

All PDTI Practical courses emphasis 'behavioural training', and are of four main types:

1. Practical assessment course

Our annual Instructors course is suitable for anyone who is currently involved as an instructor or advisor, or is considering getting involved, with the teaching of the dog-owning public, providing pet / companion dog training and behaviour services. The 7-day residential course, which runs annually in July/August, offers credible peer-assessed 'Instructors Awards' from introductory to advanced level.

This course is based on you showing us 'what you do' in order to be assessed on your current skills to gain one of our awards. You will spend the week sharing your ideas and learning from others within a mixed ability peer group. You will be looking at your justification of what you do and why, looking at the clarity of your teaching, and your ability to help the handlers and dogs achieve their own goals, learning to be more self-aware, and constructively participating in nurturing less experienced team members.

For those with no or little experience this course provide a safe environment to be nurtured by their team and course tutors to 'have-a-go', whilst learning through exposure to a mass of accumulated experience. It is rare for anyone to 'fail' at the lower levels and most achieve a merit or excellence during the by this process, giving a huge boost of confidence to build on the experience.

Please see 'Course Prospectus and Booking Form' to download for further details.

2. Practical teaching / training workshops

Our 1, 2 or 3 day 'Instructing Skills' workshops are designed to 'teach' you what you need to know – ideal for those thinking of dog training and behaviour as a career or hobby interest, or for those who wish to consider a refresh on their approach to 'behavioural training'. Tutors will encourage discussion and participation, not just on methods and techniques, but as how exercises can be used as an assessment tool and to influence the relationship between handler and dog.

We also run 'handler' workshops, where all can have fun progressing their dog and handler skills, and while doing so, Instructors can pick up ideas to take back to use in their own club services. Popular topics include Manhunt, Play and Nose work activities.

3. Bespoke workshops

Personal workshops: These are designed to work around 'you' – our tutors are available to attend your current classes and constructively discuss the structure of your teaching, to provide you with support. Costs based on a fee of £50 plus our Tutors travel and arranged accommodation if required.

Limited or Open workshops: the Tutor will demonstrate options and offer ideas, which can be limited to your own club instructors (works well when following on from your personal workshop), or opened-up to attract others locally to help cover your hosting costs. Fees set according to costs involved.

These can be ideal for those of you who:

- i) have just started up on your own and wish for a confidential peer review
- ii) have attended practical courses and want to safely progress your own or add more ideas
- iii) wish to use a confidential peer review at a high level to add confidence to 'what you do'
- iv) wish to create personal portfolio evidence in support of gaining further qualifications

4. Apprentice Programme

Several of our more advanced members are able to offer the opportunity for interested students to study, attend and with time and if appropriate, assist at their classes as part of an apprentice programme.

Member services will vary from puppy and adult socialisation to dealing with juvenile and adult problem behaviours, and from the very basics of training to the more advanced and competitive skills. Registration fee £60, inclusive of PDTI membership where discounts apply. You should contact individual clubs, and you should expect to donate a small fee if required, until such time as you can assist / volunteer.

Please call or use the 'contact us' page to discuss your requirements in more detail.