

What is the APDT?

The Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT) is the premier organization of individual members who are committed to becoming better dog trainers through education.

The APDT was founded in 1993 by Ian Dunbar, PhD, BVetMed, MRCVS. A renowned veterinarian, animal behaviorist, dog trainer and writer, Dr. Dunbar created the APDT as an inclusive forum for trainers to network with each other, provide educational opportunities and grow the profession of dog training. With a goal of helping trainers improve their knowledge and skills through education, the APDT provides an industry standard of excellence for our profession.

Today with more than 5,200 members throughout 48 countries worldwide, the APDT has grown to be the largest association of professional dog trainers in the world.

Why choose an APDT-member as a professional dog trainer?

The APDT encourages all trainers and aspiring trainers to pursue continuing education throughout their careers. The APDT has developed a comprehensive Body of Knowledge (available only to APDT members) which is a standard set by the APDT to be considered a "well rounded" professional dog trainer. The Body of Knowledge consists of information, knowledge and functional skills which all professional dog trainers should strive to possess. APDT members are encouraged to reference these skills in their training and when pursuing their continuing education.

The APDT also supports a Least Invasive, Minimally Invasive (LIMA) approach to behavior modification and training techniques. LIMA requires that trainers work to increase the use of positive reinforcement and lessen the use of punishment in work with companion animals and the humans who care for them. Our members strive to work in the best interest of their human and canine clients as well as the profession as a whole.



The Association of Professional Dog Trainers

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Locate a Trainer



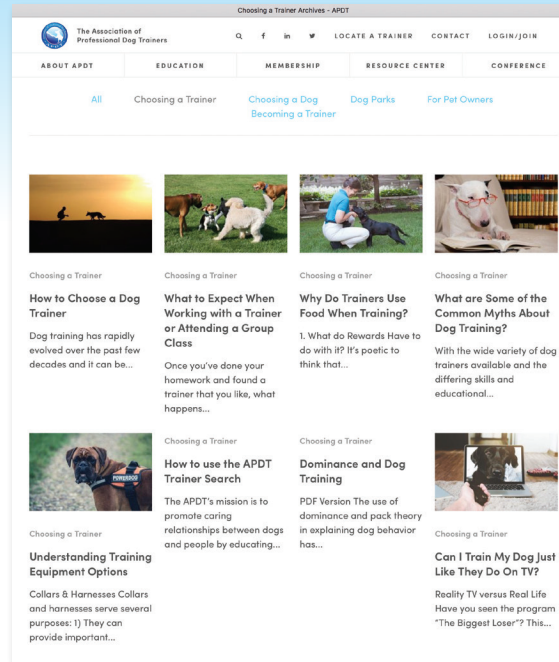
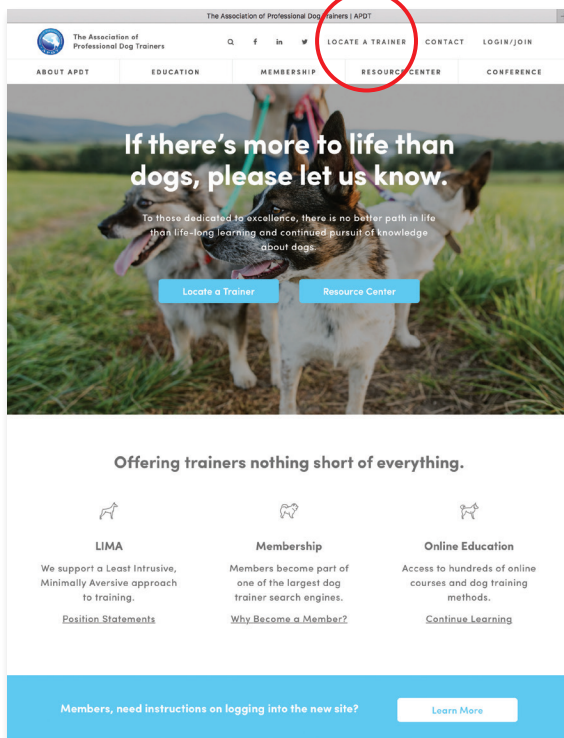
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Locate an APDT-member trainer using the Dog Trainer Search

Whether you're a seasoned pet owner or just brought home your first pet, this search engine will help you connect with a professional dog trainer in your area. Go to apdt.com and click on "Locate a Trainer."



The APDT's Trainer Search allows you to search for trainers in your area based on city, zip code, country, services offered and last name of trainer. Dog training has rapidly evolved over the past few decades and it can be confusing for a dog owner new to training to figure out how to hire a dog trainer. There's much more involved in finding a good trainer than just simply who is in your area.

The APDT has an online section for pet owners which discusses the various methodologies found in dog training today and can assist you in making an informed decision on how to interview and find the right trainer dedicated to the highest standard of pet behavior and training. To learn more, go to apdt.com/category/choosing-trainer.



Suggested questions when interviewing a potential trainer include:

- What method of training do you use?
Dog training methods should be based on science and focus on positive reinforcement using food, treats, toys and other items the dog enjoys.
- What equipment do you use while training?
Training for family pets should be done on a leather or nylon collar or harness. Training equipment should also include things the dog loves such as treats, favorite toys, fun obstacles, or interesting scented objects.
- Do you have any certifications?
Ideally, your trainer should be certified or working toward certification by an independent certifying organization with no ties to a specific school or academy. Certification requires a test to measure experience, skill level and knowledge in the areas of dog training and behavior and also requires continuing education each year. This is the first step to help ensure your trainer has the proper education to work with your dog.

