The Dog Behavior Diploma program assumes the candidate has already secured a specific level of knowledge and mechanical skills prior to enrolling. Therefore, on completion of this program DogNostics is comfortable to present the Behavior Diploma to candidates who successfully complete it.

If you have not already secured the necessary skills and knowledge you may of course take the program. Should you wish to complete all the homework assignments and work towards earning the Diploma you will also have to show documented proof that you meet the preliminary skills and knowledge requirements. We will only provide the Diploma Certification to highly skilled and knowledgeable professionals.

To earn the credential please review the three available options.

Eligibility Criteria.

> **Option 1** - If you feel you already have the required foundational knowledge and skills as a Dog Trainer, and can provide documentation to verify this, you may join the program and upon successful completion you will earn the credential. *If you are currently a PCT-A or a CPDT-KSA or have the DogNostics DTC then we will accept these credentials as documented proof as we are familiar with the Knowledge and Skill testing procedures.*
>
> **Option 2** – If you do not qualify for Option 1 then register into the program. Prior to completing the program, you can submit the documentation to show you meet the knowledge and skill requirements as in Option 1. The necessary requirements are detailed below.
>
> **Option 3** – If you do not qualify for or are an inexperienced Dog Trainer then we recommend that you sign up for and complete the DogNostics Dog Training Certificate led and mentored by Louise Stapleton-Frappell and then transition onto this program.

Knowledge & Skill Requirements

Knowledge Assessment Requirement

a) Can provide an hour log to show 200 hours of training hours, either group or private training. Must have both dogs and pet owners included
b) Successfully pass with a grade of 85% or higher the on-line DogNostics Dog Training Certificate Examination. This may be taken twice for a retake fee of $20.00

Skill Competency Requirements

You can provide, via video submission, evidence of the following skill competency
a. 5 x 3-minute-long videos demonstrating a high level of individual skills from an assigned skill list
b. Can provide evidence of a successfully installed Conditioned Emotional Response from baseline to happiness
c. Can provide a video of a Complex Compound Behavior Chain that demonstrates the ability to teach discrete behaviors of the highest quality, with the final chain under stimulus control of a compound visual cue.

Skill Competency Requirements

Ten Basic Skills. You will randomly be assigned 5 of these

1. Conditioning the Bridge
- You **must** demonstrate how to condition a bridge (word, clicker, whistle, tongue click, thumbs up or flashlight).

2. **Name Recognition and Giving Attention**
- You **must** demonstrate how to condition the dog's name so that the dog looks at you when you say his name.
- You **must** demonstrate that you can ask the dog to focus on you using a verbal and/or visual cue other than the dog's name.

3. Sit
- You **must** demonstrate teaching the dog to sit.
- You **must** appropriately add a verbal and/or visual cue.
- You **must** demonstrate that the dog can respond to the verbal/visual cue, giving only one cue, with a 2-3 second latency.
- You **must** demonstrate using the bridge and the process of removing the bridge once the behavior has been learned, including information about how the behavior is reinforced when the bridge has been removed.
- If using the luring method, you **must** demonstrate fading the lure.

4. **Down**
- You **must** demonstrate two different methods of teaching the dog to lie down e.g. shaping, targeting, luring
- You **must** appropriately add a verbal and/or visual cue.
- You **must** then demonstrate that the dog can perform the down behavior on a single cue with you standing 2 metres (6 feet) away from the dog with a 2-3 second latency.
- If using the luring method, you **must** demonstrate fading the lure.

5. **Stand**
- You **must** demonstrate teaching the dog to stand.
- You **must** appropriately add a verbal and/or visual cue.
- You must demonstrate that the dog can respond to the verbal/visual cue, giving only one cue with a 2-3 second latency.
- If using the luring method, you **must** demonstrate fading the lure.

6. **Stay**
- You may choose the position in which you would like to demonstrate teaching the dog to stay (i.e. sit, down, stand).
- You **must** demonstrate how to teach the dog to stay.
- You **must** build the duration of the stay behavior and demonstrate 10 seconds of stay.
- You **must** introduce distance to the stay and demonstrate the dog staying in position for 10 seconds with you 5 metres (15 feet) away from the dog.
- You **must** demonstrate this occurring on two occasions in different venues (one inside and one outside)
- You **must** discuss the place that distraction and diversity play in teaching the stay.

