



2019 APDT Online Certificate Courses

APDT's Online Certificate Courses are designed to provide in-depth education on specific topics. Students will attend online lectures, participate in online discussions with fellow classmates and work on homework assignments. Courses are designed to be challenging and thought provoking, and students who successfully complete the courses(s) will walk away with tangible, applicable materials and resources that can immediately be applied to their businesses.



January 9-February 12

Introduction to Learning Theory 101

Presented by Kristina Spaulding, Ph.D., CAAB

When most people think of learning, they think of intentional learning, such as taking a class or teaching a dog to sit. However, it's so much more than that. Everything dogs (and humans) do is affected by learning. This course will cover the basics of classical and instrumental learning and how to apply those principles to working directly with dogs (and people).



February 2-27

Top Dog: Lessons from Dog Training for the Entrepreneur

Megan Stanley CPDT-KSA, CBCC-KA

Today's successful dog trainers understand that success depends not only on your skill set as a trainer, but also your business strategies. This course will outline various strategies to help streamline and grow your business to a seven-figure organization. Owning your own business can be overwhelming and full of challenges, but with the right tools and structure you will learn how to earn the freedom and financial benefits from your business.



March 20-April 9

Aggression & the Law: What Trainers Need to Know

Presented by Heidi Meinzer, JD, CPDT-KA, CNWI

This course is geared to trainers who handle aggression cases. We will talk about what can go wrong, what kind of legal liability that brings on you as the trainer, and what you can do to limit your liability and insure your business. We will also cover other ways to protect yourself, including setting up a separate and appropriate legal entity for your business, creating solid policies and procedures, and bulletproofing your contracts and intake forms.



May 30-July 2

Covering All Your Bases: How to Legally Protect Your Business

Presented by Heidi Meinzer, JD, CPDT-KA, CNWI

Whether you are starting up a new business, or want to be sure you are covering your bases with an existing business, there are several important areas to cover. This course will guide you through various steps that your company should review before opening or on a regular basis even once you are established.

Dates are subject to change.



September 26-October 30

Dog Training 101: What All Beginning Trainers Should Know

Presented by Sarah Filipiak, CDBC

Knowing your stuff can really help a trainer stand out from the crowd. This course will feature all of the information a good dog trainer should know before starting to offer services. We'll go in-depth into the history of dog training, current training methods, dog behavior and body language, credentialing and how to approach our human clients' behavior.



November 13- December 17

Comparative Psychology and Cognition

Presented by Alexandra Protopopova, Ph.D, CPDT-KA

Is your African grey parrot simply repeating a previously heard word or is he using language? Does your dog understand that objects continue to exist even when out of view? Does your pet spider have a map of their world? In this class, we will cover topics in the field of comparative psychology and cognition with an emphasis on current research. Comparative psychologists focus on the evolutionary, developmental and environmental variables influencing behavior of various species of animals. In this class, we will cover the history of animal behavior and cognition, the role and dangers of anthropomorphism and anthropocentrism, and cover key topics in animal cognition research such as social learning, abstract concepts, communication and language, and theory of mind.



Date TBA

Advanced Learning Theory: An Advanced Look at How Animals Learn

Presented by Kristina Spaulding, Ph.D., CAAB

Once you know the basics of how animals learn, it's time to take it to the next level. How do you know if you know the basics? You can define and distinguish between operant and classical conditioning. You understand the differences between positive and negative reinforcement and punishment and how to apply them. If you know the previous information, you're ready gain a deeper understanding of animal learning. This course is the ideal follow-up to Intro to Learning Theory 101.

To learn more about these multi-week courses, go to pathlms.com/apdt

