**Chapter 37: New York City Trip & Alternatives**

In this chapter we will discuss the class trip into New York City. It will cover what to expect for the day and a potential outline of the schedule.

During the last week of class, you may have the opportunity to work your dog in New York City to get the experience of working in a busy metropolitan area. We will primarily be working in Mid-town on the East side. This trip will give you the chance to use a commuter train, subway, or bus with your dog, as well as lunch out at a restaurant. Please note that this trip is not an opportunity for sightseeing, but rather an opportunity to receive firsthand experience of working in a very congested environment. It should be noted that for some teams this is an optional trip and is not mandatory. If you will not utilize this type of travel or you have a strong aversion to going, we will arrange for you to work in a different area that day that is more suited to your needs and will also include lunch out at a restaurant.

The class will be split up into two groups: a morning and an afternoon group. Each team will work one on one with an instructor. You may be working with one of the class instructors, your class supervisor, or a guest instructor. Due to the trip taking several hours for each team, class instructors from other teams join us for the day to help us provide one-on-one instruction in the city. Each student should make sure they pack plenty of treats and pick up bags. If you have been working with additional equipment to help with control such as a halti or prong collar, be sure to bring it with you.

**If you are in the morning group going to Manhattan:** This group will park their dogs on grounds right after breakfast. You will load into the class vans and leave for the train station by 8am. You will be driven to a local train station. Your instructor will direct you as you work your dog through the train station, onto the platform, and help you get on the commuter train. The commuter train ride will take about 45 minutes to an hour and will drop you off at Grand Central Terminal in Manhattan. From there you will embark on your trip with your instructor. You will have the rest of the morning to work your dog throughout Manhattan. You will meet the rest of your class at The District restaurant in Manhattan for lunch at noon.

Once lunch is over you will ride back to the school in the class van with the class IA. Once you are back on grounds you will have an opportunity to purchase extra equipment with a member of our administrative staff. An announcement will be made regarding the time and place this will occur.

**If you are in the afternoon group working in Manhattan:** After breakfast, you will have the opportunity to purchase extra equipment with a member of our administrative staff. An announcement will be made regarding the time and place this will occur. Around 10:30 am, the class IA will announce a water and park time. Once this is finished you will load into the class van and be driven to The District restaurant in Manhattan for lunch. The entire class will meet and have lunch at noon.

Once lunch is over you will work from the restaurant to Grand Central Terminal with an instructor. Everyone will take the same commuter train back to our local train station where the class IA will be waiting to pick you up and bring you back to the school.

**If you are not going to Manhattan:** If you have opted not to go to Manhattan, you will discuss with your instructor what type of route you would like to work with your dog that day. You will arrange with your instructor what time you will be leaving. You will also be taken out to lunch at a restaurant that day as well as be able to purchase extra equipment.

This day is designed to flexible and fit your individual needs as a team. You can discuss with your instructor what you would like to work on. For some people it might be a lot of walking, others may want to work on and off multiple subways, etc. New York City offers narrow and congested areas as well as slightly quieter and wide-open areas. It is not mandatory to work your dog on the subway. You can still ride the subway, but your instructor will take you sighted guide if you are not comfortable working your dog.

You will encounter distractions! There will be plenty of sights, smells, and sounds that both you and your dog will find distracting. Most teams need to work several blocks before they fall into a good rhythm. Your dog will be scent distracted and you will encounter many other dogs as well as crowds of people. This trip provides a good learning opportunity to work through these distractions. Be patient with both yourself and your dog. The more you address the distraction in a timely fashion in the beginning, the smoother the rest of your trip will go.

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