



**Information Sheet for Potential Clients  
Fall 2016 Animal Science 311  
Companion Animal Behavior and Training**

Thank you for your interest in participating in this class with your companion animal! Below you will find information regarding how you and your animal will be participating as “clients” of student dog or cat behaviorist/trainer teams.

**A Note About the Companion Animal Training Methods Used in ANSC 311:**

We want to help you have the best relationship possible with your dog or cat. Towards this end, students in this class are instructed to use scientifically proven, welfare-friendly training methods that are aimed at improving the owner/companion animal bond. Students are taught to use methods that positively reward good behaviors and gently correct or ignore behaviors we do not want the animal to do. Harsh training methods such as the “Dominance Theory” of training are outdated and are not used in any way in this class. It will be very important for clients to follow only the training methods used in this class when working with their animals. For example, clients must commit to not using prong, shock (e-collars), or choke collars. ***It is also important to note that the students themselves will primarily be providing advice/guidance to the client on how to modify the unwanted behavior; it is the owner who will be working directly with the animal.***

The American Veterinary Society of Animal Behaviorists has a position statement that describes why harsh training does not promote a positive, long lasting bond between you and your companion animal. You may find this information at:

[https://avsab.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Dominance\\_Position\\_Statement\\_download-10-3-14.pdf](https://avsab.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Dominance_Position_Statement_download-10-3-14.pdf)

**Health, Age, and Species Requirements of the Companion Animal Participating:**

The health and well-being of your four legged family member is of utmost importance to the ANSC 311 students and instructor. Any animals participating in this class must be in good overall health and have all their vaccinations up to date. A copy of the vaccination record must be provided to the course instructor prior to the beginning of the semester. Only dogs or cats will be worked with and must be a minimum of 6 months of age and have been owned by you for at least 2 months. Because some behavior issues may be due to underlying physical health issues, the owner must be willing to take the animal to their Veterinarian to rule out any illnesses if the student team and the course instructor believe this may be beneficial. ***\*\*While animals may have multiple behavioral issues, the client/owner will be asked to identify one behavior they want assistance modifying.***

**Commitment Requirement of the Client:**

Because this is a University class in which students will be earning a grade toward their degree, client commitment will be essential. Clients will need to be available to participate for the ***entire 2016 fall semester (September 1 – December 1, 2016).***

**Details of Time Commitment Required of the Client:**

Deadline to Submit Client/Companion Animal Information Sheet (\*See attached one page form.)  
**Friday, September 2, 2016**

*\*\*If you and your companion animal are selected to participate in the class, based on the information you provide in the Animal Information Sheet, the following additional time commitments would be required:*

*Specific Time Commitment Dates for Clients:*

- Client will need to fill out one animal behavior questionnaire at the beginning of the semester; the questionnaire will be sent out on **Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>** and will be due **Monday, September 12.**
- Client will meet with the student team assigned to their animal's behavior case during class time. (**Place:** Knox Hall, Room 217, NMSU; **Time & Date:** 9am-10am on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>)
- Client will attend the student final poster presentations (**Place:** NMSU campus (specific location to be determined); **Time & Date:** 6:30-8:00pm on Thursday, December 1) **\*\*\*you are encouraged to bring friends and family to this event!**
- Client will fill out a "client evaluation sheet" to evaluate the student team assigned to your case. (You will be evaluating the team based on their professionalism, and the effectiveness of the team's training/behavior modification suggestions.) **Due Monday, December 5.**

*General Time Commitments:*

- Client will need to commit to working with their animal to implement the behavior modification suggestions that the student teams provide. The time commitment will vary depending on the particular behavior, but in general, the more time you can devote to working with your animal, the higher the likelihood of a positive outcome.
- Clients will need to be willing to adopt and implement training suggestions made by students (i.e. spending more time walking/playing with animals).
- Client will need to commit to communicating via email with their student team throughout the semester to answer any questions their team has as well as to tell the students if the training is having positive results or if there are challenges and changes/new suggestions are needed.
- It may be beneficial for student teams to see pictures and or videos of the client's home in order to understand the animal's behavior. This is not mandatory for client participation but may be highly useful when evaluating the animal's behavior issue.

*Client Monetary Commitment:*

- Students *may* request that clients purchase small items to assist with training or playing with your companion animal. If needed, this monetary commitment will be no more than a total \$100 investment during the semester. For example, your student team may suggest that you purchasing interactive toys/behavior modification tools, or supplies (extra litter boxes, special head collars ("Haltis") etc.)

**Examples of Behaviors That Students Could Help Clients Modify in Dogs and Cats (this list is not meant to be all inclusive):**

- Inappropriate elimination (urinating out of litter box (cat); eliminating in house (dog))
- Aggression towards other animals (both in the home or in a public setting)
- Aggression towards people
- Excessively shy/scared of visitors
- Destroying yard/furniture/personal items in home
- Rough play (biting/nipping or jumping on people)
- Excessive vocalization
- Jumping on counters/tables
- Food/toy/space guarding aggression
- Fear of riding in a car
- Separation anxiety issues



**Client/Companion Animal Information Sheet-Fall 2016 ANSC 311 Class**

Client Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Animals Name: \_\_\_\_\_ dog or cat (circle)  
male or female (circle) spayed/neutered: yes no (circle)

Breed(s) (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Animal's Age: \_\_\_\_\_ How long have you had this animal? \_\_\_\_\_

Client's phone number: cell or home (circle) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe your animal's behavior issue:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*Please note that submission of this form does not guarantee that you and your animal will be chosen to participate as clients in this behavior and training class. A variety of factors will contribute towards selection of the clients. All client contact information will be held confidential by the teaching assistant and instructor of ANSC 311 and stored in a locked cabinet. If chosen to participate in the class, only the client's name, email, and animal's information will be shared with the student teams. Forms of people not chosen to participate in the Fall 2016 class will be shredded.*

The students of ANSC 311 will primarily be providing advice/guidance to the client on how to modify the unwanted behavior of their companion dog or cat. The actual behavior modification will be conducted by the client on their own animals. The training/behavior modification techniques suggested by the students in ANSC 311 will be directed at teaching the client how to work with their own dog or cat. Because the students have no control over the at home training practices of the client, and because animal behavior is unpredictable, there is no guarantee that the training will be a success.

**By signing this form you hereby release New Mexico State University and their students or employees, from any and all claims of any kind, including bodily injury to yourself, other persons, any animals, or property.**

Client's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this completed form to Dr.Gaylene Fassenko at [gfasenko@nmsu.edu](mailto:gfasenko@nmsu.edu)**

**or drop off in Department of Animal & Range Sciences main office: Knox Hall Room 202**

***by Friday, September 2 by 5pm.***

# **Time Commitment Dates for Clients**

## **September**

- **Sept 2, Info sheet Forms Due**
- **Sept 6, Cliets chosen and emailed behavior profile**
- **Sept 12, Behavior Profiles die by 5pm**
- **Sept 20, Client meeting with student teams 9am-10am**

## **October**

- **Oct 21, Client receives behavior modification from training team**

## **November**

- **Nov 29, Clients recieve evaluation form due Dec 5**

## **December**

- **Dec 1, Poster symposium 6:30pm-8pm**