

**PROFESSIONAL
DOG WALKER
COURSE
MUMBAI**

2022

PROFESSIONAL DOG WALKER COURSE

If you enjoy long walks, and meeting and playing with lots of dogs, then the Professional Dog Walker Course is for you.

The profession of dog walking in India is disorganised, rampant with malpractice, abuse towards dogs, people with little knowledge of dogs, and walkers who do not consider ethical issues of the general public.

Shirin Merchant is a pioneer who has changed the field of dog training in India since 1996. She has trained over 600 professionals who enjoy successful careers as dog trainers and behaviourists. Now she ventures into the dog walking profession to help make it into a respectable, ethical and profitable career for dog lovers. With her vast knowledge spanning over 25 years and her expertise, Shirin can make you into one of the most coveted dog walkers in India.

If you have always desired to work with dogs, this course is a good place for you to start an exciting journey into the world of dogs.



PROFESSIONAL DOG WALKER COURSE

CURRICULUM

EVOLUTION AND DOMESTICATION OF DOGS

- A look at the evolution of dogs through the ages.
- An understanding of canine ethology
- Understanding canine cognition and its applications in dog walking and behaviour.

LEARNING THEORY

A deep insight into how an animal learns.
Will include detailed theory and practical sessions.

Different methods of teaching an animal

- The course will discuss the various training methods in use today to train dogs and why different methods work with different dogs.
- Handling and training of aggressive and timid dogs will be discussed.
- Clicker training, whistle training and the pros and cons of other training tools will be discussed.
- Common myths about dog training

Rewards and Punishers

The course will cover this extensive topic and discuss the use of lures, bribes, fixed and random rewards, positive and negative reinforcement and their application in training.

Reinforcers

An in-depth understanding of positive and negative Reinforcers will be studied.

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COMPANION DOG TRAINING

- Students will learn how to train basic commands using a variety of methods.
- Commands will include skills crucial for pet dogs-
- Sit, down, stay, leash walking, recall, retrieve, polite greetings, 'No' command, food refusal.
- Problem solving for all the commands will be discussed in detail.
- The nuances of working with puppies and adult dogs will be discussed.
- Why it is necessary to use different training methods on different dogs.
- Teaching manners to a companion dog
- True to Life training situations
- Advancing the training to outdoor work

ANIMAL WELFARE IN INDIA

In this section we take a look at the laws applicable to pets and professionals in India.

- Animal Welfare Laws in India
- Canine Insurance
- Animal Birth Control Act



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CANINE COMMUNICATION

Dogs speak a language based on subtle body language cues. Learning to read and understand this language is imperative for any canine professional. This course will teach you how to read the signs of stress, aggression, fear and much more in a dog. Knowing this language can help a dog walker prevent dog attacks, dog fights, keep themselves and the pets safe and help them communicate with dogs better.

DOG BREEDS

The course will discuss in depth the internationally recognised breed groups and the breed characteristics that influence training and behaviour in a dog. It will discuss the impact of a breed on the training, walking and handling of the dog. It will include information on how to adapt training to the different breeds and why. It will discuss original breeding purposes and how they affect the training of the dog for leash walking.

- What role does a dog's breed play in leash walking?
- Why it is important for a dog walker to understand the origins of dog breeds?
- How can we work with a dog's breed in training rather than forcing it to conform to one set of rules?
- What role does a dog's breed play in mental stimulation and the games we play with dogs?
- How to understand a breed and the genetics behind it



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CANINE BEHAVIOUR

As a dog walker, you will often be confronted with pets who display behaviour issues or pet parents who want answers to their problems. A sturdy knowledge of canine behaviour can help a dog walker upscale their service, give educated advice and help pet parents and dogs alike. The topics will include:

- Toilet training of puppies and adult dogs – a much in demand skill for dog walkers
- Boredom in dogs
- Fussy eating dogs
- Barking in dogs
- Hyperactive dogs
- Saying hello to a dog correctly - how not to get bitten
- Exercising teenage dogs
- Fearful dogs

DOG TO DOG ISSUES

Dog walkers often will walk two or more dogs together or need to handle multiple dogs simultaneously. Dog walkers hence need to learn the following topics:

- Introducing 2 dogs to each other
- Pack structure in dogs
- Understanding dog socialisation better
- Dog interactions and play



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CANINE HEALTH

A dog walker needs to have a keen knowledge of canine health. This will include identifying signs of ill health and pain in a dog, basic first aid information and how to handle a dog that is ill or in pain. This unit will include:

- Why human medicine is harmful to dogs
- Allergies to dogs
- Canine CPR
- Distemper
- Exercising your dog
- Obesity in dogs
- Human foods that are harmful to dogs
- Heat stroke in dogs
- Hip dysplasia
- Homeopathy for dogs
- Human food safe for dogs
- Kennel Cough
- Lumps and Bumps in dogs- is it cancer?
- Monsoon Care
- Natural remedies for fleas and ticks
- Poisonous items for dogs
- Preventing dental disease
- Probiotics for dogs
- Rabid dogs
- Sunburn in dogs
- Cancer in dogs
- Ticks and fleas in dogs
- Neutering in dogs
- Zoonotic diseases
- How to give a dog first aid- this will include practicals



CANINE NUTRITION

One of the most asked queries by pet parents is on canine nutrition. This course will cover...

