

Get Rattled Clinic

Frequently Asked Questions



#1.) What's the minimum age a dog has to be for training?

6 months. However, if your dog is nearing 6 months, we can do a quick evaluation to determine whether or not your puppy is mentally ready to learn this type of information.

#2.) My dog has had _____ medical issues. Can he/she take your class?

If there's something about your dog's medical history that makes you question whether or not taking our class would be a good idea, please consult your veterinarian.

#3.) How long does training usually take?

Each dog is different, but an average dog takes about 15 minutes to go through our training. However, we pride ourselves in taking time to make sure each dog leaves with a healthy experience and gets it. That being said, we schedule "X" many dogs per hour block of time. So, for example, if your dog is scheduled for 11:00am, please arrive 10-15 minutes beforehand (10:45am), and then expect to be there for approximately an hour. The order in which we train each dog is based on first come, first served upon arrival for your one-hour block.

#4.) Do you use LIVE snakes?

Yes, we do use live snakes.

Important Facts about Get Rattled's Snakes

The rattlesnakes that your dog will have an opportunity to meet out in the open have been rendered safe through a surgical procedure done by a veterinarian specializing in reptiles. The snake is put under anesthesia, and the surgery is less invasive than pulling a tooth. Through a tiny incision, the venom ducts are snipped and tied off. The snake wakes up having no idea that he or she has been "de-venomized". They still act 100% normal and natural for their entire lives.

One thing that makes Get Rattled unique from others offering this service is that during our clinics, the snakes don't have to be muzzled or restrained. This creates a more natural interaction, is considerably safer for the dogs and handlers, and dramatically less stressful to the snakes. They do still have their fangs, so a snake wrangler is present 100% of the time during trainings to protect the snake from the dog, and the dog from the snake. If the snake did bite a dog or a handler, it would only be a "dry-bite" where no venom would be administered. Regardless, we still take every precaution to prevent this from happening.

#5.) Do I walk my own dog during the training?

For liability and insurance purposes; no.

And so far, we haven't met a dog that we couldn't walk through the training. Even with the most nervous or insecure dog, we use love, good leadership energy, and patience. We never get mad at a dog who doesn't want to walk with us. **We smile and get creative.**

#6.) Do I need to bring any special equipment?

Please bring your dog on a secure leash to keep him/her safe and restrained while waiting for your turn, but otherwise we use our own collars and leashes during the training. Please feel free to bring your dog's favorite toy or cookies to keep them entertained while waiting their turn!

#7.) Why do you use shock collars?

We have done a lot of research regarding this very topic. Most of our trainers were actually trained in the art of POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT dog training techniques. All of us have researched, discussed and pondered the very best way we can possibly teach a dog to stay away from rattlesnakes. We want dogs to not just NOT go after rattlesnakes, but to have a very healthy respect for them and give them a wide berth, thus staying out of the strike range.

While dogs are capable of learning a fantastic “LEAVE IT” command through positive training sessions, we want your dog to avoid rattlesnakes WITHOUT any verbal instruction. For many dogs, there is a strong possibility the dog may come in contact with a rattlesnake before the owner knows the snake is there, or while the owner isn’t around at all (dog is alone in the backyard, etc.). The remote e-collars give us the ability to induce a silent, negative stimulus at the EXACT moment necessary. The e-collars we use are not actually “electric shock” collars. They are very similar to the devices used at chiropractic offices; TENS units, which are used to induce an involuntary muscle spasm. It’s not a bolt of electricity charging through your dog. However, when you’re not expecting the sensation it causes quite the startle. There’s no lingering pain, it’s a quick sensation and then it’s over. We start every dog on an extremely low level – usually the level we start at is much TOO low - and we gradually increase as need be.

How do you train a human baby to leave rattlesnakes alone?

The answer: YOU DON’T. You keep that baby safe and away from rattlesnakes until the child is *old enough* and *mature enough* that you can verbally explain to the child how dangerous rattlesnakes are, and that they need to stay away from them. Unfortunately dogs never get to that place in their canine lives. I wish we could sit down with every dog and have a nice, VERBAL conversation with them about how dangerous rattlesnakes are, and how to identify them and avoid them. But we can’t. This is the next best thing. Our training allows the dog to meet a snake for themselves and learn – through nothing but their own curiosity and experience – that rattlesnakes are DANGEROUS and unpleasant.

#8.) How do you know my dog will associate the negative stimulation of the collar with rattlesnakes?

During the training of every dog, we have a dog handler walking the dog, and a dog trainer pushing the remote control for the collar. This way, the dog handler can focus 100% on walking the dog, and keeping her safe. At the same time, the dog trainer can always be directly opposite from the dog's face and watch EXACTLY where the dog's eyes and ears are facing – something that can be nearly impossible for the person walking the dog.

When the trainer sees the dog's face and can tell that dog is thinking nothing but "SNAKE!?" then he/she will push the button. There is no verbal cue, no other outside stimuli, and so when the collar goes off the dog makes the association of something extremely unpleasant with the snake, and ONLY the snake.

#9.) Will my dog be traumatized afterwards?

Absolutely not. We make sure every dog leaves in as good or better of a mood than when it arrived. And in our personal experience we've never seen a dog leave in less of a mood compared to when it arrived. We keep everything very positive, EXCEPT for the sight, sound and smell of rattlesnake. Trainings always conclude with the dog actively avoiding the rattlesnake, but otherwise in EXTREMELY happy spirits. We believe this leaves a more lasting impression.

#10.) How often do I need to put my dog through your training?

We always recommend a retrain in a year for every new client. Some people put their dogs through training once a year, every year, of the dog's life because they feel like it's cheap insurance and reassurance. Most people do a retrain a year after the first time, and then, depending on how well it goes, will go every other year or every other couple of years after that.

