



The Pet Professional Guild

41-Dog-Train (413-648-7246)

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Member in The Spotlight!

1. Why did you become a dog trainer?
I love all animals but seeing millions of dogs (and cats) being killed every year in shelters mainly because of relinquishment due to behavior problems was the catalyst. I thought, all of these owners just need to understand training and ethology and everyone benefits!
2. Are you a crossover trainer or have you always been a Force Free trainer?
I was a force trainer when I was 10 years old if that counts? I was experimenting how to train my house dogs and would push their rumps down when I wanted them to sit and pull them around on the leash to follow me. But as a professional I have always been a force free R+ trainer.
3. What drives you to be a force free professional and why is it important to you?
Animal rights, welfare, learning theory, fairness and a voice for the voiceless. Too many people are being brainwashed by reality television shows into thinking this is how you train or educate a pet. It is just ridiculous and destroys relationships faster than Kim Kardashian.
5. Who are your most important influences in your training and why?
All of the usual, Patricia McConnell, Sophia Yin, Ian Dunbar, Jean Donaldson, Karen Pryor and my mom. My mom because she is emblematic of millions of animal loving people on this earth that are clueless how to train and teach dogs effectively. Sorry mom, I love you.
7. No training is 100% positive - how do you avoid frustration, over-excitement with your clients
Typically with my roller blades and some exercise beforehand if they are highly under exercised pets. Of course we mix in negative punishment for certain cases of jumping, excessive barking or other inappropriate behaviors... for clients I take lots of deep breaths and practice meditation often which helps me rephrase and explain things differently when I see a client is having difficulty understanding principles I am teaching.
Dogs body language and results of what I am trying to achieve.
9. When looking at a new technique or tool how do you evaluate effectiveness/aversive
10. If you had one tip for pet owners what would it be?
It is never OK to abuse a dog. When dog training, expediency should never trump the humane treatment and welfare of your dog.
11. What is the reward you get out of a day's training with people and their dogs?
Satisfaction of educating someone and their pup and seeing their relationship change from a typical stressed one to a happy and joyous deep satisfaction and bond with their dog.
14. When confronted with a person who uses compulsion, do you try to convert this person & if so how
I bring my own leashes and apparatus to every client. I replace their aversive hardware with my nonaversive tools to get better results. This almost always converts anyone right away.
16. What advice would you give to a new trainer starting out?
Read, read and read some more. The more research and understanding you have before being an apprentice or getting practical experience the more you will benefit.

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