

Victoria Stilwell Academy

Dog Trainer Course



Overview

The Victoria Stilwell Academy's [Dog Trainer Course](#) (DTC) is a six-month comprehensive course of study for aspiring professional dog trainers.

The DTC program is the most high-powered professional dog trainer education learning experience available which includes:

- **Hands-on learning.** The curriculum is designed with an emphasis on practical application and hands-on experience, which are vital to becoming a skilled trainer and teacher.
- **Learn from Victoria.** The entire curriculum is taught by Victoria Stilwell & VSA's other world-class faculty via narrated video lessons with accompanying digital textbook and learning guides.
- **Convenience.** There's no need to move for a great education. Learn 100% online, while In-Person Course students travel just twice for Intensives and shadow a local mentor.
- **Gain Confidence.** The experience you gain working with real clients and their dogs, all with the support of your VSA Faculty Advisor, give you confidence to launch your career.
- **Groundbreaking curriculum.** VSA's comprehensive, scientifically-based, learner-centered, performance-based positive training curriculum is backed by an advisory board of industry leading professionals.
- **Human learning.** Focus on key interpersonal skills needed to teach dogs and people.
- **Marketing Prowess.** Learn everything you need to build, market and manage a successful positive dog training business.



VSA offers the ultimate learning experience for dog trainers – one that fills in all the gaps. VSA empowers graduates with the skills and hands-on experience they need to train dogs, the professionalism, empathy, and confidence needed to teach people, and the know-how to operate a thriving, positive dog training business.

The Victoria Stilwell Academy's Dog Trainer Course provides an unmatched roadmap for your journey to become a gamechanging professional dog trainer who gets real world results and has the power to change dogs' lives... Positively.

Join the Future of Dog Training...

...Chase Your Dreams.

Course Structure

The Dog Trainer Course program is a six month course offered in both online-only and in-person hybrid versions which combine multiple learning models and activities. VSA's curriculum includes:

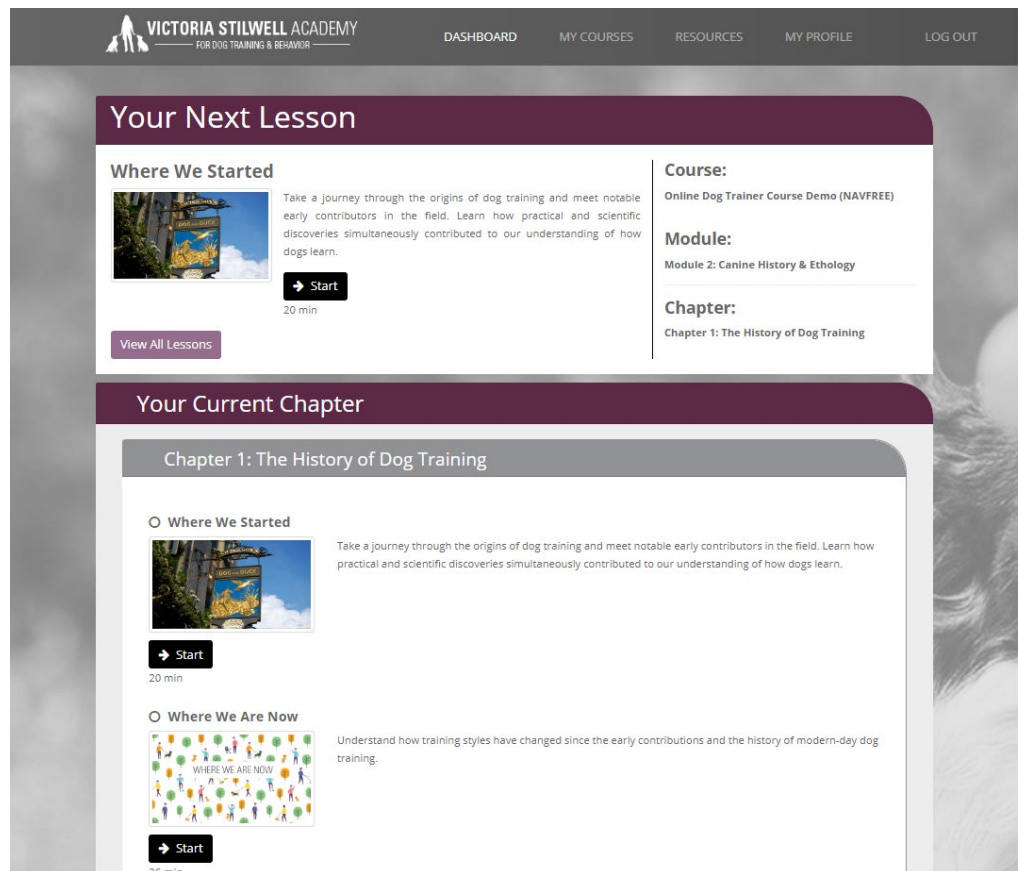
- **At-home study**
Students learn directly from Victoria and other VSA faculty during over 100 hours of custom-built video-based online lessons on VSA's state-of-the-art e-learning platform, the Student Learning Center.
- **Dedicated Faculty Advisor**
Each student is assigned a personal Faculty Advisor for the duration of the course, with whom they meet for weekly 'Office Hours', conduct skills assessments, and answer curriculum-related questions.
- **Course Assessments**
Students are knowledge-assessed through regular quizzes, tests and exams. Dog training skills are assessed via live videoconference and/or in-person by VSA Faculty Advisors.
- **In-person Intensive Modules**
In-In-person DTC students attend two multi-day intensives led by Victoria Stilwell and other VSA Faculty that include classroom study, hands-on experience, field trips, and professional demonstrations.
- **Field Modules with Mentor**
In-person DTC students complete two extensive field modules during which they shadow a local professional dog trainer mentor.
- **Real-time Cyber classes**
In-person DTC students attend live webinars taught by Victoria Stilwell and other VSA faculty that are designed to enhance students' learning experience and supplement their online learning experience with dynamic, engagement-based activities and discussions.



