

History

The PDTI course started its life at Harper Adams College in Shropshire in 2006, with its own modernised approach, and a commitment to continually update and evolve to meet the demands of changing times. Like many courses, it continues the basic format of the 'Dog Trainers Instructors (DTI) Course', which held its 50th anniversary and final course in 2005. The first took place in a public car park in Totness, Devon. The DTI and similar courses, have been mentioned here, only to acknowledge our appreciation to all those who have provided training to hundreds of instructors over the last fifty plus years.

Introduction

The PDTI Course aims to provide greater guidance for teaching people to teach dogs as companions, rather than the more traditional teaching of exercises leading to the competitive disciplines.

The Course targets the expanding market of Pet Dog Training Instructors who work with owners on day-to-day aspects of ownership in modern society. It will cover the practical life teaching, it will concentrate on improving communication skills and it will emphasise behavioural and relationship issues between dogs and their human families.

Additionally, the course supports the Kennel Club Accreditation Scheme for Instructors in Dog Training and Canine Behaviour, and includes the Kennel Club Good Citizens Dog Scheme within its base exercises.

Course participation

The Course is organised by its Director - Chris Bloomfield KCAI (Ob^{ACDA}) MBIPDT.Adv. It is run with qualified Instructors, working as Seniors and Assessors. **The PDTI Course is non-profit making** and please note that Assessors are volunteers paying their own costs and accommodation fees.

The Course offers a week-long residential course, with a packed timetable. It divides participants into mixed ability teams for practicals and into experience level groups for tutorials. The day will generally be divided into 5 time slots (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 Course offers four certificate levels

These are based on the background of the student. The stated levels below are set only as a guide, as expertise may vary considerably. Students may discuss options and will be advised as the week progresses as to the most suitable certificate. Background information will be collected on the enrolment form.

1. PDTI Course - Introductory Certificate in Instructing

For those with **NO or less than** one year practical instructing (or assisting) experience. It is designed to give confidence to, and guide those who wish to take on an instructing role.

2. PDTI Course - Intermediate Certificate in Instructing

For those with limited, but independent, instructing experience.

3. PDTI Course - Instructors Certificate

For those with **more than** 3 years instructing experience.

4. PDTI Course - Certificate in Advanced Instructing Skills

For those with **more than** 5 years instructing experience, who **also hold** the PDTI Instructors Certificate (equivalent experiences considered).

The STANDARDS to be applied to the above are defined below:

Introductory – able to safely assist with the teaching of most standard pet dog training skills and can explain the rationale behind each.

Intermediate – able to competently teach and justify all standard pet dog training skills. Can explain relevant behaviours, guidelines, understands health and safety issues and knows own limitations for referral.

Instructor – able to competently run good pet dog-training sessions; able to plan, teach and co-ordinate a full series of exercises into an interesting session; can identify faults and integrate correction without disruption. Confident in knowledge of rules, regulations and guidelines; can also give confident answers to underpinning training and behaviour questions.

Advanced – able to competently run pet dog-training sessions at all levels, critically identify, analyse, correct and advise on teaching exercises, training and general behaviour issues. Impressive high levels of expertise, together with knowledge and experience covering a good range of canine pet, fun and competitive activities.

Certificates will be given at one of the following levels:

Attendance - this certificate will clearly state that the participant has taken part, but has not met 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.

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

Assessments - Students will be discretely assessed by members of the Assessing team throughout the week, during the course of work, and Friday will see a final assessment by external examiners.

The course will cover the teaching of people and dogs to successfully achieve the skills and standards seen within pet-companion dog training. It will include puppy classes, starter-beginner-bronze level classes, intermediate-silver level classes, and advanced-gold level classes and beyond. The Thursday offers an opportunity to look at different canine activities, with options for handlers to train and progress into specific areas of dog training.

FEES – The course fee for 2008 is set at £430.

This fee **includes** on-site accommodation, breakfast, morning and afternoon refreshments and evening meal. Reduced fees are available as an option, to those camping (£290) and those living locally and off-site overnight (£230). A booking fee of £50 must accompany the application form to reserve your place.

NB. With the exception of lunch, meal times 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.

Notes: Management reserves the right to amend and apply rules where necessary. Numbers will be strictly limited according to facilities and student/tutoring ratio.

See Application Form for payment details.

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Pet Dog Training Instructors Course

Established 2005

Course Prospectus

9th – 16th August 2008

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