



Natural Dog Behaviour Consultant Course Outline

PART 1 – THEORY AND CONCEPTS

Section I: Development and Learning

110 - Introduction

- The Origin of the Domestic Dog
- The Silver Fox: Domestication Experiment
- Biology: Canis Familiaris
- Human / Dog Companionship
- Dog Behaviour: Glossary of Terms

120 - Development of Behaviour

- Critical Period Hypothesis
- Early Development (Reflexive Behaviour)
- Socialization: Learning to Relate and Communicate
- Socialization: Learning to Compete and Cope
- Socialization: Learning to Adjust and Control
- Preventing Behaviour Problems

130 - How Dogs Learn

- Myths: Top 10 Things We Get Wrong
- Neurobiology of Behaviour and Learning
- Classical (Pavlovian) Conditioning
- Operant Conditioning (Instrumental Learning)
- Aversive Control of Behaviour
- Learning and Behavioural Disturbances

140 - Section Exam

- Exam - Section I (Development and Learning)

Section II: Assessment and Behaviours

210 - History of Applied Dog Behaviour

- Roots of Modern Training
- Science and Behaviour
- Applied Dog Behaviour
- Contemporary Trends in Dog Behaviour

220 - Behaviour: Structure of an Assessment

- Assessment: Fact Finding
- Behaviour: Defining a Problem
- Functional Analysis
- Working Hypothesis to a Training Plan
- Classifying Problem Behaviours
- Behaviour: Management vs. Cure Lesson

230 - Fear, Phobias and Aggression

- Understanding: Root Causes
- Attachment, Separation and Related Problems
- Excessive Behaviour
- Aggressive Behaviour
- Appetitive and Elimination Issues

240 - Section Exam

- Exam - Section II (Assessment and Behaviours)

Section III: Cynopraxis and Behaviour

310 - Cynopraxis

- Foundations and Concepts
- Training Theory
- Tools and Techniques
- Training Projects and Exercises
- Ethics and Philosophy

320 - Application of Skills

- House Training
- Compulsion and Hyperactivity
- CDA: Canine Domestic Aggression
- Separation Distress and Panic
- Common Fears and Phobias

330 - Case Study

- Aggression
- Anxiety
- Fear
- Hyperactivity

340 - Section Exam

- Case Study: Assignment

Section IV: Career Management Edit summary

410 - Working as a Dog Behaviourist

- Liability and Basic Structures
- Behaviour vs. Obedience
- Safety, Competency and Confidentiality
- Documentation

420 - Starting Your Own Business

- Developing a Business Plan
- Marketing and Advertising
- Clients and Communication
- Structuring Assessments
- Working with Clients and When to Say No

430 - Professionalism and Codes of Conduct

- Ethics and Professionalism
- Codes of Conduct
- Ensuring Success - No Guarantees

440 - Section Exam

- Assignment (TBC)

Section V: Review and Final Exam

PART II – PRACTICAL APPLICATION (12 hours)

Section I (3 hrs)

- History taking
- Functional analysis and assessments
- Behaviour classifications
- Developing a therapy plan

Section II (3 hrs)

- Operant Conditioning
- Cynopraxis: tools and techniques
- Understanding root causes
- Developing therapies for specific problems (intro)

Section III (3 hrs)

- Therapies: Aggression
- Therapies: Fear and Anxiety
- Therapies: Hyperactivity and Compulsion
- Therapies: General problems and handling issues

Section IV (3 hrs)

- Conducting a class/therapy session
- Working with clients
- Dealing with problem clients; role-playing
- Structuring your sessions and schedules
- How much are you worth?

Notes

This practicum will be a practical, hands-on class with real dogs. Each section will be 3 hours long and be conducted over 4 consecutive weeks. You will not be allowed to start the Practical Application part until you have completed Section II of Theory and Concepts.