



# Fetching Facts & Noseworthy Notes

## Contact Us:

Melissa@htdogtraining.com  
www.htdogtraining.com  
616-698-2237

## Upcoming Classes

### Puppy Class:

Monday Sept 22 – Oct 27

### Doggy Manners:

Monday Sept 22 – Oct 27

Wednesday Sept 10 – Oct 15

Saturday Sept 6 – Oct 11 \*

### Advanced Manners:

Saturday Sept 6 – Oct 11 \*

\*Outdoor classes at Shaggy Pines Dog Park



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Check out our blog:  
www.htdogtraining.com

## THE ROLES OF A DOG TRAINER

There is a "joke" among dog trainers: If you ask 10 trainers how to solve a behavior issue, you will get 10 different answers. Each trainer has his or her own way of getting things done. But, joking aside, when you look closely, down to the core of the solutions, the successful trainers are really very much alike. We put the dog's needs first. We focus on teaching not punishing. And, we figure out the "why" and fix the cause, not just the behavior that is a symptom of the real problem.

Our job as trainers is to assess, solve, teach, assist and improve the life our clients – both the humans and the canines. When you are looking for a dog trainer, what you are really seeking is a professional person who not only understands your dog, but also understands you and how to make your life easier.

So who are dog trainers, really?

🐾 Trainers are problem solvers. Whether your dog is jumping

up, refuses to come when called, or has a fear of men, children and/or other dogs, our job is to find the root of the problem. Using our experience and knowledge, we work with you to find a way to fix what's wrong. Or at very least, we strive to improve the situation so you and your dog can

*"Learning is finding out what we already know. Doing is demonstrating that you know it. Teaching is reminding others that they know just as well as you. You are all learners, doers, and teachers." -- Richard Bach*

live harmoniously. The "fixing" requires us to take on another role.

🐾 Trainers are teachers. No matter the issue at hand, part of our job is to teach the human half of the team how to live successfully with their dog. For trainers, getting a dog to walk nice or come when we call is what we do. We make it "look easy." And, we know just the right tone of voice, body language, and reward system to get the results we seek. A truly successful trainer must be able to teach the *human* clients how to get those same results. A great teacher does not just show what she knows. She shares her knowledge and skills in a way that allows her students to learn, implement and be successful. Another key to being a successful teacher is to be open to learning from your clients: What works well for their life style? What results do they seek? How do they learn the best? Trainers must also be willing to learn.

🐾 Trainers are students. Every dog and human client I have had the privilege of working with has taught me something new or reminded me of an important lesson I may have forgotten. We all learn at a different pace and require different motivators to achieve success. Learning the "who" of both the human and the canine client allows a trainer to provide the best possible solutions and results.

The next time you observe a trainer in action, watch closely – you should see her willingly take on these roles. And, if you are seeing her problem solve, teach and learn, suddenly dog training may not "look easy!" Happy Training!

## Q's Views...



I am a very smart, curious boy. I love to learn new things and solve challenges! When I was 6 months old, Momma took me to school to get my Canine Good Citizen designation. Which of course I did, no problem!

At the school, the other people in the class were surprised Momma would go to school with a different trainer. Momma explained trainers learn from each other. By working together, trainers get new ideas, share knowledge and find creative fun ways to teach dogs and their people.

Just like me, Momma always likes to learn new things!

## Koda's Komments...



As a pup, my dog brother Tucker and I went to training camp. When we finished our lessons, we still pulled like freight trains! If the trainer lady walked us, we were good. Not so for Momma and Dad...

Momma became a trainer and she promised not only would the dogs learn, but the people too! Apparently, it took her awhile to figure out how to handle us. Not that the trainer lady was bad, she just did not explain to my parents so it made sense to them.

Ask your trainer lots of questions! You and your dog are a team! The lessons learned need to work for both of you!

## A HAPPY TAILS TALE....

When I first started as a dog trainer, I was eager to get out there and train. Having always been a bit of a "study nerd," I wanted to learn as much as I could before actually training. I took an on-line course to learn the basics of dog behavior. In addition, I worked with experienced trainers doing an internship and then as an assistant. But that was really just the tip of the training education iceberg!

As the years have gone by, I continue to read, attend seminars, watch DVDs of seminars, and network with other trainers. The science of dog training has changed so much of what we do and how we do it in the last 10 years. And, we still do not really "know" all there is to know about dogs! The dog behavior "community" (scientists, trainers, behaviorists, and veterinarians) continues to study and learn, making life with our dogs even more successful and rewarding.

Being a trainer is so much more than just teaching a dog to sit on cue. I am a student of canine science and behavior, as well as people. There are always new things to learn, ways to improve and sources of knowledge to make me better at what I do. To be the best dog trainer possible, it is important to also be an excellent student; continually seeking more information. While not everyone loves to go to school, the trainers I know all get excited about learning more about our canine companions. It is easier to study and learn when the information is all about your passion and purpose in life!

## Kirb's Blurb!



When I was a young pup, a big mean dog tried to attack me! It was so super scary and after that I was afraid a lot. My Momma worked with me and taught me to be confident. She was so patient with me, not rushing me to learn too fast.

The strange thing is when I hear Momma talk about the times she helped me, she always says I taught her things! The time she spent with me taught her to be more patient and understanding.

Since Momma helped me learn to be confident, it is now my job to help other dogs that are afraid. I go with Momma to teach other dogs I am nice! While I do that part, Momma shows their people how to keep learning when I go home. Learning all around! How fun is that!