

## BECOMING AN INSTRUCTOR AND/OR BEHAVIOUR ADVISOR

**IABTC CERTIFIED COURSES** 

**Course Title**  
**IABTC Canine Behaviour,**  
**Training & Modification**

**With Units of Study lasting a few days**  
**each and running through the year**

**Start Date for Unit 1**  
**2025 March 17-19.**

How would you describe  
the perfect instructor?

Patient  
Knowledgeable  
Experienced  
Adaptable  
Good Teacher  
Good Communicator  
Passionate  
Professional  
Good Sense of Humor  
Engaging  
Non-judgmental  
Respectful  
Empathetic  
Accountable

Can you meet some of  
these? We can help you  
with them all!

## Do You Want to be an IABTC Approved Dog Training Instructor or Behaviourist?

### IABTC Pathway One

**Just Starting Out with little or no professional experience of teaching dog training.**

**Here's how to start....**

**In College:** Introduction to Canine Behaviour, followed by Units 1, 2, 3 & 4, for instructors and the additional 5-8 for behaviourists. Or just start at unit 1 How Dogs Learn.

**Distance Learning:** How Dogs Learn, Evolution & Breeds. For instructors For behaviourists study the additional introduction and intermediate behaviour modification. Units 3, 4 and 8 can only be done in college.

**Plus, gain experience via some additional practical courses.**

The instructor who can offer a good breadth of knowledge will have also studied ancillary subjects such as IABTC Clicker and Target Training, TTouch, IABTC Master Dog Training (MDT) Trainer Award, Heelwork to Music, Treibball, Carting, Rally Obedience, Agility, Hoopers, Tricks, Competitive Obedience, Gundog Training and more.

To gain IABTC Approved Instructor awards you will need to attend and successfully pass the assessment on the Instructing Pet Owners Course (Unit 4) on at least one occasion. The Instructor course has 3 levels: Assistant, Instructor and Advanced Instructor. Most people starting out gain Assistant at the start, and then work their way up over time and with experience.

IABTC also has approved Clicker & Target Training Instructors. For this, you need to work through C&T awards 1-4. Each one offers its own award and title.

**Gaining hands-on experience:** You will need to train your own dog (or borrow one). It is not good practice to attempt to teach anything you have not done yourself. Therefore, training your dog up to and beyond the level that you are teaching is of paramount importance. You can do this by attending our regular training sessions in a range of disciplines.

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### IABTC Pathway Two

**Already have some instructing experience, knowledge, and qualifications?**

Attend unit 4, Instructing Pet Dog Owners. This will enable us to assess where you are up to and what you may still need to do. On this course, we give detailed individual feedback to each participant, and this will include suggestions as to how to proceed.

At IABTC we cover the whole range of knowledge and practical experience you need to become a quality professional instructor and or behaviourist. You need to look at the topics below and decide if you are at the level where if you were asked about these aspects by a client, you would have no hesitation in accurately answering at a good general knowledge level as an instructor and a more in-depth level as a behaviourist.

**The Topics:** If you are giving advice, you need to look at things from all angles.

For example: breed, health, welfare, antecedents, brain activity, neural pathways, homeostasis, drives, motivations, psychopharmacology, owner ability, equality, diversity, training skills and alternatives, behaviour and more.

**Do you have practical experience at the very least to the level you wish to teach?**

If not, you need to address this. You should not attempt to teach something that you have not personally achieved with a dog, whether that be your own dog or a borrowed dog.

**Gaining More Experience:** If you have not already done so you need to gain experience over a range of dogs. This can be achieved by helping at a rescue, dog club, kennels or similar.

**Higher-level experience** - this can be gained by taking your own dog to a higher level of training. Pick any discipline that has levels and targets. If you have achieved them all in one discipline, then go on to another. The more you do the more your dog will teach you!! If you don't have a dog, then borrow one.

### IABTC Pathway Three

**Already Accredited (passed all assessments) with KCAI**

**KCAI** – Accredited Instructors will have already proven their knowledge via assessment and therefore KCAIs will be IABTC Accredited instructors on application.

**KCAIs** may wish to continue with the study of units 5-8 to specialize or update knowledge on behaviour.

**Some KCAIs** may wish to refresh their knowledge via the units below and you will be very welcome.

**IABTC CERTIFIED COURSES** ✓**Course Title – IABTC Canine Behaviour, Training & Modification**

We hold these units each year so if you cannot manage them all in one year you can come back and study later.

Divided into a series of units delivered via seminars and workshops with additional home study.

These courses are designed for Dog Training Instructors and Behavioural Trainers who want to know more about understanding behaviour and preventing, identifying and dealing with canine behaviour problems. The units detailed below can be studied on their own if you already have an in-depth knowledge of the previous units.

**All courses include learning materials and assessments with full support.**

**Unit 1 How Dogs Learn**

**2025 March 17-19** **3 days plus assessment £225** Also available via IABTC distance learning. (£275)

Canine behavioural development stages, blocks, catalysts and influences on learning, reward and motivation, nature versus nurture, temperament testing, instinctive and innate behaviours, communication, social learning, survival instincts, natural responses, emotions, senses, social groups, dominance and hierarchy/pack order debate.

