

What is the difference between a Working Spot vs. Non-working Spot?

Our workshops encourage a flexible learning environment, accommodating those who want hands-on experience, as well as those who prefer to observe and learn.

1. **Working Spot:** This is an interactive role where participants bring their dogs to partake in the training. Whether attendees are looking to work with their own dogs or are traveling and need a dog provided, there is flexibility for accommodation.

Every student with a working spot will have the opportunity to personally execute training methods and techniques. This practical, immediate feedback is beneficial for both the dog and the owner. Each challenge or success becomes a real-time learning experience.

2. **Non-working Spot (Audit Spot):** This option is ideal for individuals who may not have a dog or prefer to learn by watching others first. Observers can learn from multiple scenarios, as each dog-handler team might face different challenges. This allows a broad perspective on how to handle various situations. Observers can take notes, ask questions and absorb information without having to manage a dog simultaneously.

Both the 'working' and 'non-working' spots have their own advantages, depending on the learning style and needs of the attendees. Regardless of the option chosen, every participant stands to gain a wealth of knowledge from this experiential workshop.

What will we cover?

Our workshops are an incredible opportunity for both new and experienced dog owners and trainers alike. By covering a comprehensive range of training needs, participants will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding and skills in various areas, making it a highly valuable experience.

Key aspects will likely include:

1. **Loose Leash walking, leash work, place work and crate training**, which are critical for control, connection, building neutrality around stimuli and safety, especially in public spaces or when the dog needs to be secure at home.
2. **Addressing specific behavioral issues**, such as reactivity, aggression, resource guarding, separation anxiety, or excessive barking.
3. **E-collar using the mini educator**, including how to utilize tools like eCollars effectively and humanely. Incorporating the use of an eCollar also opens up a broader range of training techniques and methods for those who are interested or already utilizing this tool.

4. **Building a strong, respectful relationship with your dog** through understanding their communication cues, providing appropriate exercise and mental stimulation, and learning how to effectively use reward-based positive reinforcement.
5. **Basic obedience training**, where participants can learn how to effectively teach their dogs commands like "sit," "stay," "come," and "leave it."
6. **Reading Body Language** Dogs communicate largely through body language. By understanding what their movements, posture, and facial expressions indicate, you'll be able to interpret their mood, stress level, and intentions. This helps prevent mishaps and misunderstandings between you and your dog, strengthening your relationship.
7. **Healthy Appropriate Play**: Understanding what constitutes healthy play is key to ensuring your dog is socializing well and not bullying or being bullied. We will cover appropriate play with other dogs in addition to with humans in order to exercise, physically and mentally drain your pup, redirect behavior like prey drive for proper fulfillment and practice impulse control.
8. **Impulse control and ultimately how to have a calm, neutral and confident dog**

Ultimately our workshop is set to address some of the most common and important aspects of dog training, with an emphasis on offering personalized advice and training strategies.

Emphasizing trust and respect is a crucial aspect of dog training that often gets overlooked. Instead of relying solely on commands and control, creating a bond based on trust and respect can lead to a much happier and more cooperative dog. Participants will learn how to assert themselves as calm and confident leaders whom their dogs feel secure and happy to listen to. This can make a significant difference in the overall home environment and the happiness of both the dog and owner. No matter what the primary concern is for each attendee, there will be something valuable to learn.

Will food be provided?

Lunch is provided Friday and Saturday. We provide brunch and dinner on Sunday. Providing lunch daily and a special dinner on Sunday definitely builds a sense of camaraderie and community among attendees. I believe this makes the workshop not only educational but also a truly enjoyable event to network and connect with other dog enthusiasts.

Schedule

****Day 1 (Friday) and Day 2 (Saturday)**:**

* 10:00 AM: Workshop begins. This is a great time for introductions and an overview of the day's activities.

* 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Morning session. Day 1 and 2 every person who has a working spot will have a 20 minute session to cover whatever you and your dog needs. Every dog will go 2-3x the first two days.

* 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM: Hour Lunch break. This gives participants a chance to rest, ask further questions in a casual setting, and build connections with the other attendees.

* 2:00 PM - 3:00/4:00 PM: Afternoon session.

My goal is to start the workshop later in the morning and by including a lunch break, we are ensuring that participants will have the energy and focus to absorb the lessons.

****Day 3 (Sunday)**:**

* 11:00 AM: Workshop begins. This later start time allows for individuals to rest after the intensive sessions of the previous days. We will have breakfast and coffee.

* 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM: Morning session. Continue with practical exercises and work in more advanced concepts and techniques. Wrap up any remaining lessons or activities, and give participants time to apply what they've learned in a controlled environment, and offer advice for further practice at home.

* Post-Session: Early dinner is included. This is a great way to conclude the workshop on a relaxed and positive note, offering a chance for participants to share their experiences, discuss their progress, build community, and ask any final questions.

This schedule ensures that participants have a comprehensive, enjoyable, and rewarding experience over the course of the three-day workshop. It provides a balance of practical experiences with time for rest and reflection.

Can I record?

Recording training sessions can be a great learning tool not only for dog trainers but also for the owners. It allows for review, reflection, and improvement. I record our sessions and they are shared on the membership page so you can go back and learn and others can learn as well - this also allows you to stay in the moment to better learn.

That said there are a lot of trainers that do not allow attendees to record or take photos - We do! I always strive to maintain transparency in my techniques. You're always welcomed to record any private sessions, workshops, or day retreats we have together. All dogs deserve to be treated with kindness and respect, whether in an open space or behind the scenes and at Pack Life LA we do exactly that. I have complete confidence in my methods, and I believe they're suitable for all to see and learn from.

My goal is to build a trusting relationship between the dog and owner. I strive to teach you methods that are humane, transparent, and effective.