

# Think Cats Can't Be Trained? Think Again.

KITTIES YOUNG AND OLD CAN EASILY LEARN NEW TRICKS



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PHOTO: Cody Wellons

There's a common misconception that cats can't be trained. However, the truth is that any cat can. It's simply a matter of understanding your pet and what motivates him or her to work for a reward.

While dogs have been specifically bred to work for praise, cats, on the other hand, didn't evolve to please their human caregivers. In fact, they essentially domesticated themselves when they moved into farming communities and settled into a mutually beneficial relationship with humans by providing rodent control. Since the two are such different animals, it makes sense that you can't train a cat the same way you'd train a dog.

"People often believe cats are untrainable because they compare them to dogs," says Mark Spivak, head trainer at Comprehensive Pet Therapy, which has a location in Sandy Springs. "In fact, cats are intelligent and trainable. Yet, whereas most dog owners insist that their dog adhere to basic obedience commands, few cat owners have the same expectations."