EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR GSD

You often hear people say, “Your dog needs a job!”

It’s true, especially for breeds like our German Shepherds. They have brains that can problem-solve, differentiate, ascertain, and memorize. It’s amazing and can be a bit intimidating and/or exhausting.

If you have a high-drive, high-intelligence dog, you need to exercise his body *and* his mind.

Training is good, whether you’re teaching obedience skills, fixing a behavior issue, or teaching a silly trick. If you are using your dog’s brain, you are doing him a world of good.

We live in a dog-deep society in the Bay Area, thank goodness. If your dog is doing nothing more than keeping the squirrels out of your yard and walking around the neighborhood, here are a few ideas to keep him (and you) entertained, busy, exercised, and/or employed.

Agility is a lot more training than most folks think, and a lot of exercise for the human. If you think this is for you and your dog, just Google agility classes. The Bay Area is filled with them. If you want more information, AKC.org lists rules and requirements.

Flyball is for the fast, focused dog who loves the ball. You don’t have to run with them, but you get to catch them… Check Flyball.org for local groups.

Scent Work/Nose Work has exploded in popularity in the dog world. It’s one of my favorite things to train. Most folks are surprised that their goofy mixed-breed dog actually finds a scent article. Many different groups offer this type of training. Try NACSW (National Association of Canine Scent Work) or K9NoseWork.com.

Dog Scouts of America is a national dog-centric group. There are two local Troops. 121 badges are available to earn, from Agility to Water. They do lots of community service and educational outreach.

Their Mission & Vision: To improve the lives of dogs, their owners, and society through humane education, positive training, and community involvement.
We envision a future where dogs remain in happy, lifelong homes with responsible owners. In this vision, all dogs are seen as a useful and welcome part of the community, because people take responsibility for socializing, training, containing, and caring for them.

Hopefully this gives you some ideas for employment for your canine companion. Have fun!

Karen Oliver
Bring Rover Over
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