

Frequently Asked Questions

Below are some frequently asked questions I receive from clients and potential clients surrounding my canine enrichment program for 501(C)(3) organizations.

Q. How long does the training last?

A. It is a monthly program. Details are in the contract.

Q. What do the dogs learn?

A. Each dog is different and at different stages of life and learning. So, what and how they learn can vary. Generally speaking, dogs get foundation training in basic skills consistent with pet ownership to help make them more adoptable: sit, down, come, stay, etc. We also help alleviate behavior issues as needed like crate issues, anxiety, jumping, humping, mouthing, etc. Additionally, we spend time working on leash walking and may introduce them to a walking aid that suits their needs: (harness, halti, starmark, etc). And, we work with all the dogs here with one principle in mind: whatever the protocol or tool, we want to make sure that their adopters or fosters can easily continue with the foundations implemented here.

Q. How long does it take for you to let us know when a dog will be adoptable?

A. I do not determine adoptability. I work dogs and provide you with information. It is each organization's responsibility to determine if or when a dog is adoptable. I work with over 25 rescues. Each rescue has its own internal policies and the definition of "adoptable" can vary by rescue. What one rescue deems unadoptable may not be defined similarly by another rescue.

Q. When can we drop off and pick up dog?

A. Details are in the contract. But, basically, we will try our best to schedule to suit your needs. However, dogs come here from all over the country, usually by transport. Transport drops off the first Friday of every month and picks up the last Friday of every month. So, this is a factor that can impact scheduling and availability. Plan on departure to be the last Friday of any month.

Q. What type of payment do you accept?

A. Check, PayPal, Venmo and cash. We do not accept post-dated checks or wire transfers.

Q. How long do dogs stay with you?

A. As long as you want/need, provided we communicate for scheduling purposes.

Q. When will “fido” be ready: or will “fido be ready by Date X?

A. There is no “ready date”. The program is a daily foundation program and the parameters are detailed in the contract. I work the dogs daily until they leave (unless they are boarding-only).

Q. Do you offer other services to 501s?

A. In addition to my boarding and/or enrichment program, I do offer other services to 501s:

1. discounted private training to your adopters or fosters - \$112.50 per session
2. Free emergency, temporary boarding (if space available) – Free
3. Free lifetime phone or video support for any dog you send here – FREE (*except boarding-only dogs*)
4. Complete, comprehensive training – unlike the enrichment program, for this option a dog will be fully trained in one month in all areas of obedience and socialization – and it is only a one month program (no extended stays); standard dog rate is \$3000; animal aggressive dogs is \$4000; human aggression rate is \$5000. Acceptance is contingent upon availability, as this program generally requires three times as much time as the foundation enrichment program.

Q. Do you offer any guarantees?

A. I guarantee you that the dog you send here will listen to me. I can also guarantee that you will get progress updates and instruction via video as outlined in the contract. Unlike private training, I have no control over where a dog goes after they leave here or what type of environment or handler the dog will be exposed to. I cannot possibly guarantee behavior of a dog in an unknown environment by an unknown handler.

Q. What is the difference between boarding-only and the boarding-training enrichment program?

A. The differences are detailed in the contract. Dogs that are in the “training” program get daily training as illustrated in the contract. You can put a dog in one or the other while they are here. If a dog is sent for boarding-only, you may opt to upgrade to the daily training option. If your dog is sent here for training, you may switch to boarding-only as well. If you switch from training to boarding-only the daily training stops. This could impact training reliability and overall compliance (.i.e. dogs can regress).

Q. Do you offer long term boarding?

A. Yes. Most dogs are fine here long term (3 months or longer). Regardless of whether they are here for boarding or training, the dogs get out 4-7 times a day. But, this is a kennel environment. And, a small segment of dogs do not fare well with long term confinement.

Q. What type of plan should we have in place once a dog leaves your home?

A. Have a plan. All too often, dogs are sent here with no plan in place on where they will end up once they leave. Dogs that leave here and are sent to boarding, for instance, sometimes have issues with retention of the foundations we implement here. The enrichment program is a foundation program. Follow up work when they leave here is crucial to long term reliability. While some dogs learn and retain better than others, most will require an environment and handler capable of continuing the progress we make here. Video direction is provided to you throughout a dog's time here and before they leave to ensure the dog's regimen is followed.

Q. Why doesn't the dog perform for us like in the videos you sent?

A. There are a few possible answers to this. Here are a few examples:

1. Environmental factors can impact a dog's performance
2. Handler skill level can impact a dog's performance.
3. A change in training protocol can impact a dog's performance.
4. Not implementing daily regimen as was done in my environment
5. Not enough daily stimulation
6. Your dog was here for one month of training and then you switched to boarding-only option for multiple months. This can impact reliability and retention or behavioral stability.

Q. Do you accept all dogs?

A. Yes. I work any breed and any behavior. However, the enrichment program is not appropriate for all dogs. Some dogs need far more than the enrichment program provides (see full training option above). And, depending on the type of dogs I have scheduled for a particular month, I may not be able to take in a particular behavior for a certain month. For instance, if I have 4 animal aggressive dogs, I may refuse a 5th for that month. Additionally, I have had a few dogs over the years that just didn't do well in my environment (in NC). Although rare, this has happened. And, I had to advise the rescues of this. In each of the three cases, one dog never entered my program. In the other two cases the rescue was refunded the training amount paid and was only charged for boarding. As detailed in the contract, we reserve the right to refuse or return a dog for any reason or no reason at all.

Q. What type of facility do you have?

A. We are not a facility. It is our home. Details of our environment are detailed in the contract. We do not serve the public sector here. We do not advertize or market our services to the public. Our programs are for Non-Profit Animal Rescues only. The general public does not visit our home. We do not have public hours. No one from the public interacts with your dog.