

Member's Code of Ethics for the Association of Pet Dog Trainers New Zealand



1. Make the long term welfare of the dog of primary importance bearing in mind the needs of society.
2. Employ only humane, dog-friendly techniques in the training of dogs and I shall develop and apply training programs in line with the APDTNZ's mission of advocating dog-friendly training. Please refer to:
 - a. appendix 1 (APDT UK Code of Ethics)
 - b. appendix 2 AVSAB Position Statement: https://avsab.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Punishment_Position_Statement-download_-_10-6-14.pdf
 - c. Appendix 3 Delta Professional Standards for Dog Trainers: <http://www.deltasociety.org/Document.Doc?id=374>
3. Promote conscientious dog ownership and incorporate what it means to be a socially responsible dog owner into training programs.
4. Promote a nurturing human/canine relationship between owner and dog.
5. Treat all dogs and clients with respect, taking into account their physical and emotional well-being and respecting clients' wishes regarding the training of their dogs.
6. Continue professional development by reading relevant material, attending conferences, workshops and seminars, and pursuing other education opportunities in order to provide a service based upon sound scientific principles and current best practice.
7. Be honest and trustworthy in my dealings with clients.
8. Refrain from giving guarantees regarding the outcome of training, because there is no sure way to guarantee the cooperation and performance of all parties involved and because the knowledge of animal behaviour is incomplete. This should not be confused with a desire to guarantee client satisfaction with professional services.
9. Represent accurately the source of any information and disseminate to clients and members of the public.
10. Respect the confidentiality and privacy of clients.
11. Be respectful of colleagues and other professionals and not falsely condemn the character of their professional acts.
12. Not advertise myself as a member of the APDTNZ Inc or use the logo of the APDTNZ without prior approval of the Association.
13. Not represent myself as a spokesperson for APDTNZ Inc without prior approval of the Association.
14. Refer any and all suspected medical problems to a veterinarian before beginning or continuing a relationship. The relationship between dog trainers and vets must be cooperative for the benefit of dogs and their people.
15. Perform services to the best of my ability within the guidelines of this code of ethics.

There can never be a definitive list of equipment and techniques that the APDTNZ does not endorse. The following list gives some examples of equipment and training methods which are not to be used as training tools in a dog training class.

- Pet corrector – emits a hiss of cold air
- Dog stop – emits a high pitched sound
- Remote controlled spray collars
- Automatically triggered spray collars
- Antibark collar – emits spray directed onto dog's skin (including new product jet master)
- Training discs
- Liquid sprays
- Loud noises – inc. rattle cans/bottles/chains/keys
- Throw stick/chain
- Strong smelling substances – inc. smelling salts/bite back
- Any electronic training collar
- Any slip chain/lead or prong collar

Punitive methods not to be used in a dog training class:

- Pinching – ears/feet/toes
- Hitting
- Biting (of dog)
- Alpha roll
- Any manhandling that causes pain or discomfort