

History - The PDTI was established in 2005 and held its first practical course at Harper Adams University College in 2006. PDTI courses have continued the educational trend of many other instructor courses, and provide certificates of competence through peer assessment. 2010 saw the formation of the PDTI as a not-for-profit company committed to education and the introduction of optional theory elements to meet the demands of changing times. (Please see website and separate flyer).

Introduction – PDTI courses target Pet / Companion Dog Training / Behaviour Instructors / Advisors who work with families on day-to-day aspects of dog ownership in modern society. The emphasis is on understanding dogs as companions, and the practical teaching of good manners and life-skills, rather than more traditional 'obedience'. The course uses a range of standard exercises and highlights behavioural and relationship issues between dogs and their human families.

Practical work – students work within mixed ability teams, collectively helping each other nurture the expertise required to teach people to teach dogs. Teams are directed by different PDTI Tutors each day, who also contribute to team learning whilst encouraging a self-awareness of the skills involved with instructing, teaching, handling and assessment.

Assessments - The course includes a daily assessment by different PDTI Tutors (themselves Advanced Instructors) to acknowledge the skill level of each team participant, as it is either acquired by those just starting out or confidently demonstrated by the more experienced. Students receive midweek results and are further assessed Friday by external Assessors.

Evidence - The course supports the Kennel Club Accreditation Scheme for Instructors in Dog Training and Canine Behaviour, providing portfolio evidence of participation with credible awards for skill and knowledge.

Course participation - The course requires seven-day (residential) attendance. Students are generally divided into mixed ability teams for practicals and into experience level groups for tutorials. With a packed timetable, the days are divided into 5 x 90 minute time slots (usually a lecture, 3 practical sessions and a tutorial). At the end of the day, the course encourages social activities and informal discussions in the bar.

The PDTI Course offers Awards at 4 assessment levels

Students are asked to state their practical experiences on the booking form, with some background information that will allow for the allocation of balanced teams. As the week progresses, students will be given the opportunity to discuss and confirm their level. The STANDARDS to be applied to the award levels are defined below:

1. Introductory Instructing Skills: For those with **no, or less than** 1 year / 100 hours, practical instructing / assisting experience. This level is designed to give confidence those who are starting out, or guide those who wish to take on an instructing role. Successful students will, during the week, have proven able to assist safely with the teaching of most standard pet dog training skills and can explain the rationale behind each.

2. Intermediate Instructing Skills: For those with **more than** 1 year / 100 hours independent instructing experience. Successful students will have proven able to: teach competently and justify standard pet dog training skills, whilst explaining relevant behaviours, guidelines, health and safety issues; and show an understanding of personal limitations of their own knowledge and experience for referral and further guidance.

3. Instructing Skills: For those with **more than** 3 years / 500 hours independent instructing experience. Successful students will have proven able to: run pet dog training sessions competently; plan, teach and co-ordinate a series of exercises into interesting sessions which promote good dog/handler relationships; assess dogs and handler capability, identify problems and integrate correction without disruption; be confident in knowledge of rules, regulations and guidelines; and give clear answers to underpinning training and behaviour questions.

4. Advanced Instructing Skills: For those with **more than** 5 years of independent instructing experience, who **also hold** the PDTI Instructing Skills Award (equivalent experiences considered). Successful students will have proven able to: competently run pet dog training sessions at all levels; critically assess, identify, analyse, correct and advise on teaching skills, training and related behaviour issues. Students will also have shown high levels of expertise, together with knowledge and experience covering a good range of canine pet, fun and competitive activities.

Award certificates will be presented following the end-of-course dinner, and will be given at one of the following levels:

Attendance - this certificate will **clearly state** that the participant has taken part, but **not** ready to meet the standard set by the award

Pass - has over the week met the standard set by the award

Merit - has consistently met the standard set throughout the week

Excellence - has consistently given an above average and confident performance throughout the week

Our Tutors direct team learning of teaching of people and dogs to achieve the standards expected by society for dog ownership. The course includes puppy, starter-beginner-bronze, intermediate-silver and advanced-gold levels. A Kennel Club Good Citizens Dog Scheme testing session is usually offered and Thursday provides an opportunity to look at different canine activities / specific dog training techniques with options for handlers to participate.

Course fees for 2012 with on-site accommodation, breakfast, evening meals and formal end-of-course dinner **are set at £575**. On-site camping at £395 and off-site overnight at £325 are options and costs are inclusive of breakfast and evening meals, which are integral to the course and attendance is expected. Lunch is NOT included as this is 'free-time' and most students welcome a short break to nip into town, deal with personal issues, and so on.

Numbers will be strictly limited according to facilities and the student to tutor ratio. Full payment (or £100 deposit with a £10 admin charge for instalments) must accompany the booking form to reserve your place. On booking you are required to agree to PDTI and HAUC policies. You will be responsible for the behaviour of any dog(s) you bring on the course, and they must be capable of being left quietly in a comfortable crate / your car during meals, lectures and tutorials, when you are not with them.

NB. PDTI Management reserves the right to amend and apply rules as and where necessary. Pet Dog Training Instructors and PDTI are trading names of PDTI Ltd, a not-for-profit company, registered in 2010, number 07254416 limited by guarantee. PDTI Directors and PDTI Tutors also contribute towards their fees, in a learning and teaching role, benefitting from tutor / assessor experience.

See Booking Form for payment details.

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Pet Dog Training Instructors

Practical Awards established 2005, PDTI Register established 2010

PDTI Practical Awards

Course Prospectus

12th – 19th August 2012

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