The Dog Trainer Course provides a unique blend of dynamic self-paced online learning which includes opportunities for direct engagement and hands-on learning experiences with dogs.

Premier Online Learning

VSA's dynamic curriculum is presented via its custom-built e-learning platform, the Student Learning Center. This industry-leading tool delivers the ultimate learner-centered, performance-based learning experience via 100% video-narrated lessons which include regular activities to ensure the student's engagement and optimize learning. Assessments throughout the curriculum utilize the latest in the science of effective adult learning principles, resulting a student experience which is truly transformative and long-lasting.



Faculty Advisor Program

Each Dog Trainer Course student (whether enrolled in the online-only or the in-person track) is assigned a dedicated Faculty Advisor with whom they meet weekly via videoconference for live 'office hours.' This personal advisor is available to discuss the material presented during online lessons, answer questions about course content, and provide support and guidance for the student.

Faculty Advisors also conduct the skills assessments required of all students via live and/or recorded videoconference.

Field Modules with Mentor

During two 60-day field modules, in-person DTC students gain hands-on learning and experience while shadowing a VSA Mentor that is a local professional dog trainer. Students attend both group classes and private training sessions with the mentor's real clients.

Students receive regular feedback and assessments designed to keep them engaged and progressing toward graduation and ultimately a rewarding career as a professional dog trainer.

VSA Faculty

VSA's world-class faculty includes is led by renowned dog trainer and behavior expert Victoria Stilwell (from Animal Planet's hit show, *It's Me or the Dog*) and includes industry leaders in the field of dog training and behavior, business marketing, and interpersonal client relationship skills. VSA's faculty are skilled in supercharged learner-centered teaching techniques that empower students to succeed.



Career Opportunities and Graduate Benefits

Dog training is a career that is almost unparalleled in terms of what one can give back, providing the opportunity for trainers to help shape and save lives. VSA aims to provide students with the skills, knowledge and confidence to open their own dog training businesses and offer their communities training options such as group classes and private lessons or to gain employment in the dog training industry.

Graduates of VSA's Dog Trainer Courses receive ongoing marketing and business support facilitated by VSA's Graduate Liaison department. Graduates become part of a community that fosters continued learning and sharing. Additionally, graduates have access to marketing information and materials to promote and encourage the growth of their dog training business.

Among the marketing support and benefits provided to graduates are:

- Designation as a professional VSA-Certified Dog Trainer (VSA-CDT)
- Use of a VSA Graduate Badge on websites, social media, and other marketing materials.
- A profile listing on VSA's website trainer search.
- Use of the title "Graduate VS Academy" and use of the phrase "graduate of Victoria Stilwell Academy's Dog Trainer Course."
- Use of images of themselves with Victoria Stilwell.



VSA's Mission:

VSA's mission is to educate, engage and empower new generations of professional dog trainers by teaching and promoting positive, effective dog training philosophies and methods, effective human communication skills, and business and marketing prowess.



the future of dog training.™