

A pawssitive response

reporting by Liz Vernon

Our comp shoppers learned a few tricks of the animal-training trade to understand how pets become well-behaved companions.



<p>Who we talked to</p>	<p>Acme Canine LLC Lewis Center 740-363-6889 acmecanine.com</p> <p>LAURA PARKS, OWNER</p>	<p>Doran's Canine College 7884 Morse Road New Albany 614-855-9760 dorangcaninecollege.com</p> <p>WALTER DORAN, OWNER</p>	<p>Civil Obedience Dog Training Clintonville and Dublin 614-853-3967 civilobediencedogtraining.com</p> <p>AMY FLANIGAN, OWNER</p>
<p>What services do you offer?</p>	<p>"We offer everything from determining what breed would be best to picking a puppy in a litter to helping families adjust to dying or aging dogs."</p>	<p>"Our main thing is dog training, but we also board dogs. We offer playtime for the dogs in boarding."</p>	<p>"I do training and behavior modification for serious problems, like aggression and separation anxiety. I teach group and in-home classes for manners and obedience."</p>
<p>What methods of training do you use?</p>	<p>"The training is up to the dog's personality. We do a canine assessment, find out what the owners want, observe the dog and come up with a program."</p>	<p>"We believe in treating the dogs kindly. If the dog knows what it's supposed to do but decides to do otherwise, we may give it a bit of a jerk back, but right after correction, they're praised."</p>	<p>"We use all positive reinforcement. There are no corrections or punishments. It's good for owners who either don't want to do that for their dogs or people who physically can't."</p>
<p>Do you train both the pet and owner?</p>	<p>"We train the dog and show the owner how to maintain it and why."</p>	<p>"The dogs are in for two weeks, but on the 10th, 12th and 14th days, the owners come out and work with us. We also like them to come back for at least two follow-ups."</p>	<p>"Most of my job is coaching the owners. I explain the technique they're going to use and show them how to do it, then they do it."</p>
<p>How do you charge, and what is the cost?</p>	<p>"We have a flat rate when we come to the home. It's \$86 per session. It usually takes about four sessions to get the dog trained."</p>	<p>"We charge \$500 for two weeks. If they're not happy, we refund the money. Boarding is \$16 a night."</p>	<p>"Group obedience classes range from \$115 to \$140. I charge an hourly rate for in-home lessons and behavior consultations."</p>
<p>Can you teach an old pet new tricks?</p>	<p>"We've worked with several 10-year-old dogs. The oldest was probably 13. They have set patterns you have to break."</p>	<p>"Most of the dogs are six months to a year and a half. We had one dog who was 11 and another who was eight, and both did very well."</p>	<p>"Absolutely. I work with elderly and geriatric dogs. Old dogs like to play the training game, too. They don't want to be forgotten."</p>
<p>What's one helpful training tip you can offer?</p>	<p>"Consistency, fairness and patience are very important."</p>	<p>"There has to be repetition, but make it fun."</p>	<p>"Train your puppy before a problem arises. It's better to be proactive."</p>



Illustration by BRADLEY SMITH