

**History** – the idea of formalising the PDTI as a Company was initiated by many of the students attending the PDTI Instructors Courses at Harper Adams College in Shropshire since 2006. Built on course success, it was felt that an overseeing company could further support the educational trend, providing a register with membership criteria and a Code of Best Practice, recording achievement and establishing a contact network of PDTI instructors, with a modern holistic approach, committed to help families live with and respect their dogs, and personally evolve to meet the demands of changing times.

**Introduction** – the PDTI aims to support Pet / Companion Dog Training Instructors and Advisors working with families on day-to-day aspects of dog behaviour, training and ownership in modern society. It looks at promoting understanding of **dogs as companions**, and the teaching of good manners and life-skills, rather than pure obedience. All members are expected to provide appropriate services suitable for society today and are encouraged to communicate with the PDTI, where guidance is available.

Members are expected to continue their own education and ensure that their knowledge base covers the professional world of dogs, including law and society demands, dog breeds, nature and nurture, teaching and learning skills for people and dogs, communication and behaviour, all with the practical ability to teach and assess relationship issues between dogs and their human contacts.

**Communication** – will be mainly web-based, (please ring to discuss, if no email). The PDTI is intent on providing ongoing information to keep members up to date. The PDTI will continue to run practical Instructors assessment courses annually, but it now offers theory certificates, bespoke workshops and personal guidance / assessment, subject to appropriate fees being applied.

**Membership** – is open to anyone **interested in companion dog services**, wishing to 'support' the PDTI and registering a commitment to the PDTI Code of Best Practice. The application form asks for details of current experience and achievement, which will be converted into points. The completed form should be sent to the PDTI for evaluation with an initial cheque for £50, which will immediately register you as a 'Supporter'. You will usually be contacted within 21 days to explain points, and if appropriate, to be offered a membership grade.

**No annual fees** – The following fees apply to membership offers (see chart): Af=£25, As=£50, L=£75 & P/F=£95. An annual email return will evaluate further experience and achievement, but **no annual fees** are required. Should you wish to upgrade when eligible to do so and sufficient points have been gained, an upgrade fee of £30 will apply at each grade increment.

Membership grades shall be based on points and credit system. The following chart shows the **minimum** points overall and within the 5 individual categories:

Grade	Overall	PDTI	Awards	Instructing	Dog exp	Theory
Supporter	0 pts	0 pts	0 pts	0 pts	0 yr	0 pts
Affiliate	500	100	50	50	1 yr	30
Associate	1000	200	100	100	2 yrs	60
Licentiate	1500	300	200	200	3 yrs	125
Professional	2500	500	300	500	5 yrs	250
Fellow	5000	2500	600	1000	15 yrs	500

**PDTI** – points indicate members' active support and actual participation, with an on-going contribution to communications/courses/events/workshops etc.

**Awards** – points are allocated to PDTI and other Practical Instructor Awards. Provided overall points are met, PDTI Practical Awards will equate to grades as follows: Introductory=Affiliate, Intermediate=Associate, Instructors=Licentiate and Advanced=Professional. Others awards will be matched accordingly.

**Instructing** – points reflect actual client contact teaching hours, instructing and advising, and considers related advisory and peer involvement (local/national).

**Dog experience** – points indicate personal dog care/ownership, professional work with dogs, and practical involvements in various canine activities.

**Theory** – points indicate accumulated learning, PDTI theory certificates, relevant qualifications, work experience eg teacher, first-aider, H&S officer, appropriate study and research, adding continual professional development (CPD) annually for achievement, reading, attendance at talks, seminars etc.

**Please note** – fees are only payable for joining, grade evaluation and upgrades. To maintain graded membership however, members are required to demonstrate continual professional development (CPD). Graded members failing to provide an annual update within the time set, will lapse to 'Supporter'. A fee of £40 will be applied to cover extra administration in re-grading to include CPD information and continue thereafter.

The letters 'PDTI' may NOT be used as post-nominals without written permission, as to the public, it would imply a full qualification. All members may write their grade **in full** in their advertising to show that they have agreed to be guided by the PDTI Code of Best Practice, eg Affiliate member of the PDTI Register. PDTI (Pet Dog Training Instructors) may also be written in full.

**Post Nominals** acknowledge both expertise and PDTI involvement and the following routes are available to gain approval to use permitted letters:

- a) Associates (APDTI) who hold the Intermediate Practical Award and Level 2 PDTI Theory Certificate. Licentiates (LPDTI) & Professionals (PPDTI) who hold the PDTI Level 3 Theory Certificate with the relevant Skills Awards.
- b) Through an on-site evaluation to ensure PDTI standards apply in practice. An admin fee of £75 fee is required in addition to the expenses of any visit.
- c) As the PDTI supports Kennel Club Accreditation, KCAI achievement will be considered favourably towards PDTI grades, awards and use of letters.
- d) Fellows will be permitted use of FPDTI, as the Management Council will only award this to those who satisfy the PDTI points with considerable practical achievement in **companion dog training**.

**PDTI Code of Best Practice** – sets out expectations of all PDTI Supporting and Graded Members to act in a professional manner at all times ... it covers: correct advertising that does not mislead the public; accepting the limits of personal experience and knowledge, requiring a supporting referral and mentoring network; the expectation of treating other professionals with respect despite hearsay or personal opinion, the PDTI is more concerned with what registered members do and not about what others do or not do; the expectation of total honesty, trust and fairness towards individual clients; the expectation of ability to assess holistically and to use technical skills and appropriate methods which will not lead to abuse of the dog or the family situation; the requirement of appropriate insurance and the submission of a personal CPD statement annually. All, on application for membership, shall agree to be bound by the PDTI Code of Best Practice and be prepared to work in a manner benefitting professional membership of the PDTI Register.

The PDTI is directed by the PDTI Management Council, consisting of Directors, Officers and working party members covering the following roles and activities: President, Chair, Administration, Courses, Membership, Education, Public Relation & Website; plus a number of, in due course elected, individuals to act as membership representatives. The PDTI aims to promote education and support continual professional development. PDTI Directors, Officers, Council members and regional representatives will all be fee-paying members in good standing. All will be generally working on a voluntary basis, with allowable expenses to carry out their official role. Professional fees may be incurred for administration, certification, advisors, workshops, and so on, as arranged and approved by the Directors and Management Council.

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.

Please visit [www.pdti.org](http://www.pdti.org) and see Application Form for further details.

# Pet Dog Training Instructors

Practical Awards established 2005, PDTI Register established 2010

## PDTI Membership Register

**President: Anthea Lawrence** KCAI (WG<sup>A</sup>)

**Chair: Marcia Manning-Smith** PPDTI

Enquiries and administration via:

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