

TRAINING FAQ

Q How old does my dog have to be for training?

A Training age depends on your goals. Basic manners can be taught very early on and I will accept dogs into my training program as young as 12 weeks for simple molding of general behaviors. If your goals are more involved, such as working livestock, generally one year old is a good place to start with complex sports. That being said, all dogs are individuals and learn at different paces so the best way to know if your dog is ready for training is to reach out and discuss your situation.

Q What training methods do you use?

A I use a combination of several methods as every dog is unique, with its behavior being molded by factors ranging from genetics to environment. Clear, consistent, and effective communication is imperative in my training and depends on not only individual dogs but even individual situations. Please see "What can I expect from an evaluation?" for more info.

Q How long will training take?

A I get asked this question more times than any other and I hate to break it to you, but I'm going to answer with "it depends." While I would love to give you an exact answer, there are MANY factors that come into play when deciding this. The best way to get a 'rough' estimate on what you can expect for a timeframe, contact me and be prepared to discuss the following:

- *How old is your dog?
- *What are your goals?
- *How well behaved is your dog currently?
- *Consider how quickly you learn and are able to teach your dog.
- *Do you have any experience with training or working with other animals?
- *What breed (or kind) of dog do you have (while this one isn't guaranteed, some dog breeds learn quicker than others)

I will ALWAYS default to what you, as the owner, are most comfortable with investing in training. The only time a minimum number of sessions is required is when an organization I work with requires it for a specific title, such as the AKC STAR Puppy Program. Beyond that, we always discuss your options at the end of your session and I leave it entirely up to you how you want to proceed.

Q

What can I expect from an evaluation?

A

I prefer to conduct my evaluation at the home of my client, as it gives me the most accurate assessment of your everyday life and your dog's manners without any new distractions besides myself (which is fairly typical of most households, having a visitor). My evaluations last up to an hour long with quite a bit of information as well as me working with your dog if time and circumstances allow. I will go over how I plan to communicate with your dog based on what I assess during my eval and discuss what we can do to stop nuisance habits and form new desirable behaviors. At the conclusion of your session I will give you a short list of things to work on based on how things went.

Q

What does it cost?

A

My evaluations cost \$90 plus mileage and all subsequent lessons cost \$60 plus mileage. I live approximately 35 miles north of Weatherford but travel all over the state. At this time, I am slowly working long term/in house training (where your dog lives with me for its training) back into my offerings and it is offered as my schedule allows. For more information on long term training, please contact me.

Q

What kind of training do you offer?

A

A majority of the training I offer at this time is private lessons where I travel to you. I find this system works exceptionally well in being able to get any undesirable behaviors under control and to cultivate new beneficial habits. That doesn't mean we only train in your home though, if you're able, we will expand your dog's newfound manners as far as you like. We can go to parks, Tractor Supply, walking trails, etc. Anywhere dogs are welcome and you want to work on solidifying their good behavior.

Q

Do you offer board and train?

A

Typically my board and train has two main options. One requires a minimum of 30 days with me. 30 days includes boarding, training (2 sessions per day), an evaluation, and two private lessons with you. Mileage is not included and charged at the current IRS rate. I also offer options for pickup and delivery (where I pick them up and bring them back to you) at \$40/hr. If your dog is at least one year old, the extended board and train is \$900 per dog and if they are younger than a year it's \$1,200 per dog. The other is shorter term but requires a minimum of 3 private lessons with me beforehand. It's used more for a refresher or vacation type situation where I will board your dog and you choose how many sessions you want them worked while you are gone. It's \$30/day if your dog is under a year and \$25/day if over a year. That includes one session per day and if you want more than that, they are \$15/15 minute session.