

Canadian Association of Professional Dog Trainers



Monday, November 25, 2024

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

339 Booth Street
Ottawa, ON K1R 7K1
Canada

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Association of Professional Dog Trainers (CAPDT) to inform you of an important ongoing initiative in our mission to promote ethical, humane, and science-based dog training practices across Canada. In 2021 we introduced an addition to our professional [Code of Ethics](#), known as the “STOP” list – a list of severe and outdated training equipment and procedures. This update represents a significant step forward in our commitment to prioritizing animal welfare and supporting pet owners by ensuring access to knowledgeable, humane trainers.

This addition to our Code aligns with the [Canadian Veterinary Medical Association \(CVMA\)’s position statement on Humane Training](#), which emphasizes the need for training methods that respect animal welfare, reduce fear, and foster trust. By adhering to these principles, we are reinforcing a shared vision with the veterinary community to uphold the highest standards of animal care and behaviour management.

CAPDT is proud to have established a Professional Standards and National Curriculum (PSNC) Committee, which has been actively engaged in developing a rigorous national curriculum for professional dog trainers. This initiative, building on our science-based and ethical practice – and continuing professional development - provides a consistent standard for humane training in Canada. We believe this ongoing commitment to excellence will enhance trust between pet owners and professionals and give veterinarians and their staff a reliable network of qualified trainers to recommend confidently. A searchable directory of our professional members can be found [on our CAPDT website](#).

We would be grateful if you could share this information with your membership, as we believe veterinary institutions play a critical role in advancing humane treatment standards across the animal care industry. Our members are committed to providing veterinarians with a qualified referral network, along with enhanced educational opportunities for veterinary teams - reinforcing compassionate and humane approaches in both animal medicine and behaviour.

We also welcome any comments, questions, or feedback your organizations and faculty may have regarding our national curriculum or other initiatives. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the [PSNC Chair, Jessica Eden O’Neill at \[Jessica@petintel.ca\]\(mailto:Jessica@petintel.ca\)](#) if you would like to discuss this further.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your support in promoting humane and effective training practices across Canada.

Sincerely,

Megan Stanley
Chair, Board of Directors