



Choosing a Dog Trainer – Buyer Beware!

This week's Tip focuses on what you need to know when choosing a dog trainer and/or training program. Making an ill-informed decision about who to trust is a very costly mistake -- and not just to your pocketbook. Dogs suffer, lose their homes, and their lives everyday because people who didn't know better trusted the wrong person.

It's important to understand that the field of dog training and behavior is not regulated -- which means that anyone can claim anything, whether it's the truth or not, including claims relative to their "qualifications". So, how can you know that you (and your dog!) won't fall victim to one of them? The only way to be sure is to do your homework and thoroughly investigate anyone/any place before you commit! Here are just a few things to consider during your search:

How can I know that they're really qualified to help me and my dog?

How important is dog trainer education?

What about certifications/credentials? How important are they, and should I verify them?

How can I be sure they use dog-friendly, humane methods?

Should I observe a class and/or ask for referrals, before I sign up?

Indeed, there are many things to thoroughly check out before you hire a trainer, or training school program, but don't panic! Knowing what to look for in a qualified professional, and how to spot (and walk away from) someone who's not, will prevent you from making a big mistake! Everything you need to know to be sure you're making the best decision for you and your dog, is provided in the following articles:

[Beware Positive Reinforcement](#)

By Lisa Patrona Dip. CBST, CPDT-KA, ACDBC

[http://avsabonline.org/uploads/position_statements/How_to_Choose_a_Trainer_\(AVSAB\).pdf](http://avsabonline.org/uploads/position_statements/How_to_Choose_a_Trainer_(AVSAB).pdf)

From the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior

<http://dogtrainer.quickanddirtytips.com/find-behavior-expert.aspx> By Jolanta Benal CPDT-KA, CBCC-KA, PMCT-2

[Good Trainers](#)

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