

Executive Summary Report Prepared for



2018 Role Delineation Study:

Certified Professional Dog Trainers – Knowledge Assessed (CPDT-KA®)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers® (CCPDT®) conducted a role delineation study of professional dog trainers, with the assistance of the Professional Testing Corporation (PTC). The purpose of the study was to obtain information on the professional activities and knowledge areas deemed necessary for competent performance of those who work as dog trainers. The results of the study are being used to update the test specifications for the Examination for Certified Professional Dog Trainers – Knowledge Assessed (CPDT-KA®) to reflect current professional practice.

ROLE DELINEATION TASK FORCE

The CCPDT Board established a role delineation task force consisting of subject matter experts (SMEs) representative of the range of levels of experience and expertise, role, and geographic locations of dog trainers. The task force met several times during the course of the study via web-based meetings. Their first assignment was to correctly review the current content outline and make refinements to the domains, task statements, and knowledge areas to ensure that the content outline is current, comprehensive, and reflects the knowledge required for competent practice in a range of professional settings and roles of dog trainers. The task force was also charged with determining the rating scales to be used for the survey and devising a list of relevant demographic questions to be asked on a validation survey.

VALIDATION SURVEY

A web-based survey was created to validate the work done by the task force. The survey consisted of four major sections:

Tasks: Respondents were asked to rate 109 task statements as to the *Importance* of the task to competent performance as a dog trainer and as to *Frequency* with which the task is performed. They also were able to indicate additional tasks performed that were not included in the survey.

Knowledge Areas: Respondents were asked to rate 34 knowledge areas as to the *Importance* of the area of knowledge to competent performance as a dog trainer. They also were able to indicate additional areas of knowledge that were not included in the survey.

Domains: Respondents were asked to rate the domains of practice as to *Importance* to competent performance and *Percentage of Time* spent performing tasks in each domain.

Demographic Questions: Respondents were asked to answer 13 demographic questions about CCPDT credentials held, levels of experience and education, geographic location, scope of services offered, and time spent working or volunteering as a dog trainer.

The survey also had a section on eligibility and recertification requirements. Respondents were asked to comment on the appropriateness of the eligibility requirements to be able to take the CPDT-KA exam and of requirements for recertification.

An invitation to participate in the validation survey was emailed to over 3,500 dog trainers. As some emails were not delivered successfully, 3,386 people received the invitation. Of these, 1,892 opened the invitation, and 484 responded to the survey, for a response rate of 25.6%.

HIGHLIGHTS RELATED TO DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Almost 90% of the respondents hold the CPDT-KA credential. Roughly a third of the respondents had 15 years or more of experience in the field and only 25% had 5 years or less of experience. Roughly 45% of respondents hold a bachelor’s degree. The most frequently offered services (paid or volunteer) were private lessons, classes, telephone or email consulting, shelter behavior consulting or training, day training, and therapy training. Respondents spend most of their time on pet manners/obedience, puppy training, and nuisance problems.

KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO DOMAINS, TASKS, AND KNOWLEDGE

The responses of the participants were tabulated and a cross tabulation of the data according to several demographic variables was run. On average, almost all of the tasks were rated as being performed occasionally, frequently, or regularly, while almost all of the tasks also were rated as having some level of importance.

Almost all 34 of the knowledge areas were rated as being at least moderately important to competent performance.

DEVELOPMENT OF TEST SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE CPDT-KA EXAM

The survey data was analyzed and the results were reviewed with the Task Force and the CCPDT Board and decision rules were established. The resulting Examination Specifications for a 180-scored item multiple-choice examination are as follows:

Domain	% of Questions on Exam	# of Questions on Exam
I: Instruction Skills	48%	86
II: Animal Husbandry	4%	7
III: Ethology	7%	13
IV: Learning Theory	36%	65
V: Equipment	5%	9