



Dear Dog Trainer Professional Student,

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we wanted to update you of changes we have made to the delivery of the Dog Trainer Professional program. As many of you have already experienced, these changes let students continue to learn and progress, while maintaining our high standards for learning and certification at this time when social distancing restrictions prevent in-person workshops.

We have adapted teaching methods and processes for all regional and national workshops so that they can be delivered virtually. However, as soon as it is safe and possible to gather for live workshops, we look to transition your workshops back to being in person.

Regional Series

Workshops 1-3 have all been adapted to focus on the same learning goals, teaching exercises and demonstrations to show students progress in the course.

National Series

National series coursework will continue without any changes.

Final Assessments and Certification

When we hold a final workshop virtually, certification will now use a two-part assessment process involving both virtual/video and in-person assessment procedures. Students who pass the virtual assessment are eligible for provisional certification. We are providing the provisional KPA CTP status as a bridge (in both metaphorical and training terms) until the time when in-person workshops and assessments can take place. This provisional status is available only for those who pass all course work, pass the virtual assessment, and sign the KPA pledge.

Certification is only valid while these students are in the waiting period for the in-person workshop to be scheduled. Provisional certification expires when the live workshop is scheduled or within a year of provisional certification being granted, whichever comes first. Students who pass the assessment process in the live workshop will receive non-provisional KPA certification.

Regional Series

The virtual assessment will be one day, typically held on the same date as your scheduled workshop 4. Students will complete their teaching and training assessments. (Please note that for larger classes, it may be necessary to hold your virtual workshop over two days - you will be contacted by your instructor with specific information about your workshop).

The one day in-person assessment will be scheduled at a later date based on governmental regulations and student/faculty safety requirements.



National Series

The virtual assessment will be three days, typically held on the same date as your scheduled workshop. Students will complete their teaching and training assessments.

The two day in-person assessment will be scheduled at a later date based on governmental regulations and student/faculty safety requirements.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of us, but we remain committed to serving both our current and future CTPs. We want to maintain a healthy and safe environment for our students and faculty members, while continuing to provide a quality educational experience.

Please refer to the short FAQ below for quick reference.

We hope that you and your loved ones are staying healthy and safe.

Sincerely,
Ken & Aaron

FAQ

What is provisional CTP status?

Provisional KPA CTP status is a bridge to the time when in-person workshops and assessments can take place. This status is available only for those who pass all course work, pass the virtual/video assessment, and sign the KPA pledge. It is also only valid while these students are in the waiting period for the in-person workshop to be scheduled. Provisional certification expires when the live workshop is scheduled or within a year of provisional certification being granted, whichever comes first.

Why was this change made?

Students who demonstrate the skills and qualities of CTPs should not have to wait an indeterminate period of time to earn the KPA CTP level of certification (since it is uncertain when governments will allow travel again). This interim process will reinforce and recognize students who distinguish themselves in the KPA Dog Trainer Professional program. We have created a process that is fair and that maintains the high standards of educational excellence for which KPA is known.

Have we lowered certification standards?

Not at all. Final certification requires two levels of assessment. This unique combination of virtual and live assessments is at least as rigorous and, in certain skill areas, even more strict than the standard CTP assessment process.



If the virtual assessment is rigorous, why do you also require a live assessment?

There are elements of skill and competency that we want the faculty members to observe in-person and/or in the company of other people and dogs. Consequently, for final certification we still require an in-person workshop experience and passing an assessment in that workshop.

When does provisional status expire?

Provisional certification expires when the live workshop is scheduled or within a year of provisional certification being granted, whichever comes first. Students who pass the assessment process in the live workshop will receive non-provisional KPA certification.

What benefits will CTPs with provisional status be able to use?

CTPs with provisional status will have access to the Groups.io and the features and benefits of the CTP Resource Center. They will be able to indicate that they are a CTP in their titles, email signatures, website copy, etc. Upon full KPA CTP Certification use of the KPA CTP logo, listing on the Graduates List, and the Find A Trainer profile page will be allowed.