



## **TRAINING SERVICES POLICIES & CLIENT AGREEMENT**

**Business Name:** Meraki Canine LLC

**Services Covered:** Group Classes (*"Canine Development Course"*), Private Training (*"Personal Canine Development Program"*), Consultations, Drop-Off Day Training (*"Play & Train"*), Board & Train (*"Stay & Train"*)

**Primary Training Location:** 105 Smith Street, Cochran, GA 30601 (unless otherwise specified)

**Client Portal & Scheduling:** Paw Partner

This Training Services Policies & Client Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into between **Meraki Canine LLC** ("Meraki Canine," "Trainer," "we," "us," "our") and the undersigned Client ("Owner," "you," "your") regarding training services for the dog(s) listed at the end of this Agreement ("Dog," "your dog").

By enrolling in any Meraki Canine training service, you acknowledge that you have **read, understand, and agree** to the following terms.

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### **1. TRAINING PHILOSOPHY & PURPOSE**

Thank you for choosing Meraki Canine for your dog's training journey.

We believe that proper training is one of the most important activities you will share with your dog, laying the foundation for a lifetime of good habits and a strong bond. Our goal is to help you and your dog develop:

- Obedience
- Confidence

- Attention and focus
- Emotional regulation
- Mutual trust and respect

Training is a partnership. We are here to **guide, support, and coach both ends of the leash**. We will provide recommendations and tools, but your participation and follow-through are key to your dog's long-term success.

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## 2. SCOPE OF SERVICES

This Agreement covers the following Meraki Canine services:

- **Group Classes (“Canine Development Course”)** – Structured multi-week courses in a group setting, focused on obedience, manners, enrichment, sports foundations, and/or behavior skills.
- **Private Training (“Personal Canine Development Program”)** – One-on-one coaching, either at our facility or at a mutually agreed public location.
- **Consultations** – In-depth evaluation and planning sessions to assess history, behavior, and goals, and to build a customized plan.
- **Drop-Off Day Training (“Play & Train”)** – Your dog stays with us during the day for targeted training sessions, rest, and enrichment.
- **Board & Train (“Stay & Train”)** – Your dog boards with Meraki Canine for a set period and receives intensive daily training, enrichment, and structured care.

Service descriptions, current offerings, and schedules are available in **Paw Partner** or by contacting us directly.

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## 3. CONSULTATIONS

### 3.1 When Consultations Are Required

A consultation is required before enrollment in:

- Private Training (PCDP)
- Drop-Off Day Training (Play & Train)
- Board & Train (Stay & Train)

Consultations are **not required** for Group Classes (CDCs), unless otherwise specified for advanced or behavior-specific courses.

### 3.2 Consultation Purpose

Consultations are designed to:

- Gather detailed history about your dog's behavior, training, health, and environment
- Identify training priorities and realistic goals
- Screen for safety concerns, fear, reactivity, or aggression
- Determine the most appropriate program (group, private, day training, board & train, or combination)

Consultations have a **separate fee**, which varies based on location and type. Up-to-date pricing is listed in Paw Partner or can be obtained by contacting Meraki Canine.

### 3.3 Consultation Cancellations

- Consultation cancellations require **at least 24 hours' notice**.
  - Cancellations under 24 hours or no-shows may result in the **consultation fee being forfeited** or the session being counted as used if part of a package.
  - Repeated last-minute cancellations or no-shows may limit your ability to book future training services.
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## **4. REGISTRATION & GROUP CLASS (CDC) ONBOARDING**

### **4.1 Registration & Account Setup**

All clients must:

- Create and maintain an active **Paw Partner** account
- Ensure contact information, emergency contacts, and dog information are accurate and up to date
- Upload or provide required vaccination records as requested

### **4.2 Group Training (CDC) Onboarding Process**

For group classes, our onboarding process is as follows:

#### **Step 1: Registration Completed**

You have successfully created an account and registered for a course via Paw Partner. Please double-check that all information (dog's name, breed, age, known behavior concerns) is accurate so we can plan appropriately.

