

Creedons College
Programme Descriptor for
Practical Dog Training
Leading to
Level 6 QQI Minor Award in Canine Obedience and Training
Programme Brief 6N6228

Certification

Awarding Body: QQI
Level: Level 6
Module Title: Practical Dog Training
Module Code: 6N6228
Programme Leader: Nanci Creedon M.Sc

Introduction

Creedons College is delighted to offer the Practical Dog Training programme.

As the dog industry continues to grow in Ireland, the demand for qualified, competent dog training professionals also grows.

Creedons College satisfies the need for this programme as it provides a stand-alone opportunity to gain dog training qualifications which can then be applied professionally or built upon to increase the availability of competent qualified dog training professionals in Ireland.

Programme Profile

Programme Units

Unit 1 Evolution

Unit 2 Breeds

Unit 3 Learning Theory

Unit 4 Puppy Training

Unit 5 Problem Behaviour

Unit 6 Practical Dog Training

Unit 7 Dog Training Management

Unit 8 Understanding the Dog Training Industry

This programme has been designed to introduce learners to the professional dog training industry in a part-time manner. It is designed to lead to a level 6 Minor Award (Dog Training and Obedience 6N6228).

The purpose of this programme is to prepare learners for a career in the dog training industry.

The learning objectives of the Practical Dog Training programme have been split into eight units, delivered over a 13-week period.

This short module allows for progression on to the Professional Dog Training Instructor, non-QQI award course.

The programme will be delivered on a part-time basis over a three month period, facilitating learners who wish to study and work full-time concurrently.

Learners on this programme will receive an intense introduction to the dog training industry and will quickly gain skills and knowledge that will build their ability to train dogs. Career opportunities post-completion of the Practical Dog Training course include working as part of a team such as in a dog day-care, a working dogs programme, a dog walker, a kennel maid and more.

Learners can progress onto the Professional Dog Training Instructor programme to pursue a career as a dog training instructor.

Successful completion of this programme will allow learners to transfer to other institutions providing a Major Award in Animal Science.

Learner Profile

- learners do not need prior learning specific to the dog training industry but must have achieved a level 5 qualification or similar
- learners must be computer literate, be proficient in the English language and comply with the Equipped to Participate criteria
- learners should be passionate about providing excellent care to pet dogs
- learners should have ambitions to pursue a career working with dogs

Programme Objectives

The objectives of this programme are to:

- provide learners with the knowledge, skills, competence and attitude to train dogs successfully.
- build a solid foundation understanding of the role of the professional dog trainer to facilitate employment opportunities, or to become a stepping stone to advanced dog training courses.
- dispel incorrect, unscientific dog training and behaviour information, and to provide an opportunity for those interested in dog training to gain an education where the teachings are based on up to date scientific research and best practice.

To achieve the learning outcomes the programme will be regularly reviewed, learner and tutor feedback gathered and analysed, and modifications made as new scientific research highlights new information.

Entry Criteria

To access this programme learners should have reached the standards of knowledge, skill and competence associated with the preceding level of the National Framework of Qualifications.

This may have been achieved through a formal qualification or through relevant life and work experience. Formal qualifications do not have to be animal related, though if requesting entry without the relevant prior formal qualifications applicants will be assessed on their ability to successfully take this course based on their prior learning through work experience or life experience.

Learners will be provided with an application form to assess their suitability for the programme as well as an 'Equipped to Participate' statement. The 'Equipped to Participate' statement will outline the skills, knowledge, and competence the learner would be expected to have prior to enrolling on the programme. It will provide a basis from which learners can determine if they will be able to successfully participate in the programme.

Programme Duration

This programme will be delivered within a 13 week period. Learners are expected to commit 150 hours to the programme; an average of 12 hours per week, including classroom time and self-directed learning.

Delivery Mode

The Practical Dog Training programme will be delivered through centre based learning.

Learners will be expected to carry out further at-home study and at-home assessments.

Delivery Methodologies

- Classroom based learning will include lectures, role play, group discussions, and Q & A sessions
- Practical training will include demonstrations, instructional practical sessions, and self-directed practical sessions
- Self-directed learning will be driven through at-home project assignments, and critically evaluating the learners own performance during skills assessment

Resources

- Facilities –classroom, dog training arena, restrooms, canteen, food preparation facilities, outdoor area for dog elimination
- Equipment –Dog crates, dog treats, dog clickers, dog halti and harnesses
- Projector and screen
- White board
- Flip chart and Markers
- Internet access
- Access to dogs

Programme Structure

This programme content is delivered over 13 weeks. The content is delivered during 5 full day sessions.

Unit delivery is broken into smaller sessions over the four sessions to allow for a natural delivery of the information, building as the learner's ability builds.

Attendance at all sessions is compulsory to successfully complete the programme.

Weekend 1

Day 1

| | | |
|-----------|----------|---|
| Morning | Unit 1&2 | Lecture on evolution of the dog |
| Afternoon | Unit 8 | Lecture on the role of the modern day dog trainer |
| Evening | Unit | Practical Training |

Day 2

| | | |
|-----------|--------|--|
| Morning | Unit 3 | Introduction to learning theory in relation to dog training |
| Afternoon | Unit 6 | Creating learning in dogs, focusing on luring, capturing, management and the learning theory |
| Evening | Unit 2 | Reviewing learning theory |

Weekend 5

Day 3

| | | |
|-----------|--------|--|
| Morning | Unit 4 | Discuss the many challenges that face puppy owners |
| Afternoon | Unit 5 | Create a training plan for a puppy owner |
| Evening | Unit 6 | Hands-on puppy training |