- The debate in vegetarian and non-vegetarian food for dogs
- How to feed a dog a balanced diet
- The debate between home cooked food and packaged dog food
- Can a dog eat the same food every day?
- Does diet play a role in dog behaviour?
- What treats can you use for dog walking?

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DOG PLAY, GAMES AND TOYS

The life of a dog walker is to exercise a dog. Exercise is not just about walks or physical exercise; mental exercise is just as important. There are days a dog maybe unwell, injured or the weather may not be conducive for a walk. A trained dog walker should have knowledge about how to exercise a dog in general. From simple games to complex ones, all will be taught. Games are a great way to keep a bored dog out of trouble and to exercise the mind of an active breed.

This unit will take a look at:

- The various games to play with a dog
- Different ways to train a dog to retrieve
- How to play with a dog
- Safe games to play and games that should be avoided
- Why rough play does more harm than good
- Breed specific play and toys
- The different toys on the market
- Tug play – is it harmful?
- Scenting games
- A look at the various interactive dog games on the market
- Why mental stimulation is important exercise for dogs.

LEASH WALKING

The main topic on this course. The course will include:

- Walking of multiple dogs
- Understanding why dogs pull on the leash
- Different methods of teaching a dog to walk on a slack leash

A look at the various training aids available on the international market today – what works and what doesn't. Tools discussed will include

- Choke chains
- Prong collars
- Martingale collars
- Harnesses
- Shock collars
- Retractable leashes
- The correct way to put on a collar
- The collar v/s harness debate



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DOG WALKING - THE BUSINESS

Most dog walkers wish the business was as easy as taking dogs for a walk. But client-handling skills play an important role in this business. This course will teach you...

- How to work with difficult clients
- How to make walking sessions fun
- Understand human behaviour
- How to identify client goals
- Professional etiquette and improving the client-dog relationship.
- How to become a successful dog walker
- Tackling the financial aspect
- Publicity and marketing in a competitive environment
- Setting up your own business
- Liaising professionally with other pet businesses
- Social media marketing
- Planning the walks
- How to keep a dog walking journal
- Presenting yourself professionally - creating a brand
- Carry the correct tools of the trade.



PROFESSIONAL DOG WALKER COURSE

YOUR TEACHER...

'Canines Can Care' is the only canine organisation of its kind in India. Founded in 1995, the organisation has pioneered not only the concept of Assistance Dogs in the country, but also the concept of Search and Rescue Dogs. In fact, the 'Canines Can Care' search dog team was the only one representing India in the aftermath of the Gujarat earthquake.

Besides the above, "Canines Can Care" pioneered India's first professional canine trainer courses, behaviour counselling and set the pace for the way dog training is done in India.

CCC also offers behavioural advice for problem dogs, holds agility training sessions, runs courses on canine behaviour and is involved in pioneering many more dog related activities all over the country.

Canines Can Care founder – Shirin Merchant, will conduct the course.

She has been working in the field of canine behaviour and training from 1995 in India and is responsible for pioneering canine behaviour counselling, canine courses and canine educational events across India.

She is the only person in Asia to have an international accreditation from the Kennel Club of England's, Accredited Instructor scheme – the KCAI in Companion Animal training and in Behavioural Training.

The behavioural training accreditation makes her one of 9 people in the world who have achieved it.

In 2015, Shirin was awarded the International Commendation for Trainer of the Year award by the Kennel Club of England's KCAI scheme at the Cruft's Dog Show in England.

In 2016, Shirin was invited to lecture at the Association of Professional Pet Dog Trainers (APDT) conference in Las Vegas. She is the first Indian to have been invited by this prestigious body to present at the conference.

In 2017, Shirin was invited to present at TEDx Gitam University and in 2019 at TEDx Dharavi.

In 2018, Shirin was awarded The First Ladies award and felicitated for being a pioneer in her field by The President of India at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Over the past 25 years, Shirin Merchant has trained over one thousand dog lovers who are pursuing successful careers in the field of dog training and behaviour around the world. Her students rank as some of the top trainers in India.



