

Code of Animal Welfare for Dog Trainers

What is the Code of Animal Welfare?

The Code sets out housing, management and care standards that must be met to protect animal welfare in Singapore.

The Code covers:



Minimum Standards

Necessary to meet the basic needs of the animal

Failure of which may be used to support a case of failing to comply with the Animals and Birds Act



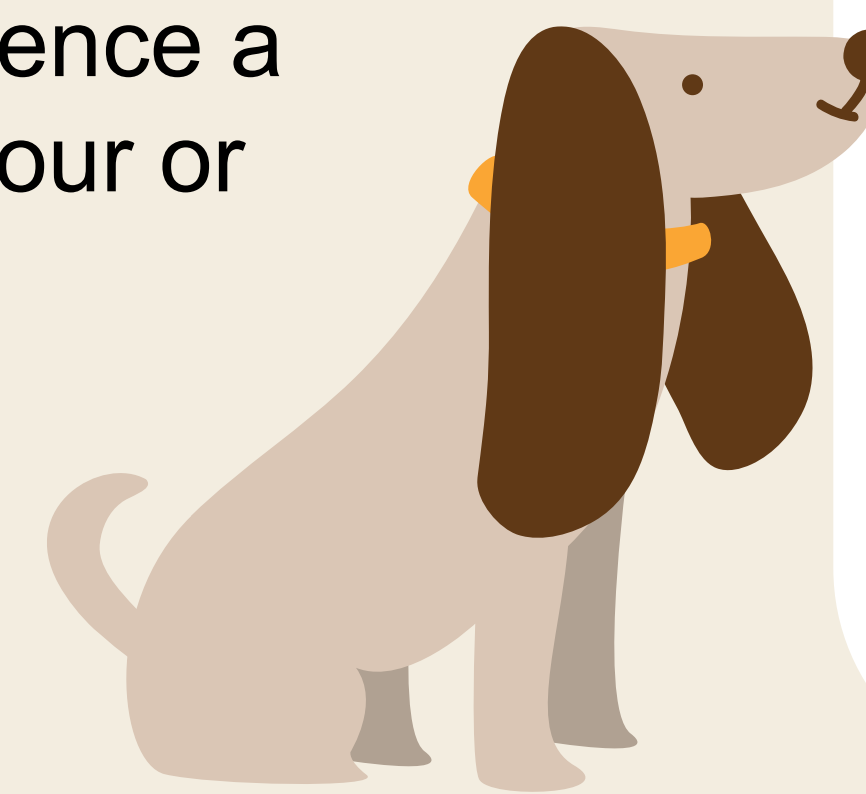
Best Practices

Encouraged to be adopted by pet owners and businesses

Who do the Codes apply to?

This Code applies to any party that offers dog training services.

Dog training refers to any process / activity to modify / influence a dog's behaviour or emotional / physical responses.



Scan here to learn more about the Code

Key Minimum Standards

Training Approach

Trainers must:

- Adopt the Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive (LIMA) approach
- Exhaust all options before escalating through each step of the Hierarchy of Behaviour Change Model
- Use equipment safely and humanely
- Address root causes of behaviour issues, advise veterinary or behavioural referral if needed



Training Environment

In group sessions, keep to a maximum of 12 dogs per trainer.

Trainers must:

- Brief clients on safety, especially for dogs with bite history
- Check whether puppies in group sessions have been examined by a veterinarian for parasites and infectious diseases
- Exclude unwell dogs from group classes and advise referral to a veterinarian if needed
- Keep dogs leashed at all times in public areas
- Not leave tethered dogs unattended



Professional Competency & Training

New trainers (<1 year) must work under the supervision of an experienced trainer.

