



Tara Ellen, CCDT
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Dog Training & Pet Care
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Oneness Canine Care Dog Training Policies

Training Approach

As a professional dog trainer, I abide by a force-free approach to dog training. I exclusively use positive reinforcement training techniques. Good behavior and happiness go hand-in-hand, and this is by far the best way dog's learn. By focusing on your dogs needs, together we'll discover exciting ways to engage, communicate and have fun. My hope is for you and your pup to have a long and loving relationship.

I offer private sessions at your home and in your neighborhood. Each session includes single or multiple lessons, depending on:

- Time allotted
- You and your dog's comfort level
- Previous training (with me or other trainer)
- How quickly your dog picks up on cues

Expectations

- Your dog must have up-to-date core vaccinations (Rabies, Distemper, and DAPP/DHPP)
- Training is conducted with family members, ideally the person who will be the primary handler and trainer. During our initial call, we'll discuss who plans to participate.
- Each training lesson will be customized for your dog at a level where they gains the most out of the session. Every dog learns at their own pace.
- You and your dog will never be pushed beyond your comfort zone.

- Children are absolutely welcome to participate in training, as long as a parent is there to supervise.
- At this time I do not offer board & train services.

Prior to Training

1. We will discuss in detail your goals and concerns during our initial consultation call.

2. I will take notes and gather pertinent information about your pup and your home. This will include:

- Behavior observations (past and present)
- Bite history (if applicable)
- Social activities (playdates, daycare, stays with family/friends who have dogs)
- Any health issues
- Current medication
- Medical procedures
- Physical limitations
- Any previous training
- Home environment
- Your dog's general routine
- Time commitment issues
- Any of your concerns about training

3. We will discuss session rates and payment methods.

4. Following our call, if you wish to proceed we can schedule a meet & greet at your home. We'll discuss how to prepare and the best way to conduct our introduction

Our meet & greet is approximately 30-45 minutes to allow me the opportunity to assess your dog's current abilities, behaviors, observe family interactions, environmental factors, potential triggers, etc. There will be time to discuss a training plan, and I'll provide tips and techniques so you can immediately begin working with your dog.

Our initial call and meet & greet are completely free. There's absolutely no pressure to sign up for training

Training Environment

1. First and foremost, the training environment must be safe and secure for you, your dog, and other participants.
2. Before training begins, we will inspect the area to ensure that there is nothing that can injure people or pets.
3. Other dogs are not permitted to participate in the training session.
4. For the safety of everyone, please have your dog wear a muzzle if they have a bite history or tend to be “mouthy” and are already conditioned to wearing one. If you're interested in muzzle training, I'd be happy to discuss how to get started
5. Training sessions will be conducted in a variety of environments to include:
 - Areas within your home (typically on-leash to start)
 - Outside in a fenced yard (on and off leash)
 - Nearby parks (on-leash only)
 - Walks around your neighborhood (on-leash only)
6. If you live in an apartment complex or do not have a fenced yard, we'll assess your area and come up with appropriate locations to practice.
7. During times of inclement weather training can be conducted indoors or virtually, otherwise rescheduled.

Types of Training Sessions

Puppy Training (8 weeks-1 year)

Puppy training can help prevent behavioral issues as your pup develops. As he/she progresses, we can include more advanced training techniques.

Foundational training for your new puppy can include:

- Potty and crate/pen training
- No jumping
- No nipping
- Walking nicely on leash
- Confidence building
- Greeting other dogs
- Basic cues (sit, stay, down, etc)

Training Basics (1 year or older)

New dog at home or your dog needs further reinforcement? The Training Basics level is designed to focus on foundational training and more advanced techniques with the 3Ds (distance, duration and distraction), impulse control, redirection exercises and recall.

Behavior-specific Training

Are you dealing with concerning behavior while on walks, at home, or when you leave your pup? We can focus on specific behaviors such as:

- Continued potty accidents at home
- Chewing
- Impulse control
- Leash reactivity
- Pulling on leash
- Stress greeting strangers or visitors
- Excessive barking
- Separation anxiety
- Territorial behavior
- Resource guarding
- And many other behaviors

Behavior-specific training builds on what your dog already knows and introduces new cues to help them learn better habits and behaviors.

Training Session Rates

Initial training session: \$110

Follow-up training sessions: \$75

Training sessions typically last 1-hour. Should you wish to extend your session, additional time can be arranged at a prorated cost.

All rates are for one dog. Additional dogs would require a separate initial session and follow-up lessons.

Rates are subject to change. You will receive advance notice of any rate changes.

All training sessions include:

- Training plans that we can modify as we go.
- Feedback in the form of notes and video following our sessions.
- Fun enrichment and engagement exercises that you'll be able to continue to do with your dog at home between training sessions.
- Complimentary email and text communication between scheduled training sessions.

Walk & Train

Too busy to attend training sessions? I'll work with your pup during a walk and/or in your yard. Immediately following the training, you'll receive detailed feedback with notes and videos to help you work on training goals.

- Walk & Train (30-min): \$55
- Walk & Train (60-min): \$110

An initial session with family member(s) is required prior to starting Walk & Train.

Equipment and Training Treats/Toys

1. Please provide equipment for your dog, such as a properly fitted harness and/or collar and leash (head halter or muzzle if necessary).
2. During our session I may suggest other equipment options, but you are not required to change anything that you prefer to use.
3. Please provide training treats for our sessions. Food rewards are a valuable incentive for learning. For much of the training we can use your dog's daily kibble ration. The addition of high-value treats can be used when teaching something brand new.
4. Training treats should be small (size of a pea), and soft enough for your dog to consume quickly. Look for bags of training treats, or you can use small bits of unseasoned chicken, cheese, beef liver, hot dog, etc.

5. If you do not have treats for our session, I will have extra treat bags on hand for purchase.
6. If your dog is not food motivated we can try using toys. Have a variety of toys on hand for our session (tennis balls, tug toys, plush toys, hard rubber toys, flirt pole, etc). As we train, we'll figure out together what best motivates your dog to learn.

Service Areas and Hours of Operation

1. Service areas include: Falls Church, Arlington, Annandale, Tysons Corner/Vienna. If you are located outside my usual service radius, I can often accommodate you for an additional travel fee.
2. Free initial phone consultations may be scheduled Monday-Sunday between the hours of 7AM-7PM.
3. In-person training sessions may be scheduled Monday-Sunday between the hours of 10AM-6PM
4. Virtual training sessions may be scheduled Monday-Sunday between the hours of 7AM-7PM. Virtual training sessions are for follow-up sessions only. Initial sessions are in-person.

Payment Methods

- Payment methods include credit card, Venmo or Zelle
- For credit card payments, invoices can be paid via my pet care & dog training software, Time To Pet (account set up prior to first training session)
- Prompt payment is appreciated.

Scheduling and Contact Information

Email onenesscaninecare@proton.me or call/text: (571) 296-6287

I will confirm our appointment via email or text (your preference) with our training session date, time and location.

Cancellation and Rescheduling

1. There will be a \$50 cancellation fee if you need to change or cancel a lesson with less than 24-hours notice.

2. I will do my very best to reschedule our session as soon as possible.
3. No refunds will be issued for completed training sessions (in-person or virtual).