

PACT Membership Guidelines

Full membership to PACT enables a trainer to appear on the PACT Trainers Directory, as well as being eligible for ABTC Animal Training Instructor (ATI) accreditation and inclusion on the ABTC ATI register.

Full membership is currently attainable via:

- Completion of the PACT Canine Training Instructor Course (option 1)
- Graduating from an ABTC recognised course or having an existing ABTC accreditation ATI/ABT/CAB (option 2 & 3)
- Studying elsewhere, and have a minimum of 2 years industry experience (option 4).

Successful students and applicants will receive a certificate of assessment, as well as the course attendance certificate and become eligible to use the PACT Full Member 'Accredited' logo. Renewal of membership and ABTC registration will be required on an annual basis every March and ongoing annual CPD of 15 hours (minimum) will need to be evidenced.

Summary of PACT full membership requirements (option 1)

- Online lectures attendance
- Satisfactory practical homework (further details below)
- Submission of 4 assignments (further details below)
- Submission of log sheet (accrued training hours - further details below)
- Pass online theory assessment
- Pass online or in person practical assessment

Summary of PACT full membership requirements (option 2 & 3)

- Meet criteria above
- Pass online theory assessment
- Pass online or in person practical assessment

Summary of PACT full membership requirements (option 4)

- Meet criteria above

- Pass online viva (interview) assessment
- Pass online theory assessment
- Pass online or in person practical assessment

Further details for option 1 applicants (does not apply for option 2,3 &4)

Assignments

Four assignments on set training topics to be submitted before the assessments can take place.

Log sheet & practical experience

Students are required to log around 70-100 hours, or an equivalent of 1-2 hours per week for the duration of the course. Aim for a ratio of around 60-40% of 1-2-1 sessions to classes, or vice-versa. Please note that although you will be training dogs yourself in the early stages, hours logged must consist of coaching people to train a/their dog(s) not yourself directly training dogs.

How to gain practical experience

We recommend volunteering or assisting under supervision at a good existing dog training club or school, or helping out an established local trainer if possible. You need to be actively coaching [not watching] to be able to enter training practice hours on your log sheet.

For those who work in rescue and welfare organisations, time spent actively coaching other staff members and volunteers, or dog owners, can be used on your log sheet.

For those who live in a remote area, or an area with few or no good trainers, we advise coaching basic training only, e.g. sit/down/touch/recall/llw – with family, friends and acquaintances and try and build their hours in their own circles.

If access to volunteer clients is still an issue, contact the office and we will try to source some mentoring opportunities for you.

If all course requirements have been met but you have not yet accumulated enough hours to submit your timesheet, we would be unable to issue membership until the minimum hours requirements have been met. We suggest getting as much practice as possible during the course. A 1-2-1 accreditation only option is available for those not wishing to teach classes. The process is the same except the group class assessment is not taken, and around 60 hours of 1-2-1 training practice have to be logged.

Timescales & deadlines

Once enrolled on the course, students are expected to keep up with the weekly lectures and attend online Zoom sessions. We expect all assignments and homework to be submitted within 8 months of starting the course, and both the theory and practical assessments to be completed within 12 months of starting the course. Extenuating circumstances will be considered on an individual basis and extensions of up to 12 months may be granted. If after 24 months, the student has not graduated from the course, a meeting to discuss the next steps will be arranged. All students are expected to have completed all elements of the course within 3 years of their start date.

COVID-19 ADDENDUM

Due to Covid-19 and the difficulties the current pandemic presents for students in accessing people and dogs to practise - we have somewhat relaxed the above requirements for the time being. Amendments currently as follows:

Log sheets:

We are allowing 20-25% of the required training hours to include training dogs only (without having to coach a person) to be logged on the log sheets for the time being. Please note this should consist of training several different dogs, not the same dog nor the same 2-3 dogs for 20-25 odd hours.

Other hours you can log (other than coaching anyone to train a dog in a professional capacity):

- Coaching family or friends to train their dog(s).
- Any assisting other dog trainers/at a training club where you are actively coaching (as opposed to just watching).
- Any training advice and supervision done online, e.g. via Zoom.
- If employed at a rescue as staff or volunteer - any coaching of staff, i.e. coaching a staff member to train a dog.



PACT Dogs Ltd Registration Number 13385886 (England & Wales)