



# Choosing a dog trainer

## Why do dogs need to be trained?

Dogs are social animals and need to learn how to interact with humans and other dogs. Training helps them understand boundaries, commands, and social cues. It also helps them learn to behave appropriately in various situations, such as around children, other animals, and in public places. Training can also help with behavioral issues and improve the bond between the dog and its owner.

## Why is choosing a good trainer important?

Choosing a good trainer is important because a professional trainer can provide the owner with the knowledge and skills needed to train their dog effectively. A good trainer will use positive reinforcement and humane methods to teach the dog, which can help build a strong bond between the dog and its owner. A bad trainer, on the other hand, may use punishment or force, which can lead to fear, aggression, and other behavioral problems.

## How do I find a good dog trainer?

There are several ways to find a good dog trainer. One way is to ask for recommendations from friends, family, or other dog owners. Another way is to look for a trainer who is certified by a professional organization, such as the International Association of Professional Dog Trainers (IAPDT) or the Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT). You can also look for a trainer who has experience with the breed of your dog and the specific behavior you are trying to address.

## "Do you use food treats during training?"

Yes, food treats are commonly used during training to reward the dog for good behavior. This is a form of positive reinforcement that helps the dog learn to associate the behavior with a reward. However, it's important to use treats sparingly and to gradually phase them out as the dog learns the behavior.

## "My dog pulls really badly on the leash, so we can't enjoy a walk. Is it acceptable on a nose halter (Gentle Leader or Halti) to stop my dog pulling on the leash?"

Yes, a nose halter can be a helpful tool for stopping a dog from pulling on the leash. It works by applying gentle pressure to the bridge of the dog's nose when they pull. However, it's important to use a nose halter correctly and to combine it with other training techniques, such as teaching the dog to walk on a loose leash.

## "My dog won't always do what I tell him, do I need to be more dominant?"

No, you do not need to be more dominant. Dogs are pack animals and need a leader, but that leader should be calm, confident, and in control. Dominance is a social structure, not a personality trait. You should focus on building a strong bond with your dog and teaching them to follow your lead.

It's important to remember that dogs are individuals and may have different personalities and needs. What works for one dog may not work for another. It's always best to consult with a professional trainer if you're having trouble with your dog's behavior.

## A good dog trainer is someone who:

- Stays calm and in control.
- Treats the dogs kindly and with understanding, and does not resort to shouting, physical punishment and
- Makes the people at the class feel confident and doesn't undermine them with niggling and criticism.
- Is focused on the same objective as you; a well-behaved pet and not a circus animal that does tricks.
- Tries different approaches and explanations, rather than just blaming the owners when the dog doesn't