



Certification Council for
Professional Dog Trainers

CBCC-KA Examination Study Objectives

- The Examination Study Objectives are a detailed expansion of the CBCC-KA Examination Domains. Examination candidates should carefully review the domain structure and emphasis in the Content Outline; more weight is given to some of the domains than others. Candidates are encouraged to develop their own plan for personal study and should include study aids in addition to this document.
- Candidates should download the CBCC-KA Handbook for Candidates from www.ccpdt.org for detailed and complete examination information.
- Neither the CCPDT CBCC-KA Handbook for Candidates, the examination application form, the examination, nor the CBCC-KA credential, constitutes a contract between the candidate or the certificant and the CCPDT. The CCPDT reserves the right to change any of the requirements concerning its CBCC-KA credential, including, but not limited to: the eligibility requirements, examination content, recertification requirements, fees, use of the mark, name of the mark, and the website. Information published in the current version of the Handbook for Candidates on the CCPDT website supersedes all other printed or electronic versions of the Handbook.

Document Links

The following documents can all be found at www.ccpdt.org under Certification, Behavior Consultant Certification:

- CCPDT CBCC-KA Handbook for Candidates including the CBCC-KA Examination Domains (“Content Outline”)
- Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics
- Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive (LIMA) Effective Behavior Intervention

Content Outline

I. Applied Behavior Analysis (41%)

1. Assess impact, interactions, and behavior of other animals in the household
2. Select equipment needed for training and behavior modification
3. Develop a contingency statement describing the antecedents, problem behavior, and maintaining consequences
4. Determine if a functional analysis is required
5. Collect data to evaluate effectiveness of behavior modification plan
6. Evaluate a behavior as observable, measurable, and reproducible
7. Identify appropriate reinforcers for a dog
8. Identify appropriate punishers for a dog
9. Use stuffed animals, dolls, or other tools to assess behavior
10. Collect baseline data on a behavior
11. Monitor people and dog interaction
12. Develop a behavior modification plan
13. Set measurable goals
14. Choose and adjust a reinforcement schedule based on individual circumstances
15. Identify an appropriate alternate behavior
16. Demonstrate to a client how to countercondition and desensitize

17. Explain management as a strategy
18. Teach stimulus discrimination (e.g. cues) and generalization
19. Select appropriate training and management equipment
20. Lure a behavior
21. Shape a behavior
22. Chain behaviors
23. Mark correct behavior
24. Use food to reward correct behavior
25. Capture a behavior
26. Physically mold behavior
27. Prompt behavior
28. Fade a lure or prompt
29. Use flooding to change behavior
30. Use positive reinforcement to modify behavior
31. Use negative reinforcement to modify behavior
32. Use positive punishment to modify behavior
33. Use negative punishment to modify behavior
34. Use extinction to modify behavior
35. Use counterconditioning and desensitization to modify behavior
36. Use continuous reinforcement schedule
37. Use a fixed ratio reinforcement schedule
38. Use an intermittent ratio reinforcement schedule
39. Use a fixed reinforcement interval schedule
40. Use an intermittent interval reinforcement schedule
41. Use a differential reinforcement schedule
42. Use deprivation for behavior change
43. Use decoy animals (e.g. dogs, cats)
44. Eliminate antecedents to modify behavior
45. Create a safe training environment
46. Manage the physical environment for optimal learning

II. Ethology, Body Language, Observational Skills (10%)

1. Perform a behavior/temperament evaluation
2. Identify canine species-specific behavior
3. Identify action patterns/motor programs
4. Assess predictability, frequency, and intensity of behavior
5. Observe, assess, and interpret dog vocal signals
6. Observe a training or behavior problem
7. Observe, assess, and interpret canine body language
8. Explain a dog's body language to a client
9. Explain displacement behaviors to a client

III. Health, Development, Life Stages, Anatomy and Physiology (6%)

1. Assess physical condition of a dog relevant to training/behavior
2. Identify stereotypes
3. Explain how developmental stages affect behavior
4. Explain prevention as a strategy
5. Explain biological basis of behavior (species/breed development)
6. Discuss potential behavioral effects of neutering/spaying

IV. Consulting Skills and Best Practices (43%)

1. Assess personal competency to begin and continue working with client
2. Obtain dog history (health, environment, training, behavior)
3. Ask a client about the goals and expectations of behavior modification
4. Assess a client's ability to implement behavior recommendations
5. Help client determine priority of issues to address
6. Advise a client on appropriate breed/puppy selection
7. Determine when the work with client is concluded
8. Assess bite level/severity of bite

9. Observe client performing training/behavior modification technique
10. Make physical and mental enrichment recommendations
11. Design a maintenance and management plan with a client
12. Provide feedback
13. Teach client how to train a behavior
14. Teach client how to properly fit and use equipment
15. Teach client how to use voice as a training tool
16. Teach client how to identify, prevent and respond to dangerous situations
17. Teach client how to prevent rehearsal of problem behaviors
18. Teach client proper timing and delivery of reinforcers
19. Teach client to apply skills or techniques
20. Instruct a client to maintain a behavior/training log
21. Teach client how to keep dog below behavioral threshold
22. Explain baseline data to a client
23. Use client-friendly terminology
24. Demonstrate empathy and compassion
25. Motivate client to participate in training for behavior modification
26. Explain the expected behavior modification outcome to a client
27. Arrive at a consultation/lesson prepared
28. Determine if client needs special assistance
29. Obtain a copy of a dog's vaccination history
30. Obtain a veterinarian release, as appropriate
31. Obtain a signed confidentiality release form from a client
32. Obtain informed consent from a client
33. Consult another animal professional
34. Explain client roles, rights and responsibilities
35. Explain policies to a client
36. Check behavior modification plan against Humane Hierarchy
37. Make a referral to another professional (e.g. vet behaviorist, lawyer, insurance agent)
38. Create emergency plans
39. Write a report for client about behavior findings
40. Write a report for another professional about behavior findings
41. Conduct a follow-up session with a client
42. Set parameters for safe videotaping and data collection process by client
43. Take notes regarding each behavior/training session
44. Securely store client information
45. Write closing case summary
46. Adhere to state and local dog laws