#### **Vaccination Reminder:**

Vaccination requirements are age-appropriate and determined in consultation with your veterinarian. It is your responsibility to ensure your dog meets any requirements set by Meraki Canine and/or the facility being used.

#### **Step 2: Invoice & Class Confirmation**

You will receive a confirmation and/or invoice outlining:

- Class name and level
- Location (exact address)
- Start date and time
- Number of sessions and duration

Please verify all details are correct. If something is incorrect, notify us immediately.

#### **Step 3: Training Begins**

Once payment is received (see Section 6), your spot is secured and you're ready to begin. Throughout the course, we may provide handouts, homework, or resources to support your learning.

**Location Reminder:**

Please be sure you note the **correct class location**, as some courses may be held off-site (e.g., partner businesses, outdoor locations). Location details will be provided in your confirmation and/or reminder messages.

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## 5. HEALTH, VACCINATIONS & PARASITES

### 5.1 General Health

By enrolling in any **in-person** training, you confirm that your dog:

- Is in good general health and physically able to participate in training activities appropriate to the program
- Is not currently showing signs of illness (vomiting, diarrhea, coughing, lethargy, fever, unusual discharge, etc.)

### 5.2 Vaccination Requirements

For services held at Meraki Canine facilities or partner locations (especially **Canine Development Courses, Play & Train, and Board & Train**), dogs must be:

- Up to date on **Rabies** (as required by law, age permitting)
- Up to date on **core vaccines** (e.g., DHPP or equivalent), unless exempted by a veterinarian
- Up to date on **Bordetella** (as required for facility/boarding participation, unless deemed unnecessary by a veterinarian)

Additional vaccines (e.g., Lepto, Lyme, Canine Influenza) may be recommended. Owners should consult their veterinarian for age-appropriate vaccination plans.

**Proof of vaccinations from a licensed veterinarian may be required before participation.**

### 5.3 Parasite & Flea/Tick Prevention

Dogs participating at our facility must:

- Be on a **regular flea/tick prevention protocol**

- Be free from visible parasites, including fleas and intestinal worms

Due to the severity of ticks in Pennsylvania as a whole, we understand that there is a possibility of a dog arriving with a tick or ticks. If you notice a tick, please **ask us for assistance** to help remove it safely and to help prevent transfer to other dogs or people.

Any dog found with fleas or suspected parasites may be:

- Excused from class or training for that day, and
- Required to receive treatment and a release/clearance from a veterinarian before returning.

## 5.4 Illness Policy & Illness Exposure

If your dog is sick, suspected of being contagious, or your unspayed female dog is in heat:

- Do **not** bring your dog to class, private sessions, Play & Train, or Board & Train.
- Contact us as soon as possible to discuss rescheduling options and what to do next.

If a dog shows signs of illness during a session, Meraki Canine may:

- End the session early,
- Excuse the dog for the day, and
- Require a period of no attendance before the dog returns.

If your dog is diagnosed with a contagious condition (e.g., kennel cough, giardia, parvo, influenza) within **3–5 days** of attending a Meraki Canine training service, you agree to:

- Notify us promptly so we can inform potentially affected clients (without naming your dog) and adjust sanitation and risk protocols as needed.

This policy also applies if **you** are sick and cannot safely or responsibly attend training.

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## 6. RATES & PAYMENT

### 6.1 Variable Rates

Training rates, consultation fees, and program pricing:

- Vary by service type and program structure
- Are subject to change over time

For the most current rates, please:

- Refer to **Paw Partner**, or
- Contact Meraki Canine directly.

### 6.2 Payment by Service Type

#### Canine Development Courses (Group Training)

- Payment in full is typically due **on or before the first session** of class to reserve your spot.
- Spots are limited; unpaid registrations may be released to other clients.

#### Personal Canine Development Programs (Private Training) & Consultations

- Payment is due **on or before the day of the session**, unless otherwise indicated.
- Packages (if offered) must generally be paid in full at the start of the package.

