

Dog Training Agreement

This is a template, not legal advice

This document is a general-purpose template provided for information only. It is not legal advice, it does not create a lawyer-client relationship, and nobody has reviewed it against your situation.

Laws differ by country, state and province, and they change. A clause that is standard in one place can be unenforceable — or illegal — in another. Terms that are ordinary between two businesses can be void in a consumer or employment context.

Read every clause before you use it, fill in every blank, and delete anything that does not apply. For anything high-value, unusual, or that you could not afford to lose a dispute over, have a qualified lawyer in your jurisdiction review it before it is signed.

How to use this template

1. Read it end to end and delete any clause that does not apply to you. Blanks are shown as a grey label on a line.
2. Need the other party to sign too, with an audit trail and a tamper-evident seal? That is what the paid product does.

Dog Training Agreement

This Dog Training Agreement (this "Agreement") is made on [Date] between [Dog owner's full legal name] of [Owner's address] (the "Owner") and [Dog trainer's full legal name or business name] of [Trainer's address] (the "Trainer").

The Owner engages the Trainer to provide the dog behavioral and obedience training sessions described in clause 3 (the "Services") to the dog described in clause 2 (the "Dog"). This Agreement sets out the training package, each party's responsibilities toward the goals of that package, and — because no trainer can promise how an individual dog will respond to training — the express understanding at clause 4 that the Trainer does not guarantee any particular behavioral outcome.

1. The Parties and Their Contact Details

The Owner can be reached at [Owner's telephone number] and [Owner's email address] , and shall tell the Trainer of any change to these details as soon as it happens.

The Trainer can be reached at [Trainer's telephone number] and [Trainer's email address] . The Trainer provides the Services as an independent contractor, not as an employee of the Owner, is responsible for the Trainer's own taxes and insurance, and may train other clients' dogs, including at the Trainer's facility around the same time as the Dog, provided that doing so does not compromise the safety of the Dog or of any other dog or person present.

2. The Dog

The Trainer agrees to train the following dog (the "Dog"). The Owner shall complete these details before the first session and shall tell the Trainer immediately of any change to the Dog's health, medication or behaviour that arises during this Agreement.

The Owner warrants that the information given is accurate and complete, that the Dog is in good health so far as the Owner is aware and fit to take part in training, and that the Dog's vaccinations and, where required by local law, licence are current as of the date of the first session.

The Dog and its training history to date are described as follows:

- (a) Name, breed and colour: [Dog's name, breed and colour]
- (b) Age, sex, and whether spayed or neutered: [Dog's age, sex, spayed or neutered]
- (c) Weight: [Dog's weight]
- (d) Microchip number and registry: [Microchip number and registry]
- (e) Vaccination status, including the date of the most recent rabies vaccination:

[Vaccination status and rabies vaccination date]

(f) Medical conditions, allergies and current medications, with dose and timing:

[Medical conditions, allergies and current medications, with dose and timing]

(g) Prior training the Dog has received, if any, and its outcome:

[Prior training and outcome, or write "none"]

(h) Behaviour the Owner wants addressed, e.g. jumping, leash pulling, resource guarding, reactivity, house-soiling: [Behaviour the Owner wants addressed]

3. Training Program and Sessions

The Trainer shall provide a package of [Number of sessions in the package, e.g. six (6)]

training sessions, each approximately [Length of each session, e.g. 60 minutes] ,

beginning [Start date of the package] . Sessions take place at

[Location(s) where sessions take place, e.g. the Trainer's facility, the Owner's home, or both, with each address] .

The sessions occur [Frequency of sessions, e.g. once per week] , at a time agreed between the parties in advance of each session. The package is designed to work toward the goals identified in clause 2, using the training methods described below, but — as set out fully in clause 4 — completing the package is not a guarantee that those goals will be met.

The package includes:

(a) the sessions and length described above, at the location(s) stated above;

(b) a written or verbal summary of homework exercises after each session, for the Owner to practice under clause 5;

(c) training methods that are professional and humane, and do not rely on physical punishment or equipment the Owner has not agreed to, namely

[Training methods and any equipment used, e.g. positive reinforcement, clicker training, front-clip harness] ;

and

(d) any additional sessions the Owner requests beyond the package, billed under clause 7.

4. No Guarantee of Behavioral Results

Dog training is not an exact science. How the Dog responds to the Services depends on factors outside the Trainer's control, including the Dog's individual temperament, genetics, age, prior history and health, and — most significantly — how consistently the Owner and any other handler practice the exercises and apply the Trainer's instructions between and after sessions under clause 5.

THE TRAINER DOES NOT GUARANTEE ANY SPECIFIC BEHAVIORAL OUTCOME. This

includes, without limitation, full obedience to any command, the complete elimination of a specific behaviour (such as barking, jumping, leash reactivity, resource guarding, house-soiling, separation anxiety or aggression), or that any improvement achieved during a session will be maintained when the Owner or another handler is not present or does not continue the practice described in clause 5. Behaviours with a fear-based or aggressive component in particular may improve with training but are not guaranteed to be permanently resolved, and some level of ongoing management may always be needed.

The Owner acknowledges having read and understood this clause before the first session, that the fee paid under clause 7 is for the Trainer's professional time, skill and methodology and not for a guaranteed result, and that any assessment the Trainer gives of the Dog's progress is an honest professional opinion, not a warranty. Nothing in this clause excuses the Trainer from providing the Services with the reasonable care and skill required by clause 9.

