

**From:** Julia Horton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 7 June 2019 8:45 AM  
**To:** dog.standards@dpird.wa.gov.au  
**Subject:** Draft Standards re Dog training

To whom it may concern,

I completed the survey last night but wanted to add some points about behaviour and dog training please.

As a dog walker and trainer, I see, on a daily basis, the lack of education most dog owners have about their pet dogs.

Many people will spend \$1000's on a puppy and next to nothing on teaching it good manners appropriate to our culture. Many mistakenly believe that a 4 week puppy class at their local vet is all the training that is needed.

When the dog hits adolescence, the owner then finds the dog unmanageable and thinks the dog is a bad egg and blames the dog for being disobedient without realising that they themselves should have put in the work to teach and raise the dog properly so that it can be successful.

Owners also are unaware that purchasing nervous puppies and overly confident puppies means they will have even more work to do.

The untrained eye misses so much of dog communication e.g. the dog may be expressing that it is uncomfortable using clear body language but the owner misses it. The dog is then forced to escalate its message and learns that he can't trust his owner and so doesn't listen to him/her.

There is so much to it and there is not enough education provided to new dog owners.

So I believe it should be mandated that if people want a dog, they attend a course prior to making that big decision so they are fully aware of all the ramifications.

Also, soon after purchasing the dog the owner needs to commit to following a 3 month minimum training course.

Happy to discuss further.

Many thanks for this huge step towards improved dog welfare. It is much needed.

Yours sincerely  
Julia Horton  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone