

Welcome to a Brand New Year!



THE HISTORY OF DOG TRAINING

Just like everything in life, dog training is evolving. If you think back 50 years, people thought nothing of spanking their kids to get compliance. However, we have learned there are far kinder and more respectful ways of training our children. This is true of dog training as well.

During the 2 world wars, corporal punishment was how they trained military dogs. This way of training continued after the war. In the early days of Who's Walking Who, students used a choke chain. You did a quick pop on the chain when the dog was wrong. This method is known as Aversive training.

Around the late 1980's a kinder more respectful way of training was developed known as Positive Reward-Based training (aka clicker training). Who's Walking Who started using this training in the 1990's and we continue to use this method but have replaced the clicker with the word "Yes".

During Covid, there was an influx of new "dog trainers," many using a method of training called the Balanced Approach. This training uses a mix of positive reinforcement as well as aversive, punishment-based training. This can be confusing to the dog and lead to increased anxiety, aggression, and fearfulness.

During this time another method of training emerged called Games Based Concept Training. It originated in Europe about 12 years ago where it is widely used and has gained popularity in North America over the past few years. This method is based on neuroscience and helps dogs learn to make better decisions (like not engaging with everything in the environment) without you telling them what to do. Many trainers, like us, are embracing this new evolution in training. Positive reward-based training is great for teaching words, but Concept training is best for changing behaviour. We offer both because we pride ourselves on offering the most up to date non-aversive training methods.

Lynda Kitson, Director

What's New?

Power Up Canine Conditioning & Fitness

We want our dogs to be their best possible selves, for as long as possible! Much like humans, our dog's quality of life can be greatly enhanced by conditioning & exercising both the body and the mind. Whether your goal is to have a fit, healthy family pet, or a limber canine athlete, this program will provide exercises tailored to each dog's individual needs.

This program works on increasing flexibility, balance, stamina, co-ordination & strength through a variety of different exercises. It is different from Sports Prep. In this course, we focus on proper body positions, safe use of fitness equipment & exercises that can easily be replicated & practiced at home. We also give the dogs "Brain Breaks" where we focus on mental enrichment using puzzles, complex tricks, and fun new behaviours to keep their minds active and learning!

Best of all... there's no prerequisite for this program and it's offered at both locations!

For information on dates and times, click the link below or copy and paste it into your browser:

<https://www.whoswalkingwho.ca/dog-training/course188-Power-Up-Canine-Conditioning-&-Fitness>

We're holding ourselves Accountable!

We want to ensure that we are delivering the best training experience to our students. To do this, we need your feedback. Going forward we will be sending out a survey from Mail Chimp after your class has graduated. There are only 10 questions. Your opinion is important to us, so please take a few minutes to fill it out.

You can also leave a Google Review. Please use:

<https://g.page/r/CdE7WKUxJ-kCEAI/review> for Ajax and

<https://g.page/r/CQWo09RPAy2TEBM/review> for The Beaches

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