

CHOOSING PET PROFESSIONALS

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

DOG TRAINING IS AN UNREGULATED FIELD WITH NO STANDARDS OF ETHICS, TRAINING METHODS, OR EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS. CHOSING A HUMANE PROFESSIONAL IS IMPORTANT TO YOUR DOG.

Education: All professionals should be committed to ongoing education throughout the year. The certifications they hold and memberships they belong to should require continuing education for them to renew.

Transparency: methods, side-effects of any methods used, equipment used (or not).

Commitment to avoid aversives: policies and conversations should be available for you to review that detail the commitment to avoiding use of aversives. Explanations of LIMA protocols (least intrusive / minimally aversive) should be happily explained to any client.

Informed consent should include all of the above. Ethical professionals will happily have this information available to you if not available publicly on their website.

DOG TRAINERS/BEHAVIOR CONSULTANTS - WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN CERTIFICATIONS

- IAABC <http://iaabc.org> (CDBC, ACDBC)
- Certification Council of Professional Dog Trainers <http://ccpdt.org> (CPDT-KA / CPDT-KSA / CBCC-KA)
- Karen Pryor <http://karenpryoracademy.com> (KPCTP)
- the Academy for Dog Trainers <http://academyfordogtrainers.com> (CTC)
- Pet Professional Guild <http://petprofessionalguild.com> (PPG)

VETERINARY BEHAVIORISTS

- American College of Veterinary Behaviorists <https://www.dacvb.org>

VETERINARIANS

- Fear Free Certified Vets <https://fearfreepets.com/resources/directory/>

DOG WALKERS/PET SITTERS

- Pet Professional Guild <http://petprofessionalguild.com>

Words from Jean Donaldson, Academy of Dog Trainers, author of "The Culture Clash":

BE A SMART DOG TRAINING CONSUMER.



- ASK:**
1. What exactly will happen to my dog if my dog gets it right?
 2. What exactly will happen to my dog if my dog gets it wrong?
 3. Are there less invasive/aversive alternatives to what you propose?

If you don't get clear, concrete answers or are at all uncomfortable, keep shopping.

Illustration by Lili Chin doggiedrawings.net