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**When To Start Obedience Training**

**By Adam Katz**

Dear Adam:

I have a 4 1/2 month-old Doberman Pinscher. Got him at 9 weeks of age and trained him to sit by command and hand signal by 11 weeks for the most part. He comes when I call and heels and goes down somewhat, but I'm sure if I practice the information in your book he will come around. He seems to be very intelligent. I'm wondering: At what age do you think I should start training? And I was also curious about the "Development of Perfect Attention" I would like to know how to do that exactly (to get him to watch me like the competition dogs do) and what the "Halti" and the "Promise Leader" is and does?

Thank you for your time, Kevin

Dear Kevin:

You can start the formal obedience training (correcting your dog when he disobeys commands) when he is 4 1/2 months old... or whenever you see his adult teeth start to come in.

As for teaching your dog to work like a competition dog, I would strongly recommend you take a look at Terri Arnold's video on the subject, at:

<http://www.dogproblems.com/terriarnold.htm>

I think that we've only got a few left in stock, and when they're gone, we won't be restocking. Not that it isn't a great video (it is... Terri is one of the best at obedience competition training) but the bulk of the people who come to dogproblems.com are not into obedience competition... So her products aren't really in line with what our target market is looking to buy. (In other words... get it while it's hot and we've got it in stock!)

As for the Halti and Promise Leader... these two items are virtually identical products. They are designed to CONTROL and RESTRAIN the dog... not to TRAIN THE DOG. This is why we don't carry these products. Any time you find yourself RESTRAINING rather than RE-TRAINING... you know

you're using an inferior technique.

That's all for now, folks! Adam

Adam G. Katz is the author of the book, "Secrets of a Professional Dog Trainer: An Insider's Guide To The Most Jealously Guarded Dog Training Secrets In History." Get a free copy of his report "Games To Play With Your Dog" when you sign up for his free weekly dog training tips e-zine at:

<http://www.dogproblems.com>

### **Is Dog Obedience School for You?**

**By Tina Spriggs**

#### **Is Dog Obedience School for You? by Tina Spriggs**

Are you thinking about dog obedience school? Do you know what to expect out of it? Do you know what it costs or where to find a good school?

If not, let me help take out some of the mystery of finding one to make sure you and your dog get the best experience you can.

If you have searched the web in this topic, you probably found some sites that are basically search engines within search engines, no real information about dog obedience schools. Or you might have found some obedience schools that were on the other side of the country. Needless to say, neither one was of much use.

Chances are you have a dog obedience school of some sort in your town, unless you've got a population of less than 20,000. In that event, you might need to opt for dog training videos or books, and I will go over some good resources for that later.

The first thing I want you to do is look for someone with proven experience. You can start in the yellow pages and look under "Dog Training" as opposed to "dog obedience school."

Ask a LOT of questions. These people are going to be molding the mind of your impressionable pup and you want to know that it's a good fit.

Ask things like:

What will the dog be taught?

What is the success rate?

What happens if you're not satisfied

Will you be taught how to continue with your dogs new training?

What are their methods of correction when the dog disobeys?

Visit the facility too. Check it out. Meet the trainers and see how they act with people and dogs.

## When To Start Obedience Training

Ask if you can watch a training session or a video of a session so you get an idea of what your dog will be subjected to.

Don't make a final decision on a dog obedience school until your dog has met the trainers. Dogs are extremely good judges of character.

For the most part, someone in this line of work is going to be a good person and a dog lover. Some, however, will be doing it just to get a paycheck and may not have your pal's best interest in mind.

If your dog doesn't like them... take another route.

You might want to consider the local 4-H club. 4-H is where I learned how to train my own dog as a child. It isn't a dog obedience school in the traditional sense. It teaches kids how to train their dogs, or a friend's dog. It's a youth education program and it provides many facets of education, one of which is often dog training.

Read more about dog training videos if you would like an alternative to dog obedience school.

Tina Spriggs is an expert dog lover whose lifelong interest in canines provides the motivation for her site. To learn more about dogs or to find gifts and toys for them visit her site [Dog-Gifts-and-Toys-for-Dog-Lovers.com](http://Dog-Gifts-and-Toys-for-Dog-Lovers.com). Copyright 2004. All rights reserved.



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