

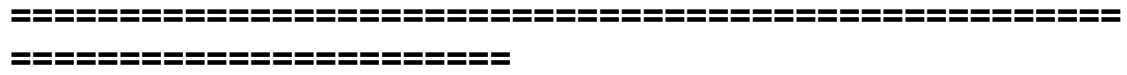


The Scoop

Official Newsletter of the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers

"The CCPDT exists to be the industry leader in defining and maintaining competency in the dog training and behavior profession."

July/August 2015



In this issue

- [President's Letter](#)
- [Barks From the Board](#)
- ["P" is for "Professional"](#)
- [Wireless Devices and Dog Behavior](#)
- [Industry News](#)
- [Congratulations New CPDT-KSA's!](#)
- [Humane Hierarchy](#)



Oops, sorry!

Dear

Certificant,

We recently sent out a couple of announcements to remind certificant of upcoming recertification deadlines. Unfortunately, we neglected to mention that the announcements were going out to all certifiants, not just those who were due for renewal.

Boy, did we hear from you! It was not our intention to worry those of you who are not yet due for recertification, and you have our heartfelt apologies for any distress, concern or inconvenience we may have caused you. And we thank you for your communications, which were unfailingly polite and professional.

We promise, in the future, to be more clear when we are sending out information that may not be relevant to all of you. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

And, as always, if you have news of any kind you'd like to share with your fellow certifiants, please send it to us at: Writeon@ccpdt.org.

Warm Woofs and Happy Training,

PatMiller,
Scoop Editor

CBCC-KA,

CPDT-KA



(and Bonnie)

Certificants Bark Back



We love hearing from you! Send your reader comments to: WriteOn@ccpdt.org

President's Letter - May 2015

CCPDT - Planning for the Future

by Bradley Phifer, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KSA
President, CCPDT

The CCPDT Board of Directors met in Kansas City in May. One of its annual agenda items is to review and update the strategic plan. As part of that review, the Board set the following goals:

1. Increase the number of active certificant in the database at the start of the fiscal year by five percent.
2. Increase awareness of CCPDT by completing three outreach tasks this year.
3. Develop an outside funding strategy to support CCPDT programs.

4. Develop and administer the CBCC-KSA examination

The Board has spent the last two to three years working on strengthening our internal processes to ensure that the CCPDT is operating within the best practices for credentialing organizations. Receiving the NCCA accreditation was a huge step in demonstrating the quality and strength of our organization. We have also adjusted the way we conduct items reviews to ensure the exams are not only stronger, but are effectively assessing the candidate's knowledge.

Over the next two to three years we will begin focusing on increasing our marketing efforts. The first step will be to launch the new logo and website that I have discussed in previous President's messages. From there, we are exploring options for a marketing campaign directed at consumers, and a scholarship programs for shelters and rescue groups.

This is an exciting time to be a part of the CCPDT. The Board is committed and energized. We are financially secure. We are following the best practices for credentialing organizations. Our exams are reliable and soon we will reach the milestone of 3,000 certificants. That is 3,000 professional dog trainers and behavior consultants who have demonstrated their knowledge and skills. They have pledged to practice within a professional code of ethics and to follow the Humane Hierarchy when implementing training plans. They are committed to increasing their knowledge through continuing education.

In other news....

We had 19 candidates sit for the CBCC-KA Spring Exam. 17 of those candidates passed the exam for a pass rate of 89%. This is the largest number of candidates to sit for the exam since its first administration in 2011 and the best pass rate ever. A big kudos to

the CBCC Exam Committee for their diligence in reviewing the content of this exam and ensuring the items are relevant to the field of behavior consulting professionals.

The CPDT-KSA had 17 candidates submit training exercise videos for review. 14 of the candidates passed the exam to earn their CPDT-KSA.

Congratulations to the new certificants!

Sincerely,

Bradley Phifer, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KSA
President, CCPDT
bphifer@ccpdt.org



EXAM NEWS

The CPDT-KA is the only NCCA accredited credentialing

examination available to dog trainers. Share this information with your non-CCPDT credentialed dog trainer friends and encourage them to take the exam! The CPDT-KA Exam will be again offered in the Fall of 2015. The application deadline is July 24, 2015, for those who plan to take the exam during the September testing window (9/5-9/19/2015).

Get more information on the CCPDT website at: <http://www.ccpdt.org>. Share the pride that having a well-earned credential like the CPDT-KA brings!

