

## **Vicki Austin's Puppy Class Instructors' Course**

- Total course instruction time: approximately 38 hours (approx 20 hours on-line plus 18 hours practical over three days).
- Participants must view all on-line learning sessions and attend all practicals, in their entirety, to gain certification. On-line learning will be accessed via an individual login that will be provided to each student. Forums are also accessible to all students for class interactions and discussions. NB. On-line presentations are recorded and will be accessible during the duration of the course.
- Several Q&A live webinars will be scheduled throughout the course to allow students to seek answers on questions regarding the on-line learning. NB. Each webinar will also be recorded and accessible for those unable to attend at the allotted times for viewing at any time.
- On-line quizzes, the course assessment and all other course requirements must be satisfactorily completed within three months of completion of practical training, to achieve certification. Quizzes will be available after each presentation with an 80% pass mark required for each and every one. All quiz questions will be combined and randomised in one big, final quiz, also requiring a minimum 80% pass mark.
- Practical sessions must be attended on the scheduled dates and times.  
Prerequisite: You need to have watched Vicki's recorded sessions, 1 - 8 on-line, prior to attending the practical sessions.
- The three-days of practical sessions will be limited to ten participants per group. The next scheduled practical days will be:
  - Sydney at Calabash Kennels and Cattery, 27 Calabash Road, Arcadia, NSW, on Friday 7, Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 September 2018 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm each day.
  - There is also interest in conducting practical days in Newcastle and Adelaide. There will need to be ten enrolments to proceed.
  - Tea and coffee facilities will be available, but attendees will need to bring their lunch and refreshments as there will not be time available to attend local shops.
- If there is sufficient demand, additional practical days can be held in other cities or areas. There will be an additional cost to attend practical days outside of Sydney to cover Vicki's flights, accommodation, etc. Please indicate your preferences for location of practical days on your submission form.
- Participants attending practical days must be well presented in clean, professional attire and as per the Workplace Health and Safety Risk Assessment (available on-line once enrolled).

- Participants are asked to source a puppy or puppies aged between 8 and 16 weeks of age, if at all possible, to bring to practical sessions. Sources for securing a puppy or puppies could include: Facebook posts, friends/family/neighbours, advertisement in local paper, local trading post bulletin boards, dog welfare organisations, etc.
- Cost: \$890 (incl GST) where practicals are attended in Sydney. An additional fee of \$120 (incl GST), taking total fee to \$1010, will apply for attending practical days in Melbourne to cover travel and accommodation expenses. A deposit of \$100 will reserve your place and is refundable until four weeks before commencement date of the course. Enrolment enquiries can be directed to Robyn Stark, Mob 0405 555 959.
- Course Requirements to gain certification:
  - Moderate computer skills and internet connectivity
  - Moderate literacy skills
  - Read “Excel-erated Learning” by Pamela Reid and “The Culture Clash” by Jean Donaldson
  - Attend to observe, at least one full course of puppy classes (usually four to six weeks) by an Instructor in your local area
  - Attend all course sessions, both on-line and practical, in their entirety
  - Successfully complete on-line quizzes
  - Successfully complete course assessment
- Participants are encouraged to join Vicki Austin’s Puppy Class Instructors’ Group on Facebook.  
[www.facebook.com/groups/PuppyInstructors](http://www.facebook.com/groups/PuppyInstructors)

## Puppy Class Instructors' Course – Programme

SESSION NO.	SUBJECT/CONTENT
1	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the benefits of Puppy Classes?</li> <li>• What are the priorities for puppies? The big four: Socialisation, Environmental Conditioning, Independence Development and Preventative Strategies (for avoiding the development of problem behaviour)</li> <li>• Suitable venues for puppy classes: veterinary hospitals, pet shops, grooming salons, private residences, etc</li> <li>• Relationship with owner of venue: financial arrangements, conflicts of interest, bookings, advertising, PR, shared benefits, etc</li> <li>• Equipment: Supplied by class instructor; supplied by puppy owners</li> <li>• Hygiene for puppies' safety: floor surfaces, equipment, toys, etc</li> <li>• Vaccinations required</li> <li>• WH&amp;S Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Discuss course assessment</li> </ul>
2	<p>The Science of Learning and Behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habituation</li> <li>• Classical or Pavlovian Conditioning</li> </ul>
3	<p>The Science of Learning and Behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operant Conditioning</li> </ul>
4	<p>Independence Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Tie-up or Restraint Exercise</li> <li>• Crate Training</li> <li>• Time alone</li> </ul>
5	<p>The Importance and Benefits of Play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tug-o-war, retrieve, chasing</li> <li>• Impulse control</li> <li>• Play as a reinforcer</li> </ul>

6	<p>Preventative strategies (to avoid development of problem behaviour)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource guarding</li> <li>• Variety (avoiding routines and patterns)</li> <li>• Relationships built on trust</li> <li>• Identifying and addressing behaviour resulting from puppies becoming over-tired, over-stimulated or out of control of emotions – developing emotional self-regulation</li> </ul>
7	<p>Puppy Raising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canine Critical/Sensitive Developmental Phases</li> <li>• Species Specific Defence Response (fear response)</li> <li>• Puppy class social interactions – learning manners and social etiquette</li> </ul>
8	<p>Introduction to the technique of Luring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive reinforcement combined with Negative Punishment</li> <li>• Pavlovian conditioning of the bridge/mark word, “good”</li> <li>• Avoiding luring becoming bribery</li> </ul>
9	<p>The following information applies to each practical session. Please refer to dates and locations above and documentation that has been forwarded to you.</p> <p>What you will need for practical sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lunch and cold drinks (there will not be time to go to shops). Tea and coffee facilities will be provided.</li> <li>• Food treat pouch <a href="https://www.thetrainerspouch.com/">https://www.thetrainerspouch.com/</a></li> <li>• Puppy or puppies</li> <li>• Crate, collar, lead, water bowl</li> <li>• Pen and paper and/or electronic device with internet connection</li> </ul>
10	<p>Practical Session - Day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hygiene, WH&amp;S</li> <li>• Social introductions and interactions</li> <li>• The tie-up or restraint exercise</li> <li>• Sit on cue; sit and stare as a behavioural default; sit and stare as a polite means of asking for attention</li> <li>• Commence training of the recall</li> <li>• Encourage tugging play</li> <li>• “Park the Puppy”</li> </ul>

11	<p>Practical Session – Day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social interactions</li> <li>• Progress recall training</li> <li>• Commence training of the drop (lay down)</li> <li>• Introduce “leave-it” cue</li> <li>• Handling exercises</li> <li>• Introduce “leave” cue during tugging play</li> <li>• “Swap the Puppy”, class exercise</li> </ul>
12	<p>Practical Session – Day 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social interactions</li> <li>• Progress recall training</li> <li>• Progress training of the drop</li> <li>• Three Principles for commencing the fading of food treats</li> <li>• Training the stay</li> <li>• Environmental conditioning exercises</li> <li>• Hand touch</li> <li>• Introduce “yes” cue to grab tug toy</li> <li>• Students instruct an exercise to one another</li> </ul>
13	Toilet Training
14	Puppy Nipping and Biting
15	<p>Barking  Aggression in puppies  Other problem behaviours</p>
16	Students provide answers to common puppy owner questions. Maximum time of five minutes per answer.