

Choosing the right dog trainer

Sit, stay, leave it, heel! Looking for a good dog trainer to help your pooch become the best they can be? Below are some tips for finding and choosing a good dog trainer.

- Look for a trainer who uses reward based training, such as those with treats, praise and other positive reinforcement. Intimidation, physical punishment or fear should never be used. Studies have shown negative reinforcement can cause more behavior issues.
- Find a trainer who is respectful to both you and your dog.
- Observe a class to make sure the teaching style will work for you.

Are the dogs happy? Are the people enjoying themselves? Is there a good ratio of people to dogs? Is the location secure and clean?

- Avoid guarantees. A conscientious trainer cannot guarantee results.
- Stay away from trainers who use harsh collars, such as pinch collars.
- Understand the misconceptions and myths of dominance theory.
- Sadly, there is no industry standard and anyone can 'hang their shingle' and claim to be a dog trainer regardless of the type or level of education or experience in the field. Buyers should be aware.
- Ask how much experience the trainer has and what recent continuing education they have attended, to help ensure they are keeping up on their skills.
- Get a list of references you can contact.

Helpful links

<https://apps.apdt.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?webcode=TrainerSearch>

<http://www.ccpdt.org/dog-owners/certified-dog-trainer-directory/>

<https://iaabc.org/consultants>

<https://www.karenpryoracademy.com/find-a-trainer>

<http://www.canineprofessionals.com/find-a-professional>

<https://nadoi.org/dog-owners/find-an-instructor/>

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