

Transparency in Dog Profession Titles

and understanding what they all mean



Unregulated

- **Dog Trainer**

- there are many certifying organizations and schools but there are no licensing, certification or education requirements. Ask about their methods, education and credentials. Demand transparency on what they are doing.

- **Behaviorist**

- "Dog behaviorist" is often corrupted or misused. The term behaviorist is reserved for Veterinary Behaviorists or Applied Animal Behaviorists, who have an advanced degree and have been certified by The Animal Behavior Society with ACAAB or CAAB designation. Anyone else using the term should be questioned about their actual credentials and education.

- **Dog Behavioralist or Dog Psychologist**

- Red flag! There are no credentials or certifications for these terms. No reputable dog training school imbues these titles. They are gimmicks to market a (likely unqualified) trainer to make them sound more skilled. Anyone using the term should be thoroughly questioned about their credentials and education.

Regulated

- **Veterinarians: DVM/VMD**

- must graduate from an accredited veterinary school, pass national & state boards, must be licensed and do CEUs to maintain license. Can have license revoked if they do not maintain standards of care or CEU requirements by state governing agency.

- **Veterinary Behaviorist: DACVB**

- same as above but has behavior as primary focus and has completed 3 year residency, approved the American College of Veterinary Behavior and passes a national board exam certifying them as a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behavior.

- **Veterinary Technician Specialist-Behavior: VTS-Behavior**

- must graduate accredited AVMA vet tech program, apply to and pass exam through Academy of Veterinary Behavior Technicians and maintain license from their state governing agency.

