

An APDT Survey of our Industry: "Dog Trainer Training Programs"

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Q1 Name of Organization

Fear Free, LLC

Q2 Name of Certification/Certificate Program

Fear Free Animal Trainer Certification Program

Q3 Program is accessible to persons with disabilities, special needs, and/or unique requests.

Yes,

Comment:

Completely online, have module scripts

Q4 Entity is a state and/or federally accredited institution (school/program).

No

Q5 Scholarships/financial aid are available to defray cost of coursework.

No

Q6 Basic dog trainer training program offered (i.e., a program that teaches fundamental group and private training skills).

No

Q7 Specialty dog training program(s) are available in a standalone form or within the curriculum (e.g., a program that teaches how to instruct dog sports).

No

Q8 Program provides more than one level of dog trainer training (e.g., beginner, intermediate, advanced, master).

No

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Q9 Program publishes publicly available information regarding methodology taught to individuals enrolled in the program.

Yes

Q10 While a variety of training methods may be discussed or described, the types of dog training methods espoused and used are restricted based on ethics, ideology, and/or philosophies of the program.

Yes

Q11 Duration of the program is eight weeks or shorter.

No

Q12 Duration of the program is nine to 25 weeks.

No

Q13 Duration of the program is 25 weeks or longer.

No

Q14 Length of the program is flexible (i.e., students who spend more time per week on the program finish it faster).

Yes,

Comment:

Online program, go at your own pace.

Q15 Mentorship with established canine professionals is offered as an optional part of the program.

No

Q16 Mentorship with established canine professionals is a required part of the program.

No

Q17 Time investment per week of the program is determined by the administrator.

No

Q18 Time investment per week of the program is determined by the student.

Yes

Q19 Complete program is available to students via online and/or remote testing and grading.

Yes

Q20 Program includes in-person components.

Yes,

Comment:

Course itself does not, but we have speakers at conferences

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Q21 Program specifically focuses on practical, hands-on, and/or kinesthetic skills. **Yes**

Q22 Program material teaches the fundamentals of learning theory, including all of the following: Classical Conditioning, Operant Conditioning, Non-Associative Learning, and Canine Cognition. **No,**
Comment:
Learner/student is required to already understand these theories.

Q23 Materials used in the program include current industry peer-reviewed readings. **No**

Q24 Materials used in the program include textbooks or other books. **No**

Q25 Materials used in the program include live or pre-recorded webinars. **No**

Q26 Program includes students working hands-on (in real time) with dogs without instructor present. **No,**
Comment:
Our program is intended for trainers with credentials/prior training, incorporating Fear Free concepts and techniques in their training methods and working alongside veterinary team. Program does not include working with dogs in real-time, because student should already be doing this.

Q27 Students are required to work hands-on with pre-selected dogs while an instructor is present. **No**

Q28 Students are required to have had 100 documented hours of recent dog handling experience before starting the program. **No,**
Comment:
Pre-requisite certifications/training/education listed on our website

Q29 Program requires 100 hours of dog training experience (in the last year) before taking final exams and/or coursework. **No**

Q30 Program addresses the following topics: Animal Learning, Human Learning, Canine Behavior, Health & Nutrition, Business, Laws & Regulations. **Yes,**
Comment:
Animal Learning, Canine Behavior, Business

Q31 Entity offering the program requires students and instructors to adhere to a published ethical standard. **Yes**

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Q32 Program utilizes on-line tests to determine students' knowledge of Learning Theory.	Yes
Q33 Program utilizes in-person, hand-written and/or oral tests of students' knowledge of Learning Theory.	No
Q34 Types of testing include: short answer, multiple choice, essay, and/or an in-person interview.	Yes, Comment: Multiple choice online quizzes
Q35 Program utilizes practical testing via video submission as part of coursework and/or testing.	No
Q36 Program requires practical testing in person with one or more subject matter experts present.	No
Q37 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are required to maintain credential status.	Yes, Comment: 2 Fear Free specific CEU's (provided on the website) and 2 additional (positive reinforcement only) CEU's obtained through different source
Q38 Program enables public verification of a graduate's certification status.	Yes
Q39 Program requires graduates to adhere to a published ethical standard and/or maintains a compliance mechanism.	Yes
Q40 There are policies and procedures for removal of the credential (in cases of ethical or other violations).	Yes
Q41 Coursework is approved for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) from professional canine training organizations.	Yes, Comment: CCPDT, IAABC, KPA
Q42 Program offers workshops geared towards specific, industry-established canine training/behavior consulting certifications.	Yes
Q43 Program publishes an on-line outline, including graduation criteria.	Yes

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Q44 Grading standards, rubric, and parameters are available to the public as permitted by law. **Yes**

Q45 Qualifications of program instructor(s) are published and available to the public for review. **Yes**

Q46 Statistics on graduation rates for the most recent five years are available on-line. **No**

Q47 Program provides information on graduate job placement rate to potential students and the general public. **No**

Q48 Program publishes current statistics on students who obtain credentials and continuing education. **Yes**

Q49 Materials that reflect the program philosophy are published and available to the public. **Yes**

Q50 A publicly available policy exists for students who fail to graduate and seek re-admittance to program.

No,

Comment:

This is based on a per situation basis. We give one year to complete the online, self paced course; they renew to re-gain access to complete. Intake exam to test base knowledge weeds out anyone who is not intended to complete the course.

Q51 Post-graduate support services include a graduate e-portal, e-mail lists, and/or social media groups. **Yes**

Q52 Program requires payment of a recurring fee and current policy review to maintain credential status. **Yes**
