

Let's kick off the new year right by pooling our efforts and coming together to grow Canine Freestyle here in the Valley! It doesn't matter if you are a seasoned competitor or never even tried freestyle before; if you have any interest....we want you to join us.

You ask, what will we do, what will this be about? The answer is up to you; it can be whatever you want it to be and by participating you will have a voice. Several of us have promoted Valley freestyle; Loren Jensen Carter by bringing classes here some years ago from Tucson, Christy Powers and the late Cindy Hicks by hosting numerous dog sport events to represent our sport to the public and myself by teaching the sport. But we are not enough - we need you to get excited about freestyle and have as much fun as we do.

So each of you are invited to come out on Saturday, January 15th at 2pm for our first get together. Debbie Strieter, owner of Top Notch Canine, has been so gracious as to offer her facility our first two months for only \$10/person/dog (\$5/ additional dog) for up to 1 1/2hrs. She has also offered a special rate of \$35/ for sessions #3,4 &5 (1 1/2hrs ea) if paid prior to session #3. If you are not familiar with TNC, this is a large facility that will accommodate us as we grow and has rubber flooring. We have a second reservation for Saturday, February 19th from 10:30 - noon. This is my preferred time slot but until we get large enough to be income, we will have to work around the money making events that schedule.

It is extremely difficult to find a day/time that fits everyone and realize many of you trial as we do. I wanted a place indoors so we won't have to work around the weather or lighting, and one large enough to allow us to do whatever we desire and be able to continue as we grow.

Although more of the first meeting will be allotted to planning (talking) than subsequent ones, I hoped we might minimize it a bit if we can communicate via email with ideas prior to that day. I've sketched out some of my thoughts below and ask that you share your thoughts via email so they might be included in outline form that day for brevity sake. Of course we will still need to discuss everything but I'm thinking this might make more efficient use of our time - remember, we want time to dance<g>.

I envision a format that might break the time into quadrants. Yes, discussion about pertinent topics and decision making unfortunately is always necessary; if we do so midway it can also act as a break (1/2hr). A 'presentation' by one of our group or maybe, occasionally, from an outside source. The presentation might be presenting how to do a new behavior to teaching human dance moves to canine balance, to.....the list goes on and on. You don't have to be a public speaker or freestyle pro; this is just us guys and anything you do will be appreciated. It can

be directly or indirectly related to our sport but should have relevance (1/2hr); could be before or after the meeting break. Of course the time allotment is just suggested and can be flexible but I think, should have limits set. The last thirty minutes I see split between 'free dance' (15m) where everyone can do their own thing (practice a routine, some behaviors or try out new music) and the last fifteen minutes to helping one another with problems, questions, mirror; either as a group or one on one (15m). I know an hour and a half (1 1/2 hrs) sounds like a good amount of time but I'm confident it will fly by. Please try and be there when the door opens (ten minutes of) so we are ready to go at 2pm and use all of the time to our advantage.

Now let's hear your thoughts. Please send suggestions/ideas by January 10th to allow me to organize/type them for us. And, when you come on the 15th, bring a friend (well, besides your dog)!

Sandy (480-987-9821)

TNC (Top Notch Canine)  
107 N. 57th Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85032  
602-799-2311 (office will not be open Saturdays)  
480-321-9292 (Sandy's cell, if lost day of, call this number)

Entrance will be on the right side of the building as you face it.

To maintain the integrity of the flooring, Debbie must request no street shoes be worn; either change shoes upon entering, put booties on (just inside the door) or do what I do and go barefoot.

Some type of music device with ear phones will allow everyone to hear their music without interfering with those around them during the 'free dance' time.

Some crates are available to crate your dogs but you might want to bring your own at least the first time until you check things out. Since this is in an industrial center, most everything is concrete outside but Debbie made a 'potty stop' for the dogs needs in a designated area outside. Should an accident happen indoors, she has buckets with clean up needs located in a couple of places which we can point out.

There 'probably' is dog water available but I always encourage people to bring your own; and remember the treats!