Barks from the Board

**by Jamie Bozzi-Surmont, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KSA
CCPDT Board Member**



I have been a Certified Professional Dog Trainer and Certified Canine Behavior Consultant for almost 15 years. I hold all three of the CCPDT credentials - CBCC-KA, and CPDT-KSA.

I was elected to the CCPDT Board of Directors in April of this year and attended my first Board of Directors meeting in May. I'm very excited to be more actively involved with this dynamic group of professionals and to participate in decisions that will help move the organization, and our profession, forward. I currently serve on multiple subcommittees for the CCPDT. I believe in creating and maintaining industry standards, educating the public on teaching and training using current scientific training techniques, and furthering the dog training and behavior consulting profession.

I've always been an animal lover and owned many different types of domestic pets over the years. I began riding horses at the age of five and had a long lasting love affair with horses - about 30 years in the equine world. I was involved in a variety of equestrian disciplines - barrel racing, racking horses, polo ponies, endurance riding, eventing, stadium jumping and dressage.

In the year 2000, I made a decision to pursue a dog training career professionally instead of continuing my work with equines. While taking training classes to prepare my dogs for animal assisted therapy work, I realized my true passion: helping to foster a better relationship between people and dogs through positive reinforcement training. I continued to volunteer at a psychiatric hospital doing therapy dog work, gaining valuable experience interacting with a diverse group of people - staff and patients.

After 15 years as a solo trainer teaching at multiple locations, I now teach group classes on a limited basis and instead focus on training trainers. Along with mentoring dog trainers, I manage several Smrtdog studios (five) throughout San Diego County. I continue to do private consultations and provide video consulting, as well as teaching specialty dog sport classes. I avidly pursue continuing education and professional development by attending

and presenting at seminars and conferences each year. I have written over a dozen articles for *SD Pets Magazine*, *San Diego Pets*, *the San Diego Gazette* and most recently APDT's *The Chronicle of the Dog*.

Smrtdog is continually adding new innovative classes and most recently, provides specialized training, consulting and technology solutions for canines and canine related businesses. Smrtdog is committed to finding new market opportunities, setting high industry standards and helping maintain current success for pet professionals.

My husband, Smrtdog General Manager, John Surmont, and I collaborate on a variety of projects. Of late, both John and I have become involved in the canine scent detection community. John is a former Navy SEAL, and is a trusted advisor for Naval Special Warfare and USSOCOM (United States Special Operations Command).

We have formed a lasting partnership both personally and professionally to help improve the lives of humans and canines through technology and education. Smrtdog is committed to helping dogs and their owners (pet owners) and handlers (professional handlers) improve their relationship and performance, and attain their training goals.

Jamie Bozzi-Surmont

www.smrtdog.com

San Diego, CA

619-246-5634

"P" Is For "Professional"

Mentoring Mindset: Our Responsibility to the Profession

by James E. Akenhead, CPDT-KA
Board Member, CCPDT



Keeping clients on track is key to behavior modification success

I have been urged to consider that as a practicing professional is it important that we consider whether we have responsibility for mentoring others who want to enter our field.

This is a two-sided sword if we are willing to help others enter the field in a professional manner. For me that means encouraging them to get certified and giving some level of advice that can help them or keep them out of trouble... i.e insurance, incorporation and the like.

For some, the issue is strictly business. Building up a reputation for your business as a top notch dog trainer and behavior specialist takes time. Personally, I can tell you that our business is a lot different now than it was 20 years ago. When we first started we did everything we could think of to let people know that we were in business and that we knew what we were doing.

Part of that "knew what we were doing" meant advertising that we were certified trainers and behavior workers. The work was hard and the dollars

coming in all went back out to support the business, either to work on our facility, advertise, or purchase needed equipment. We worried every time another trainer came on the scene. Now, 20 years later, we can finally take a deep breath knowing that we are well-established, and that recommendations come every day from Veterinarians, other trainers, or past clients.

It is easy to see why a trainer who is struggling to get his or her name out could take the position "I did the work to get myself established, often without help and it is not up to me to help others who would just create competition."

For others, perhaps with a backup financial support system, the issue is about building up the level of professionalism with the recognition that there will always be those who want to enter the profession, and many will do so with or without professional credentials.