5. Owner's Responsibilities

The Owner shall attend each scheduled session on time, or ensure another adult handler nominated by the Owner attends in the Owner's place, shall follow the Trainer's instructions during each session, and shall not use a training method, correction or piece of equipment on the Dog that the Trainer has advised against.

Between sessions, the Owner shall practice the homework exercises given by the Trainer for at least

[Practice commitment between sessions, e.g. 10 to 15 minutes, twice a day] , and shall tell the Trainer before the next session if a particular exercise is not going as expected, rather than abandoning it.

The Owner acknowledges that the Dog's progress depends materially on this follow-through, and that gaps in practice between sessions, inconsistent handling between household members, or resuming a behaviour the Trainer identified as unhelpful are common reasons a dog does not retain what a session covered — and are not a failure of the Services under clause 4.

6. Cancellation and Rescheduling

The Owner may cancel or reschedule a scheduled session by giving the Trainer at least [Notice required to cancel or reschedule a session, e.g. twenty-four (24) hours] notice, by [How cancellation notice is given, e.g. text message] . A session cancelled or rescheduled with less notice is charged in full and counts as one of the sessions in the package, except where

[Circumstances the Trainer waives the notice requirement for, e.g. a medical emergency involving the Dog] .

If the Trainer is unable to make a scheduled session, the Trainer shall tell the Owner as soon as reasonably possible and shall reschedule the session to the earliest time both parties can agree, at no additional charge.

The package under clause 3 expires

[Expiry period for unused sessions in the package, e.g. ninety (90) days] after the start date if not completed. Any session unused at that point is forfeited unless the parties agree otherwise in writing.

7. Fees and Payment

The Owner shall pay [Total package price] for the package described in clause 3, payable [Payment schedule, e.g. in full before the first session, or in two instalments]. Additional sessions beyond the package are charged at [Rate for additional sessions] each.

An invoice unpaid [Number of days before a late fee applies, e.g. seven (7)] days after it falls due carries a late fee of [Late fee]. If the Owner ends this Agreement before the package is complete, the Trainer shall refund the fee for any session not yet delivered, less [Cancellation or administration fee retained on early termination, or write "none"], except where clause 8 applies.

8. Behaviour, Bite History and Right to End Sessions

Before the first session, the Owner shall disclose any history of biting, snapping, lunging, resource guarding, fence-fighting, escaping or aggression towards people or other animals, and any designation of the Dog as dangerous, vicious or potentially dangerous by any authority. The Owner confirms that history to be: [Any history of biting, aggression or escape, or write "none"].

If the Dog behaves in a way the Trainer reasonably considers dangerous to the Trainer, the Owner, or any other person or animal present, or if the Owner failed to disclose anything required by this clause, the Trainer may end this Agreement immediately, whether or not the package in clause 3 is complete.

Where this Agreement ends under this clause, fees for sessions already provided remain payable in full, the refund in clause 7 for sessions not yet delivered does not apply, and the Trainer is not liable for the consequences of ending the Services in these circumstances.

9. Assumption of Risk, Liability and Insurance

The Owner acknowledges that the Services involve hands-on work with the Dog, including physical handling, corrections and — where the methods stated in clause 3 include it — off-leash work, and that this carries an inherent risk of the Dog biting, scratching or otherwise injuring the Trainer, the Owner, another person or another animal, or causing property damage, regardless of the history disclosed under clause 8. The Owner assumes this risk.

The Owner shall indemnify the Trainer against any claim, damage, injury, loss or cost arising from the Dog's behaviour during a session or between sessions, including veterinary and medical costs, legal costs and income the Trainer loses as a result, except to the extent caused by the Trainer's own negligence or wilful misconduct.

The Trainer shall provide the Services with the reasonable care and skill expected of a professional dog trainer. The Trainer's insurance position is as follows:

[Trainer's insurance and bonding, with insurer and policy number, or state that the Trainer is not insured] .

The Owner confirms having been told this before signing.

Except to the extent caused by the Trainer's negligence, wilful misconduct or breach of this Agreement, the Trainer is not liable for the Dog's behaviour outside a scheduled session, for the Dog's behaviour after this Agreement ends, or for any outcome addressed in clause 4. The Trainer's total liability under this Agreement is limited to

[Limit on the Trainer's liability, e.g. the fees paid under this Agreement in the preceding three (3) months] .

Neither party is liable to the other for indirect or consequential loss. Nothing in this Agreement limits any liability that cannot lawfully be limited, including liability for death or personal injury caused by negligence.

10. Governing Law and General

This Agreement and any dispute arising out of it are governed by the laws of [Governing law, e.g. the State of Colorado] . The parties submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of [Jurisdiction] .

This Agreement is the entire agreement between the parties about the training of the Dog and replaces any earlier understanding on that subject. It may only be amended in writing signed by both parties. Neither party may assign it without the other's written consent.

If any provision of this Agreement is held unenforceable, the rest continues in force. A failure to enforce a provision is not a waiver of it. Notices under this Agreement may be given by email or text message to the contact details in clause 1 and take effect when sent.

11. Signatures and Effective Date

This Agreement takes effect on the date of the last signature below and continues until the package described in clause 3 is complete or this Agreement ends earlier under clause 6 or 8. Clauses 4, 7, 8 and 9 survive its end.

The parties may sign in counterparts and by electronic signature, each of which is an original and all of which together form one agreement. Each party confirms that they have read this Agreement, including the no-guarantee-of-results clause at clause 4, that the details entered in it are accurate, and that they have received a copy.

In agreement with the terms above, the parties have signed below on the dates written beside their signatures.

Dog Owner

Signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Date: _____

Dog Trainer

Signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Date: _____