



# The Association of Pet Dog Trainers

## Fact Sheet

### History

The APDT was founded in 1993 by Ian Dunbar PhD, BVetMed, MRCVS. A renowned veterinarian, animal behaviorist, dog trainer and writer, Dr. Dunbar created the APDT as a forum for trainers to network with each other and provide educational opportunities. The first meeting of the APDT took place in San Mateo, California. In 1993, the APDT held its first Annual Educational Conference in Orlando, Florida

Since then, APDT's membership has grown to almost 6,000 members worldwide and the APDT is the largest dog trainer association in the world. Our Annual Educational Conference and Trade Show has grown to over 1,000 attendees and features many of the top names in the dog training and behavior field. Our member publication, *The APDT Chronicle of the Dog*, is regularly nominated for awards by the prestigious Dog Writers Association of America and won for Best Special Interest Magazine in 2008.

The APDT is dedicated to building better trainers through education, promoting dog-friendly methods and encouraging their use. Our membership is composed of trainers from across the spectrum of training philosophies who have an interest in furthering their knowledge of positive training.

### Vision Statement

The APDT is the recognized voice of the dog training profession.

### Mission Statement

To represent and advance the dog training profession through education and advocacy.

### Guiding Principles

- We provide educational resources to build dog trainers' skills and knowledge.
- We promote the use of reward-based training methods, thereby minimizing the use of aversive techniques.
- We educate trainers, allied animal professionals, the media, and the public about the value of training.
- We foster effective communication and cooperation among dog trainers.
- We provide members with resources that empower them to build successful businesses.
- We build alliances with companion animal professions.

### Membership

Membership in the Association is open to all who pay annual dues and includes individuals with a wide range of experience, knowledge, and skills. The APDT is primarily an educational organization and promotes using positive, science-based methods that focus on rewarding behaviors and eschews training based on physical punishment and intimidation.

Our members include world renowned speakers and authors, veterinary behaviorists and certified applied animal behaviorists, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, dog trainers, dog behavior consultants, dog club members, shelter staff and volunteers, service dog trainers and others who work in affiliated professions such as groomers, doggie day care owners and pet sitters.

Currently the APDT has almost 6,000 members across the following membership categories:

- **Professional Membership:** (\$150/year) This classification is limited to part- or full-time professional dog trainers, animal behaviorists, and dog training educational personnel who have attained certification from the APDT Board Approved List.
- **Full Membership:** (\$100/year) This classification is open to part- or full-time dog trainers, animal behaviorists, and dog training educational personnel.
- **Associate Membership:** (\$100/year) Membership classification is open to individuals who are associated with or have an interest in the dog training profession, such as veterinarians, vet techs, shelter workers, volunteers and management, animal control officers, etc. Also included in this classification are dog owners and employees of companies who supply products and services to dog trainers.

We refer, but do not endorse, members listed in our membership directory to clients who call or visit our web page on a daily basis looking for a trainer in their area. Membership in the APDT does not necessarily ensure all members employ similar training methods, nor does the Association set standards of skill or competence.

### **Features and Benefits of Membership**

<b>Features of Membership</b>	<b>Key Benefits of Feature</b>
Networking Opportunities: List serv, discussion board, online member directory, promotion of regional groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional and personal relationships</li> <li>• You can learn from peers as well as from “experts.”</li> <li>• Moral support when you’re feeling burned out or overwhelmed.</li> <li>• You can ask others what they do when you’re facing a training dilemma</li> <li>• Tips on how to run a business/how others run their businesses.</li> </ul>
Ability to serve on the board or on a committee or task force	Allows you to learn more about how APDT works and develops and hone leadership skills.
A listing on the APDT web site’s trainer search feature	Higher visibility for client business and more traffic to web sites.
A subscription to the award-winning <i>The APDT Chronicle of the Dog</i> magazine	Access to cutting edge information on training and behavior modification, as well as business tips.
Discounts on our monthly webinar series and access to free webinars for members only.	Low cost educational options for members to get CEUs and much needed education without having to travel.
The APDT Canine Life and Social Skills program (C.L.A.S.S.)	Only APDT members can become Evaluators and use this valuable program to build their business and promote training in their communities.
Access to discounts on health and liability insurance through Worldwide Insurance Services and Business Insurers of the Carolinas	Liability insurance is critical for any professional trainer and access to affordable health insurance allows many to become trainers full-time.
Discounts from dog-related vendors such as Dogwise, Tawzer Dog Videos, and many others, as well as a discount to our annual Educational Conference and Trade Show.	Discounts help to keep a trainer’s bottom line low and provide more services to clients, and makes educational offerings more affordable.
APDT promotion to the media through campaigns as National Train Your Dog Month, as well as from our networking plans with other organizations to promote our members, such as Pet Sitters International, the Pet Care Services Association, AVMA, AVSAB, Society of Behavior Veterinary Technicians and many more.	Greater visibility for dog trainers and APDT members through promotion and partnerships with allied organizations.
Use of Member Logo	Sets business apart as one run and staffed by professionals committed to education and aligned with a major association
Voting Privileges	Ability to shape the profession by having a voice in the association direction.
Access to Member Only section of Web site	Access to a variety of business benefits such as discounts on vendors, email newsletter programs, handouts for clients and veterinarians, and web templates.

### **Governance**

The APDT and its activities are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors which is made up of nine elected members. Board members serve three-year terms. The APDT's membership dues, educational conferences revenue and sponsorships from industry-related businesses finance the organization.

The APDT's business office is located in Greenville, South Carolina, with a dedicated management staff.

### **Contact**

101 North Main Street, Suite 610, Greenville, SC 29610  
 1-800-PET-DOGS (738-3647) ; Fax: 864-331-0767  
 information@apdt.com; www.apdt.com