#### Drop-Off Day Training (Play & Train)

- Payment is due at **drop-off** for each session, or via **pre-paid packages** as offered.
- Package sessions may have **expiration dates** and are generally not refundable once started.

#### Board & Train (Stay & Train)

- A **non-refundable deposit** may be required to reserve dates.

- Remaining balance is typically due at **drop-off**, unless otherwise agreed in writing.
- Once a Board & Train has started, program fees are generally **non-refundable**, even if dogs are picked up early.

### 6.3 Payment Methods

Accepted payment methods may include:

- Cash
- Card (via Paw Partner or approved processing system)
- Approved electronic payment platforms (e.g., Venmo, CashApp, etc. as listed on your invoice or confirmation)

Any applicable processing fees or restrictions (e.g., no Goods/Services box checked) will be clearly indicated in your Paw Partner account, invoice, or confirmation message.

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## 7. CANCELLATIONS, RESCHEDULING & NO-SHOWS

### 7.1 Canine Development Courses

Group Course tuition is generally **non-refundable once the course has begun**.

If you need to cancel **before** the course starts:

- **More than 48 hours** before the first class:
  - Payments may be credited to your account or transferred to a future class at Meraki Canine's discretion.
- **48 hours or less** before the first class (**late cancellation**):
  - A **50% late cancellation fee** applies (50% of the full course tuition is retained; the remaining 50% may be credited or transferred at our discretion).
- **No-show for the first class with no notice:**



- A **100% late cancellation fee** applies (the **full course tuition is retained** and no credit is given).

Once the course has started, **missed classes** by the owner/dog are:

- Not refundable, and
- Not guaranteed to be made up, though we may provide homework or recap material when feasible.

If Meraki Canine must cancel or postpone a class or class date (e.g., weather, instructor illness, facility issues), we will:

- Reschedule that session when reasonably possible, typically by extending the course by one additional week, or
- Apply a partial or full credit toward a future class if rescheduling cannot be arranged.

Any late cancellation or no-show fees must be **paid in full before future registrations** will be accepted.

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## 7.2 Personal Canine Development Programs & Consultations

- Cancellations or rescheduling require at least **24 hours' notice**.
- Cancellations under 24 hours' notice, or **no-shows**, may be charged **in full** or subtracted from a package.
- Repeated last-minute cancellations or no-shows may result in reduced priority for future booking or refusal of services.

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## 7.3 Drop-Off Day Training (Play & Train)

- Cancellations require **24 hours' notice**.
- Same-day cancellations or no-shows may **forfeit that day's session** and/or incur the full session fee.

- Repeated last-minute cancellations may limit future access to the program.
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#### **7.4 Board & Train (Stay & Train)**

- Cancellations generally require at least **14 days' notice** prior to the start date (or longer during peak seasons).
  - Deposits for Board & Train are typically **non-refundable**, especially if cancellation occurs within the specified time window.
  - If you cancel within the specified period, you may be responsible for a portion or all of the program fee, as detailed in your program confirmation.
  - If Meraki Canine must cancel or reschedule due to an emergency or operational issue, we will work with you to reschedule or apply a credit.
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## **8. OWNER PARTICIPATION & TRAINING RESULTS**

### **8.1 No Guarantee of Outcomes**

Meraki Canine will make every reasonable effort to help you reach your goals. However:

- We cannot guarantee specific results or behavior outcomes.
- Your dog's behavior is influenced by genetics, environment, physical health, prior learning, and the consistency with which you implement training.

### **8.2 Owner Responsibility**

You acknowledge that:

- Your participation and follow-through are essential to your dog's progress.
- You are responsible for:

- Practicing assigned homework
- Implementing management and safety strategies
- Maintaining consistent rules and routines at home
- Communicating openly with us if difficulties arise

Lack of consistency or failure to follow recommendations may **limit progress** or cause **regression**.

