

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

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**Q1 Name of Organization**

Companion Animal Sciences Institute

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**Q2 Name of Certification/Certificate Program**

Diploma of Canine Behavior Science and Technology

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

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**Q4 Entity is a state and/or federally accredited institution (school/program).** **Yes,**  
Comment:  
All appropriate screenings and approvals are in place.  
"Accreditation" not appropriate to non-university professional development school.

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**Q5 Scholarships/financial aid are available to defray cost of coursework.** **No**

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**Q6 Basic dog trainer training program offered (i.e., a program that teaches fundamental group and private training skills).** **Yes,**  
Comment:  
Included but focus is on resolving problem behaviors.

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**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**

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

**No,**  
Comment:  
Masters degree level program in animal behavior technology.

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

**Yes**

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**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,**  
Comment:  
Most effective methods utilized based on natural science literature. This happens to be minimally aversive methods.

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**Q11** Duration of the program is eight weeks or shorter.

**No,**  
Comment:  
1 year, approximately 400 - 450 hours.

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**Q12** Duration of the program is nine to 25 weeks.

**No**

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**Q13** Duration of the program is 25 weeks or longer.

**Yes,**  
Comment:  
1 year, approximately 400 - 450 hours

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

**Yes**

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

**Yes,**  
Comment:  
Not formally. We help graduates find mentors.

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

**No**

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

**No**

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

**Yes**

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

**Yes**

**Q20** Program includes in-person components.

**No**

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

**Yes,**

Comment:

The program is both academic and hands on. I would not say hands-on skill development is the primary focus, no.

**Q22** Program material teaches the fundamentals of learning theory, including all of the following: Classical Conditioning, Operant Conditioning, Non-Associative Learning, and Canine Cognition.

**Yes,**

Comment:

These terms you have selected are old outdated psychology terms and not those of modern natural science. We teach the natural science of behavior.

**Q23** Materials used in the program include current industry peer-reviewed readings.

**Yes**

**Q24** Materials used in the program include textbooks or other books.

**Yes**

**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.

**Yes**

**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:

Professional status is required but there is no minimum number of hours.

**Q29** Program requires 100 hours of dog training experience (in the last year) before taking final exams and/or coursework.

**No**

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

**Yes,**  
Comment:  
Health and nutrition not included.

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

**Yes,**  
Comment:  
Association of Animal Behavior Professionals: Professional Practice Guidelines

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**Q32** Program utilizes on-line tests to determine students' knowledge of Learning Theory.

**Yes**

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**Q33** Program utilizes in-person, hand-written and/or oral tests of students' knowledge of Learning Theory.

**No**

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**Q34** Types of testing include: short answer, multiple choice, essay, and/or an in-person interview.

**Yes**

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**Q35** Program utilizes practical testing via video submission as part of coursework and/or testing.

**No**

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**Q36** Program requires practical testing in person with one or more subject matter experts present.

**No**

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**Q37** Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are required to maintain credential status.

**No**

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**Q38** Program enables public verification of a graduate's certification status.

**Yes,**  
Comment:  
Graduate directory and the Institute will confirm credential.

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**Q39** Program requires graduates to adhere to a published ethical standard and/or maintains a compliance mechanism.

**Yes**

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**Q40** There are policies and procedures for removal of the credential (in cases of ethical or other violations).

**Yes**

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**Q41** Coursework is approved for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) from professional canine training organizations.

**No,**  
Comment:  
Does not require adherence to a code of ethics after graduation.

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**Q42** Program offers workshops geared towards specific, industry-established canine training/behavior consulting certifications.

**No,**  
Comment:  
The program will more than prepare graduates for any test in behaviorology at the Masters degree level.

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**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**

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

**Yes**

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**Q46** Statistics on graduation rates for the most recent five years are available on-line.

**No**

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**Q47** Program provides information on graduate job placement rate to potential students and the general public.

**No**

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

**No**

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

**Yes**

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

**Yes**

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

**Yes**

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

**No**

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