There is no national requirement for licensing of dog trainers or behavior specialists. That means anyone can set up a website and portray him or herself as a dog psychologist, or for that matter any other kind of wizard s/he can dream up. For the most part, there is nothing another individual, be s/he credentialed or not, can do about it.

In my service area there is a person who has no certification from any organization. Her web site is dedicated to discrediting the idea of being certified and building up her credentials as a dog psychologist and perhaps even a dog mystic. The site is very attractive and looks credible. This site could easily snare the average dog owner looking for help.

I'm sure each of you has an opinion on this topic. As for me, I have been willing to help those I judge to have the potential to raise the bar professionally. I figure if I encourage certification as a necessity, I help lower the number who think they should be dog trainers just because they have a "special" way with dogs... as verified by their relationship with their current pet.

That means I direct trainers and would-be trainers toward the professional

certification organizations that I believe can be of value to them as they prepare themselves to hang up a shingle. I usually have a conversation with the individual in question and explain what direction I think the profession is going... toward positive reinforcement and the need for credentialed people so the public knows they are working with someone who knows about training. That is what I think the certification credential does. I know of one instance when a client was asked why she cared about certification and she responded with " I want to be sure my dog does not get hurt."

I explain that there are two basic schools of thought about training. One believes that using physical punishment is appropriate and necessary, even early in the training program, the other that believes consistent use of positive reinforcement works best. I let them know that I believe the public is moving toward training where their dog does not get hurt in the process.

I then suggest some reading of prominent authors in the field. I do this to determine if the person has a level of commitment necessary to do the work to become a certified professional. If the person comes back with questions that show that he or she has read one or more of these authors, I offer them an opportunity to observe the model we use at Signature K-9. I also invite them to take classes with us so they can see how our model works firsthand.

A Dog Training School?

We do not run a school for dog trainers, although I have been told we should. We don't charge the potential trainer for anything that doesn't require extra work from us. For example: we invite mentees to observe our private sessions after they have done some prescribed reading that would help them understand what we are doing in the session. We do not charge for that opportunity.

After several observations, we offer an opportunity to attend a process session. Since this does require one of our trainers to do preparation we charge for this service. Our fee is very low. It aligns with our fee to do a private consultation with a client and dog.

If a person sticks with it and does observations of our work, we may

provide opportunity to sit in with and assist with a consultation. Our consultations follow a specific format so it is possible to designate specific points that the person can do. We fill in if anything is missed.

We do private work first with all dogs who come here for training, to insure that when the dog and handler join a class they will be well-prepared and on the same page as the trainer. All of our trainers are schooled on our model for training and are expected to teach all groups using that philosophy. After prescribed private work is done, dogs and handlers may go into groups for additional training and fun. I really push the fun aspect.

In line with that, those who observe our private work are given a chance to observe our groups. Process sessions about how groups operate follow.

Having observers at private work and group sessions requires that everything be planned in advance. Here is the guideline that we developed:

Observing Private Training Sessions

Purpose

: To provide an opportunity to observe trainer interaction with clients in various aspects of dog training and behavior management.

-

Role of Observer:

Observe the tasks the trainer performs. Observing client and dog interaction in the parking lot, entrance at the door, greeting the client and helping the client get comfortably seated are examples, along with the tasks listed on the session outline they are been given (The session outline covers the topics or issues that will be discussed in the session).

As an observer, you should take notes on process. Process includes how the trainer interacts with the client and dog... how the trainer creates an atmosphere of comfort, trust, and safety.

You should also note trainer skills such as listening, use of open ended

questions, giving of information, and problem solving. Attention should be paid to equipment or props used and reasons for use. Note reactions of a client and trainer responses as they occur.

-

Protocol for Observer: Includes Adult Dogs and Puppies

- Be on site approximately 30 minutes prior to starting time of session. This allows you to get settled prior to the arrival of the client.
- Find your seat behind the desk and prepare for note-taking and observation
- You will be introduced by the trainer as an observer working toward your training certification.
- Due to inaccurate or missing information withheld by the client, we are never sure what a dog's behavior may be. Therefore, do not make any movements toward a dog or handler. Even small movements of the eyes or body may set a dog off. Looking directly at the dog is an invitation for a reaction.
- There should be no verbal or other interaction with the client unless directly requested by the trainer. Otherwise, you should work to be as invisible as possible. Avoid any attempt by the client to draw you into a conversation. Redirect any questions to the trainer. Stay on task.
- At the end of the session it is appropriate to say "good-bye". It is not appropriate to begin a conversation or ask questions of the client. After the client departs, chat with the trainer is acceptable. In depth discussion will occur in a process session. The reason we encourage note-taking and jotting down questions is so you will not forget them when you attend a processing session..
- Observations should not be discussed with others, including other trainers. Our design is to let you think about what you have seen and heard prior to a process meeting. You will be contacted to set up a process meeting.

