Congratulations, you are moments away from being part of our Life Skills Classes. Places are limited and accepted on a first paid, first start basis.

How to find us - We are based at Raunds Football Club during the darker months, which is near the BP garage as you enter Raunds.

We use kind, reward-based training methods at BUDS and will not tolerate harsh handling or raised voices. Our aim is to help you to achieve your goals by rewarding what is right and ignoring what is wrong. Puppies/dogs soon learn that good things happen when they make the right choices. The next course will start at 6.30pm on Monday 9th November and will continue on 16th, 23rd and 30th November.

Please ensure, as much as possible, that you can attend all 4 sessions. All information is included for the price with homework that will need to be practised in your own time. Please remember, you will only get out of your dog what you put in.

The full course costs £50.00 and is payable prior to the start via online payment to: Account Name: Bordertrix Ultimate Dog School, Sort Code: 20-05- 73, Account Number: 63939154. Please use the first 3 letters of your dog’s name and your surname so I can ensure I can match the online payments.

Places are not guaranteed until payment is received.

AND our Puppy Life Skills Facebook Page contains videos, photos and information to help you with your training. Feel free to post and share your successes. This is a closed Group Page which can only be accessed by BUDS’s members and anyone who has accessed puppy life skills classes.

Below we have included the information you need to ensure you get the very most out of your time with us.

Treats and toys – we use both at BUDS because by reinforcing happy association with training means your dog will want to work with you. I use cooked sausages, ham or any cold, cooked meat. Cheese is also good but can upset sensitive tummies, or simply save some meat from your Sunday roast. The tastier the treat the more your dog will want to train. Treating is phased out over time, if trained correctly your dog should be happy to do your commands without reward.

We use toys to teach “Stop” and “Leave” commands, tugging toys are the best for this as owners are directly interacting with their dog and have control. A squeaky toy will help to keep engagement during play.

A secure fitting collar is essential, you should only be able to fit 2 fingers between a collar and the dog’s neck. Any more than this could result in your dog slipping his collar - you really do not want that to happen.

I prefer using a harness for training life skills as pulling on collars is not comfortable for your dog and risks damaging their wind-pipe. A good fitting harness should not restrict your dog’s movement in any way. Pets At Home do allow you to try harnesses on before buying but they are not the cheapest place to purchase from.

Leads should be comfortable for the handler to hold and grip at any place. Please do not bring flexi-leads as they limit your handling ability.

Your dog should legally have an identification disk on its collar, this is a legal requirement and a microchip does not replace the need for it. This should legally have your name and your address on, but I recommend also your home and/or mobile telephone number, Vet’s telephone number, “I’m chipped”, but definitely NOT your dog’s name.

Please bring poo bags, you will be expected to clear up any faeces and disinfect any equipment that has been weed on. To avoid this as much as possible please ensure you have given your puppy time to toilet outside before you come in.

Ensure you are ready to start your Class on time.

We do supply water for the dogs, however, we recommend ensuring you have some available.

Make sure you are wearing suitable footwear, trainers are the best

Because we all need a starting point it would be helpful if you could try and ensure your puppy/dog has the following basic skills:

* Able to sit on command
* Able to walk on a lead, not necessarily to heel, just in a fairly straight line.
* Able to wait in one position, handler at least 2 steps away and return
* Able to take treats kindly 3 As we need puppies and young dogs to have consistency, one handler will train the puppy for the entire course. Vaccination certificates will need to be produced on 9th November.

\*In brief:

* Pay £50.00 for the Course fee (Account Name: Bordertrix Ultimate Dog School, Sort Code: 20-05-73, Account Number: 63939154)
* Write dates for classes on your calendar
* Ensure you get some tasty treats (sausage is best)!
* 2 tuggy toys, 1 squeaky
* Collar with identification disk
* Harness
* Lead
* Poo bags
* Water
* Trainers
* Any required information; homework, vaccination card, etc.

\*This is just an advisory list and does not mean owners will not be able to take part if all points are not covered. >>>> Membership fees are not due for Life Skills and Taster Courses <<<<