

Expo 2024 Class notes

Backcountry Travel With Dogs

Syllabus: David shares his insights from decades of backcountry travel with dogs. Learn how to keep your best friend safe and happy with proper training, planning, and a clear understanding of the challenges you will face. Topics include essential skills for your dog to master, preventing and dealing with animal encounters, emergency medical preparedness, dealing with weather. And everyone's nightmare: how to keep your dog from disappearing without a trace!

Know your dog:

1. Is he a runner?
2. How does he react to animals?
3. How does he react to things like thunder?
4. What fears and phobias does he have?

Understand the risks where you travel

1. Dangerous animals
2. Environmental hazards: heat, cold, rain, snow, ice
3. Physical dangers: falls, cactus - multi tool/comb, poison traps
4. Situational awareness:

Essential skills (Training)

1. Walk at "heel" on leash
2. Solid recall
3. Leave it / drop it
4. Teach your dog to not chase wildlife
5. Submission to handling. Grooming, cleaning, invasive inspection, muzzling

Essential habits

1. Walk your dog on a leash
2. Reserve off leash time to carefully supervised situations
3. Never leave your dog anywhere unsupervised

Essential gear:

1. First aid supplies
2. hydration
3. Protection from weather: coats. poncho

4. Dog boots
5. Walking leash and tie out
6. Special gear: life vests, hiking vest

Defending yourself and your dog:

1. Firearms: Hard cast, flat nosed, dangerous game ammunition
2. Bear spray
3. Stun gun

Medical training: Far Fetched Adventures, introduce Stace

1. Take the course, get the kit

Losing your dog:

1. Always have a collar with ID tag
2. Make sure your dog is chipped
3. GPS tracking devices
4. Don't let it happen!

Closing thoughts: We all have a responsibility to ensure the safety of our dogs, the protection of wildlife, and the respect of other travelers. If we ignore that, we may very well end up losing our dog, contributing to the death of an innocent animal, or contributing to the closing of areas to dogs