

So, You Want to Be a Dog Trainer

You're passionate about dog behavior and you really want to help dogs and their owners.

Your friends and family frequently ask your advice about issues they have with their dog.

Try different activities with your dog.
Find one that you both enjoy!

Take a class with your dog..

Continue to take classes with your dog. You and your dog will learn to work as a team. Never stop learning.

Work toward a title with your dog. This demonstrates your ability to work toward a goal.

Start building your tool box. What are your "must have" items when working with a dog or teaching students?

Hone your reflexes and skills. Learn to use a clicker. If you have difficulty clicking to reward, you'll lack timing for corrections to deter or redirect.

Observe or participate in a variety of classes. You'll always learn something, even if you don't like the class or the instructor!

Assist in various classes with various instructors. You need a balanced education with a variety of experiences.

Volunteer to work with other dogs. Train shelter dogs. Take a friend's dog through a training class. It's important to learn to work with dogs that may not have a relationship with you.

Find a mentor. Now that you've observed a variety of people, approach someone you respect and reach out for training, guidance and advice.

NOW...
You're becoming a Dog Trainer!

You need to identify what you know, and recognize what you don't know .

Learn about canine communication & body language. Learn how to use your body language to communicate with dogs.

Attend seminars, either in person or on line. Learn about various disciplines. Determine who you relate to and why.
If you complete a certification program it's only the beginning. Continuing Education is always necessary.