7. **Loose Leash Walking**
- You **must** demonstrate at least two methods of teaching a dog to walk on a loose leash.
- You **must** demonstrate that the dog you have trained can walk on a loose leash for at least 20 metres (65 feet)
    - The leash should not become tight at any stage during the walk and the dog should be walking nicely no further than 6 feet or 2 meters away from you.
    - Primary reinforcement to be provided only at the end of the 20 metres
    - Positive interrupters and praise are allowed and encouraged when necessary for the maintenance of an enthusiastic response and a loose leash but may be used a maximum of five times throughout the 20 metres.

8. **Recall**
- You **must** demonstrate how to teach the dog to recall, giving clear instructions as if teaching someone who has never taught a dog at all.
- You **must twice** demonstrate the dog performing an off-leash recall from a distance of 5 metres (20 feet) in a distracting environment (e.g. outside, people moving past, noise, 5 toys

scattered on floor or food in a dish in line of recall). Although it is preferred that the dog be off leash for this demonstration, a light long line may be used for the sake of safety
- You **must** discuss the reasons behind teaching this exercise to pet dog guardians.

9. On the Mat
- You **must** demonstrate how to teach the dog to go to his bed/mat/crate.
- The final cue should be a signal for the dog to go into the crate and lie down or on to the mat and lie down
- The dog should remain lying down for a minimum of 5 seconds
- You should use a release cue to signal to the dog that the exercise has concluded
- If using the luring method, you **must** demonstrate fading the lure and changing to a verbal or visual cue.
- **Discuss** the advantages for the pet dog guardian of teaching this exercise.

10. Tricks
- You **must** demonstrate teaching the dog a simple trick. Teach **one** of the following:
  - Give paw (shake or high five)
  - Bow (2-5 second duration)
  - A five second stationary hand touch or chin rest (to hand or object)
  - Spin/Twist (360º turn to left or right beginning and ending facing the handler)
  - Sit Pretty/Beg (unassisted with 2-5 second duration)
  - Roll Over
- The dog **must** repeat this fully trained trick three times in succession, responding with a 2-3 second latency.
- **Discuss** the importance of teaching tricks in pet dog training.

A Conditioned Emotional Response +CER

Creating a Positive Conditioned Emotional Response (CER)
- In this clip you **must** explain what a conditioned emotional response is and how to achieve it (time allowed is one minute). Often dogs will find certain items annoying or for some reason they are worried about some object.
- In a video lasting no more than three (3) minutes you **must** demonstrate how you have changed the dog's experience of that object or procedure from being neutral or mildly annoying to being a happy emotional response or an alternative positive response to that scenario. (Please do not place dogs in uncomfortable situations with the purpose of videoing it). It is possible to demonstrate your ability to positively condition a piece of equipment such as a muzzle from a neutral response to one of happiness.
- In most cases it will take longer than 3 minutes to achieve this. Your video may show segments of your progression. You **must** show the baseline behavior of the dog, parts of your training procedure and his/her training outcome, together with your explanation of a CER. Total time of video with explanation is four (4) minutes.

A Compound Behavior Chain

Demonstrate that you can teach a behavior chain that is a solid retrieve to hand. The choice of the retrieve behavior is yours. Here are some examples. Please note these are only examples. You are free to choose any retrieve chain you want. Retrieve over Jump. Fetch Slippers from Cupboard. Fetch Drink from Fridge. Fetch a Leash.

- We do not need to see the teaching of this chain.
- Please demonstrate 3 repetitions of the final chain.
- You must maintain a consistent standard of behaviors when creating your behavior chain.
- You must demonstrate the ability to teach behaviors of the highest quality.
- The final behavior chain must be under stimulus control of a compound cue.
- Primary reinforcement should be provided at the end of the chain

