After much internal consideration and participant input, we have arrived at fees for most of our training classes that we hope you find to be fair. Again, we want to be a resource for you, but we cannot continue to do so without covering our basic costs. We will continue to offer One on One Consultations at no cost as these address specific concerns. We will also continue to offer Puppy Play Parties at no cost as we feel strongly about adequate and positive socialization at this early age so that pups can grow into social, well mannered adult dogs. For any dog or puppy adopted from our organization, we will offer one free class (excluding the Canine Good Citizen class) with proof of adoption. If someone in need of training for their dog is not able to afford the minimal cost, a scholarship fund is available if proof of financial need is demonstrated (inquire with our Training department for more information).

Many class names have also changed, though the content of each class has remained the same. The name change is intended to make the purpose of each class more clearly identified.

The fees for our classes can be found by visiting the class descriptions, class start dates and times, or individual class registration forms on our website (www.couleehumane.com) under the training and behavior link. The new fees will go into effect for any classes beginning on or after July 1, 2008. If you have signed up for any class prior to June 11th, 2008 that begins after July 1, you will not be subject to the new fees, though a financial or in-kind contribution to our organization is always appreciated. If you have any questions about these changes or classes, please contact Shirley Richards at 608-781-4014 or shirley.richards@couleehumane.com. And, please remember that there are multiple training opportunities available to you in our area that includes Pet Me Scratch Me, Sue Butler In Home Training, Bark Busters, and Family Dog Center. Visit our links page to learn more about these organizations.

Thank you so much for allowing us to be your animal resource!