

Canine Behaviour and Psychology Diploma

The aim of the course is to introduce participants to the behaviour and psychology of the domestic dog. It is designed to equip students with a basic knowledge of normal and unusual behaviours and their purposes or what they can tell us about the dog.

Module 1: Ways Of Explaining Canine Behaviour

- Understand the terms 'psychology', 'behaviour' and 'mind'. Appreciate the phrase 'canine intelligence'. Understand the term 'biology'.
- The effect of biology on behaviour. Inherited physical characteristics.
- Health disorders that may be inherited and how these might influence behaviour.
- The problems associated with assuming all behaviour is inherited.
- Illnesses other than inherited ones that can affect behaviour.
- The effects of anatomy on behaviour.
- The difference between 'nature' and 'nurture'. How diet might affect behaviour.
- An introduction to food allergies.
- Appreciate that medication can alter behaviour.
- The interactionist approach to behaviour.
- An introduction to social learning with examples.
- Understand trial and error learning; what a puppy might learn through trial-and-error learning.
- Understand associative learning.
- Appreciate the term 'cognition'.
- Canine communication with examples. Nonverbal communication.
- The problems of comparing human emotions and behaviours with dogs.
- Canine behaviours that humans might interpret as emotion.
- Instincts as a way of explaining some canine behaviour.
- Understand the term innate and why innate behaviours are important.
- What is a 'behaviourist'.

Module 2: Mating Behaviour And Birth

- Understanding sexual maturity and behaviour that leads to courtship rituals and mating.
- The reproductive cycle.

- The role of hormones in the reproductive cycle.
- The bitch in whelp, the development of the foetus, birth, and associated behaviours.

Module 3: The Psychology Of The Young Dog

- The stages of development of the newborn puppy.
- The importance of the development of the senses in the newborn.
- What the newborn pup can and cannot do.
- The development of early behaviour and the importance of early learning including exploration and play.

Module 4: The Psychology Of The Adult Dog

- The continued development of the dog into adulthood. Different types of aggressive behaviour; how early learning might affect adult behaviour.

Module 5: Unusual Canine Behaviour

- The difference between unusual and abnormal behaviour.
- The importance of consistency in relation to canine behaviour.

Module 6: Avoiding Problem Behaviour

- Choosing the right dog.
- The importance of socialisation.
- Obedience training methods.
- How to provide the dog with the required environment to avoid common problem behaviours developing.

Course Details:

Study Level 3

The study level 1 is beginner and 5 is HND / Foundation Degree level UK.

6 Module Course:

This course is delivered in 6 study modules which need to be passed to gain the qualification.

For more information regarding this course please contact Celia Forsyth at celia@petsensecollege.co.za.