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English version

Dog training professionals - Knowledge, skills and competence requirements

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
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CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels

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European foreword

CWA 16979 was developed in accordance with CEN-CENELEC Guide 29 “CEN/CENELEC Workshop Agreements – The way to rapid agreement” and with the relevant provisions of CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations - Part 2. It was agreed on 2015-11-09 in a Workshop by representatives of interested parties, approved and supported by CEN following a public call for participation made on 2015-03-10. It does not necessarily reflect the views of all stakeholders that might have an interest in its subject matter.

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- FCC - Formatore Cinofilo Certificato (Chairmanship)
- Giammarco Tamburrini – Dog Trainer (Project Leader)
- Italian Ministry of Defense - Military Veterinary Center (Vice-Chairmanship)
- ABTC - Animal Behaviour Training Council
- A.I.E.C.I. ASSOCIAZIONE ISTRUTTORI EDUCATORI CINOFILI ITALIANI
- A.P.N.E.C. Associazione professionale nazionale educatori cinofili
- A.T.A.A.C.I. Associazione per la Tutela dell’Allevamento e dell’Addestramento Cinofilo Italiano
- Arcadia Associazione Relazione Uomo Animale Onlus
- Associazione Nuovo Rifugio di Amola – Canile comunale San Giovanni in Persiceto
- BHV (Berufsverband der Hunderzieher/innen und Verhaltensberater/innen e.V.)
- Centro di Cultura Cinofila
- Centro Studi del Cane Italia – Attività cinofile Asd
- DEBÙ – Gruppo Cinofilo
- DHVE – Dachverband für Haustierverhaltensberatung in Europa (European Association of Pet Behavior Counselors)
- Direção de Serviços de Proteção Animal - Direção Geral de Alimentação e Veterinária
- Dog to me
- Dogma – Di Casa Vismara
- E.N.C.I. – Italian kennel club
- ESVCE (European Society for Clinical Veterinary Ethology)
- FederFauna

- GTVMT (Germany Society for Veterinary Behavioural Medicine)
- HACHIKO npo
- Irish Kennel Club Ltd.
- IWA – Assisted Interventions With Animals - Portugal
- Lupus in Fabula
- PsiAnimal – CPCA - Centro para o Conhecimento Animal
- S.I.C.S - Scuola Italiana Cani Salvataggio
- Scuola Cani Salvataggio Al Blu – SICS Piemonte
- Scuola Cani Salvataggio Vela Liguria
- Scuola Italiana Cani Salvataggio Veneto
- SIUA – Scuola Interazione Uomo Animale
- Maria Luisa Colussi – FICSS Dog Trainer
- Fabrizio Ferrandelli - Member of the Sicilian Regional Assembly
- Angelo Gazzano - Researcher at University of Pisa
- Simone Moreira Bergamini - Veterinary Behaviorist
- Anastasia Palli – Dog Trainer

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Introduction

A study on the current situation of the European canine sector showed that the sector is characterized by multiple forms of organizations and associations with different approaches and attitudes in dealing with the qualification of dog instructors, dog trainers, dog educators and operators. A context which highlights the need for a common and harmonised approach in order to face the problem concerning the recognition of the existing qualifications for dog instructors, dog trainers, dog educators and operators. It is important to underline that, at European level the number of potential interested dog training professionals amounts up to more than 500.000.

This confusing situation can be best resolved through identification and a resulting definition of commonly recognized competences representing reference criteria for the industry players of this sector. This is to be achieved by developing a document defining the minimum requirements relevant to the competences - in terms of skills and knowledge - applicable to dog instructors, dog trainers, dog educators and operators, who work as freelancers or on behalf of associations, or other organizations and institutions, government agencies, etc., at national and international level.

With the development of common reference criteria, the goal is to provide the market with "dog training professionals" – namely dog instructors, dog trainers, dog educators and operators - whose education and training has appropriately taken place and can be duly verified, determining in this way a qualitative added value for all involved parties, the dog in the first place, as well as the final consumer.

A harmonised reference document aims at giving a common basis for the evaluation of the competences by offering, also to individual professionals, an opportunity to have access to new professional roles, skills, knowledge, abilities.

Essential corollary is the promotion of the lifelong learning approach, in order to have up to date and continuous improvement through ongoing training and re-training of dog training professionals. This would guarantee protection and dog welfare in its broadest sense. In relation to this, great attention is paid to those skills and knowledge which relate to dog welfare and well-being in their most comprehensive sense, taking into account the aspects relevant to the management of the animals through both scientific knowledge, physiological and ethological. This to prevent stress, suffering, sickness and general lack of well-being of the dog.

The objective of this CWA is also to promote knowledge of theoretical skills, practices and techniques to implement and disseminate a correct management of the animal and a better communication dog-man through the rules that structure this relationship. The use of this document will increase the quality, efficiency and competitiveness, providing added value to professional qualifications and conferring security, improved performance, increased reliability, credibility and reputation to this specific sector.

This document is designed to adapt to any canine European reality and to meet the European Qualifications Framework (EQF 2008), taking into account CEN Guide 14.

The development of a common and shared document at European level should:

- produce a common platform for training;
- promote significant changes facing the market of dog training professionals;
- promote the adoption of a reference document (this CWA) across Europe that meets various national requirements;
- provide guidelines for the development of a trained qualified professional;
- provide guidelines to the functional aspects, specific and operational of the different dog activities;
- structure the document to adapt to future implementations across Europe.

1 Scope

This document provides the minimum reference criteria and essential competences requirements in terms of knowledge and skills for a dog training professional working in the main operational/training, behavioural, assistance and sports areas.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN ISO/IEC 17024, *Conformity assessment - General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons (ISO/IEC 17024)*

ISO 29990, *Learning services for non-formal education and training - Basic requirements for service providers*

CWA 16520 *Guide dog mobility instructor - Competences*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1
competence
proven ability to use knowledge, skills and personal, social and /or methodological abilities, in work or study situations and in professional and personal development

[SOURCE: EQF- European Qualification Framework¹]

3.2
skill
ability to apply knowledge and use know-how to complete tasks and solve problems

[SOURCE: EQF- European Qualification Framework¹]

3.3
knowledge
body of facts, principles, theories and practices that is related to a field of work or study. In this context knowledge is described as theoretical and/or factual

[SOURCE: EQF- European Qualification Framework¹]

3.4
dog training professional (DTP)
person who has the necessary knowledge and skills to be competent for the training of a dog-man partnership and the training of other people

Note 1 to entry: Dog training professional may be specialised in sports (3.5), in assistance activities (3.6), in research and rescue activities (social utility) (3.7) and behaviour (3.8).

¹ Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008 on the establishment of the European Qualification Framework for lifelong learning, Official Journal C111 dated 2008-05-06 [1]