

## On Becoming a Professional Dog Trainer

Being a dog trainer or studying to become one is hard work. It requires a great deal of reading of the current literature, a mastery of understanding of the scientific principles of operant and classical conditioning which can take years and extensive practical experience.

The best dog training schools I know of are:

ABC : [www.animalbehaviorcollege.com](http://www.animalbehaviorcollege.com)

ITC: Dana Crevling - [www.dogsofcourse.com](http://www.dogsofcourse.com)

Plus I offer an internship or mentoring type program - [www.deesdogs.com](http://www.deesdogs.com)

Good resources:

[www.apdt.com](http://www.apdt.com) an association of professional dog trainers

[www.nadoi.org](http://www.nadoi.org) another association of professional dog trainers

[www.dogwise.com](http://www.dogwise.com) one of the best resources of dog books

### Recommended Reading

The list below is a good starting point but in order to be a trainer you must love to read because learning is part of the job. I am constantly reading 4-6 dog books at a time and watching new videos.

Dee Ganley: Changing People Changing Dogs -positive solutions for working with dogs

Jean Donaldson: Culture Clash

Jean Donaldson: Mine

Jean Donaldson: Fight

Karen Pryor: Don't Shoot the Dog

Stephen Lindsay: Applied Dog Behavior and Training vol 1

Stephen Lindsay: Applied Dog Behavior and Training vol 2

Pamela Reid: Accelerated Learning

Pam Dennison: Bringing Light to Shadow

Sue Sternberg: Successful Dog Adoptions

### Recommended Publications

APDT Chronicle of the dog [www.apdt.com](http://www.apdt.com)

Whole Dog Journal [www.Whole-Dog-Journal.com](http://www.Whole-Dog-Journal.com)

I recommend selecting a dog sport and training your own dog to the highest level in that sport. That also teaches you a great deal.

Dog training is a complex combination of science and art. It requires excellent people skills and the ability to present well (teaching group classes). A peppy personality and charismatic presentation style are a must. A passion and love for dogs and people is also necessary. Most important is a never ending thirst to learn. If you think you know it all, the mistakes will start closing in on you. mistakes that can involve human and canine injuries as no matter what type of training you do, you will encounter aggressive dogs and difficult people.