Video Requirements

Requirements for Basic Training Skills Videos

- Each video clip **must** be between 1-3 minutes in duration plus 1 extra minute if required for any discussion requested e.g. When demonstrating Stay, the following is requested
    - You **must** discuss the place that distraction and diversity play in teaching the stay
  a) You will be penalised for going over the recommended time
  b) A brief verbal or caption explanation of what you intend to teach and how you intend to teach it **must** be at the beginning of your film clip
    - E.g. I am going to demonstrate how to train a "Sit" using a lure.
    - E.g. A caption tile before the film clip begins with "Sit – using lure" written on it.
- All training methods used must be force-free. Force-free is defined as:
    - No shock, no prong, no choke are used as tools and no pain, force or fear is used to motivate or punish a pet.
- The applicant **must** be aware of behavioral signals being offered by the dog with whom you demonstrate
    - You **must** make allowances for behavioral issues and demonstrate how to handle those issues should they occur
    - This assessment will be considered not satisfactory if your training does not reflect appropriate action in the face of canine stress, discomfort or confusion.
        - You will be assessed on how you handle any untoward behavioral issue(s) that arise
        - You will be assessed on your handling of the environment to enable optimal learning for the dog.

- You **must** take into account the dog's breed, age, individual idiosyncrasies and needs.

- For each of the named training methods (below) you **must** justify your use of this method for one skill being taught. You need only <u>justify each method once</u>. You must use each of the three methods below at least once.
    - You may choose to train these behaviors using either:
        - *Targeting*
            - include how to fade the target and transition to a verbal/visual cue.
            - Discuss other methods you could use to gain the behavior should this method fail.
        - *Luring*
            - Include how to fade the lure and transition to a verbal/visual cue.
            - Discuss other methods you could use to gain the behavior should this method fail.
        - *Shaping*
            - Discuss and demonstrate successive approximations when shaping
            - Discuss other methods you could use to gain the behavior should this method fail.

- You **must** discuss how to generalise behaviors and demonstrate how you would do this <u>during at least one of the film clips</u>.
- **Latency**: once trained, each skill must be performed within 2-3 seconds of the cue being given. When you are demonstrating your completed behavior, the dog **must** consistently respond within 2-3 seconds of being cued.
- When asked to discuss a part of an exercise, briefly discuss (1-minute maximum) how you would go about it and why.
- Although the majority of the Skills Videos may be filmed in the same location, **at least one video must demonstrate training in alternative place.**

Requirements for CER Video Clip

1. Each video clip **must** be no more than 3 minutes in duration
    - You have an extra minute in which to explain what a conditioned emotional response is
    - You will be penalised for going over the recommended time
- All training methods used must be force-free. Force-free is defined as:
    - No shock, no pain, no choke, no fear, no physical force, no compulsion based methods are employed to train or care for a pet
    - **100% compliance is expected**.
2. You **must** be aware of behavioral signals being offered by the dog with whom you demonstrate

- o You **must** make allowances for behavioral issues and demonstrate how to handle those issues should they occur
- o This assessment will be considered not satisfactory if your training does not reflect appropriate action in the face of canine stress, discomfort or confusion.
  - ▪ You will be assessed on how you handle any untoward behavioral issue(s) that arise

  - ▪ You will be assessed on your handling of the environment to enable optimal learning for the dog.
3. You **must** take into account the dog's breed, age, individual idiosyncrasies and needs.

Requirements for the Compound Behavior Video Clip

- Your video submission **must** be of the duration specified plus 1 extra minute if required for any discussion requested
1. You **must** clearly label your video Behavior Chain Skill Assessment, your name and the dog's name.
2. Please submit one video only
3. The video clip must not exceed 2 minutes but can be shorter
4. You will be penalized for going over the recommended time
5. Please include a brief verbal or caption explanation of what you intend to demonstrate e.g. I am going to demonstrate a compound behavior chain comprised of the following component behaviors: Go to cupboard; pull open cupboard door; collect leash, carry leash, return to handler; release to hand, return to cupboard; close cupboard door; reorient to handler for reinforcement
6. Evidence of training methods presented in each video **must** comply with the Pet Professional Guilds Guiding Principles and operating policies. Click here to review them if necessary.
7. You must be aware of behavioral signals being offered by the dog with whom you demonstrate
8. You must make allowances for behavioral issues and demonstrate how to handle those issues should they occur
9. This assessment will be considered not satisfactory if your training does not reflect appropriate action in the face of canine stress, discomfort or confusion.
10. You will be assessed on how you handle any untoward behavioral issue(s) that arise
11. You will be assessed on your handling of the environment to enable optimal learning for the dog.
12. You must take into account the dog's breed, age, individual idiosyncrasies and needs.