TRAINING & BEHAVIOR

A practical guide for newly adopted dogs

Why training matters

Training helps your dog learn what to expect, improves communication, builds confidence, and strengthens your relationship. It also teaches everyday skills that keep your dog and others safe.

1 Build trust and confidence

Use positive reinforcement to reward calm behavior, good choices, and new skills. Give your dog time to decompress and adjust to your household.

2 Practice everyday skills

Start with name recognition, coming when called, leash walking, house training, and settling calmly. Keep lessons short and consistent.

3 Get support early

A qualified trainer can help with jumping, mouthing, fear, reactivity, and other challenges. For aggression or serious fear, ask about individualized support.

How to choose a trainer

- Look for humane, reward-based methods and experience with rescue dogs.
- Ask about credentials, class sizes, vaccination policies, and private lessons.
- Choose a program that fits your dog. You may use a qualified trainer not listed here.

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Western New York training options

These providers are suggested resources, not exclusive or required choices. Contact each business to confirm current class offerings, hours, addresses, and methods before enrolling.

Pet Degree
2055 Clinton St.
Buffalo, NY 14206
716-508-7387

Fetch N' Catch
6517 Transit Rd., Ste. 1
Bowmansville, NY 14026
716-901-7618

Ruff Relations
4501 Southwestern Blvd.
Hamburg, NY 14075
716-803-2014

Sit n' Stay Pet Services
3859 N. Buffalo Rd.
Orchard Park, NY 14127
716-822-3287

Canine Academy
9270 Main St.
Clarence, NY 14031
716-759-9406

Love Your Dog
6989 Transit Rd.
East Amherst, NY 14051
716-276-0771

Heather's Dog School
9026 S. Lake Rd.
Corfu, NY 14036
716-866-2288

Dog Days of Buffalo
632 Amherst St.
Buffalo, NY 14207
716-886-DOGS

PetSmart and Petco training

PetSmart | Buffalo-area dog training

PetSmart | Transit Road (Williamsville area)

Petco | New York dog-training locations

Petco | Williamsville dog training

Click any teal link to open the official training listing. Availability and pricing vary by location. Training classes are optional resources; 716 PAWS does not offer a training reimbursement.