Encouragement to study in groups

As part of the process, we encourage those who want to be trainers to participate in discussion groups. In those groups the leader, a trainer from our group, discusses important issues about training as well as sample test items that may be encountered on the CPDT-KA test.

What about you

So, now that I have explained how we deal incorporate mentoring and raising the bar for dog trainers into our business practice, I hope you consider doing the same. Of course, your approach could be much different than ours. There are many ways you could choose to help a would-be trainer get the right start within the context of your personal beliefs and the training situation in your area.

No matter what you decide, the issue will remain. If we want to assist in raising the bar for professional dog training, helping another get certified is a good way. You might even find out you can build partnerships, develop confidential sources for extra help, or even create a networking organization in your area that is mutually supportive. In our case, we have been able to identify individuals who we want to work with us, some who serve as referral sources and others who refer cases to us.

In future issues of The Scoop we will address other topics that can help you evaluate your professionalism.

Wireless Devices and Dog Behavior

by Jennifer Berg BA, BEAD, CPDT-KA

Skilled dog trainers know that elements in the environment can influence a dog's behavior and addressing them can be the key to resolving a behavioral problem. For example, the best desensitization/counter-conditioning program will have limited effect if the dog is constantly over-exposed to triggers in the environment, and such a program is also hindered if the dog's nervous system is exhausted because the home environment does not allow for enough quality sleep. The CCPDT recognizes the importance of the environment by including it as part of the first step in the Hierarchy of Procedures for Humane and Effective Practices, instructing that in addition to making sure a licensed veterinarian has been consulted to address any "indicators for possible medical, nutritional, or health factors" the certificant

must also address "factors in the physical environment that have a potential to impact the dog's health, nutrition, and physical condition." One increasingly important environmental factor that all dog professionals need to be aware of is the electromagnetic radiation (EMR) produced by wireless devices. The ambient levels of radio-frequency/microwave radiation (RF/MWR) in the environment have exploded exponentially over the past several years due to the proliferation of wireless devices and this is cause for concern. A large body of current research from all over the world clearly shows that the RF/MWR emitted by wireless devices causes measurable and reproducible biological effects that can result in significant changes in health and behavior.

Claims that these wireless devices meet "safety guidelines" need to be clarified, especially in light of the chronic, long-term exposure we now live with. The safety guidelines were developed several decades ago and were designed to ensure that the radiation emitted by the devices would not cause burns. Biological effects were not considered in these early safety guidelines, and subsequent reassessments have not considered them either^[1]. Experts from around the world have been studying the biological effects of RF/MWR and there is increasing concern that our current safety guidelines are insufficient. In 2011 the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified RF/MWR as a class 2B carcinogen (may cause cancer). In 2012, a group of 29 independent scientists and health experts from 10 different countries examined around 1800 of the latest scientific studies on the biological effects of EMR and issued a report (*The Bioinitiative Report 2012*) strongly cautioning countries to drastically adjust their safety standards and reduce public exposure^[2]. Based on what scientists now know about the biological effects of RF/MWR, using our current safety guidelines to support claims that these wireless devices are "safe" makes

about as much sense as stating that cigarettes are "safe" because they don't cause burns when used as directed.

It's important to understand a bit about how RF/MWR affects the body in order to realize its potential impact on behavior. In short, it causes changes on a cellular level that then can lead to a cascade of problems. For example, it causes increased movement of calcium through the wall of the cell membrane, leading to increases in free radicals, inflammation, oxidative stress, and damage to structures within the cell (e.g. DNA damage). This results in problems with cell function (e.g. communication with other cells and cell permeability), increased cell death, and interference with the cells normal "self-destruct mechanism" when cells have errors, thus allowing defective cells to replicate. Visual evidence of the impact of RF/MWR can be seen in comet assay [\[3\]](#) tests that show the DNA damage from 24 hr exposure to a cell phone signal that is comparable to the DNA damage from 1600 chest X-rays.