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## 9. TRAINING METHODS & EQUIPMENT (TOOL-NEUTRAL POLICY)

Meraki Canine LLC is a **tool-neutral, judgment-free** training program. We recognize that each dog-and-handler team is unique, and appropriate equipment may vary based on:

- The dog's size, breed, age, and temperament
- The handler's physical needs and capabilities
- Training goals, environment, and safety considerations

We do **not** prohibit specific training tools as long as they are:

- Used safely, humanely, and correctly
- Appropriate for the individual dog
- Consistent with program goals and safety standards

This may include (but is not limited to):

- Flat or buckle collars
- Martingale collars
- Harnesses (front-clip or back-clip)
- Slip leads

- Head halters
- Prong/pinch collars
- Electronic collars (E-collars)
- Long lines and drag lines
- Muzzles
- Clickers, treats, toys, and other reward-based tools

## 9.1 Trainer Role & Expectations

Meraki Canine will:

- Help you choose equipment that is appropriate for your dog and situation
- Provide instruction on the safe, humane use of tools
- Make recommendations based on the dog's behavior, comfort, and training needs
- Suggest alternatives if a tool appears to be causing stress, pain, or undesirable side effects
- Prioritize safety, clarity, and fairness in all handling

We do not discriminate or judge clients based on tool preference. Our focus is on **education, safe handling, and informed decision-making.**

## 9.2 Misuse of Tools

We do not permit:

- Deliberate abuse or excessive force
- Equipment used in a way that risks physical harm
- Tools used beyond their intended, safe purpose

If misuse occurs, the Trainer may:

- Provide coaching to correct usage
- Recommend alternate handling or tools
- Temporarily remove or adjust certain tools during the session
- End the session if unsafe handling continues

### 9.3 Owner Responsibility with Tools

Owners agree to:

- Use tools only as instructed and intended
  - Inform the Trainer of any physical limitations they have that may affect handling
  - Discuss prior training experiences and tools used with other trainers
  - Ask questions if unsure about a tool's use or effect on their dog
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## 10. CANINE DEVELOPMENT COURSE POLICIES & SESSION EXPECTATIONS

To keep group courses safe, effective, and enjoyable, the following policies apply:

### 10.1 Handler Requirements

- Each dog must have **one primary handler** in class.
- If you are training multiple dogs and there are not enough handlers, dogs may need to attend **separate sessions** or back-to-back classes.
- Multiple handlers for a single dog are welcome, but all must be willing to participate and follow Trainer instructions.

## 10.2 Pre-Class Preparation

- Avoid feeding your dog a full meal within **three hours** before class, unless medically necessary.
- Ensure your dog has had a **potty break** before arrival. Please clean up after your dog and dispose of waste properly.
- Bring plenty of **treats of varying value** (soft treats, cheese, hot dogs, kibble, etc.) and/or favorite toys.
- If class overlaps with mealtime, you may use your dog's **kibble as part of their rewards**.

## 10.3 Leash, Equipment & Control

- Dogs must remain on **leash at all times** unless instructed otherwise by the Trainer.
- Maintain a safe distance from other dogs and avoid nose-to-nose greetings unless explicitly permitted.
- Do not allow your dog to approach another dog or person without the owner's and Trainer's consent.
- Owners are responsible for controlling their dog at all times, including during entry, exit, and transitions.

## 10.4 Children in Class

- Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
- Children may not approach other dogs without permission.
- Children **are not permitted** to climb on, play on, or use training equipment themselves.
- Children should remain with their parent or guardian at all times and **are not permitted to wander** around the training space or building.
- Trainers may ask children to observe from a designated area if needed for safety or focus.

## 10.5 Health & Heat Policy for Group Classes

- If you or your dog are ill, please inform us before class to reschedule or discuss options.
- Unspayed females in heat should **not attend group classes**; contact us to discuss make-up or rescheduling options.
- For outdoor classes in extreme heat or cold, Meraki Canine may:
  - Shorten class
  - Move to a different time or location
  - Reschedule for safety

## 10.6 Focus on Learning

- Group courses are **not dog park time**. Dogs should not engage in free play with each other during class unless specifically instructed by the Trainer.
- Our emphasis is on training, focus, and skills, not off-leash socialization.
- Please keep conversation quiet and focused during instruction so everyone can hear and learn.

