



Core Areas of Competency

I. ASSESSMENT

A. History taking skills and history assessment

1. Eliciting accurate information
2. Interpretation of information provided
3. Assessing owner interpretation of behavioral issues

B. Behavioral observation skills

1. Accurate observation and interpretation of behaviors demonstrated by the animal
2. Ability to integrate information obtained by direct observation of the animal and the humans involved

C. Integration of behavioral, historical, medical and physiologic data

II. BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

A. Learning Theory

1. Operant conditioning
2. Classical conditioning
3. Desensitization, counterconditioning
4. Observational learning
5. Habituation, sensitization
6. Latent learning
7. Flooding

B. Application of behavior modification and training techniques

C. Use of scientific data to enhance understanding of behavioral systems

D. Ability to apply scientific data to behavior modification programs

E. Ability to collect and utilize data related to monitor and improve performance

III. SPECIES SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE

A. Exercise and housing requirements

B. Environmental enrichment

C. Breed specific characteristics

D. Common health issues

E. Interpretation of body language

F. Developmental stages

G. Behavior Problems

1. Separation related problems

2. Aggression
3. Problems related to social signaling
4. Sexual/reproductive
5. Maternal
6. Fears/phobias
7. Anxiety disorders
8. Repetitive behaviors
9. Unruliness
10. Vocalization
11. Ingestive disorders
12. Elimination disorders
13. Destructive behavior

J. Intervention Strategies

1. Management and safety interventions
2. Behavior modification protocols
3. Knowledge and appropriate use of training equipment

K. Ability to apply scientific learning theory principles to treatment strategies

IV. CONSULTING SKILLS

- A. Awareness of social structure and proximate environment on animal's behavior
- B. Ability to assess human attitudes and how these impact the animal's behavior and the outcome of the problem
- C. Ability to assess family's goals and discuss these in a non-judgmental manner
- D. Observation and interpretation of human behaviors
- E. Awareness and ability to adapt to human learning styles
- F. Ability to develop solutions that function for all members involved
- G. Ability to assist family members in conflict to arrive at a common goal
- H. Awareness of ancillary support services
 1. Veterinarian
 2. Veterinary Behaviorist
 3. Alternative practitioners
 4. Veterinary Nutritionist

V. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

- A. Ethology
- B. Communication behaviors
- C. Genetics

VI. BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AS RELATED TO ANIMAL BEHAVIOR CONSULTING

- A. Basic gross anatomy and organ systems
- B. Basic neuroanatomy and neurobiology (as relates to behavioral assessments)
- C. General knowledge of psychopharmacological use