PROFESSIONAL DOG WALKER COURSE

DATES AND TIMINGS

10 day course

The comprehensive Professional Dog Walker Course will be conducted over a period of 10 days in **NOVEMBER 2022**

9 am to 1pm daily

VENUE

Nanavati College, Vile Parle, Mumbai

The course will include theory classes, and practical training with dogs. Shirin Merchant will personally demonstrate, teach, guide and supervise the students as they learn practical handling skills. The course will end with a practical exam.

CERTIFICATION

Upon successful completion of the course, and passing of the practical exams, students will graduate as ***CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL TRAINERS***. Students are expected 100% ATTENDANCE to qualify for certification.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

ON successful completion of the exam, the students will be listed on the shirinmerchant.com website and will be promoted exclusively by the Institute. They will have an opportunity to work exclusively with the Institute - this selection will be done and job offered by Shirin Merchant herself.

WHY CHOOSE THE SHIRIN MERCHANT INSTITUTE FOR YOUR CAREER?

Shirin Merchant has been working in the field of dog training and behaviour since 1996. She pioneered India's first canine trainer course 20 years ago and since then has trained over 600 trainers worldwide.

A certificate from the Shirin Merchant Institute gives you...

- Respect as a professional
- A competitive advantage when marketing your services
- A sense of achievement and confidence
- A credential for your resume when applying for jobs
- Assurance to clients of your professionalism
- Evidence of your expertise
- A chance to be a part of India's largest group of elite pet professionals.

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APPLICATION

- This course is essential for anyone who is interested in taking up dog walking as a career.
- No previous dog training experience required - dog lovers, dog trainers looking to upscale their business, pet shop owners, groomers, anyone can join this course.
- The course will be conducted only in English and students are required to have a good understanding of the language.
- Any dog lover above 18 years can apply. The course is ideal for beginners as well as professionals.
- The course will include hands-on work with dogs. Students can either bring their own dogs or learn on dogs provided by the organisation.
- This course is only for those people who genuinely want to learn more about dogs. Only those seriously interested should apply.

FEES AND MODE OF PAYMENT

The fees for this course are Rs. 85000/- (plus 18% G.S.T) Total- Rs. 100,300/-

- Payment can be made in the form of cash / cheque / NEFT.
- All payments to be made in full before the commencement of the course. Part payments options are available. Please email for the same.
- Registration charges Rs. 10,000/- (non-refundable and non-transferable) to be sent along with the admission form (available on request).
- Registration amount will be adjusted against final payment.
- Since we have limited seats on the course, students are advised to book their places in advance.



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FAQS

Answers to commonly asked questions...

Is a career in dog walking a viable one?

Yes, there are hundreds of dog walkers currently working in the field without any training or knowledge. A dog walker with a certification and knowledge will be able to have a good career.

I am not a resident of Mumbai. Where can I stay in Mumbai, do you help with accommodation?

The course is held in Juhu, Vile Parle. We can make suggestions based on your budget, though if you have family or friends, we advice staying with them.

There are plenty of accommodation options you can find online. Do look up www.airbnb.com as well for some budget friendly places to stay.

You do not need to stay in Juhu. You can stay anywhere in Mumbai and travel to the venue. Public transport in Mumbai is easily available and reasonably priced.

Do I have to be in Mumbai for a period 10 days or can I do this course online?

This course is only available in an offline format. We currently do not have an option to study this course online.

Will Shirin Merchant introduce us to other people related to this field after the completion of our course? Yes, on completion of this course, the student gets added to the wide network of Canines Can Care trainers and other professionals.

On completion of the course, do you guarantee training jobs for me?

We will give students a chance to be listed on our website and we will promote them to all our clients at the Institute. Those students who excel at the course will be given the opportunity to work with the Institute.

How do I go about the registration and payment?

To register for the course please send an email to k9cancare@hotmail.com requesting for the application form.

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FAQS continued...

Does the course run continuously for 10 days?

Yes, the course runs continuously. There is no holiday.

Are there any exams? How is the student evaluated for certification?

Students are evaluated on both - theory and practical knowledge through the duration of the course.

The certificate that is given on course completion, is it government affiliated?

The certificate issued to the students is issued by the independent organisation- *Shirin Merchant Institute of Dog Training and Behaviour* and is not government affiliated or affiliated with any other training institute.

Am I guaranteed a certificate after this course?

Only students who complete the entire course will be given a certificate of successful completion. **Students who do not complete the entire course will not be given a certificate.**

Please note this course is very rigorous and requires effort from the student. You have to work hard to earn your certificate.

If you have any further questions, we will be happy to answer them. Please do contact us at the details given below.

CONTACT US...

For more details, or the application form for the course contact:

Shirin Merchant

E-mail- k9cancare@hotmail.com