

GO FOR IT! *Relaxed and Ready* - Seminar Requirements

Site:

For the security of the dogs and for their ability to (perhaps for the first time) relax in a dog and human populated setting, we require sufficient space to present this seminar to our standards.

Size: minimum of 4500 sq feet (depending on the layout of the space). Our most successful seminars have been in spaces that are 80 feet x 80 feet. The smaller dimension must be at least 60 feet.

Parking: there needs to be sufficient parking for the numbers of people in attendance.

Windows: any windows must be covered so that participants are able to view the video portions of the presentation in sufficient detail to appreciate the concepts being taught.

Lights: It helps if half of the light can be turned off or down, again, to facilitate the ability to view the video clips.

Audio-Visual:

We will bring a laptop and computer projector. We require

- a projection screen (9 feet on the diagonal)
- (2) wireless microphones
- sound system that has the ability to plug in an audio cable from the laptop to the sound system. We will bring 100 feet of audio cable that can be either a 3.5 mm jack or an RCA jack into the sound system.
- The sound system needs to be within 100 feet of the laptop and projector.

Setup:

There is a lot required in set up. We will need to set up the audio-visual, the training space and the individual stations on the night before the seminar. Please provide

- people to help set up the night before
- people to cut up dog treats and to fill food tubes. These will then need to be refrigerated and ready for use on Saturday morning.

Tables and Chairs:

We require:

- one banquet table to hold the computer and projector
- a second banquet table to hold our supplies and such
- tables for hospitality and lunch.
- If there are no chairs in the facility, chairs will need to be included on the list for participants to bring. We will provide you with a suggested list of things for people to bring.

Barriers:

We use lots of environmental structure in these seminars. This is the start of teaching the handlers how to lower criteria to a point where the dog is able to be relaxed, calm and focused, i.e. ready to work. We use many ring gates and barriers.

J&J Ring Gates: Our ideal barrier to use is J&J-type PVC ring gates that are free-standing. We use these scrunched up so that they provide more visual blocking and a higher profile than they have when stretched out at their full length (as used in a dog show ring). A 10-foot ring gate becomes about 4-feet of useful length. The free-standing (those with "feet") are much better for this purpose as we can easily move them aside

Here is a short video clip demonstrating the use of these ring gates in a CU class:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOciWV9a1pA>

We will need the following spaces created with ring gates and barriers:

1. A 20 ft x 20 ft box made up of J&J type PVC ring gates (that would be ideal). We use these squashed up so they are taller and have more blocking effect than when stretched out to their full 10 foot length. It takes (3) of these for each side of the box.
2. A 10 ft x 10 ft space (referred to as a CU station) made up of ring gates, barriers, X-pens, jump wings and whatever else you can come up with. One for each of the working teams. Ideally, we would like to use the J&J type PVC free-standing gates across the 10-foot width of each working dog station. These are easy to move back and forth for the team to come in and out of the station and easy for us to move back and forth as we raise/lower criteria. We can use agility jump wings for part of the front of each station if need be.

We will need barriers of some kind for the 10-foot sides of each station. These can be the PVC type shown in the photos (see addendum) or they can be agility jumps with a lot of jump bars for visual blocking, possibly some covered with sheets.

X-pens can be used for the back of each CU station. If each working team can bring (2) X-pens we can make those work for the backs. X-pens with sheets can be used for the sides if need be.

Supplies:

FOOD TUBES: One of the things we use to help dogs learn to relax is a food tube filled with gooey stuff for licking. We will need at least (8) of these filled and ready to go each day. You can see the food tubes at:

<http://www.petexpertise.com/helix>

You don't need to order them on-line necessarily; they are available in places where camping gear is sold. Their original use was to carry condiments with you more easily when camping or back-packing.

Filling should be canned dog food. Please provide plenty!

Other things that can be used for filling are:

- cream cheese
- oatmeal
- goat's milk cheese
- liverwurst (braunsweiger) (too much fat content to be used for very long)
- canned pumpkin can be added to any of these things
- jars of baby meat

The filling needs to be easily squeezed from the tube. If it's too thick, it causes the fastener to pop off the other end. Fill the tubes about 2/3 full so there is not too much pressure on the fastener. Canned dog food can be scooped out of the can and mushed up using some of the liquid from the can to thin it out.

TREATS: We need to have a quantity of high value, fresh, soft treats cut up small to back up what the working teams bring - just in case they do not bring high value enough treats. Please have these cut up and in containers on the presenters' table so we can easily grab them when working with a dog and handler.

We prefer only good nutritional treats; in some cases, one must use whatever works. Some suggestions are:

- Rollover
- Red Barn (food roll) (Lamb & Rice version has no wheat)
- Natural Balance (food roll)
- Cheese
- String cheese
- Hot Dogs (Jenny-O Turkey are not quite so slimy to handle)
- Costco Meatballs (cut up while frozen)
- <http://www.cyberagility.com/tuna.html> (recipe to make homemade treats)
- <http://www.cyberagility.com/mackerel.html> (another recipe)
- Cooked chicken if it's been dried a little so it's not crumbly
- ZiwiPeak dog food (already in little pieces)
- Zuke's treats

SMALL DOGS: If we have any small dogs in this seminar, please have some "liquid" treats available - the little ones tend to fill up fast :) We use bottles such as those seen here:

<http://www.petexpertise.com/helix>

You will also need to have some liquids available. Some ideas are low-salt broth, Vita-gravy type stuff (dog food supplement); plain meat baby food thinned with water, etc. One of Megan's tiny-dog students used a mixture of light cream cheese, liverwurst and water (yuck! - but her dog loved it!)

WOODEN SPOONS: We need a selection of wooden spoons (you can get them from the dollar store) and containers of the lickable stuff to use on them - liverwurst, cream cheese, peanut butter, etc. Have someone load these with gooey stuff on the morning of each day and placed on our supply table.

Hand-outs:

We will provide a master set of hand-outs for you to photocopy and make up into folders for each participant. These should include a roster of names and email addresses for everyone so that they can network with each other and support each other in their post-seminar work. We will also provide information for joining a yahoo discussion list restricted to people who have taken our seminars.

HOSPITALITY:

We expect attendees at our seminars to be able to eat lunch while networking and asking questions of us. Please provide a lunch on site (either as part of the seminar fee or by charging attendees for it). We require the usual morning hospitality for people. Everything you can do to create a generous, supportive atmosphere helps everyone feel they are in the right place.

