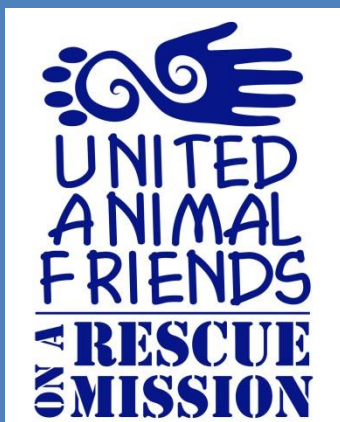


Choosing a Trainer

There are two basic methods of training. One uses positive reinforcement, such as praise and treats. The other is negative, and uses fear and dominance. It probably goes without saying, but we'll say it anyway - UAF recommends positive, reward-based training.

Choosing the right trainer will make a dramatic difference in your results, including your ongoing relationship with your pet.



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Never let a trainer dominate your dog.

Trainers should never force your dog into a submissive position on the ground. They should not grab your dog by the muzzle, ear, leg, fur or any part of his body. They should never pinch, hit, kick or in any way cause your dog pain. Your dog could be seriously injured from this process and may try to bite.

If the trainer tries to reassure you that his methods are safe or that his way is the only way, look for another trainer.

Watch what your dog is telling you.

A dog who is not normally fearful should not be cowering or whimpering around a trainer. If you or your dog are not comfortable, you should stop the session immediately.

Don't use force.

Never allow a trainer to lift a dog off the ground by his collar. The trainer should never yank your dog around on a leash. A Gentle Leader or Easy Walk harness work best. The leash attaches on the front, not the back of the dog, allowing for better control.

Show him what you want.

Rubbing your dog's nose in an "accident" only confuses your dog. This method is unnecessary, unsanitary, and teaches your dog to hide behind the couch when he has to go potty. Your dog wants to please you. Giving him lots of opportunities to go potty in the right place, and praising him for doing so, teaches him much faster. A low-toned, confident voice is helpful. Treats work much better than yelling.

If you are ever concerned or uncomfortable with anything a trainer is doing to your dog, end the session immediately.