Weekend 9

Day 4

| | | |
|-----------|--------|---|
| Morning | Unit 8 | Examine dog training organisations and industries |
| Afternoon | Unit 6 | Hands-on dog training |
| Evening | Unit 7 | Group dog training class |

Weekend 13

Day 5

| | | |
|-----------|--------|--|
| Morning | Unit 2 | Discuss breeds and learning |
| Afternoon | Unit 5 | Learn about the 'journey' from client enquiry to a perfectly trained dog |
| Evening | Unit 7 | Dog-free classroom based dog training instructing |

Day 6

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|---|
| Morning | All units | End of course exam |
| Afternoon | All units | Practical training delivery assessments |

Assessment overview

Learner assessments will comprise of three assignments of different techniques

| Assessment Method | Weighting |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Skills Demonstration | 40% |
| Project | 30% |
| Examination – Theory | 30% |

| | | |
|---------|-------------|---------|
| Grading | Pass | 50-64% |
| | Merit | 65-79% |
| | Distinction | 80-100% |

Assessment Schedule

Skills demonstration videos will be submitted on the morning of the final classroom session.

Project will be delivered on the morning of the final classroom session.

Written examination will be taken on the final classroom session.

Please note - due to the complex nature of verifying results on programmes leading to QQI awards, it can take up to 12 weeks to receive your certificate upon course completion.

We strive to minimise this delay as much as we can on our side.

Programme Review Schedule

This programme will be reviewed upon completion of each delivery of the programme and will also be reviewed annually.

Access Transfer and Progression

There are no formal transfer arrangements in place. However, successful completion of this programme will allow the learner to transfer to a QQI major award provider offering programmes with this minor award as a component.

Learner Supports

The College ensures that the learning environment provides access to pastoral care supports. While the College currently cannot facilitate in-house counselling, or supports, all staff and learners are provided with a database where they can access support, and Creedons College designates appropriate personnel as a point of contact for learners who feel that they need to access pastoral care. These personnel will also become point of contact to assist learners with non-academic support supplementary to teaching material, such as transport, accommodation and local resource information.

Whilst the College only offers programmes in English, and does not provide programmes in relation to learning a new language, international learners (proficient in the use of the English language) are welcomed by the College. Where necessary, the College will adhere to The Code of Practice for Provision of Education and Training to International Learners.

Specific Validation Requirements

None.

Protection for Enrolled Learners

This Programme is delivered in a 3 month period. Creedons College will fully refund all learners should the programme be cancelled pre-completion.

Progression to further Studies

This course leads to a level 6 award on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Students who successfully complete this programme may use this Level 6 credit towards completing a Major QQI award in Animal Science 6M5153.

Expected learner numbers per mode of delivery per academic or calendar year

This programme will take a maximum of 10 learners per module and no more than two intakes annually for the first year of provision.

Staffing resources

Creedons College will provide the following staff to assure the quality of delivery of the programme.

College Manager, College Administrator, Programme Leader, Programme Tutors, internal verifier and external authenticator.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Technique

Upon successful completion of this programme, learners should be able to:

(This learning outcome will be measured in one or multiple of the following assessment techniques, Skills Demonstration (SD), Project (P), or Examination – Theory (ET))

1. Explain the key theoretical concepts of the evolution of the dog. Explain the evolutionary science behind the development of modern dog breeds (ET)
2. Differentiate between breed groups and individual breeds by physical and behavioural characteristics (ET)
3. Evaluate how dogs learn and be able to recognise how the learning process can be influenced, including descriptions of the different methods for canine obedience (ET)
4. Assess the importance of having patience and a positive attitude in dog training. Show knowledge of different approaches required for different breeds (ET)
5. Give advice on puppy training, focusing on the use of positive reinforcement methods. Show an understanding, and ability to advise on, the management of misbehaviour. Understand and be able to give advice on toilet training methods, crate training, lead training and social play (P, SD)
6. Demonstrate techniques used to train dogs for different tasks, from basic commands to complex behaviours (SD)
7. Manage a group training class, recognising the responsibilities of the trainer in hosting the class (SD)
8. Examine dog training organisations and industries, focusing on how dogs are chosen, trained and assessed for suitability to their specific industry (P)
9. Assess the range of common behaviour problems, their causes, and when they may occur most commonly. Explore and explain the strategies and techniques involved in treating common behaviour problems (ET)

10. Examine the need for referral to a veterinary practitioner where there may be an underlying cause for the behaviour recognising the effects of giving inappropriate or incorrect advice (ET)
11. Participate effectively in the use of a variety of dog training equipment and have the knowledge to explain why different equipment may be used for different breeds, dogs, or by different trainers (SD)

Equipped to Participate Statement

Specific entry requirements are listed on the application form for each programme.

Learners entering programmes leading to awards at Level 6 must be able to read, draft, prepare and understand complex information.

150 hours of learning effort are required for a QQI Level 6 module. This is based on an estimation of the average time it takes a learner to achieve outcomes. This learning effort includes time for reading, study, skills demonstrations, written assignments, reflection and online research.

Learners must be capable of studying on their own initiative as well as part of a team.

Learners must be fluent in English.

A basic working knowledge of computers and access to a computer with internet access is required.

Learners should have problem solving skills, the ability to work independently and as part of different groups, and be able to accept personal responsibility for the quality of outcome.

Due to the physical element of the training and assessments on this programme, learners must be physically capable and comfortable working on their feet for long periods of time.

As much of this course includes hands on work with dogs of all ages and breeds, learners must be comfortable in the presence of multiple dogs and comfortable physically handling large, strong dogs.

Classroom facilities are on the first floor, and are only accessible by stairs.

Please contact info@creedonscollege.ie to discuss how we can help you achieve your goals.

To Apply

Contact info@creedonscollege.ie to register your interest in this programme.