

Waco Agility Group - Items to Bring to Class



To help you make the most of your agility experience, we've compiled a list of things for you to bring to class.

First Day only

- 🐾 Balance of what you owe for the class;
- 🐾 Current shot records – very important because these help assure everyone (human or canine) that they are in the company of only healthy dogs.

The Weekly Basics

- 🐾 Plenty of **water** for both the dog and the handler;
- 🐾 A **collar** – only flat buckle or snap collars may be used on your dog. Absolutely no training collars, choke collars or pinch collars (i.e., metal or nylon slip collars without stops) will be allowed when a dog is working—they can get caught up in the equipment and harm the dog.
- 🐾 A **leash** – in our experience it is best to use a four-, six- or eight-foot leather or nylon leash that clips to the dog's collar. You may also use a slip lead if you choose. Flexies and other retractable leashes are not allowed—they tend to get caught up in the equipment;
- 🐾 **Training treats** – you will need plenty of treats for every class. Soft, “semi-moist” treats are essential—don't even think about bringing anything dry or biscuit-like because we guarantee your dog will lose interest long before class is over. (Ask us how we know...!) Some of our favorites, available at either Petsmart or Petco:
 - *Pet Botanics Dog Food* – these come in “logs” which can be cut up a head of time and stored in the fridge. They are more work to prepare but more cost-effective;
 - *Pet Botanics Training Reward* – precut & pre-bagged, but more expensive;
 - *Natural Balance Dog Food* – in logs just like the *Pet Botanics*;
 - Other prepackaged treats include *Bil-Jac*, *Solid Gold*, *AKC Premium Training Treats*, *Nature's Recipe T/T*, *Zukes* and *Nutro Natural Choice T/T*.
 - String cheese or hot dogs from the grocery store.

Portion sizes should be tiny—the size of your fingernail. Bring a sandwich zip lock full of those and you'll have plenty.

We recommend not feeding your dog right before class. You might also want to cut back on your dog's dinner proportionately on training days.

- 🐾 **Toys** – Besides praise and yummy treats, some dogs are very motivated by toys. Feel free to bring these to class in addition to your treats.

Attire

Comfortable clothing suitable for running around outside with your dog. For your own protection, no flip-flops. Wear something with roomy pockets to carry your treats, or bring a fanny pack or treat pouch that attaches to your clothing so you may keep both hands free. In warmer weather you might want sunscreen, sunglasses or a cap. In the winter we recommend lots of layers. We're surrounded by open fields where the winter wind can blow colder than in Suburbia, so don't forget gloves and some kind of covering for your neck, ears and head.

Don't forget your dog's needs. Some will need coats in the winter to keep comfortably warm. We recommend something easy to put on and take off, e.g., Velcro or snap closures instead of pullovers.