



24-hour Media Line: 623-587-2177

PetSmart® Training

Dog training is one of the best ways to enhance the bond between pets and their pet parents. It not only fosters better communication between pet parents and dogs, but training teaches pets important skills that help them adjust to living in a home and feeling calm and comfortable in a crowd or around people, children or other pets. PetSmart is the leading dog training provider in the country, and every store offers extensive training programs for dogs of all ages, developed in partnership with leading animal behaviorists and dog trainers.

- 96% of dogs relinquished to shelters have had no obedience training¹. But with proper training, dogs learn how to fit in with their families and behave in social situations, which increases the likelihood of forming a happy, long-lasting relationship with their pet parents.
- Several methods are used for dog training, but the PetSmart program is founded upon positive reinforcement where dogs are rewarded for good behavior. Positive reinforcement through repetition and reward helps shape the dog's behavior and encourages consistent actions long after training is completed.
- All PetSmart trainers complete a rigorous accreditation program that focuses on canine behavior, learning theory, problem solving, handling skills and more. Similar to the pet training curriculum, the PetSmart training accreditation program was developed with expert pet trainers and animal behaviorists.
- Dog training takes place in PetSmart stores where dogs come across a variety of surroundings, people and pets. This environment helps them learn to pay attention to their pet parent in the face of distracting sights and sounds, which is what happens in everyday life. Pets not only learn housetraining and basic cues such as "sit" and "stay," but also ones that curb negative behaviors like jumping, barking and chewing.
- Good training can also help keep dogs safe. At PetSmart, pets learn to listen to their pet parents whether inside or outside the home, which means they'll steer clear of potentially dangerous actions like darting off into traffic or eating harmful foods such as chocolate.
- Class offerings include: puppy training/beginner education, intermediate training, advanced training, tricks and private classes. Class sizes generally include eight dogs,



¹ National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy

their pet parents and a trainer. All group classes meet one hour per week for 6 weeks. Night and weekend courses are available.

- To learn more about PetSmart training, our accredited trainers and to see previews of dog training sessions with expert pet trainer, Debbie McKnight, visit <http://dogtraining.petsmart.com/>