## 10.7 Safety & Dismissal from Courses

For safety and learning quality:

- Wear appropriate footwear (no sandals, high heels, or bare feet).
- Meraki Canine reserves the right to excuse any dog or participant from class, without refund, if:
  - The dog or handler poses a safety risk
  - The dog's behavior is not manageable within the group setting
  - The handler does not follow safety instructions or disrupts the class

In such cases, we may recommend alternative services, such as private training or day training, when appropriate.

## 11. DROP-OFF DAY TRAINING (“PLAY & TRAIN”) POLICIES

For Play & Train services:

- Dogs are dropped off at **designated times** and picked up at agreed times (see current facility drop-off/pick-up policies and any applicable late fees).
- Training sessions are interspersed with rest, enrichment, and, when appropriate, supervised play or socialization.
- Owners will receive updates, homework, and/or brief transfer sessions as described for their specific program.

Meraki Canine may adjust:

- The number of daily training sessions
- The types of activities
- The use of group play vs. individual activities

based on the dog’s energy, stress level, behavior, and health each day.

All general **health, vaccination, behavior, and safety policies** in this Agreement also apply to Play & Train programs.

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## 12. BOARD & TRAIN (“STAY & TRAIN”) POLICIES

During a Board & Train program:

- Your dog boards on-site under Meraki Canine’s care, subject to our **Boarding and Health Policies** (see Boarding Agreement, if applicable).
- Your dog receives multiple short training sessions, enrichment, and appropriate rest each day.
- Your dog may or may not participate in group play, depending on behavior, temperament, training goals, and safety.



## 12.1 Owner Follow-Up & Maintenance

At the end of a Board & Train:

- You will receive a **transfer session (or sessions)** to learn how to continue working with your dog.
- Written homework, videos, or handouts may be provided.
- Long-term success depends on your commitment to applying what you learn, maintaining structure, and continuing practice at home.

## 12.2 Early Pick-Up & Program Changes

- If you elect to pick up your dog **before the program end date**, fees are generally **not reduced or refunded**, as your dog's spot and trainer time have been reserved.
- If a dog's behavior or health makes Board & Train unsafe or inappropriate, Meraki Canine may:
  - Shorten the program,
  - Transition to a different service (e.g., day training, private sessions), or
  - Recommend alternative care options.

In such cases, we will discuss options and any partial credits or adjustments at our discretion.

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# 13. COMMUNICATION & UPDATES

We value communication and encourage questions.

- You may contact us via **Paw Partner, text, email, or phone** as indicated in your program materials.
- We strive to respond in a timely manner, but may not be able to respond immediately while actively training dogs or teaching classes.
- For Play & Train and Board & Train, we will provide updates at **reasonable intervals**; continuous or on-demand updates are not guaranteed.

If any **safety concerns or significant behavior changes** arise, we will reach out as soon as reasonably possible.

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## 14. EMERGENCY VETERINARY CARE

If your dog becomes ill or injured during a training service (including Group Training, Private Training, Play & Train, or Board & Train):

- We will attempt to contact you and your emergency contact promptly.
  - If you cannot be reached, you **authorize Meraki Canine** to seek veterinary treatment as deemed necessary by a licensed veterinarian.
  - You are responsible for all veterinary expenses, medications, and related costs.
  - In emergencies, we may use your listed veterinarian or the nearest available emergency clinic.
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## 15. PHOTOS, VIDEO & MEDIA CONSENT

Meraki Canine may photograph or video your dog during training sessions for:

- Progress documentation
- Educational content
- Marketing materials, social media, website, or printed materials

By signing this Agreement, you:

- Grant Meraki Canine permission to use such images and videos of your dog **without compensation**.

If you prefer to **opt out of public use**, you must notify us **in writing**. Internal use (for training notes, staff education, and safety documentation) may still occur.

