

# Finding the Right Dog Trainer Checklist

- ✓ Make a List of Local Dog Trainers:  
(If neighbours have dogs, ask them if they used those trainers)
  - Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Call to Observe a Few Classes  
(Attend without your puppy when observing)
- ✓ Is Facility Clean & Spacious Enough For the Size of the Class?
- ✓ Does Trainer Empower Owners & Puppies In a Positive Way?
- ✓ Is Everyone Having Fun?
- ✓ Are Dogs Displaying Signs of Stress?  
(Refer to your knowledge of body language signals)
- ✓ Are Puppies Distracted Because They Are Bored?
- ✓ Are Puppies Re-directed Positively?  
(Are they encouraged to pay attention in a fun way or are they punished for not paying attention? Re-directing in a positive way engages the mind!)
- ✓ Are Puppies Given The Chance to Figure Things Out On Their Own?
- ✓ Does Trainer Shape Behaviour By Luring With a Treat When Puppy Does Not Understand?
- ✓ Dogs Have Different Temperaments - Does Trainer Address This With Owners?
- ✓ Does Trainer Speak About Inherent, Breed Specific Traits?
- ✓ Does the Trainer Answer Specific Questions From Puppy Owners At the End of The Class?