Boarding and Training

Our boarding and training program is our most comprehensive program.



About us

We are a family-run business located in Anacortes, Washington. Stephanie, our head trainer and founder, learned from her mentor, Theodore Mark Stover, how to understand dogs and communicate with them from a place of loving confidence. For the last fifteen years, we have continued that mission at TMS; focusing on fostering healthy connections between dogs and their owners. This commitment is at the core of everything we do; helping people and dogs to communicate and connect in a beneficial way for both.

Our Training Method

Our training philosophy at TMS K-9 Connections is centered around connections. First, we set the dog up for success both in training and during socialization time. To set clear behavioral boundaries we utilize simple corrections using a prong collar or e-collar. When the dog is compliant we lavish them with love.

Here at TMS, we do not reward dogs with food. We want our dogs to be excited about working with their trainers; not getting fed. We have found that what makes dogs happy is lots of love, a tummy rub or playing ball. Knowing this, we use these moments of connection as a reward instead of food. Training is designed for each individual dog depending on their strengths and weaknesses as well as the age and needs of the handler.



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When your pup comes to stay with us you'll have lots of choices. Your dog can be inside full time or outside full time, they can play with other dogs under close supervision or they can have separate walks if they're not as social. Our main goal is to create a loving environment where all dogs are set up for success. While your dog is at camp they can also enjoy massages, extra play time, adventures to nearby trails and dedicated one on one training.

It's important to note that our on-leash only program addresses the basics for on-leash only behavior and does not address functional skills which are generally off leash skills. The whole program; on and off leash combined, produces a fully trained dog while on-leash is only the rudimentary skills.

Training Program Details

On-Leash Program Includes:

- Dog Socialization
- Behavior changes
- Training through hormone surges
- Manners
- Proper heeling while walking
- Heeling with an automatic sit
- Come
- Down
- 30 minute down stay
- Walking down
- Down on a recall
- Come with an automatic sit and heel around
- Quiet command
- Crate training if needed
- Indoor boarding at night
- 2 hrs Private Training split between check-out session and optional follow-up session

Note on program length:

Puppies under 8 months old are eligible for a 2 on-leash week program while those eight months and older are eligible for a 3 week program.

The on-leash program is a required prerequisite to the off-leash program.

Off-Leash Program Includes;

- 25-foot minimum come from a down
- Come with distractions
- Tight heel and automatic sit at heel with distractions
- 30-minute off-leash down with distractions
- Short distance down on a recall with distractions
- Come on up command
- Heel around
- Schutzhund turn
- Running down
- Running heel
- 3 hrs of Private Training split between mid-point and check-out with optional third session

Note on off-leash program length:

Puppies under 8 months old and pups with normal behavior challenges are eligible for a 2 week off-leash program while pups struggling with abnormal behavioral challenges are only eligible for the 3 off-leash week program.