

# IS IT TIME FOR YOU TO CONSIDER THE SERVICES OF A PROFESSIONAL TRAINER?

THIS PIECE IS AN ADAPTION FROM A LONGER ARTICLE WRITTEN BY Mara Bosvun, of the AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB on April 27, 2015 entitled WELCOME TO AKC TRAINING, YOUR MOST IMPORTANT STOP ON THE JOURNEY TO GOOD DOG

Close your eyes for a second and think about you and your canine pal on a perfect day. Are you swimming together on a cool lake on hot summer afternoon or expertly maneuvering through an agility course for a clean run in record time? Are you strutting your stuff at a dog show? Hiking a mountain trail? Comforting the elderly in a hospice or teaching a shy youngster to read in a library? Are you dashing through the woods in the middle of frigid winter's night, racing against time to find a lost child? Are you nestled together on a couch, munching popcorn and watching a Law & Order marathon?

Such dreams are why people get dogs, why we've always had dogs. The bond started tens of thousands of years ago, probably as a simple work arrangement—we hunt and eat together. As times changed, and society became more complex, dogs adapted so they continue to share our lives.

Today, dogs are indispensable in so many ways. No matter what we humans are up to, there is usually a way to have a dog by our side. They fill voids in our lives, comfort us in our darkest hours, and, most important, they make us strive to be better people.

That's what most of us hope for when we open our hearts to that adorable ball of fluff and puppy breath or to an adolescent or mature dog who needs a new home. What we certainly don't hope for is a four-legged terror that messes up the house, shreds your most treasured belongings, barks non-stop and all hours, and pulls your arm out of its socket on every walk. Sadly, for too many people, these miserable images sum up life with their dogs.

What makes the difference between the lovely dreams and harsh realities?

Training. And not just any training, but consistent, focused training that builds mutual respect and love. It's not something you can learn overnight, nor is it something that you can pick up on your own. You need the help of experienced guides.

Dog training is a big business with thousands of books, schools, and products designed to make the job easier. A recent scan of the keywords, "Train Your Dog" turned up nearly 10,000 results on Amazon.com alone. For the average or first-time dog owner, it can all be so bewildering that people give up in despair.

It may be time to turn the dog by your side into the dog of your dreams.

Our website lists some trainers in your neighborhood. If they are not conveniently located to your area you will be are to find others online.