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## 16. OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES & BEHAVIOR DISCLOSURE

You agree to:

- Represent that you are the **legal owner or authorized agent** of the dog(s) listed.
- Provide **complete and truthful information** about your dog's:
  - Health and medical conditions
  - Vaccination and parasite prevention status
  - Behavioral history, including:
    - Any aggression (growling, snapping, biting) toward people or animals
    - Resource guarding (food, toys, spaces, people)
    - Fear, anxiety, reactivity, or known triggers
    - Bite incidents of any severity
    - Escape attempts or destructive behaviors
- Inform Meraki Canine of any changes to your dog's health or behavior that may affect safety.

Failure to disclose significant health or behavior information may result in:

- Immediate termination of training sessions or programs
- Refusal of future services
- Financial responsibility for any damages, injuries, or expenses caused by your dog

You also agree to:

- Follow Meraki Canine's safety rules and instructions

- Use equipment and tools as directed
- Maintain up-to-date contact and emergency information in Paw Partner

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## 17. ASSUMPTION OF RISK, RELEASE OF LIABILITY & INDEMNIFICATION

You understand and acknowledge that:

- Participation in dog training activities carries **inherent risks**, including but not limited to:
  - Dog bites or scratches
  - Falls, trips, or other physical injury
  - Illness or disease exposure
  - Property damage
- Dogs are living animals, and behavior can never be fully predicted or guaranteed.

In consideration for being allowed to participate in Meraki Canine services, you:

- **Assume all risks** of injury or damage to yourself, your dog, and any family members or guests who attend or participate in sessions.
- **Release and hold harmless** Meraki Canine LLC, its owners, employees, trainers, contractors, volunteers, and agents from any and all claims, demands, or liability for injury, loss, or damage arising from participation in training services, except where prohibited by law.
- **Agree to indemnify and defend** Meraki Canine against any claims, damages, or expenses (including attorney's fees) resulting from:
  - Your dog's behavior or actions
  - Your failure to disclose important health or behavioral information
  - Your failure to follow safety instructions or program policies

You remain **legally and financially responsible** for your dog at all times.

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## 18. MISCELLANEOUS TERMS

- This Agreement applies to all current and future training services provided by Meraki Canine for your dog(s), unless replaced by a new written agreement.
  - Only an adult (18 years or older) may sign this Agreement.
  - If any part of this Agreement is found invalid, the remaining sections remain in full force and effect.
  - Meraki Canine may update this Agreement and its policies as needed. **Continued use of services after notice of updates constitutes acceptance of the new terms.**
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## 19. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, CONFIDENTIALITY & NON-DISCLOSURE

All training materials provided by Meraki Canine LLC—including but not limited to: handouts, class outlines, written instructions, diagrams, training exercises, homework sheets, program structures, videos, enrichment recipes, behavior modification plans, curriculum, and all verbal or written guidance—are the **exclusive intellectual property of Meraki Canine LLC**.

Clients receive these materials **solely for personal use** with their own dog(s).

Clients **do not obtain any ownership, licensing rights, or permission** to distribute, duplicate, modify, or share these materials with others.

### 19.1 Prohibited Use

Clients **may NOT**, under any circumstances:

- Copy, reproduce, photograph, scan, or distribute Meraki Canine materials
- Share materials with non-clients, friends, non-household family, or other trainers, unless permission is discussed and approved with Meraki Canine prior
- Use our materials to teach others or to create training programs

- Adapt or modify any part of our curriculum for business use
- Provide access to proprietary content to anyone outside your household
- Use Meraki Canine methods, class structures, or written materials in any professional capacity without written permission

Any unauthorized sharing, duplication, or use of Meraki Canine intellectual property is considered a **violation of this Agreement and may result in legal action.**

## **19.2 Confidentiality & Non-Disclosure**

Clients agree to keep confidential:

- All written materials,
- Training methods and proprietary program structures,
- Exercises, patterns, and progression plans,
- Specialized curriculum (ex: sport foundations, puppy socials, behavior mod structure),
- Operational training strategies (ex: Play & Train rotation system),
- Staff-provided instruction, demonstrations, and training sequences.