**Unit 2 Evolution and Breeds**

**2025 April 16-17** **2 days plus assessment £150** Also available via IABTC distance learning £275.

Understanding terms – Ethology, cynology, behaviourist. Evolution and domestication - from ancient times to current breeds and influences. The wolf and its role in domestic dogs. Understanding breeds, breed-specific behaviours and psychological and physiological needs of breed, breed types and individuals.

**Unit 3 Essential Solutions to Everyday Behaviour Problems**

**2025 May 19-21** **3 days £225** A largely practical unit only available in college

Workshop with presentation, demonstration, practical and video. Everyday problems that instructors can prevent or solve. Covering: Noise, Biting, Growling, Lack of Recall, Chasing, Distraction, Mild Aggression, Excessive Pulling, Jumping Up, Stealing, Children and Dogs, Multiple Dogs, Separation, Hyperactivity, Fears and Phobias. Also, proofing, generalisation, knowing your limitations, referral.

**Unit 4 IABTC Instructing Pet Dog Owners**

**2025 June 28-31.** **4 Days & assessment £299**

This course is Unit 4 of our Canine Behaviour and Training Course but also stands alone as a practical course for instructors of dog training.

**Helping you to teach pet dog training in today's world. up-to-date ideas and techniques, with emphasis on client-centered learning, motivational training and welfare of dogs and their owners.**

Open to all levels - whether you are thinking of becoming an instructor, just starting, wanting to update or just a boost of confidence and new ideas - this course is ideal.

Practical Skills for those teaching classes or one to one. It explores the knowledge, exercises, skills and equipment needed to teach others the basic control of dogs and ensure progression. It will also cover basic problems and faults, first impressions, qualities of an instructor, expectations v reality, teaching techniques and roles, how people learn, effective communication, motivation, groups, planning sessions and courses, effects of training, blocks to learning, monitoring, evaluation, and limitations on advice. Relevant business laws, legal and financial responsibilities. Professional service and provision, organisational structures, code of practice, venues, facilities, resources, health and safety, incidents and accidents, insurance, equal opportunities. Ideal for those teaching dog training in classes, clubs, dog schools or individually.

### There are several levels that you can achieve with IABTC:

Most people will attend on more than one occasion to build on their knowledge and gain the best from unit 4.

Students Returning for a refresher or higher levels join the course as normal but are given additional individualized tuition and support as appropriate.

The level you go for will depend on previous experience (those with little or no experience will start at level 1).

[See more information after the Unit 1-8 descriptions.](#)

You may bring your own dog along to unit 4 (although this is not compulsory). However, we want you to get experience with other dogs too, so your dog will have to be comfortable being left in your vehicle.

There will also be opportunities to handle other dogs (some trained - some untrained) as well as trying out your instructing skills (with the support of your course tutor where necessary) on especially invited clients – thus giving you the opportunity of working with 'real' clients as part of the course.

Some people on unit 4 will attend to gain more knowledge, others will hope to gain an IABTC qualification, and therefore assessment is available but not compulsory.

For students who wish to be assessed this will be ongoing throughout the week with a general assessment on the final day and an after-course assignment. You don't have to decide straight away, you are welcome to feel your way and we will help by advising once we get to know you.

Certificates will be graded depending on the level of ability at that time.

This unit is a must for anyone going on to units 5-8 or dealing with behaviour problems. It will ensure that at least basic control skills can be taught to clients experiencing difficulties with their dog.

IABTC Pet Dog Training  
Practical Competence  
(Assistant Instructor((L1)

IABTC Pet Dog Training  
Practical Competence  
(Instructor) (L2)

IABTC Pet Dog Training  
Practical Competence (L3)

IABTC Instructor Clicker &  
Target Training (C&T4  
Inst.)



## UNITS 5-8



For those having completed units 1-3/4 and wishing to move on to understanding more about behaviour and its problems and perhaps becoming a behavioural advisor/consultant

### Unit 5 Brain & Behaviour

**2025 to be arranged – please contact us for info 4 days plus assessment £299**

Normal and abnormal behaviour. Common causes of problems, Behavioural and emotional states including aggression, separation, anxiety and stress and make links to intrinsic responses, psychopharmacology and complementary therapies.

*This unit builds on Units 1 & 2, therefore, those attending will be expected to have this knowledge.*

### Unit 6 Introduction to Behaviour Modification

**2025 October 21-24 4 days plus assessment £299**

*Those attending this course will be expected to have a good working knowledge of the subjects in all of the above units.*

The unit covers the treatment of behaviour Problems - Case studies – learning how to analyse specific behaviour problems and produce modification programmes in the real world.

Also covering: professionalism, counselling and advising. For this unit, you will be able to bring your own case studies, work through past case studies of the tutors and the centre as well as work with real clients under the supervision of the course leaders.

### Unit 7 Intermediate Behaviour Modification

**2025 November 11-13 3 days & assessment £225**

Case studies – Building on your knowledge of how to analyse more complex behaviour problems and produce modification programmes. Working with real cases and case studies. *You will be expected to have a good working knowledge of the subject areas in units 1-6.*

### Unit 8 Advanced Behaviour Modification

**2025 December 9-11 3 days & assessment £225**

As Unit 7 Exploring more cases - Case studies - Building on your knowledge of how to analyse more complex behaviour problems and produce modification programmes. Working with real cases and case studies.

*You will be expected to have a good working knowledge of the subject areas in units 1-6.*