



Get the Smart Facts

As our trainers know only too well, there are many common misconceptions about pet training. Clearing up that confusion is the initial focus of PetSmart's training classes. Here are some key points:

Barefoot in the Bark

- Excessive barking is the number one reason pets are turned into shelters. Other common reasons include potty training, chewing and aggressive behavior.

Good, Fella

- With the right attention, the right information and the right tools, any dog can be trained – at any age.

Citizen Train

- Training should always be fun and positive, for both the pet and pet parent. Reward good behavior, don't punish unwanted behavior. Dogs want to please their parents (well, they want to earn the reward anyway), but they just don't always know how. PetSmart classes help bridge that communication gap.

Yelp!

- PetSmart combines the disciplines of pet training with animal behaviorism, so pet parents are better able to understand why their pets behave a certain way and then how that information can help effectively and humanely train their dogs.

Lost in Translation

- Every time pet parents interact with their dogs, their dogs are learning from them. The only way to change a dog's behavior is to change the pet parent's.

Leader of the Pack

- Because dogs are pack animals, group training classes teach them important social skills. Dogs who are not properly socialized sometimes will respond with fear, excessive exuberance or even aggression when they interact with other dogs or people.

Animal House

- PetSmart learning centers have a real-world environment that enables dogs to learn despite distractions. (If a dog can properly respond when he is surrounded by distractions caused by other dogs and smells of food and treats, then he has truly learned the right behavior.)

The Right Moves

- Collectively, PetSmart's 1,500 accredited trainers have spent 144,000 hours (96 hours each) learning the tricks of their trade. And with the SmartPet Promise for all training classes, pet parents are guaranteed 100 percent satisfaction – or they can take the class again for free.

Howard's End

- If the more than 300,000 dogs trained annually at all the PetSmart locations were lined up end to end, there would be a whole lot of polite rear-end sniffing going on.