



CCPDT POSITION STATEMENT: Mandating Certification for Training and Behavior Professionals

The Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT) recognizes that the dog training and behavior profession is a largely unregulated industry in the United States and much of the rest of the world. As a result, consumers are at risk of engaging service providers who have little to no legitimate education, training or experience in the field of dog training and behavior modification. We join the international dog training community in calling for regulation of the dog training industry¹.

CCPDT is concerned that individuals who do not hold an accredited certification and operate in an unregulated industry with claims of being professional dog trainers/behavior consultants put dogs at risk of being incompetently trained by any methods used and/or abused through the utilization of inappropriate methods. This is particularly concerning to CCPDT as dogs trained with inappropriate methods may present a safety risk not only to their owners but to other people and animals they come in contact with within their community².

Additionally, research has shown that dogs who are poorly trained and/or abused can be a burden to their communities. They are more likely to be surrendered to shelters and rescues, or abandoned by their human caretakers³.

Therefore, to protect the public and their dogs from the dangers of an unregulated dog training profession, CCPDT supports and will facilitate efforts to introduce and pass legislation intended to implement appropriate regulation that would require legitimate certification in order for a dog trainer to be able to represent him/herself to the public as a Professional Dog Trainer or Dog Behavior Consultant.

¹ Cobb, Branson, McGeevy, Lill & Bennett, 2015; Branson, Cobb & McGreevy, 2010

² Arhant, Bubna-Littitz, Bartels, Futschik & Troxler, 2010; Luescher & Reisner, 2008; Hiby, Rooney & Bradshaw, 2004

³ Diesel, Brodbelt & Pfeiffer, 2010; Marston, Bennett & Coleman, 2004 & 2005; Overall & Love, 2001; New et al. 2000; Patronek, Glickman, Beck, McCabe & Ecker, 1996

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