



Choosing the right dog training instructor

Having effective training is an important part of any dog's life, and its provision should be an easy decision for a responsible dog owner to reach.

Choosing the right dog training instructor, however, can be more difficult as the profession is unregulated and can be a minefield.

Attending dog training classes will enable you to learn about responsible dog ownership, as well as the correct handling techniques, whilst giving your dog a good opportunity to become socialised through meeting other dogs in a controlled environment. Both you and your dog will be happier if your dog has been socialised with people and other animals.

Choosing the right dog training instructor is one of the most important decisions you'll make for you and your dog.

So to help you choose a dog training instructor or canine behaviourist who has proven specialist knowledge, skills and experience and is right for you both, we've put together the following checklist:

- ✓ **Check** that the instructor has the relevant and appropriate up-to-date knowledge, skills and experience in dog training instructing and/or canine behaviour
- ✓ **Ask** the instructor about the training methods he or she uses, to check the methods are suitable and motivational, and consistent with the principles of kindness, fairness and good welfare of dogs
- ✓ **Seek** personal recommendations from friends or perhaps your local veterinary practice, and ask the instructor for client references
- ✓ **Check** that the instructor has appropriate and valid insurance cover, such as for public liability
- ✓ **Attend** a dog training session run by the instructor before you commit, so that you can observe how and what the instructor teaches, and how he or she communicates with clients
- ✓ **Check** with the instructor that they are registered with the Kennel Club Accredited Instructors Scheme (KCAI Scheme)

The KCAI Scheme maintains a register of accredited dog training instructors who have been assessed against a robust standard set by the Kennel Club to ensure that they are able to provide quality services and advice to dog owners.