Symptoms that may be caused by or exacerbated by RF/MWR can vary widely because it affects every cell it penetrates. Small bodies are more susceptible because it penetrates a larger proportion of their bodies; with small breed dogs the penetration could be 100%, potentially affecting every organ and body system. Those with weaker systems seem to present symptoms sooner and more intensely, whereas a robust dog might be able to "keep up with repairs" if the exposure is low enough, not showing obvious symptoms until the body reaches a "tipping point". Things become even more complex when one considers the varied effects of different frequencies within the RF/MWR spectrum, if the transmissions are pulsed or continuous wave, and the fact that the symptoms and recovery can be immediate or delayed.

Both animal and human studies reveal a multitude of symptoms. In the *Bioinitiative Report 2012*, the 1800 studies are organized into eight categories of biological effects, two of which may be of more interest to trainers: one is related to stress proteins and the immune system, and the other related to sleep, memory, learning, and behavior.^[4] These studies support the consideration of wireless devices as a factor when trainers are addressing behaviors such as hyperactivity; learning/training difficulties due to memory, cognition, and/or attention deficits; behaviors related to stress and anxiety (e.g. restlessness, reactivity, separation anxiety, aggression); and because of the effect of RF/MWR on the digestive system, house soiling, excessive licking, fussy eating, or eating everything (including non-food items).

To get examples of what symptoms average pet owners might notice, I asked some people who experienced adverse effects from smart meter installations if any of their pets showed changes in behaviors. (For people, negative symptoms to smart meters are commonly reported, likely because many people are affected at the same time in the same area and they learn that their experiences are similar and seemingly connected to the timing of the smart meter installation.) Several reported that elderly pets and pets with pre-existing health problems showed symptoms immediately; in cases where the pets died fairly soon after the smart meter installation, the animals had been vomiting and eventually stopped eating and drinking. Not all pets seemed equally affected in homes with multiple pets, but most pets became anxious and unsettled, often whining/barking and not sleeping in their normal places. Some who moved away or had the meters removed reported that their pets' behaviors normalized. One of the strangest reports involved a dog that broke free from its owner to run full speed into the side of a moving car, and a

second dog (different owner) that tried to do the same thing a week later. While these behaviors don't seem odd at first, they become so when one considers that both dogs had never behaved that way before and both incidents happened in exactly the same location. The owner of the second dog described her pet as being in a trance at the time.

Certainly, these behaviors could be caused any number of other factors. Correlation is not causation but it can point towards factors that warrant our attention, especially when common experiences and research suggest support for the correlation. Because of its potential impact on health and behavior, removing RF/MWR from the equation and monitoring the results should be considered.

While it's possible to improve a pet's ability to cope with RF/MWR (e.g. consulting a vet about antioxidant supplements), this may not have much effect if the pet is continuously exposed to it. Reducing a pet's exposure doesn't mean giving up all technology; it means choosing safer technology and using existing technology more carefully.

The easiest way to reduce a pet's exposure is to choose wired devices instead of wireless. Cordless DECT phones are one of the worst sources because they continuously emit, even when not in use (as do wireless baby monitors). Ethernet cords and cables provide superb quality Internet and TV without the RF/MWR. If removing wireless devices from the home is not an option, the wireless can be turned off when not in use, especially at night and when no one but the pet is home. This can be as simple as unplugging the router (or entire device) or disabling the wireless in the settings. Cell phones emit constantly and should be put into Airplane Mode whenever possible.

Pay attention to the areas where the dog spends the most time. The dog's bed or kennel should not be near the microwave or any wireless devices (e.g. gaming systems), and should be as far away as possible from outside sources of RF/MWR (e.g. smart meters, neighbors' wireless Internet, cell towers, etc.).

The RF/MWR produced by wireless devices can impact the health and behavior of dogs (making wireless products for pets such as GPS or "smart" collars especially alarming). It's clear that we don't know enough about the biological effects of these wireless devices, and it would be prudent to err on the side of caution. Reducing a dog's exposure to RF/MWR won't hurt the dog and it might help.[\[5\]](#)

For more information on the biological effects of EMR, three excellent resources are Dr. Martin Blank's book *Overpowered: What science tells us about the dangers of cell phones and other wifi-age devices* (2014); Katie Singer's book *An Electronic Silent Spring: Facing the dangers and creating safe limits* (2014); and Dr. Erica' Mallery-Blythe's presentation *Electromagnetic Radiation, Health and Children 2014* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNFdZVeXw7M>)

