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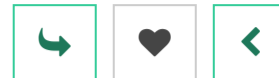
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Dog trainer

Also called: Dog instructor, Dog behaviourist

Dog trainers and instructors train dogs for service or to improve their behaviour.



What you'll do

You could work with pet dogs, police dogs, or assistance dogs (such as guide dogs for the blind and visually impaired).

Your day-to-day duties may include:

- working with volunteers who foster puppies and young dogs
- helping dogs to adjust to the routine of basic training
- training at a more advanced level related to the dog's future work
- matching dogs to owners
- training dogs and owners together
- providing aftercare and support for owner-dog partnerships

Record relevant activities you've already done on the [Activities tool](#) >

Working hours and environment

You'll usually work around 35 hours a week, Monday to Friday, with occasional evenings and weekends.

The job involves a lot of walking and crouching down, and being outside in all weather conditions.

You may also spend a lot of your time travelling to visit dogs and their owners. In some organisations, you may be asked to board dogs in your own home and/or drive dogs to different centres.

Career path and progression

With experience you could progress to a role like area team supervisor, training manager or regional training manager.

Your experience as a trainer could lead to a care support job, like rehabilitation worker.

You could move into a related field, like veterinary nursing or working as an [RSPCA](#) inspector.

You could also set up your own business, and provide services like dog obedience classes or private dog training.

Skills required

You'll need:

- to be caring and patient towards dogs and their owners
- excellent communication skills, as you'll be meeting lots of new people
- confidence working with challenging or disobedient dogs
- practical skills in dog training and handling
- the initiative to manage your schedule and possibly find your own work
- a sense of balance so you can manage your personal and working life separately - especially if you're boarding dogs

Got evidence of these skills? Record your examples on the [Skills tool](#) >

Entry requirements

Entry requirements for this role vary depending on the organisation or clients you'll be working with, but usually:

- you'll need to be at least 18 years old
- you'll need a full, clean driving licence
- you'll need experience of working with dogs, like volunteering at a kennels, a dog rescue centre, or another animal welfare organisation

Knowledge of basic dog handling and behaviour management methods would be helpful.

It may help if you have a qualification in animal care work, although this isn't essential. In the UK, you could get into this job through an advanced apprenticeship in animal care, for example. In the US, you could attend a training school like the Karen Pryor Academy.

If you want to specialise in assistance dog training, you'll also need some understanding of the issues faced by people with disabilities. Charities training hearing dogs for deaf people, for example, may ask that you have sign language skills.

Related university subject profiles

These university subjects are related to this career; check out their profiles on the Subjects library:

- [Animal science](#) >
- [Hospitality, Leisure, and Tourism](#) >

Related career profiles

You may also be interested in:

- [Kennel worker](#) >
- [Dog handler](#) >
- [Animal care assistant](#) >
- [Animal behaviourist](#) >

Explore

Want to see what relevant education and training opportunities are available right now? Search here:

Animal science at uni:

USA >

UK >

Canada >

Europe >

Asia >

Australasia >

Middle East and Africa >

Ireland >

Hospitality, Leisure, and Tourism at uni:

USA >

UK >

Canada >

Europe >

Asia >

Australasia >

Middle East and Africa >

Ireland >

Apprenticeships:

UK >

College / Sixth Form:

UK >

Labour Market Information (LMI)

Current and predicted figures relating to the Dog trainer profession. Median averages are shown, each with the specific career, or group of careers, that they apply to.

● UK

USA

Jobs

Animal care and control services

80,659 **318** in your local area of Liverpool**Top 5 local areas**

1	Hampshire	2,906
2	Essex	2,505
3	Kent	2,448
4	Suffolk	2,378
5	Surrey	2,320

Salaries

Animal care services occupations n.e.c.

£21,933

Animal care and control services

£22,734 **(Not enough data for this region)** in your region of North West**Top 3 regions**

1	East of England	£25,421
2	South East	£22,933

Growth 2020-2035

Caring personal service occupations

+13.9% ↑ 328,648 jobs

📍 **+17.7%** in your region of North West, an increase of 52,031 jobs

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People also liked...

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Dog handler ♥

Dog handlers work with specially trained dogs to help tackle crime and security threats, find missing people, or protect property.

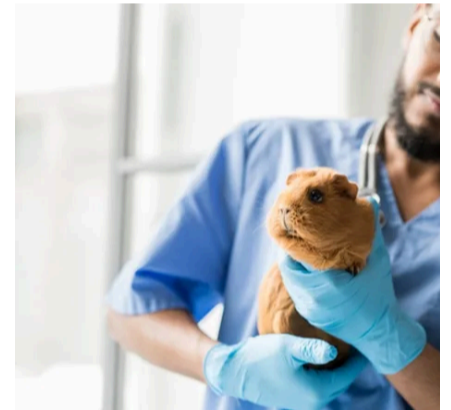
[Read the profile >](#)



Kennel worker ♥

Kennel workers care for dogs and cats in kennels or catteries.

[Read the profile >](#)



Animal care assistant ♥

Animal care assistants look after animals in kennels, rescue centres, or sanctuaries.

[Read the profile >](#)