



CBCC-KA® Examination Study Objectives

The CBCC-KA Examination Study Objectives are a detailed expansion of the CBCC-KA Examination Domains. Examination candidates should carefully review the domain structure and emphasis within the examination, as more weight is given to some of the domains than others. Candidates are encouraged to develop their own plan for personal study and may choose to include study aides beyond the scope of this document.

Candidates should download the [Candidate Handbook](#) for detailed and complete exam information.

Content of Examination

- The Certification Examination for Behavior Consultant Canine - Knowledge Assessed (CBCC-KA) is composed of objective multiple-choice items. There are 180 scored items on the exam, plus 20 pre-test items. Only the scored items count towards a candidate’s final score. The pre-test items are randomly distributed throughout the exam and do not count towards a candidate’s score. The pre-test items are being evaluated to determine if they perform well enough to be introduced as scored items on future examinations.
- The questions for the examination are obtained from individuals with expertise in dog training and are reviewed for construction, accuracy, and appropriateness by the CCPDT.
- The CCPDT, with the advice and assistance of the Professional Testing Corporation, prepares the examination.
- The content for the examination is described in the Content Outline (see below).
- The Certification Examination for Behavior Consultant Canine - Knowledge Assessed is weighted in approximately the following manner:

DOMAIN	% of Exam
I. Applied Behavior Analysis, Operant Conditioning, and Classical Conditioning	35%
II. Ethology, Body Language, and Observational Skills	29%
III. Health, Development, Life Stages, Anatomy and Physiology	14%
IV. Consulting Skills and Best Practices	22%

Content Outline

The Content Outline, generated through regular surveying of dog behavior consultants, describes what a professional behavior consultant should know and be able to do. This information is sorted into four (4) broad categories called domains. Each domain is organized into two lists: Knowledge Areas and Tasks.

- **Knowledge Areas** represent what behavior consultants KNOW. They reflect the broad concepts and topics a professional should understand and be familiar with.
- **Tasks** represent what surveys in the industry have indicated behavior consultants actually DO. They are skills a behavior consultant should understand and have the ability to perform if necessary.

NOTE: CCPDT candidates and certificants must adhere to all CCPDT Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics, Policies, and Position Statements. Not all of the Tasks represent a skill a CCPDT certificant is allowed to engage in as a primary means of training. However, a professional should understand the application of these tasks. Understanding the application of a task is not the same as choosing to apply the task.

Domain I. Applied Behavior Analysis, Operant Conditioning, and Classical Conditioning (35%)

01. Apply conditioning appropriately and humanely to change behavior
02. Apply behavior analysis
03. Perform functional analysis
04. Identify and set appropriate, measurable goals and criteria
05. Manage people, animals, and the environment for safety, comfort, and success
06. Apply instructional theories
07. Create, adjust, and evaluate effectiveness of behavior change plans
08. Select and use training techniques appropriately and humanely
09. Identify and implement appropriate reinforcement schedules
10. Identify and use reinforcers, enrichment, management, and punishers appropriately
11. Collect and interpret data

Tasks in this domain draw upon the following knowledge areas:

K01, K02, K03, K04, K05, K07, K08, K09, K10, K11, K12, K13, K14, K15, K16, K17, K18, K19, K20, K21, K22, K23, K25, K26, K27, K28, K29, K30, K31, K39, K46, K47, K49, K61, K91

Domain II. Ethology, Body Language, and Observational Skills (29%)

01. Observe, interpret, evaluate, describe, and facilitate interactions between dogs and other animals (including humans)
02. Observe, interpret, evaluate, and describe canine body language and vocalizations
03. Identify, describe, and respond to adaptive and maladaptive canine behavior
04. Identify, describe, and respond to influences of artificial selection, genetics, and environment on behavior
05. Assess and describe predictability, frequency, and intensity of behavior

Tasks in this domain draw upon the following knowledge areas:

K04, K05, K16, K33, K34, K35, K36, K37, K38, K39, K40, K41, K42, K43, K44, K45, K47, K48, K49, K50, K51, K52, K54, K56, K57, K58, K59, K60, K62, K63

Domain III. Health, Development, Life Stages, Anatomy and Physiology (14%)

01. Identify and recommend appropriate physical and mental enrichment
02. Select, fit, and use training and management equipment safely and effectively
03. Arrange/manage the training environment to reduce the risks of injury, disease transmission, and harm
04. Review dog's vaccination and other medical records
05. Analyze and interpret behavior/training history, and training progress records
06. Recognize and respond to dogs' basic physical and mental well-being throughout their life stages
07. Create behavior change/training plans to encompass the developmental and physical needs of the individual dog
08. Incorporate considerations of dog's sense of choice, safety, and control over outcomes, into all work

Tasks in this domain draw upon the following knowledge areas:

K04, K24, K35, K36, K37, K41, K42, K45, K50, K53, K54, K55, K56, K58, K59, K62, K63, K64, K65

Domain IV. Consulting Skills and Best Practices (22%)

01. Consult with clients
02. Teach and coach clients
03. Effectively communicate with clients through speech, body language, and writing
04. Teach clients to recognize and interpret canine body language, vocalizations, behavior, and indicators of health/well-being
05. Identify and resolve conflicts
06. Follow best business, professional, and ethical practices
07. Understand and follow laws, regulations, and ethical guidelines
08. Collect and store dog, client, and business records as appropriate
09. Identify need for, and refer to, veterinarians and other professionals
10. Explain policies and roles/rights/responsibilities to clients
11. Use problem-solving and critical thinking skills
12. Educate clients about their options and the potential impacts of each option

