



# At Your Service Dog Training

*A Positive Approach to Dogs and People*

sharon@aysdt.co • (413) 336-0598 • www.atyourservicedogtraining.com

## Pet Trainer Referrals – Western MA and Greater Boston

For pet manners training (e.g., puppy training, basics like sit, come, lay down, potty training, etc.), we refer to the trainers below in Western Mass., and the greater Boston area. Let them know we referred you. Check with them about what services they're currently offering as the pandemic has really changed how and where trainers are working with clients. If none of them cover your area or are currently available, ask them who they recommend in your area. A referral is usually the best way to find a trainer. For those outside of Mass., please see the additional referral resources below.

**Make sure to check whether they have our free handbook for pet trainers on manners training for puppies and young dogs.** If not, ask them to get in touch with us to request it. It will prevent some common problems we see in dogs that do manners training with pet trainers.

### Western Mass.

- Caroline Moore and Alex Wise at Animal Alliances (Northampton) - group and private training
- Barbara Eriksson at Blue Rock Dog Training (Warwick/Orange) - group and private training
- Elise McMahan at Canine Head Start (Montague) - group and private training
- Elise Gouge at Pet Behavior Consulting (Granby)
- Missy or Annie at Sandy Meadow Farm (Westfield) - group classes
- Debra Theriault at Yankee Dog (Brattleboro, VT) - group and private training
- Jill Rose at Paws of Nature (Westfield) - private training
- Justine at Western Mass Pet Services (South Hadley) - private training

**Central Mass.:** Kat Klein at House of Klein Dog Training – group and private training

### Greater Boston

- Melissa McCue-McGrath in Somerville, private training, also classes at New England Dog Training Club in Cambridge -- [mmccue@gmail.com](mailto:mmccue@gmail.com), also trains at [nedtc.org](http://nedtc.org)
- Janet Vera in Concord -- private training -- [janetvera.com/](http://janetvera.com/)
- Kate Bigger -- group classes in Everett -- [highfidelitydogs.com](http://highfidelitydogs.com)
- EveryDogTrainingCenter.com -- very large facility in Danvers with many types of group classes, especially Diane Kurkjian
- Kim Melanson in Natick -- private lessons -- [dingodogstudio@yahoo.com](mailto:dingodogstudio@yahoo.com)

- Jenny Efimova at DogMinded in Boston -- [jenny@dogmindedboston.com](mailto:jenny@dogmindedboston.com)
- Pet Republic in Cambridge -- <http://www.powertothevet.com/>
- Dasa Lipovsek at The Puppy Project, Westford -- <http://pupproject.com/puppy-classes/>
- Animal Rescue League of Boston (Leah Tremble, Carol Ahearn) - <https://www.arlboston.org/services/dog-training/>
- Jennifer McKay in Northborough, Canine Aspirations - <http://canineaspirations.com/>
- Judy Bernard in Concord, Proper Paws Dog Training - <https://www.properpaws.biz/>
- Erika Lessa, Cooperation Canine, Rehoboth, MA - <https://www.cooperationcanine.com/>

## **Additional Information on finding a pet trainer**

[Buyer Beware: Choosing a Service Dog Trainer or Program](#) -- what to look for and what to avoid when searching for a trainer

[Karen Pryor Academy](#) -- All KPA-CTPs (graduates of KPA's dog trainer professional course) take a pledge to use only rewards-based methods, so you are sure to find a trainer who will not use harmful, aversive training methods with your dog. However, whether this will be the right trainer who has expertise in what you're looking for is another matter. Please refer to our Buyer Beware post (above) to make sure you ask the right questions

[Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers](#) -- All Certified Professional Dog Trainers have passed a test that ensures they have at least a foundation in understanding how dogs learn, how to teach owners, and basics of dog husbandry. Most use reward-based methods, however some may also use punishment tools such as choke chains, prong, or shock collars. Please refer to our Buyer Beware post (above) to make sure you ask the right questions to ensure that this is a trainer who will use only safe and humane methods, who both you and your dog are comfortable with, and who has experience with service dog training