



## HOW TO CHOOSE A PROFESSIONAL DOG TRAINER / INSTRUCTOR

### EXPERIENCE:

I once heard a driving school instructor say that he knew a person who had been driving for 30 years, but still couldn't parallel park. Dog training works the same way. DON'T just judge the trainer on how many years he/she has been training, but judge him/her by WHAT he/she has accomplished in the dog world.

### AVOID LARGE GROUP CLASSES

When trainers train their own dogs, they do it one on one. They take the dog to areas in the neighbourhood that the dog will be used in. Socializing the dog in the neighbourhood is better than working the dog with lots of other dogs who have their own problems.

### HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY FOR A GOOD TRAINER

Your goal should be to work with the best trainer you can find. Remember, you get what you pay for. If one trainer is charging \$80.00 for a course, and another is charging \$400.00 for the course, you should find out WHY there is a \$320.00 difference. Cheap is not necessarily good! Most trainers will offer you a payment plan if they want your business.

### VERSATILITY

A good dog trainer will use techniques that suit your dog and yourself. What works for a 200 pound man and a little poodle, will not work for a 90 pound woman and a 125 pound Rottweiler.

### ASK FOR A FREE CONSULTATION

Why should you pay for a dog trainer to see your dog? When you ask someone to come over to the house to give you an estimate on your roof, you don't have to pay him for an estimate, do you? Make sure you know what you're getting for your money before you pay a cent.

### AVOID THE BIG PET CHAIN DOG TRAINING PROGRAMS

In most "big box" pet stores that offer in-house training, the "trainers" don't receive proper training. The stores hire people by advertising through a newspaper ad. I spoke to one trainer from a very well known American Pet Chain. She received 2 hours of video instruction and was told to start teaching.

## **ASK TO SEE THE TRAINER DEMONSTRATE THEIR PERSONAL DOG WORK**

You may be shocked at what you see. You would be amazed how many trainers don't even have a dog of if they do, how untrained it is. Some trainers use plastic bottles at the end of a rope to simulate dogs! Sure makes a great "stay" command!

## **WHEN STUCK WITH A PROBLEM, WHERE DOES YOUR TRAINER TURN FOR ADVICE?**

All dog trainers from one time to another are going to have a problem with a dog or owner. A good trainer should have resources to solve any problem. Ask your potential trainer where they go to get answers.

## **WHO WAS YOUR TRAINER'S MENTOR? WHO HAVE THEY STUDIED UNDER?**

Ask to speak to these people. Just because someone tells you they are a dog trainer, doesn't mean they really are. There is no governing body overseeing dog trainers, so make sure you do your homework.