Tasks in this domain draw upon the following knowledge areas:

K03, K04, K06, K07, 09, K10, K11, K13, K20, K21, K22, K23, K25, K26, K27, K28, K29, K30, K32, K40, K41, K43, K44, K45, K60, K61, K64, K65, K66, K67, K68, K69, K70, K71, K72, K73, K74, K75, K76, K77, K78, K79, K80, K81, K82, K83, K84, K85, K86, K87, K88, K89, K90, K91, K92

CBCC-KA Knowledge Areas

- K01. Applied behavior analysis
- K02. Learning theory

- K03. Measurable goal setting
- K04. Safety, risk mitigation, injury prevention, and harm reduction
- K05. Data collection (e.g., baseline, measure for effectiveness of behavior change plan)
- K06. Prioritization of behavior/training concerns
- K07. Training techniques (e.g., marking, shaping, fading, luring, chaining, back-chaining, targeting, stimulus control, cuing, social facilitation/modeling, mimicry, capturing, prompting, body blocking, molding)
- K08. Behavior change techniques (e.g., reinforcement, punishment, extinction, antecedent arrangement or removal, counterconditioning, desensitization, habituation, flooding, deprivation)
- K09. Risks, benefits, and ethical considerations of different training and behavior change techniques
- K10. Appropriate and inappropriate reinforcers and punishers for a dog
- K11. Timing, location, and delivery of reinforcers
- K12. Reinforcement schedules (e.g., continuous, fixed ratio, intermittent ratio, fixed interval, intermittent interval, differential, variable ratio, variable interval)
- K13. Equipment for training, behavior change, management, and enrichment
- K14. Tools for behavioral evaluation and change, including demonstration, props, primary and secondary reinforcers (e.g., food, live animals, stuffed animals, toys, distractions)
- K15. Contingency statements, antecedent-behavior-consequence, and functional analysis
- K16. Behavior as observable, measurable, and reproducible
- K17. Stimulus (i.e., cues) discrimination and control, generalization, salience, overshadowing, blocking, context effects, and proofing
- K18. Sensitization
- K19. Promotion of pleasant experiences/avoidance of unpleasant experiences
- K20. Criteria setting/changing
- K21. Appropriate alternate behaviors
- K22. Management as a strategy
- K23. Prevention as a strategy
- K24. Physical and mental enrichment
- K25. Behavior/training logs for clients
- K26. Behavior change plans (written, adapted, concluded)
- K27. Maintenance plans
- K28. Management plans
- K29. Emergency plans
- K30. Optimal learning environments
- K31. Research methods
- K32. Scientific literacy

- K33. Ethology
- K34. Observational skills
- K35. Dog vocal signals/vocalizations
- K36. Dog body language (e.g., signs of appeasement, distress, eustress, stress, comfort, enthusiasm)
- K37. Canine species-specific behavior
- K38. Action patterns/motor programs
- K39. Predictability, frequency, and intensity of behavior
- K40. Bite level/severity of bite and bite inhibition
- K41. Impacts, interactions, and behavior of other animals in the household
- K42. Effect of environment, including captivity, on behavior
- K43. Role of supervision in human-animal interactions
- K44. Dog-client compatibility/dog selection process
- K45. Resilience
- K46. Recovery rate
- K47. Common training or behavior problems
- K48. Displacement behaviors
- K49. Behavioral thresholds
- K50. Typical/atypical, adaptive/maladaptive dog behavior
- K51. Desirable/undesirable dog behavior
- K52. Stereotypies
- K53. General health and wellbeing of dogs as contributors to behavior
- K54. Anatomy and physiology affecting a behavior
- K55. Impact of developmental stages and age on behavior
- K56. Socialization
- K57. Predation behaviors
- K58. Biological basis of behavior (species/breed development)
- K59. Effects of artificial selection and selective breeding on behavior (e.g., instinctual behavior that may become undesired)
- K60. Common misconceptions about canine behavior (e.g., seek to please, dominance/pack theory, guilt)
- K61. Humane treatment and handling of dogs in captivity (e.g., agency, choice, consent-seeking, cooperative care)
- K62. Canine specific knowledge (e.g., development, sensory perception)
- K63. Canine cognition

- K64. Elements of a dog's history (e.g., vaccination records, health, previous training and behavioral issues, reinforcement history, trauma, previous interventions, home environment, daily environment)
- K65. Veterinarian releases
- K66. Teaching skills
- K67. Consulting skills
- K68. Coaching skills
- K69. Conflict resolution
- K70. Critical thinking skills
- K71. Problem-solving skills
- K72. Instructional theories
- K73. Professional competency/case eligibility (working within one's skill set)
- K74. Communication skills (verbal, non-verbal, written)
- K75. Client-friendly terminology
- K76. Feedback (giving/receiving)
- K77. Empathy and compassion in consulting
- K78. Client motivation (human and non-human animals)
- K79. Client assistance and accommodations
- K80. Client goals, expectations, and limitations
- K81. Confidentiality
- K82. Informed consent
- K83. Follow-up
- K84. Roles, rights, and responsibilities
- K85. Ending client relationships
- K86. Professional collaboration and/or consultation
- K87. Referrals to other professional for issues outside of scope of services/expertise (e.g., veterinarian, other behavior consultant, lawyer, insurance agent)
- K88. Documentation and recordkeeping
- K89. Safe videotaping and data collection
- K90. Business practices and ethics, including contracts and written client/consultant agreements
- K91. Policies: Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive (LIMA), Humane hierarchy, CCPDT Joint Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics
- K92. Laws and regulations