



## THE APPLIED ETHOLOGY OF DOGS

Summer 2021

Thursdays at 6 pm EST – 4 weeks – August 5<sup>th</sup> – August 26<sup>th</sup>

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### Required materials

Computer, high speed internet access, microphone and speakers. Web cam is also strongly recommended and encouraged.

### Prerequisites

Student will get the most out of this course if they have already taken out Principles of Applied Ethology course. You can still take the current course without the Principles course, but you will be missing some of the basic information about ethology.

### Recommended Reading

If students appreciate reading materials to support the lecture material, I recommend Miklósi's book **Dog Behaviour, Evolution, and Cognition**. Several of the chapters from the book will be relevant to course material. It is also recommended reading for several of my other courses. The book is available at Dogwise.

### Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Define ethology and how it related to domestic dog behavior
- Explain the relationship between domestic dogs, wolves and other wild canines
- Discuss how an understanding of wild canine behavior can benefit our knowledge of dogs
- Summarize what is known about natural dog behavior, particular regarding interactions with other dogs
- Explain what scientists understand about domestication and it's impact on behavior
- Describe the perceptual world of the dog and how it impacts behavior
- Outline what we know about development in dogs from birth through adulthood
- Explain how dogs approach and solve problems in their environment
- Explain the relationship between genetics and behavior
- Apply knowledge of canine ethology to living and working with dogs
- Be able to analyze, integrate and apply new information to fit into current framework of knowledge. If it doesn't fit into current framework, be able to pursue novel paths of thinking.



## Course Description and Organization

### *Content*

From simple, everyday interactions (coming when called, cuddling on the couch, sniffing a new dog's posterior) to unhealthy or maladaptive behavior like aggression or anxiety, everything dogs do is affected by learning.

As professional dog trainers charged with effectively installing new behaviors and modifying unwanted ones, our best success depends on understanding the science of learning. Combining science with skill is what turns a hobbyist into a pro, and a good dog trainer into a great one. I want that for you!

You'll learn the biology of learning and the basics of instrumental conditioning, including the four quadrants, the side effects of and alternatives to punishment, Thorndike's Law of Effect, and the A-B-C sequence pro trainers rely on to get strong behaviors. And of course, we'll look at how to apply all these concepts to take your training results to the next level.

### *Approach*

I believe that the most effective learning occurs when students are not only provided with the facts, but also provided ample opportunity to use that information in concrete ways, engage in challenging activities, interact with others and receive frequent feedback on their progress.

Therefore, this course will be taught using an approach that encourages collaboration and active learning. While there will be time spent lecturing, time in class will be also be spent working on interactive activities and completing brief assignments.

I began my teaching career by teaching at a university and I hold students in my online courses to the same standards. I have high expectations for engagement and quality of work. However, I also strongly feel that if I am going to set a high bar, that I need to step up and make sure my students can reach it. This means that I hold myself to a very high standard as well and I love it when students reach out if they are struggling with the material in any way. I am happy to help! If you haven't taken a college course before but are willing to put in the work and reach out for help if needed, then you should do well in this course.

## CEUs

### Auditors:

- IAABC - 4 CEUs
- CCPDT – 3 CEUs for trainers, 1 CEU for behavior consultants CEUs will require watching the lectures and submitting the secret words.

### Full students:

- IAABC – 9.5 CEUs
- CCPDT - 6 CEUs for trainers, 2 CEUs for behavior consultants
- CEUs will require watching the lectures and submitting the secret words, attending 75% or more of the discussion sections and completion of work in class as well as the completion of a comprehensive quiz. The quiz



must be passed with a score of 80% or higher. If you receive less than 80% on the quiz you may retake the quiz once, after contacting the instructor for clarification on the missed questions.

### **Course Policies**

Refunds, minus a \$10 processing fee, will be granted if requested up to 2 days before the start of class. After that, 50% refunds will be granted.

Refunds are not available after the start of class.

Refunds will not be granted if you are unable to attend class and therefore unable to complete the required work. Excused absences will be granted in case of emergencies and illness (with proper documentation).