

PET DOG TRAINING INSTRUCTORS

PDTI ... promoting, developing, teaching, inspiring.

Practical Instructing Awards

**for those providing Companion
Dog Training & Behaviour Services**

Our 20th Annual Course - Prospectus

Saturday 18th – Saturday 25th July 2026

Harper Adams University Campus, Newport, Shropshire

Course enquiries:

Email: info@pdti.org

Website: www.pdti.org

Please see the online booking form for further details

Practical Awards established 2005, PDTI Ltd established 2010

History – The PDTI was established in 2005 and held its first practical course at Harper Adams University in 2006 to provide peer-assessed competence awards in support of those working with dog owners / handlers in an instructor / advisor role. The PDTI expanded in 2010, registering as a not-for-profit company committed to education. It successfully introduced a graded membership, teaching workshops, annual conference, and a theory programme to encourage continued professional development and learning for our changing times. (Please see our website for further details).

Introduction – PDTI courses target Pet Companion Dog Training & Behaviour Instructors / Advisors who work with families on day-to-day aspects of dog ownership in modern society. The emphasis is on understanding dogs and their role as companions, and the positive practical teaching of good manners and life-skills, rather than the demands of more traditional ‘obedience’. The course uses a range of standard teaching tasks, and discusses their use to assess, identify and appropriately deal with behavioural, relationship and communication issues between dogs and their human families throughout.

Practical work – Students work within mixed ability teams, collectively helping each other nurture the expertise required to positively teach people to teach dogs. Teams are directed by different PDTI Tutors (all Advanced Instructors) each day, who also contribute to team learning, whilst encouraging self-awareness of both the fundamental skills and the realities involved with instructing, teaching, assessing and handling.

Assessments – Students are assessed to set criteria each day by different PDTI Tutors to establish individual skill / knowledge levels, as they are either confidently demonstrated by the more experienced instructors or acquired on the course by those just starting out. Students receive midweek results and following discussion, confirm the level of the final award that they are on target to achieve for their final assessment.

Evidence – This course supports continued professional development (CPD), providing certificates of achievement for portfolio evidence of participation, skill and knowledge. The course also builds confidence through questioning and justifying teaching elements for those working towards gaining further and accredited practical awards.

Participation – This course requires full-time week-long attendance. The packed timetable divides days into 5 x 90-minute time slots (usually three practical sessions, a tutorial and a lecture / demonstration). Students are more often divided into mixed ability teams for the practical sessions and into experience level groups for tutorials. Breakfast and evening meals are integral to the course and attendance is expected. Social activities / informal discussions in the bar at the end of each day are encouraged but optional.

This PDTI Course offers four Awards levels depending on personal experience, knowledge and skill - Students are asked to state their practical experiences on the booking form, with some background information that will allow for the allocation of balanced teams, and to provisionally register for the most appropriate award, subject to midweek results. The final assessment increases in complexity at each of the levels below.

The STANDARDS to be applied to the awards are defined below:

Level P1. Introductory Instructing Skills for those with **no, or less than 1yr/150hrs**, practical instructing / advising / assisting experience, either in a group or on a 1:1 basis. This level is designed to give guidance and confidence to those who are just starting out, and to those who are interested in preparing for a future instructing / advising role. During the week, successful students will have proven able to safely assist with the teaching of general pet dog training skills and be able to explain the rationale behind each.

Level P2. Dog Training Instructing Skills requires more than 1yr/150hrs **independent**, practical teaching / instructing / advising experience, OR over 2yrs/300hrs assisting / shadowing / taking part(s) classes. Successful students will have proven competent to: teach and justify standard dog training skills, with regard to resulting behaviours; show awareness of related regulations, guidelines, health & safety issues; whilst understanding the limits of personal knowledge and experience for referral and further guidance.

Level P3. Behavioural Training Instructing Skills requires 3+yrs/600+hrs **independent** behavioural training instructing /advising experience. Successful students will have proven able to: competently run applied pet dog training sessions based on good social behaviour; plan, teach and co-ordinate a series of skills, promote positive family relationships and clear communication; assess dogs and handler capability; identify problems and integrate appropriate individual advice (without disruption to others, if in a class); be confident in knowledge of related regulations and guidelines; understand the importance of referral and give precise answers to underpinning training and behaviour questions.

Level P4. Advanced Behavioural Training Instructing Skills requires 5+yrs/1200+hrs **independent** behavioural training instructing / advising experience, who **also hold** our Behavioural Training Instructing Skills Award (or equivalents considered). Successful students will have proven able to competently: run sessions as in level 3; plus critically assess, identify, analyse, correct and advise on training and related social / behavioural issues; show high levels of teaching skill, expertise in training other instructors; consider appropriate referral; and demonstrate knowledge / experience of a good range of canine pet, fun and competitive activities.

Award certificates will be presented following the end-of-course evening meal, and will be given at one of the following levels:

Attendance - this certificate will **clearly state** that the participant has taken part as appropriate but has **not** completed all the elements required for the award.

Pass - has over the week met the standard set by the award.

Merit - has throughout the week consistently met the standard set.

Excellence - has throughout the week given an above average performance.

Our aims through Tutor led and team learning are to: develop / enhance teaching skills which enable people and dogs to have a happy, harmonious, fulfilling life; achieve the standards of behaviour expected by society for dog ownership; increase behavioural understanding of dogs from puppies through to older adults; and to promote handling achievements from beginner to advanced levels. The course also aims to provide opportunities to look at different canine activities / specific dog training / behaviour techniques with options for handler participation; and usually offers a Kennel Club Good Citizens Dog Scheme (GCDS) testing session.

Course fees 2026: On-site en-suite accommodation **£895**. (Options: on-site camping at £695 and off-site-overnight at £595). A deposit payment of £295 must accompany the initial online booking form to reserve your place. The remaining fee may be paid in monthly instalments by 1st July 2026. By booking you automatically agree to abide by PDTI / HAU policies, which include the prioritising of animal welfare, considerate smoking areas, and zero tolerance of abuse / nuisance / drugs etc.

All fees are inclusive of breakfast, evening meals and formal end-of-course dinner, which are all integral to the course and attendance is expected. Lunch is NOT included, giving students an hour of free time to deal with any personal issues. Numbers limited according to facilities and student to tutor ratio. All correspondence after application is by email, which requires your acknowledgement (please call 020 8809 6762 to discuss if this is a problem). You are expected to take responsibility for the welfare, care and behaviour of any dog(s) you bring or handle. All dogs must be able to quietly cope with being close to other dogs and being left in a comfortable crate or in your car during meals and lectures, when you are not with them.

NB. PDTI Management reserves the right to amend and apply rules as and where necessary. Pet Dog Training Instructors and PDTI are trading names of PDTI Ltd, a not-for-profit company, registered in 2010, number 07254416 limited by guarantee. Please note that PDTI Administrators & Tutors do so on a voluntary basis, contributing towards their own fees, freely giving of their time to help others and hopefully benefitting from increasing their management, tutoring and assessing experience.

See 'Booking' form on the website for further details & payment options.