~ How To Choose A Dog Trainer ~

When looking for a modern, open-minded dog trainer who focuses on fulfilment and relationship-building and supports the journey of the dog owner, consider the following key qualities:

- 1. **Relationship-Centric Approach:** The trainer should prioritise building a strong, positive relationship between you and your dog, emphasising mutual respect and understanding.
- 2. **Fulfilment-Focused Training:** Look for a trainer who aims to fulfil your dog's physical, mental, and emotional needs, ensuring they are engaged and satisfied.
- 3. **Open-Minded and Flexible:** They should be open to different training methods and willing to adapt their approach based on what works best for you and your dog.
- 4. **Holistic Perspective:** The trainer should consider your dog's overall well-being, including their physical health, emotional state, and environmental factors, in their training approach.
- 5. **Clear and Compassionate Communication:** They should communicate training concepts and instructions clearly, with empathy and understanding, ensuring you feel confident in implementing them.
- 6. **Supportive of Owner's Journey:** The trainer should provide guidance and encouragement throughout the training process, supporting you in overcoming challenges and celebrating successes.
- 7. **Positive Reinforcement Techniques:** They should use rewards such as treats, praise, and play to motivate and encourage desired behaviours, avoiding punitive methods.
- 8. **Custom Training Plans:** The trainer should create tailored training plans that address your dog's unique needs and personality, rather than applying a generic approach.
- 9. **Education and Credentials:** Look for a trainer with relevant qualifications, certifications, or memberships with professional organisations, indicating a commitment to ongoing education and ethical practices.
- 10. **Patience and Empathy:** The trainer should exhibit patience and understanding, recognizing that training is a journey for both the dog and the owner, and being supportive through ups and downs.
- 11. **Positive Training Environment:** The training sessions should foster a supportive and non-judgmental atmosphere, making learning enjoyable for both you and your dog.

- 12. **Success Stories and References:** Seek a trainer with a proven track record of successful outcomes and positive feedback from previous clients, demonstrating their effectiveness and reliability.
- 13. **Collaborative Approach:** The trainer should work collaboratively with you, valuing your input and feedback, and adjusting their methods as needed to best support your and your dog's progress.
- 14. **Commitment to Ongoing Learning:** They should stay current with the latest developments in dog training and behaviour science, ensuring their methods are based on the most recent research and best practices.

By focusing on these qualities, you can find a dog trainer who will not only help your dog thrive but also support and empower you throughout the training journey!

You always have me, Aunty Jazz xx