

Essential behaviour knowledge

Practical training aims and guidance

- **Canine Communication Skills**

The hydrotherapist should be able to demonstrate awareness, understanding and appropriate response to the emotional signalling of the dog in their care.

To include the following:

- * Facial expression
- * Eye movement
- * Body Language
- * Tail position & movement
- * Feet positioning & movement
- * Vocalisations

- **Canine anxiety, Fear and Phobia.**

The hydrotherapist should be able to demonstrate an ability to recognise, understand and respond appropriately to canine stress caused by anxiety, fear or phobic behaviour.

To include the following:

- * Para-sympathetic and sympathetic nervous system (limbic system activity).
- * The effects of limbic system arousal on the dog's physical and emotional homeostasis.
- * The effects of limbic system arousal on the dog's ability to learn and process cognitive skills.
- * The likely effects of limbic system arousal on the dog's behaviour.
- * Learned Helplessness.
- * Passive Stress.

- **Canine Learning Theory.**

The hydrotherapist should be able to demonstrate knowledge, awareness and practical application of simple learning theories.

To include the following:

- * Habituation
- * Sensitisation
- * Classical Conditioning
- * Operant Conditioning
- * Social (observational) learning