Clients **may not** disclose, share, or teach any of this content to:

- Other dog trainers or aspiring trainers
- Pet sitters, groomers, veterinarians, behaviorists, or pet-industry professionals
- Friends, Non-Household family, or acquaintances, without prior discussion and approval via Meraki Canine
- Online groups, social media, or other platforms
- Competing businesses or business owners

This could include both **intentional** and **unintentional** sharing.

Violation of this clause may result in:

- Immediate dismissal from all Meraki Canine services (training, playcare, boarding)
- No refunds issued
- Permanent ban from future programs
- Legal action to recover damages resulting from misuse or intellectual property theft

### **19.3 Clients Who Operate a Pet-Related Business or Are Pursuing Dog-Training Careers**

Because our curriculum and training methods are proprietary:

Clients who currently own, operate, or work for:

- A dog training business
- A dog daycare or boarding facility
- A pet grooming business
- A dog-walking, pet-sitting, or enrichment business
- Any pet-related enterprise

must disclose this to Meraki Canine BEFORE participating in any training service.

Clients who are pursuing, planning to pursue, or preparing to pursue a dog training career must also disclose this prior to beginning services.

A separate Professional Use, Apprenticeship, or Non-Compete Agreement may be required.

Failure to disclose this information will result in:

- Immediate removal from all Meraki Canine programs
- No refund of any kind
- Permanent loss of training privileges

### **19.4 Exclusivity of Training Services**

For the duration of the training program(s), clients agree to:

- Notify Meraki Canine if they are currently working with any other trainer, behaviorist, or training program
- Avoid combining conflicting methodologies that may confuse or hinder the dog's progress
- Follow one unified training plan for clarity, consistency, and the dog's success

If a client is found to be:

- Simultaneously working with another trainer without disclosure,
- Using conflicting advice that undermines the program, or
- Sharing Meraki Canine methods with other trainers or programs,

Meraki Canine reserves the right to:

- Terminate training immediately,
- Remove the client from all programs without refund, and
- Deny future access to services.

This ensures the integrity of our curriculum and protects the dog's emotional welfare and training progress.

#### 19.5 Intellectual Property Violations

Any violation of this section is considered:

- A breach of contract
- Misappropriation of trade secrets
- A violation of copyright law
- Grounds for legal action

Meraki Canine reserves all rights permitted by Pennsylvania and federal law to protect its proprietary work.



## 19.6 Rationale for Confidentiality & Program Protection

These policies exist to protect dogs, owners, and the integrity of the training process. Not all training methods, exercises, tools, or handouts are appropriate for every dog. What works safely for one individual dog—under professional guidance—may be unsafe, ineffective, or even harmful for another.

When training information is shared outside its intended context, several risks arise, including:

- **Incorrect use of tools or techniques** due to missing instruction, miscommunication, or lack of demonstration
- **Owners attempting exercises without understanding safety precautions or prerequisites**
- **Behavioral fallout** (increased fear, aggression, avoidance, or confusion)
- **Injury** to dogs or handlers
- **Mixed or contradictory training strategies** when combined with outside advice

For these reasons, Meraki Canine **does not provide training guidance or behavioral advice for dogs we have not personally evaluated**. Each dog has unique needs, temperament, history, and learning style, and responsible training requires a full assessment by a qualified professional.

By maintaining strict confidentiality and restricting the distribution of our curriculum, exercises, and methods, we ensure that:

- Dogs using our programs are working under the direction of a Meraki Canine trainer
- Owners receive proper coaching in how to apply the material safely
- Techniques are used only with dogs for whom they are appropriate
- Training remains safe, ethical, and effective
- Our curriculum is not misapplied, misunderstood, or taken out of context

This safeguards the well-being of dogs, protects owners from unintentionally causing harm, and preserves the integrity, quality, and professionalism of the Meraki Canine training experience.

## **20. ACKNOWLEDGMENT & SIGNATURES**

By signing below, you acknowledge that:

- You have read and fully understand the terms of this Agreement.
- You have had the opportunity to ask questions and receive clarification.
- You agree to abide by all Meraki Canine policies and instructions.
- You are the legal owner or authorized agent of the dog(s) listed.