



## Membership Requirements 2025

To become a member trainer of New Mexico Dog Trainers United you must demonstrate that you:

### 1.) Have education in the science of animal behavior.

- Our member trainers must hold a certification with a nationally recognized animal training education/certification program that:
  - requires certificants to adhere to LIMA principals
  - teaches or requires education in the basics of behavior science, and canine behavior and husbandry
  - requires testing to assess certificant's knowledge and skills
  - requires annual continuing education in order to maintain certification, and
  - requires certificants to sign an ethics pledge.
- Current approved organization include: **CCPDT, KPA** (with ACE Active #), **IAABC, Victoria Stillwell Academy**
- Alternative ways a member might meet the certification requirement include:
  - being a licensed vet behaviorist or VTS (Behavior)
  - holding a Master's Degree or higher in an Animal Behavior discipline
  - applying for recognition of your certifying entity through the NMDTU Board by demonstrating it fulfills all requirements as outlined above.

### 2.) Use modern, humane approaches when teaching both animals and humans

- Our member trainers must adhere to the Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive (LIMA) Behavior Intervention Policy as outlined by organizations such as the CCPDT, IAABC and APDT.
- This requires our members to be consistent in employing training and teaching strategies in accordance with the [Humane Hierarchy of Behavior Change](#).
- Although trainers are not ultimately responsible for the training tool and technique choices of clients, our member trainers will not promote the use of or sell aversive tools or training techniques.

### 3.) Additionally, our member trainers must:

- Attend at least 1 member event per year (social, CE event, meeting) OR participate actively in our social media members group
- Submit 2 blog post with 2-4 social media graphics or similar sharable online content for each blog per year. Content will be shared on NMDTU's social media or website with attribution to you as the creator. Items do not have to be unique, and re-shares of previously made posts are encouraged.
- Pay an annual membership fee of \$35. Fee is due in January after the initial application year.