

# Dog Trainer Checklist



## WHAT TO LOOK FOR BEFORE YOU CHOOSE

### How to Use This:

Bring this with you when researching trainers, talking to a trainer, or attending your first class.

You don't need everything to be perfect—just look for the right overall fit.

#### Teaching & Understanding

- The trainer explains how dogs learn
- I understand what they're teaching & why
- They break things into clear steps I feel
- like I could repeat this at home

#### How My Dog Is Responding

- My dog looks engaged, not shut down or hesitant
- My dog is willing to participate
- I see moments of focus and connection
- My dog seems to understand what's being asked

#### Communication With Me

- The trainer explains what I'm seeing
- They talk about dog body language clearly
- I feel comfortable asking questions
- I don't feel judged or talked down to

#### When Things Go Wrong

- My dog is guided toward success
- The trainer adjusts if my dog is struggling
- There's a clear plan
- I feel supported, not stressed

#### Real-Life Progress

- I understand what to practice at home
- The training feels usable in real life
- I'm seeing small wins
- Things are getting easier over time

#### Confidence & Experience

- My dog seems more confident
- I feel more confident
- The experience feels positive
- We're moving in the right direction

#### Things to Pay Attention To

- My dog only responds in very specific situations
- I don't understand what to do at home
- My dog seems unsure or withdrawn
- I feel dependent on something to make it work
- I leave feeling confused instead of clearer

#### Questions You Can Ask

- What happens if my dog gets it wrong?
- How do you help dogs understand?
- How will you help me understand my dog?
- Do you explain body language?
- What should progress look like?
- How do you handle struggling dogs?

Because you've got the best dog

*Sit, Stay, 'N Play*