



DOG TRAINING SOLUTIONS

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How to become a dog trainer? Brought to you by The Australian DogTrainers Academy

Becoming a dog trainer is not easy, there are not many trainee positions available with dog trainers and it can be really hard to enter this industry.

My own entry into the industry started as a hobby training my own dogs. It was something I really enjoyed as compared to the stress and pressure in my profession at that time. I was regularly told how much nicer I was whilst training the dogs... This sowed the seed in my mind and indeed, self-analysis showed to me that my whole persona was different. The course I chose suited in that it was evenings and therefore after work, and it included 60+ hours of assisting trainers in their own school. This gave me great hands-on learning, but there are not many training courses around with that set up.

I then worked as a professional, paid casual trainer for the same organisation and loved it – my Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings were the things I looked forward to the whole week!

Whilst looking around for opportunities, I found a major international in-home behavioural dog training company and bought the Victorian Master Franchise, which I held 4½ years. During this time I learned so much, and even though I no longer have the franchise, I am still learning every day.

As training was one our key business specialities, we established the Australian DogTrainers Academy in 2003 to try and forge a pathway into dog training that would assist people getting into the industry. The Australian DogTrainers Academy meets the ever-expanding demand for professional dog trainers and an urgent requirement for ongoing and better canine training. Handlers of dogs and the public at large demand better trained dogs; a trend underpinned by ever-increasing community awareness and legislative standards.

Dog training (and training the handlers) through the Academy is fun and a future in dog training will be very rewarding in all aspects, meeting every kind of person and dog. The canine industry is a multi million-dollar business in this country where opportunities abound for qualified professional dog trainers.

The Academy offers a variety of courses and levels including short skills courses, such as the Train the Dog Trainer course, a great way to learn different training methods and to update skills, in a very hands-on fashion where students do get to train the class. The 'Train the Puppy Trainer' course complements learning and is well suited for vet nurses, and others who want to add puppy classes to their gamma. Time restraints do obviously limit the amount packed into these courses.

DogTraining Solutions – your one-stop dog training solutions

As the Academy is part of an RTO (Registered Training Organisation) we now deliver nationally recognised training for dog trainers (Conduct Companion Animal Training Classes – RUV4512A), an 10-week (Saturdays only) course run in Melbourne. You will also be running at least 2 classes for a 4-week period when you join our course.

Because of the increasing demand and popularity of e-learning, we have adapted the RUV4512A course and the e-learning version will be launched mid 2008. Assessments and assignments are still required but students will self-pace. We are exploring modern technological methods of presenting practical assessments, including video evidence. This brings professional training to those who would otherwise miss out completely due to their location etc.

What are the pathways open to you? Various – do a short skills course and join a volunteer dog club, do some training and soon you will be comfortable to take an active training role with the skills you have learned in the short skills course. Above all experience is what is needed before you would be ready.

If you do the RUV course or the Certificate Course we have planned for late 2008, we would recommend to offer your services to a voluntary or community club to increase your experience before you take a business direction with your training. As a hands-on daily dog trainer and a trainer of people to become dog trainers, I still learn every day. One of the key benefits of this profession – you never stop learning. And there is NO one way of doing things. Things evolve, with more experience you can constantly improve, to the benefit of the dogs and handlers you train, but also to the betterment of the industry.

It is anticipated that dog trainers in the future will need to meet minimum skills and training requirements before they are granted permits, as outlined and controlled by the government. This can only advance the industry in a more professional and viable environment. So what better time to consider a course than now?

For more information on courses, please visit www.dogtrainersacademy.com.au

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