Trainers must:

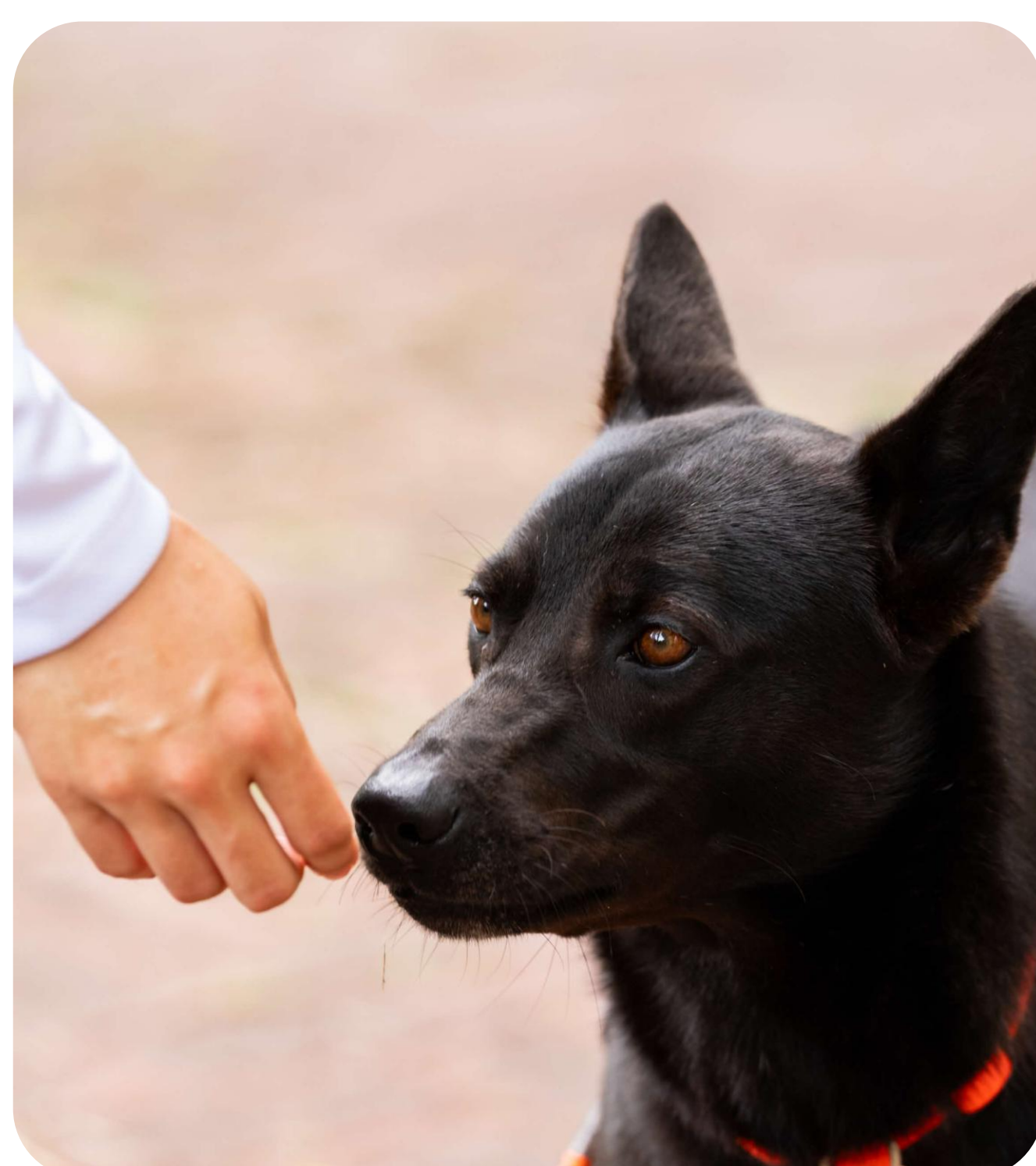
- Understand and be proficient in the LIMA approach
- Complete annual continuing education
- Operate within the scope of their professional qualifications
- Be able to identify signs of illness or discomfort in animals



Client Communication & Records

Trainers must:

- Keep detailed records for at least 2 years, available for NParks' inspection
- Have written standardised processes for animal management and emergencies
- Obtain informed consent for all training methods and tools used
- Report incidents to clients promptly and seek veterinary attention if needed
- Check whether dogs are vaccinated, microchipped and licensed according to relevant laws and advise on lapses



Referral Procedures

Trainers approached to share history must cooperate openly to support continuity of care.

Trainers must:

- Share records with other professionals upon request and owner's consent, free-of-charge
- Collaborate with past trainers wherever possible to understand the dog's history

