

### **Animal Behavior Management**

(630)513-5636 St. Charles

Services: Evening classes. Daytime drop-off for training. In-home private lessons. Behavior consultations. Specializing in aggression.

Methods: All positive reinforcement.

### **Best Friend Dog Training**

(630)773-3001 Itasca

Services: In-home private lessons. Behavior consultation. Pet selection assistance.

Methods: Positive reinforcement (praise only, no treats).. Some use of negative reinforcement & punishment.

### **Canine Care, Inc.**

(630)289-9596 Hanover Park

Services: Puppy, basic, and agility classes.

Methods: All positive reinforcement.

### **Canine Dynamics**

(630)830-9760, (630)656-6162 Villa Park

Services: Puppy, basic, and advanced classes. Behavior seminars.

Methods: Stresses use of positive reinforcement. Focuses on innate canine behaviors & drives and how to redirect them.

### **Doggie Manners**

(630)665-9074

Services: In home dog training/behavior counseling

Methods: Unknown

### **For the Love of Dogs**

(630)668-0647

Services: In home dog training/behavior counseling

Methods: Positive reinforcement. Training techniques determined by individual needs of the dog.

### **Fox Valley Dog Training Club**

(630)231-5658 St. Charles

Services: Puppy, basic, advanced.

Methods: Stresses use of positive reinforcement.

### **Glenbard All-Breed Obedience**

(630)462-8863 Carol Stream

Services: Puppy, basic, and advanced classes. For-fun obedience matches. Dog-related seminars.

Methods: Unknown.

### **K-9 Obedience Training Group**

(630)271-1783 Westmont

Services: Basic, advanced, agility, personal protection, private lessons, behavioral consultations.

Methods: Positive reinforcement (no food).. Some use of negative reinforcement & punishment to stop unwanted behavior.

### **Narnia**

(630)904-0895 Naperville

Services: Puppy, beginner, advanced, agility classes. Problem-solving seminars. Behavior counseling for dogs, cats, and birds. Puppy temperament evaluation.

Methods: Stresses use of positive reinforcement.

### **Paw Law Dog Training Academy**

(847)888-4725 Roselle

Services: Puppy/Dog basic – Advanced Obedience, agility, flyball, Canine Good Citizen, Therapy Dog, Dog Reactive Class (aggressive dog problem solving)

Methods: Stresses use of positive reinforcement

### **Smack-Dab's Obedience**

(630)393-9549 Warrenville

Services: Puppy, basic, advanced, agility, flyball, and conformation classes. Puppy temperament evaluation & selection assistance. Behavior counseling. Private lessons.

Methods: Stresses use of positive reinforcement.

### **Teacher's Pet K-9 School**

(630)483-9350 Streamwood

Services: Puppy, basic, advanced, and guard training classes. Problem-solving seminars. Pet sitting. In-home training.

Methods: Stresses use of positive reinforcement.

### **TLC Animal Training**

(630)529-8359 Roselle

Service: Puppy/Dog obedience training. Pet behavioral problem correction. Pet grief counseling & support

Methods: Unknown

Expertise: Behavioral/Correction

### **Wildwood Dog Training Club**

(630)415-1958 Villa Park

Service: Puppy/Dog/Advanced obedience training.

Methods: Stresses use of positive reinforcement.

Obedience  
Instructors



List of Local  
Obedience  
Instructors

Important  
Questions to Ask

## HOW TO FIND AN OBEDIENCE INSTRUCTOR

Obedience classes are designed to improve communication between you and your dog, increase the bond between you, and to teach you how to most effectively control your dog's behavior. They should also be *fun*. Keep in mind that classes teach **you** how to train your dog. Most of the dog's actual training will be done by you at home.

### Some Important Questions To Ask When Selecting A Trainer

#### 1. What training methods are used?

There are many different training methods, all of which are based on positive reinforcement, negative reinforcement, punishment, or a combination of any of the three. When selecting an instructor, we recommend enrolling in a class that stresses or exclusively uses positive reinforcement. Methods that use positive reinforcement set the dog up for success and reward him for being successful (the same way good human teaching methods do). This makes training *fun* for you and your dog. Your dog will love to be trained, making it much easier! Negative reinforcement and punishment may have their place in training, but **should not** be used to teach new behaviors.

#### 2. What is the student-to-instructor ratio?

Normally, each class has one lead instructor and a few assistants, depending on the size. The ideal ratio is 6:1. Be wary of a class that has more than 10 students per instructor/ assistant.

#### 3. How many weeks do the classes run?

Most classes run 6 - 10 weeks, depending on the class level.

#### 4. Will the instructor address behavior problems during class lectures?

Many normal dog behaviors, such as chewing, digging, aggression, and barking, are a problem for owners. It is important that all owners know how to redirect these behaviors in their dogs. A good instructor will address these issues in class and answer students' questions about solving behavior problems.

#### 5. Is the entire family welcome to class?

It is important for everyone in the household to understand how to train and bond with the dog. Any inconsistencies confuse and undermine training. Be wary of instructors who only allow one family member to class. Some instructors don't allow very young children, who probably won't benefit

much from the classes and may be disruptive.

#### 6. How much does it cost?

You can expect to pay \$60 - \$100 for a class. Some trainers offer discounts for animals adopted from shelters and to senior citizens.

#### 7. Ask for references.

A good trainer will have plenty of satisfied clients and will be able to supply you with references. They may also invite you to observe a class before enrolling.

**This following list describes services offered by some local obedience instructors. It is not comprehensive. Other resources for finding an instructor include your local park district, phone book, veterinarian's office, friends, or breeders. We suggest you follow the guidelines on the back of this list when selecting an instructor. To add an instructor to this list, please contact our Education Department at (630)682-7197 ext. 111.**