COMMERCIAL DOG WALKER
Issued pursuant to CCSF Health Code Article 39

Commercial Dog Walker Training 20 Hours Certification

Ideal	Acceptable	Unacceptable
Learning Theory and its application to dog walking—the 4 quadrants. Operant vs. classical	Learning Theory and its application to commercial dog walking—the 4 quadrants	*No learning theory—critical to understanding behavior and to be successful*
Ideal Group structure		*No talk about group structure*
Maintenance of good pack management		*No talk about ongoing pack management*
Dog fight prevention and protocols—understanding what aggression is and how fights start	Dog fight prevention	*No talk about aggression. Not recommended to take an aggressive dog.*
What is a problem dog? When to know to ask for help? Creating guidelines to address problematic dogs and clients	What is a problem dog? When to know to ask for help?	*No talk about problem dogs*
Evaluate dog for group suitability. Continuous evaluation as dogs' behavior might change	Separation of dogs into groups by size and temperament only	*No evaluation of dogs. Allowing dogs to remain in group who either need extra guidance and/or are unsuitable for group*
Body language—examples of the good and the bad, predicting behavior, knowing how to be proactive. Understanding dog-dog communication as well as dog-human communication	Basic dog communication	*No discussion of body language—critical to understanding dogs in our care.*
Sensitivity to impact of dogs on members of the public who may be afraid of dogs or agitated by them	Knowledge and compliance with local laws and ordinances	*No thought as to civic responsibility on public property, multi-use parks & play areas*
Dog park etiquette	Knowledge of and compliance with dog park rules, on and off-leash	*No discussion of dog park etiquette*
First aid certification	Exposure to treatment for common injuries and accidents on dog outings	*No thought of possible risks to dog injuries or common maladies*
Breed—knowing what to look for, breed characteristics that might be unsuitable for off-leash outings	Refer to characteristics based on predominant breed	*No reference to discretion in determining which dogs should be kept on leash*