



Dear Student,

Congratulations on participating in the Karen Pryor Academy Dog Trainer Professional program. The qualities that brought you to this course in the first place—a belief in the power of clicker training, a deep-seated belief in education, a commitment to excellence in training, a will to make a difference—are the qualities that will serve you at a new level going forward.

Regardless of your certification results, I feel sure that you are walking out of this course with a renewed sense of what is possible in the communication between animals and people. You also have gained a sharpened eye for observation, and new, enriched skills that enable you to teach and train effectively, efficiently, and with great joy.

Aristotle must have been a clicker trainer... He said: “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is therefore not an act but a habit.” For those of you who pass your certification, a clicker approach, not just in your training but also in your teaching and in your life, will have become habit.

Those of you who did not pass on your first try will, quite naturally, feel some disappointment; but hold your head high. If you did not pass your certification, reaching that level is almost certainly a matter of continuing to internalize the principles to the point where they do become habit. Keep teaching, gain more experience, focus on the principles of reinforcement, and come back and try again. Your teacher and I expect and hope to see you again, and to see you pass. And when you do pass, you will know you have earned something that, in the earning, becomes all the more valuable.

When a student becomes a Karen Pryor Academy Certified Training Partner, the next part of the exciting partnership with us begins. I have paired my name with yours. The teacher of your course has paired his or her name with yours. All of us would enthusiastically recommend that a new pet owner hire you. Your fellow Training Partners should feel the same way, because the standards for everyone have been the same high standards. We look forward to building what I’m confident will be an extraordinarily successful, talented, and mutually supportive alumni group.

Congratulations, and best wishes for a rewarding future!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Pryor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.