[\[1\]](#) See slide at 10:10 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNFdZVeXw7M>)

[\[2\] http://www.bioinitiative.org/table-of-contents](http://www.bioinitiative.org/table-of-contents)

[\[3\]](#) See slide at 19:34

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNFdZVeXw7M>)

[\[4\] http://www.bioinitiative.org/report/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/BioInitiativeReport-RF-Color-Charts.pdf](http://www.bioinitiative.org/report/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/BioInitiativeReport-RF-Color-Charts.pdf)

[5] <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1557973/cell-phones-and-wifi-are-a-serious-public-health-issue-canadian-parliamentary-report>

Industry News

New Career for Dogs: Truffle Hunting

CARNEROS, California

June, 2015

The growing demand for truffles is creating a market for dogs trained to sniff out the high-priced fungus prized by chefs and gourmands. As more landowners plant orchards in hopes of harvesting truffles, more dogs are being trained to detect the earthy delicacies, which take several years to ripen on tree roots underground.

"There is huge demand for truffle dogs right now," said Alana McGee, co-founder of the Truffle Dog Company, which helps orchard owners search for truffles and trains dogs how to find them in orchards or in the wild.

On a recent morning, McGee's dog Lolo, a brown and white Lagotto Romagnolo, sniffed for truffles on the roots of oak and hazelnut trees planted next to Robert Sinskey's vineyards in Carneros, California. Sinskey was the first Napa Valley winemaker to plant a truffle orchard five years ago and wants to be the first California grower to harvest truffles, hopefully next year. He plans to have McGee teach his dogs the art of truffle-hunting.



A Lagotto Romagnolo

Lolo is an Italian breed commonly used to hunt truffles, but McGee said any dog can be trained. "It's about working with the dogs' personalities and different learning styles."

In Europe, truffle hunters traditionally used pigs, but in recent years the job has gone to the dogs, which are easier to manage, less conspicuous and less likely to eat the tasty tubers themselves, or resource guard from the handler trying to collect them.

Most black truffles come from Europe or Australia and cost \$800 to \$1,200 per pound, but supplies are shrinking while appetites are expanding worldwide. European black truffles, the ones most coveted for their powerful taste and aroma, are notoriously fickle. Few in North America have successfully harvested them, but many are trying because the crop could be highly profitable.

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/lifestyle/demand-for-truffles-spurs-dog-training-1.2444927>

Minnesota Deputy Charged with Animal Cruelty/Assaulting a Public Safety Dog

Ramsey County, Minnesota

June 15, 2015

Minnesota deputy Brett Arthur Berry was charged with assaulting a public safety dog and animal cruelty for the June attack on his working dog during a K-9 training convention. The 48-year-old Ramsey County deputy and Boone attended a K-9 certification event for dogs and officers in Carlton County on June 14, officials said.



At some point during the training at Black Bear Casino, Berry took Boone outside, picked the animal up by his neck and slammed him to the ground, casino surveillance video showed. The dog escaped, but Berry caught up to his dog and hit the animal at least six times, also captured on video.

Local police responded to the casino around 3 a.m. on June 15, after casino security reviewed the disturbing footage and reported it. The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office sent Berry home from the K-9 training and placed him on administrative leave. A veterinarian examined Boone after the attack and found he suffered no injuries. Boone is no longer living with or being cared for by Berry, deputies said.

If convicted, Berry, an 18-year veteran of the force, faces up to 90 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine for each of the two charges.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/minnesota-deputy-caught-beating-k-9-partner-article-1.2276233>

Bloomington, Indiana May Add Courthouse Dog Program

BLOOMINGTON, Indiana

June, 2015

Efforts are underway in Monroe County to bring trained dogs to the courthouse in Bloomington.

It's a program similar to one in Porter County, where court officials say the dogs have helped witnesses find the courage to testify under difficult circumstances. Courts across the country have used facility animals for at least a decade during child witness and victim depositions and testimonies, according to [Celeste Walsen](#), executive director of the Seattle-based [Courthouse Dogs Foundation](#). Studies have shown that the interaction between animals and humans helps calm anxieties and reduce stress.

Courthouse dogs help a vulnerable individual feel comfortable enough to talk about what they have experienced or seen, Walsen said.

