



Certification Council for
Professional Dog Trainers

Dog Training and Behavior Intervention Practices

Purpose

This policy serves to govern those practices that a professional dog trainer or dog behavior consultant certified through the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT) may not use during the practice of dog training or behavior modification. This policy will clarify for dog owners and dog care professionals those practices in which a CCPDT certificant may not engage.

The CCPDT recognizes that this policy does not address every practice under debate in the dog training industry. The goal of this policy is to ensure that CCPDT certificants do not engage in certain practices that can in no way be considered humane or sound by scientific standards.

Definition

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions are applied:

- **Electronic Training Collar:** an electronic training collar is defined as a collar that is used in a mode that causes electrical stimulation to pass through any part of the dog's body.
- **Helicoptering:** the act of lifting the dog off the ground and, either holding it off the ground OR swinging the dog off the ground by the collar or leash for any period of time.
- **Pinch:** the act of applying a pinching pressure either with the hand or with a tool of any sort, including but not limited to a cord or wire, to a toe, ear, or any other body part of the dog with the intention of causing the dog to perform or to cease a behavior.
- **Drowning:** the submersion of a dog's head in water for any period of time.

Policy

The following practices are prohibited for use by a CCPDT certificant:

- Helicoptering or hanging a dog or otherwise restricting the airway of the dog in any manner.

- Purposely lifting a dog by the collar, leash, or scruff such that two or fewer of the dog's legs remain on the ground.
- Applying an electronic training collar without first exhausting alternative intervention strategies as described in the CCPDT Least Intrusive Minimally Aversive position statement.
- Applying more than one (1) electronic training collar to a dog at the same time.
- Applying an electronic training collar to the genital region or abdomen area of the dog.
- Applying a toe or ear pinch while training any dog.
- Drowning a dog
- Applying a cattle prod to any part of the dog's body.

Please refer to the CCPDT's Certification Compliance and Disciplinary Procedures to report any such conduct by a CCPDT certified dog trainer, behavior consultant, or a candidate applying to become certified through the CCPDT. You may also contact our administrator at administrator@ccpdt.org.

*(Adopted 8/4/11)
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