



Statement from CCPDT on Board and Train Facility Animal Abuse

In recent days there have been reports in the news of dogs that allegedly were severely abused and, in some cases, killed while at a board and train facility in Las Vegas, NV. The videos of a trainer brandishing a bat and cursing at a dog cowering on the floor are, to say the least, extremely distressing.

Under no circumstances is this type of abusive behavior considered dog training. Dogs do not need to be subjected to fear, intimidation, physical abuse, or starvation to learn the skills that help them be happy and productive members of our households and communities. CCPDT's mission is built around the core principles of the Humane Hierarchy, which approaches all aspects of dog training and behavior consulting from a positive reinforcement perspective based on scientifically proven techniques and methodologies.

Unfortunately, there are currently no minimum requirements for the education or licensing of dog trainers. CCPDT is working with several state legislatures to bring oversight and transparency to the field of dog training. Until these guidelines are in place, it is up to the individual consumer to do the necessary due diligence to ensure that the selected dog training provider has the education, skills, and experience to provide positive and effective training and behavior modification services.

CCPDT recommends the following steps in researching dog trainers and behavior consultants:

- Look for the CPDT-KA, CPDT-KSA, CBCC-KA credential. CCPDT-certified trainers have passed a rigorous examination process, including adherence to CCPDT's Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics, and are committed to continuing education and professional development.

CCPDT offers an online directory of its certified professional dog trainers and behavior consultants on its web site at <http://www.ccpdt.org/dog-owners/certified-dog-trainer-directory/>

- Interview the trainer(s). Ask about their education, experience, and the training methods that they use. How do they learn about developments in the field?
- If applicable, visit the facility. Speak to the trainer(s) and staff. Tour the training and boarding areas. Is the facility clean and well-maintained? Is the staff interacting with the dogs in a positive manner?
- Observe the trainer(s) interacting with the dogs. Are the dogs engaged and eager to work with the trainer?
- Does the trainer and/or facility carry liability insurance?
- Ask for references of clients who have hired the trainer for services similar to what you are seeking. Use online search engines and social media for reviews.
- Most importantly, trust your instincts. Your dog depends on you to find it the best possible environment for learning.

About CCPDT

Founded in 2001, CCPDT is the leader in standardized testing and certification for professional dog trainers and dog behavior consultants with 4,000 certified trainers worldwide.

As an independent certification organization, CCPDT has created a standard of accountability for its certified trainers, which ensures that they have achieved the required skill level and are adhering to the CCPDT Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics. The CCPDT certification provides the consumers of dog training and behavior consulting services a degree of confidence not generally available in an unregulated industry.

For more information on CCPDT certification and to search the certificant directory, visit www.ccpdt.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Phifer', written in a cursive style.

Bradley Phifer, CPDT-KSA, CBCC-KA
Executive Director, CCPDT

On behalf of the CCPDT Board of Directors