

The Fear Free Animal Trainer Pledge

pledge



With my signature,
I make the following pledge:



Date: _____

- 🐾 To do my part in employing and advocating for practices that protect and promote the physical and emotional wellbeing of animals in my training and care, realizing that I am in a position of influence to guide pet owners to sound, complete, quality support for their animals.
- 🐾 To refer to and partner with veterinary professionals, including Fear Free Certified Professionals and the pet's primary care veterinarian, realizing that physical and emotional health go hand in hand and that collaborative efforts are integral to providing high-quality, complete care. When appropriate and in conjunction with the pet's regular veterinarian, I recognize the importance of referring clients to veterinary behaviorists or to Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists.
- 🐾 To learn to recognize and respond appropriately to even subtle signs of fear, anxiety, and stress (FAS) with animals I come in contact with.
- 🐾 To be committed to remaining within trainer boundaries. This includes not diagnosing conditions or advising clients on medical conditions, medications, or dosages. The trainer may provide general information that is currently available to the public, while guiding the client to seek veterinary assistance for health and medical information, including medications.
- 🐾 To utilize the skills I learn in the Fear Free Animal Trainer Course as well as those learned during extended Fear Free education. This includes the partnership with the veterinary team and the use of concepts such as considerate approach, gentle control, touch gradient, and immediate and appropriate response to signs of FAS in a pet with the actions recommended in Fear Free courses.
- 🐾 To continue to educate myself in Fear Free techniques, and to seek always to elevate my professional commitment to preventing and relieving FAS. This includes promoting preventive efforts and continued enhancement of the emotional wellbeing of animals under my care. This also involves remaining current with research and education related to the emotional wellbeing of animals.
- 🐾 To encourage my training colleagues and veterinary and pet professional partners to adopt the Fear Free approach to relieve and prevent animal suffering.
- 🐾 To recognize that Fear Free is a whole-lifestyle approach to pet care and belongs in the home, the car, and places where pets receive professional services such as veterinary care, grooming, boarding or training.
- 🐾 To do my best to utilize scientifically sound, reward-based training methods that positively affect not only the animal's behavior, but also the underlying emotional state. This includes avoiding methods that use fear or force to motivate the animal. Fear Free Animal Trainers are to take the Least Intrusive Minimally Aversive approach to addressing animal behavior (<https://iaabc.org/about/LIMA>). The Fear Free Animal Trainer should never use certain force-based, punitive methods. This includes not advocating for or using correction collars, including prong/pinch collars, choke chains, or electronic shock collars. These rely on force and fear as primary motivators and can increase FAS and cause the pet physical and emotional harm.
- 🐾 To maintain individual trainer or trainer business insurance. Exceptions are permitted only for trainers in countries that do not have this type of insurance. Coverage options for hospital insurance may also be explored.
- 🐾 To at all times be in full compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations, and directives of any nature relating to the housing, handling, transporting, nutrition, sanitation, and humane treatment of any and all animals owned or otherwise held and/or cared for.

Signed, _____

Fear Free Certified Professional