



## Code of Ethics

### Purpose

The Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers Code of Ethics provides CCPDT certificants/candidates with a set of guidelines and goals designed to assist certificants/candidates in the ethical challenges of their work and elevate the level of professionalism in dog training and behavior consulting. Additionally, the CCPDT will apply the Code of Ethics as a set of enforceable standards which certificants/candidates must agree to abide by in order to retain certification by the CCPDT.

### Policy

A certificant/candidate of the CCPDT affirms to abide by the following:

1. to operate as a certificant/candidate without discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, physical limitation, marital or familial status, sexual orientation, religion, or political beliefs.
2. to assist clients in establishing humane, realistic, training and behavior goals in accordance with the CCPDT Humane Hierarchy Position Statement.
3. to understand and fully comply with the CCPDT Training and Behavior Practices Policy.
4. to utilize training and behavior modification methods based on accurate scientific research, emphasizing positive relationships between people and dogs and using positive reinforcement-based techniques to the maximum extent possible.
5. to always provide for the safety of clients and animals in training programs and behavior consultations.
6. to act with honesty and integrity toward clients, respecting their legitimate training and behavior goals and the autonomy of their choice, provided they conform to societal and legal standards of humane treatment for their pet.
7. to refrain from public defamation of colleagues, respecting their right to establish and follow their own principles of conduct, provided those principles are ethical and humane according to the CCPDT Humane Hierarchy Position Statement.
8. to provide truthful advertising and representations concerning certificant/candidate qualifications, experience, performance of services, pricing of services and expected results; to provide full disclosure of potential conflicts of interest to clients and other professionals.
9. to refrain from providing guarantees regarding the specific outcome of training.
10. to use properly authorized logos and credentials provided by the CCPDT when marketing in print or electronic media.
11. to obtain written informed consent from any client prior to photographing, video or audio recording a dog training session.
12. to work within the professional boundaries of the CCPDT certifications and individual expertise and refrain from providing diagnosis, advice or recommendations in areas of veterinary medicine or family counseling

unless certified to do so. This does not preclude referring the client to a veterinary or behavior consulting professional.

13. to maintain and respect the confidentiality of all information obtained from clients in the course of business; to refrain from disclosure of information about clients or their pets to others without the client's explicit consent, except as required by law.
14. to be aware of and comply with applicable laws, regulations and ethical standards governing professional practices, treatment of animals (including cases of neglect or abuse) and reporting of dog bites in the state/province/country when interacting with the public and when providing dog training or behavior consulting services.
15. to keep accurate and complete records of clients, their animals and the training and behavior services provided; to ensure secure storage and when appropriate, confidential disposal of such records.
16. to continue professional development as required for maintaining the CCPDT credentials in accordance with the policies of the CCPDT.
17. to refrain from making material misrepresentations as part of the application for certification or recertification
18. to maintain and respect the confidentiality and security of the contents of any and all certification examinations of the CCPDT including, but not limited to, refraining from: stealing portions of, or the entire, examination(s); removing written examination materials from a test or meeting site without authorization; reproducing and/or disseminating examination materials without authorization; using paid test takers for the purpose of reconstructing an examination; using improperly obtained test questions to prepare person(s) for the examination; cheating during an examination; impersonating an examinee or having an impersonator take an examination.

#### **Enforcement of The CCPDT Code of Ethics**

- The CCPDT Code of Ethics must balance the ability of the certificant/candidate to ethically function within the dog training and behavior consulting professions while providing provisions for the CCPDT to enforce the standards by which certificants/candidates have agreed to abide. The CCPDT Board of Directors will use the following enforcement provisions:
- Code of Ethics violations will be investigated using the timeline and procedure outlined in the CCPDT Certification Compliance and Disciplinary Procedures (found at [www.ccpdt.org](http://www.ccpdt.org)) Except for a certificant whose certification was revoked as the result of a felony conviction (see CCPDT Certification Compliance and Disciplinary Procedures) a former certificant may reapply for certification after one (1) year from the revocation date. If certification is revoked, the individual may contact the CCPDT Board of Directors to request to reapply for certification. The Board of Directors will respond to the individual within thirty (30) days of receipt of the request for recertification. If approved, the individual will be eligible to take the current version of the examination during the next available testing period. No CEUs will remain valid from the recertification period wherein certification was revoked.
- Former certificants seeking recertification may only recertify for the credential that was revoked. If the individual successfully applies for recertification status and passes the current version of the examination, then the individual may apply for other examinations per the current guidelines of the CCPDT Candidate Handbook.
- If certification is revoked and recertification is not sought, the individual is ineligible for all other CCPDT examinations.
- If a candidate does not pass a CCPDT examination but is notified of a violation of the Code of Ethics, the individual may provide the CCPDT Board of Directors with an appeal as to why the violation of the Code of Ethics should not disqualify him/her from taking the certification examination again. The Board of Directors will respond to the individual within thirty (30) days of receipt of the request for examination. If approved, the individual will be eligible to take the current version of the examination during the next available testing period.

I have read the Code of Ethics of the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers and agree to abide by this code in my dog training and/or behavior consulting practice.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_