

Thank you for your interest in ABC Obedience Dog Training. We specialize in teaching your dog right.... preventing and solving problems so that your dog can be an enjoyable part of your family. Please call or visit abcobedience.com for more information.

HOW IT WORKS: Step by step, we teach YOU the skills needed to train your dog. Dogs learn to respond to you and your family.

TYPES OF TRAINING: All training is done primarily with positive reinforcement and motivation. Choose the training option that suits your needs best. You can also **mix and match** for a more comprehensive approach. We offer:

- PUPPY KINDERGARTEN (PK)—very important socialization and early learning program for pups 12-18 weeks old. Our puppy K is a unique combination of socialization and early training basics. 6-8 dogs per class.
- BEGINNER GROUP CLASSES—for dogs age 12 weeks and older. More focused skills including: heel, sit, down, come, stay, and manners such as leaving things when told and polite greetings. The goal is response to the command said **once**; with and without distractions. 6-8 dogs per class.
- PRIVATE LESSONS—Maximum attention for best results! Focus on the issues that are important to YOU. Full range of commands and “manners”. In your home, out in the “real world” or in our facility. Private does NOT mean isolated, distraction work/socialization can be included.
- ADVANCED OR FOR FUN CLASSES—keep their minds busy! We offer a variety of additional classes including Canine Good Citizen (CGC), Intermediate I and II, Tricks, Games, Obstacles, Retrieve, Competition Prep, Therapy Dog, and more! Call or visit website (abcobedience.com) for details.

The Store:

2458 Boston Post Road, Guilford, CT.

Providing a variety of educational, safe toys & treats. Weird hours... but the best products, expert advice, friendly service and reasonable prices! Currently open: **Mon 3-6 p.m., Thurs 12-6 pm., Sun 11 a.m. -1 p.m.** (Hours may be subject to change, please call 458-2223 for updates)

Training Philosophy

The philosophy at ABC Obedience is a blend of modern motivational techniques with some tried and true traditional methods. Owners are taught to recognize behavioral cues and reinforce appropriately. Dogs do not have to be handled harshly to earn respect! Emphasis is on using logic and communication to get results, not force. Training should be fun for owner and dog!

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:

Robi Tatkin, M.A., CPDT (owner/instructor)

- Training dogs in New Haven/Shoreline area since 1993
- State licensed training facility
- Cornell University certification in Solving Canine Behavior Problems
- Member of several professional dog training organizations including APDT (Assoc. of Pet Dog Trainers, Connecticut Pet Dog Trainers, ABA (American Behavioral Association)
- CPDT (Certified Pet Dog Trainer)
- Graduate in advanced program in Professional Canine Education of Professional Animal Behavior Association
- Certificate from New England Dog Training Association in Canine Behavioral Problems
- Master’s Degree in Psychology (clinical); providing expertise with behavior modification, reinforcement theory, systematic desensitization for fears/phobias
- Familiar with a variety of breeds/mixed breeds (although dogs are individual, & shouldn't be stereotyped)
- Attendance at professional seminars/educational camps
- Instructor experience at major training facilities
- Proficient at positive reinforcement with proven results
- Skilled at variety of behavioral issues from housebreaking to dominance problems

The Fundamentals

TRAINING OVERVIEW (PRIVATE OR GROUP)

Basic Commdns: Sit, Down, Stay, Come when called, Heel

Manners: Stop bad habits such as nipping, jumping on people & furniture, chewing, etc. Teach your dog to greet people calmly, socialize well with other animals, “leave” things alone when told and more.

General Care: Learn to clip nails, get grooming tips. Also health & safety information.

Special issues: Housebreaking programs, Dominance Issues, Systematic Desensitization for fears (such as cars, thunder, people, etc.), behavior problems

More Creative Options: anything from fetch newspaper to jump through hoop (sorry, no fire). Hand signals, advanced exercises, etc. Its *your* training!

DOG CHARACTERISTICS

Age: 12 weeks to 12 years or *older*—for groups.

Privates can start with pups at any age ... and adult dogs too

Breed: Any breed or mixed breeds

Experience: first timers, re-training, or refreshers

OWNER CHARACTERISTICS

The only requirements are a genuine love and commitment to your dog, a willingness to learn, and a healthy dose of patience (a sense of humor is helpful too).

A Few Words About Choosing A Dog Trainer

Choosing a dog trainer that meets your needs can be confusing. Dog trainers often use different titles such as behaviorist, canine specialist or master trainer. Following some common sense guidelines can make the process easier

- *Talk to your veterinarian and other dog care professionals (groomers, pet sitters, etc.)*
- *Ask your friends & associates about their trainers*
- *Meet with potential trainers and observe how they interact with you and your dog. Visit classes if possible*
- *Ask questions about the trainers experiences,*

MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT DOG TRAINING

Myth: Dog training must wait until some “magic age” (such as 6 months).

Fact: Dogs can be trained at almost **any age!** From the day they come home into their twilight years

Myth: Training “breaks” the dog’s spirit

Fact: Training is for **the family pet**. It won’t turn your dog into a robot. There are many ways to establish control without ANY physical correction. Proper use of positive reinforcement insures a more reliable, lasting response *and* a good relationship with your dog.

Myth: Some breeds are “untrainable”

Fact: All breeds are trainable! (some may not respond to “traditional” methods and require more patience & creativity)

Myth: Dogs trained with food will never work without it.

FACT: When reinforcement theory is properly used, dogs learn to respond quickly and willingly, but do **not** become treat dependent!

Myth: Sending a dog out for professional training is best.

FACT: Learning to train your dog is a great part of pet ownership. Understanding training principles gives owners skills to build communication and trust with their dog in many circumstances, not just specific exercises. The modest amount of time and effort invested results in huge dividends with a dog you can be proud to own.

Myth: Fear or aggression are personality and can’t be changed.

FACT: Most fears, shyness and aggression are learned behaviors, and can be changed with a variety of techniques. After a veterinarian has ruled out any medical factors, professional training/behavior modification can usually help. However, in few cases, some dogs are simply not safe to own or train. A behavioral consultation can give you the information you need to make the right decision for you.

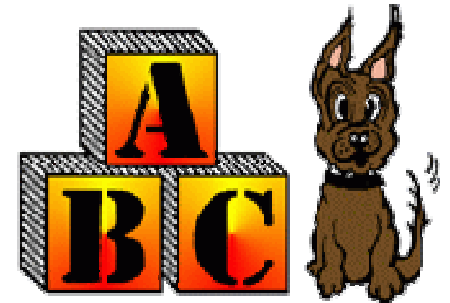
Myth: You should use a choke chain to automatically stop pulling.

FACT: We evaluate each dog and owner for the appropriate equipment and methods for them (many people who use choke chain collars don’t even realize they put the choke on **backwards!**). There are often better choices of training collars. Pressure on the dog’s neck makes them pull and can injure the dog. NEVER leave a choke chain on a dog unattended!

SAFETY BASICS FOR DOGS

- **Always provide plenty of fresh water**
- **Never leave a dog in the car during warm weather –even with windows open!**
- **Give only bones & toys made for pets**
- **Never leave choke chain on dog unattended**
- **Deal with behavioral problems as soon as possible. Contact a professional trainer preferably, before it becomes “last resort”**
- **Keep emergency numbers posted. Include veterinarian, animal emergency facility, pet poison control and emergency contact.**

About **ABC OBEDIENCE DOG TRAINING**



(203) 458-ABCD (2223)

www.abcobedience.com

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