



SHS Pit School Rules & Policies

Eligibility & Admission to Class

To qualify for the Pit School Program, **pet owners** must:

- Be Siskiyou County Residents
- Be 18 years of age or older to handle the dog in class. *Younger Pit bull owners and family children are welcome in class, but must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.*

Attending **dogs** must:

- Be a Pit bull or Pit bull mix
- Be under 1 year of age
- Have proof of 2 rounds of DHLPP vaccinations. For dogs over 4 months of age, we require proof of current rabies vaccination. You must present proof of vaccination by the first session in order to participate.

*Since determining breed can be difficult, a "Pit" or "Pit bull mix" shall be any puppy or dog considered by SHS Staff to have the appearance of an American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Bull Terrier, American Bulldog or any related breed commonly referred to as a "Pit bull." **SHS reserves the right to exclude from Pit School any dog which is deemed by SHS unsuited to the program due to age, breed or behavior.***

Attendance

Attendance of the first orientation class is **mandatory** for all participants. *Please note that the first class is 90 minutes long and **without dogs**.* If you cannot attend or miss the first class, we will be happy to place you on a waiting list and notify you of the next available series.

Space and resources for Pit School are limited. So that we can make the best use of our limited space and resources, we request that only people with a real commitment to attending and completing Pit School register. Please check your calendar and be certain that you are able to attend classes before signing up.

Auditing

If you want to learn about training, but your dog doesn't qualify for Pit School because of breed or age, auditors are welcome to come observe classes **WITHOUT** a dog. Just let us know that you would like to attend. Auditors are expected to follow all rules and policies while visiting class.

Training Consultation Required

If your dog has ever displayed aggressive or fearful tendencies such as growling, barking, lunging, snapping, biting or attempting to bite people or other dogs, please arrange for a **free** private consultation with the SHS Behavior Staff **BEFORE** registering your dog in Pit School.

In order to protect all participants in a class, we reserve the right to decline entry to any dog who presents behavior issues that may be overly dangerous, disruptive, or that may be worsened by participation in a group class. If behavior issues are discovered during the class and the SHS Behavior Staff determines that it is in everyone's best interest for your dog not to attend, you are welcome to continue auditing the class without your dog.



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Dogs On Leash

Dogs **MUST** be leashed and under handler control at all times while on shelter grounds, except when directed otherwise by the Pit School instructors during supervised exercises and play sessions. Different dogs may be at different levels of socialization and playing skills. Please be respectful of the other participants in class and do not allow your dogs to play or visit with each other during class except as directed by the instructors.

Shelter Grounds Awareness

SHS is an active shelter that receives many visitors, human and animal. We have a colony of feral cats in our parking lot, and these cats may hide under parked cars or appear suddenly. Members of the public, animal welfare groups or law enforcement agencies may arrive unexpectedly with stray, injured or lost animals of unknown health and temperament. Shelter staff and volunteers may also need to bring shelter animals through the parking lot. **Please do not allow your dog to approach or interact with resident shelter animals or strange animals on shelter grounds.**

Dogs in Season/Sick Dogs

We welcome all friendly dogs, whether they are altered or not, in our classes. However, if your female dog comes into heat during class, please inform us so that she can be managed appropriately around the other dogs.

If your dog shows signs of being sick—vomiting, diarrhea, coughing, sneezing or other symptoms—before class, please let us know and we will, if possible, schedule a makeup lesson. **Do not bring sick dogs to class.**

Children in Class

Children and other family members are welcome to attend Pit School. To ensure the safety and enjoyment of everyone in the class, please review our guidelines:

- Children must remain seated with their parents and under parental control at all times.
- Parents must supervise their children during the entire class.
- Please do not permit your children to run or yell anywhere on shelter grounds.
- Please explain to your children that all dogs are not socialized, friendly, or comfortable around children. They should not approach or pet the other dogs in class.

Weather/Training Conditions

Classes will be held in an outdoor training yard, so please dress accordingly. There is shade and water available. Footing is dirt covered with bark chip, so closed-toe shoes are recommended. In the event of severe weather, please call or check the Pit School Facebook Group to see if class will be held as scheduled. If class is postponed due to severe weather, the missed session will be conducted at the next regularly scheduled class and another session will be added to the series.

(530) 926-4052

www.siskiyouhumane.org

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