



The DogNostics Behavior Diploma program addresses the art and science of behavior consulting, behavior modification protocols, behavior assessments, and consulting skills. The full curriculum can be found here. <https://dognostics-career-center.teachable.com/p/dog-behavior-consulting-program>.

The program does compare, and contrast behavior approaches but does not cover basic skill training and mechanics or the process of individual skill development and management. You will need the fundamentals to successfully proceed through and graduate from this program. We consider the fundamentals to include all of the topics and skills that we teach and test in the DogNostics Dog Training Certificate program. This Behavior Diploma has been designed as an advanced program of study to build on these skills and knowledge.

***The DogNostics Dog Trainer Certificate Program** provides: an all-encompassing in-depth understanding of operant and respondent conditioning, with students learning about everything from discriminative stimuli, motivating operations, setting events, and the transferal of stimulus control; to primary and secondary reinforcement consequences, protocols and schedules; to canine ethology and social behavior. All students learn the Train-Test-Train method, as well as how to successfully implement the four key stages of learning from acquisition, to fluency, to generalization and maintenance.*

***DN-DTC graduates have** a comprehensive understanding of and ability to apply many training methods including luring, capturing, micro-shaping, targeting, environmental molding, social and conceptual learning. Students begin the program learning how to efficiently and effectively lure behaviors and end the program, not only having an in-depth understanding of the scientific principles involved in training, but also with the competent skills to teach complex compound behavior chains, sequences, merges, modifiers, quantifiers, comparatives and matches to sample.*

Diploma Program Graduation Eligibility – Option 1

a) Knowledge Assessment

If you have already had your dog training knowledge assessed via any of the following organizations, we consider this sufficient and do not require any other proof of knowledge competency.

- The Pet Professional Accreditation Board
- The Certification Council for Professional Dog Training
- DogNostics Education
- The Academy for Dog Trainers

- Pat Miller Academies
- Victoria Stillwell Academy
- Companion Animal Science Institute

These organizations either independently assess knowledge, or we are comfortable they cover the required topics to meet our credentialing standards.

b) Skill Testing

If you have had your skills tested by one of the following organizations, then we consider this sufficient proof of competency.

- The Pet Professional Accreditation Board
- The Certification Council for Professional Dog Training
- DogNostics Education
- The Academy for Dog Trainers
- Kay Laurence
- Helen Phillips

Diploma Program Eligibility – Option 2

If you lack eligibility from either the Knowledge or Skills criteria, you may register and move through the program, but before graduation, you will be required to show competency in both skills and knowledge. You can do this by completing the requirements from any of the above educational institutes or by having DogNostics assess you.

Knowledge & Skill Assessment

1. Knowledge Assessment Requirement

- a) You can attest to 200 training hours, either group or private.
- b) You can pass with a grade of 85% or higher on the online DogNostics Dog Training Certificate Examination. This may be taken twice for a retake fee of \$20.00.

2. Skill Competency Requirements

You can provide, via video submission, evidence of the following skill competency – the requirements are below.

- 5 x 3-minute videos demonstrating a high level of individual skills from an assigned skill list
- You can provide evidence of a successfully installed Conditioned Emotional Response from baseline to happiness.

- You can provide a video of a Complex Compound Behavior Chain that demonstrates the ability to teach the highest quality discrete behaviors, with the final chain under stimulus control of a compound visual cue.

Your 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 (360° 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

Generic 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 justify each method once. 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 generalize behaviors and demonstrate how you would do this during at least one of the film clips.
- **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
 - 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.
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.