<http://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Monroe-County-wants-to-bring-trained-dogs-to-court-6299260.php>

Fake Service Dog Pretenders May Get Jail Time Under New Florida Law

Miami, Florida

June, 2015

A new Florida law taking effect July 1 will make it a misdemeanor to pass off an unqualified pet as a service animal. The law, proposed by state Rep. Jimmie Smith, R-Inverness, will make misrepresenting a dog as a service dog a second-degree misdemeanor. The offense is punishable with up to 60 days in jail and 30 hours of community service for an organization that services people with disabilities, to be completed in less than six months.

The law will also make it illegal to deny accommodations to or discriminate against anyone accompanied by a service animal, which the law defines as dogs or miniature horses.

The Americans with Disabilities Act's website says some service dogs *may* wear special collars or harnesses and have certifications, but are not required to do so, and no one may ask for documentation to provide services. A person may only ask the dog's handler whether it is required because of a disability and what tasks the dog has been trained to do.

<http://tbo.com/news/florida/owners-of-fake-service-animals-may-get-jail-time-with-new-florida-law-20150629/>

Congratulations NEW CPDT-KSA's!!!

Bennett, Stephanie
Burk, Kurt
Armstrong, Christine
Morando, Deena
Trimble, Dulcey
Hatchell, Glen
Terpstra, Aditi
Ballinger, Gayle
Motyka, Gayle
Reusche, Sara
Magusin, Janet
Kuhlen, Kathryn
Wegman, Michele
Helmer, Sarala

The Humane Hierarchy

Here is the oft-referred to [Humane Hierarchy](#)(1) (from our website) to which our certificants are expected to adhere:

Application of the Humane Hierarchy

PURPOSE:

The Humane Hierarchy serves to guide certificants of the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT) in their decision-making process during dog training and behavior modification. Additionally, it will assist the public in understanding the standard of care to be applied by dog training and behavior professionals when determining the order of implementation for applying training practices and methodologies.

POSITION OF THE CCPDT:

The standard of care for CCPDT certificants is that the Humane Hierarchy will be used as a guide in their decision making process when implementing training and behavior protocols. This standard of care should be followed when the certificant is working directly with a dog, creating a training plan for the client to follow, or assisting a colleague.

HIERARCHY OF PROCEDURES FOR HUMANE AND EFFECTIVE PRACTICES

Please utilize the following steps to modify or manage a behavior:

1. Health, nutritional, and physical factors: The certificant ensures that any indicators for possible medical, nutritional, or health factors are addressed by a licensed veterinarian. The certificant also ensures that factors in the physical environment that have a potential to impact the dog's health, nutrition and physical condition are addressed.
2. Antecedents: The certificant implements environmental management strategies to prevent the behavior from occurring.
3. Positive Reinforcement, Classical Conditioning (not listed in order of preference):

a. *Positive Reinforcement*: The certificant ensures that reinforcement is delivered for the desirable alternative behavior, and that such reinforcement is of higher value to the dog than the reinforcement the dog has received in the past for the unwanted behavior.

b. *Classical Conditioning*: The certificant changes the dog's association with an aversive stimulus while presenting the aversive stimulus at a sub-threshold intensity.

4. Live With or Manage the Behavior, Negative Punishment, Negative Reinforcement, Extinction, Consult Another Professional (not listed in order of preference):

a. *Live With or Manage The Behavior*: Certificant elects to cease modification techniques and implement a management plan.

b. *Consult Another Professional*: At times, it may be beneficial for the certificant to consult another professional such as a dog trainer, veterinarian, or behaviorist for additional advice. Consulting with other professionals can be beneficial, particularly when a problem behavior does not resolve with the previously mentioned interventions.

c. *Negative Punishment*: The certificant withdraws a positive reinforcer when the undesirable behavior occurs to reduce the probability that the behavior will occur in the future.

d. *Extinction*: The certificant withholds reinforcement of a previously reinforced behavior with the goal of extinguishing the behavior.

e. *Negative Reinforcement*: The certificant withdraws an aversive stimulus when the desired behavior occurs in order to

increase the probability that the behavior will occur in the future.

5. Positive Punishment: The certificant delivers an aversive consequence in response to the undesirable behavior in order to reduce the probability that the behavior will occur in the future.

Please direct any questions regarding this standard of care to our administrator at administrator@ccpdt.org.

(1) Adapted from *What's Wrong With This Picture? Effectiveness is Not Enough*, Susan Friedman Ph.D., *Good Bird Magazine*, Volume 4-4; Winter 2008.

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