



At Your Service Dog Training

A Positive Approach to Dogs and People

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Sample Training Cost Estimate

The estimate below is for a puppy with a perfect temperament and a handler with a typical experience level. Your estimate may be lower or higher depending on a number of factors. The estimate assumes we'll cover two (2) skills per half-hour lesson and three (3) skills per hour-long lesson. **Each section is broken down and tallied individually.** If your dog is an adult, you can skip the puppy section. **We always start with an intake consultation, which is \$350, along with a \$300 deposit on future training. That is not included in the estimate.** *Note: These rates are current as of December 2021.*

We've included examples of costs with all owner lessons and also if group classes are taken with a local pet trainer. We assume the local trainer is skilled, ethical, and uses rewards-based methods. (An unskilled trainer (e.g., at a big box store) or one who uses leash corrections, shock collar, spray bottle, etc., will not provide any financial savings.)

For those who live in our area, if you take group classes with us, you can expect greater savings because our classes focus on the most important material for service dogs, and they are longer and more in-depth than typical manners classes. If you opt for day training or board-and-train, costs will be higher, but training will also go much faster.

SKILL	Number of lessons per skill
PUPPY SKILLS	
Potty on cue/house training troubleshooting	5 (2 w/PK)
Handling (positive emotion, cooperate w/vet, groomer, you, nail trims, brush...)	5 (2 w/PK)
Independence training (preventing demand vocalizing, separation distress)	5
Socialization (positive exposure to multiple environments, strangers, etc.)	8 (4 w/PK)
Crate & confinement training; go to crate on cue & stay happily & quietly	5
Polite greeting (not jumping, calmness, etc., with family or strangers)	7 (4 w/PK)
Mouthing, nipping, bite inhibition, chew training	6 (2 w/PK)
Trade/Drop it/Prevent resource guarding	8 (4 w/PK)
Total training "units" needed for basic puppy training	49
Divided by 3 = number of hours of lessons needed	17
Estimated cost (assuming 1-hour owner lessons) with AYS trainer (at package rate of \$95 - \$120 per hour)	\$1615 – 2040
Lessons needed if supplemented by typical positive Puppy Kindergarten* class	10
Estimated cost (assuming 1-hour owner lessons) with AYS trainer	\$950 – 1200
Typical training time: 6 months	

PUBLIC ACCESS FOUNDATION SKILLS	
Working dog walk (loose leash walking + heeling, proofed for PA)	35 (25 w/B+I)
Attention on handler – name, default & hand targeting – install + proof for PA	18 (8 w/B+I)
Down-stay/ Settle on target – install + proof to distraction, distance, duration	20 (14 w/B+I)
Impulse control/leave it – install + proof for public access, make default	30 (24 w/B+I)
Total training “units” needed for public access skills	103
Divided by 3 = number of hours of lessons needed. Estimated cost (assuming 1-hour owner lessons) with AYS trainer (at package rate of \$85 - \$105 per hour)	35 \$2975 - 3675
Lessons needed if supplemented by good Basic & Intermediate Manners* classes with another trainer. (However, if you take our group classes, we will cover this material in our classes, so your costs may be 1/3 to 1/2 this portion.)	24
Estimated cost (assuming 1-hour owner lessons) with AYS trainer	\$2040 - 2520
Typical training time: 8 months	

Other Manners & PA Skills Typically Needed	
Stand-Stay	8 (2 w/B+I)
Recall (come when called)	6 (2 w/B+I)
Wait (safety in doorways, curbs, etc.)	5 (2 w/B+I)
Release cue	4
On-Duty versus Off-Duty/SD training concepts	7
Response to strangers, legal issues, how to handle access challenges	10
Unexpected issues	8
Total training “units” needed for other manners & public access skills	48
Divided by 3 = number of hours of lessons needed. Estimated cost (assuming 1-hour owner lessons) with AYS trainer (at package rate of \$95 - \$120 per hour)	16 \$1520 - 1920
Lessons needed if supplemented by good Basic & Intermediate Manners* classes with another trainer. (However, if you take our group classes, we will cover all of this material in our classes, so you will not have these costs.)	12
Estimated cost (assuming 1-hour owner lessons) with AYS trainer	\$1140 - 1440
Typical training time: About 2 months, combined with other manners/PA	

Task Training Skills Examples	
Note: We offer many other types of tasks. These are examples of some of the most common.	
Self-harm interruption (condition cue, train alert/interruption, get under stimulus control, proof to distractions)	24

Note: The same estimate of time would also apply for these skills:

- **Wake/get out of bed**
- **Anxiety alert**
- **Medication reminder**
- **Go find help (get mom, get PCA, etc.)**

To train two of these tasks simultaneously is estimated at \$1080 for 12 half-hour sessions with the AYS head trainer

Typical training time: 3 - 6 months per skill

<p>Hearing alert to doorbell (condition cue, train alert/interruption, get under stimulus control, proof to distractions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: The same estimate would apply to other hearing alerts (stove timer, infusion pump, etc.) <p><i>To train two hearing alerts simultaneously is estimated at \$1350 for 15 half-hour sessions with the AYS head trainer</i></p> <p>Typical training time: 2 - 4 months per skill</p>	30
<p>Deep pressure, tactile stimulation (lay on lap, lick face, or similar on cue)</p> <p><i>Estimated training cost is \$450 with AYS head trainer</i></p> <p>Typical training time: 2 - 3 months</p>	10
<p>Retrieve (pick up object, bring to handler, without tossing/chewing, under stimulus control, proofed to distraction)</p> <p><i>Estimated training cost is \$2250 with AYS head trainer</i></p> <p>Typical training time: 4 - 8 months</p>	50
<p>Based on the estimate above, these would be some different total estimated cost examples:</p> <p>Starting with a puppy – All training with AYS private sessions + 2 simpler tasks: \$7000 - 9000</p> <p>Starting with a puppy – Puppy class with another trainer, private and group lessons with AYS + 2 simpler tasks: \$5000 - 6000</p> <p>Starting with an adult dog – All private lessons with AYS + 2 simpler tasks: \$6000 - 7000</p> <p>Starting with an adult dog – Private and group lessons with AYS + 2 simpler tasks: \$3300 - 5500</p> <p>Starting with an adult dog – Private and group lessons with AYS + 1 complex + simpler task: \$6000-7000</p>	

Comparing with other trainers

When you look at estimates from other trainers, make sure to ask questions and do the math:

- How many sessions or classes do they say your dog will need? Are they estimating a reasonable number of sessions? If their estimate says your dog will only need 8 hours of obedience lessons to be trained for public access, and our estimate says your dog will need 30, how do they plan to train your dog so much more quickly? Do they expect you to supplement your dog's training with other trainers or classes? Are their standards for behavior and training lower than ours?
- How many sessions or classes do you get for the dollar amount? Take the cost per total number of lessons and divide by the number of lessons. For example, if they say your dog will complete obedience training for \$1500, and the total number of lessons is 8, that is $1500 \div 8 = \$187.50$ per lesson.
- How long are their lessons? Some of our lessons are an hour (60 minutes) and others are half an hour (30-40 minutes) because we have learned that many dogs and people learn better in shorter lessons. Especially with online "zoomed" lessons.
- Lastly, most important training takes place when *you* are training your dog *between* lessons! How will they support you between lessons? Will you receive video recordings of your lessons? Homework sheets? Can you text or email questions between lessons? Is there an online client community to share videos, questions, training logs, etc.?
- For more tips on finding the right service dog trainer, please see our "Buyer Beware" blog post: <https://atyour servicedogtraining.com/choosing-a-service-dog-trainer/>