



## **Selecting a Trainer:**

Before you select any personal trainer or pay them for services, please take the time to go and observe the trainer in a class or with a client. If they refuse to let you observe their training style we recommend you find another training resource. It is important that you can communicate with your trainer. You are as much a part of the training as the dog, so if you do not connect with the trainer, you won't get the most of all your sessions.

## **Types of Training**

Training generally comes in one of these methods: 1:1, group classes or board /train. The last one is the most expensive as a general rule and is when you send your dog to a trainer's location and the dog lives and trains there and is returned to you at a later date. The challenge with this is that you are not learning how to train and speak to your dog. 1:1 training can be a good choice for certain behaviors or for short consultative sessions (i.e. aggressive or reactive behaviors). This too can become very expensive and doesn't give your dog the chance to work around other distractions, such as other dogs. So many dogs do not know how to behave well with other dogs around, so group classes often allow you and your dog to practice these skills.

## **Training Expectations:**

Consistency is the key. Not only is it important to enroll and participate in classes, but you must commit to daily practice at home. No one including your dog will become good at anything without practice.

## **Training Reading Materials:**

There isn't a set training book that is perfect. We have learned that you can take elements from each of them that work and leave other pieces out of your training regime. Although originally written in 1992 "Good Owners, Great Dogs" by Brian Kilcommons & Sarah Wilson is a very good basic obedience book. It is a general dog ownership book, but it has obedience and training sections that have good photographs to help demonstrate key points. Your trainer might also offer other reading resources for you once you get started.

## **Phoenix Metro Resources:**

### **Destination Dog Training**

Andrew Steinkohl, owner/trainer

(480) 415-4804

<https://www.destinationdogtraining.com/home/>

Tell them you have been referred or adopted from Saving Paws Rescue

### **Top Dog**

1774 South 131st Street, Gilbert, AZ 85233 (480) 650-1650 <http://www.topdogaz.com/>

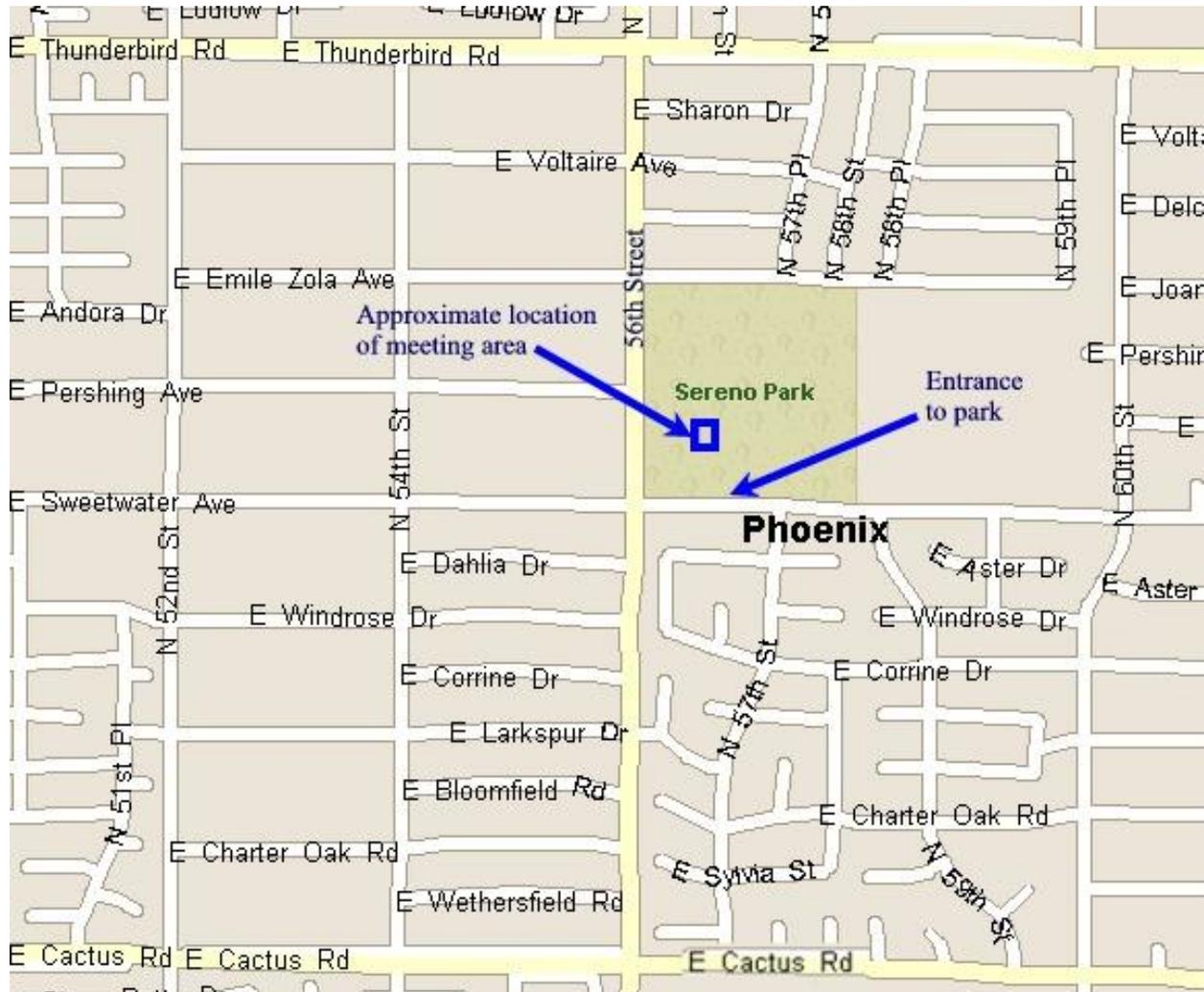
Trainers: Kyle or Nicole

## **Grand Canyon GSD Club**

GCGSDC is an official club of the American Kennel Club. They are dedicated to the GSD breed and offer some community classes in Obedience, Conformation and Tracking. You can get more details on the club at [www.grandcanyongsd.com](http://www.grandcanyongsd.com) You do not have to be a member to take advantage of the obedience classes. Classes general run from the fall through the end of May depending on the weather. Classes are in the North Phoenix/PV Mall area of town.

Location: Club meets on the west side of Sereno Park in North Phoenix/PV Mall area

The park is located at 56th Street and Sweetwater, which is just north of Cactus and south of Thunderbird on 56th Street. The entrance to the parking lot is the first driveway, on the left, coming off Sweetwater coming from 56th street.



Day/ Time: Tuesdays, 6:45 socialization & 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm class

Fee: none for any GSD in the community

