

## Animal Behavior College Facts

### About ABC

Dog training expert Steven Appelbaum founded Animal Behavior College in Southern California in 1998. Since then, ABC has become the school of choice for more professional dog trainers, cat trainers, pet groomers and veterinary assistants than any other specialty school of its kind. Today ABC's courses are available internationally in all 50 states and all 10 provinces of Canada.

### Mission

To provide students with the most relevant, quality education so they may pursue rewarding animal services careers.

### Courses

#### Dog Trainer Instructor Program

*Launched in 1998*

- ABC's Dog Obedience Program is recognized by the Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT) and the International Association of Canine Professionals (IACP).
- Graduates earn certification and are deemed Animal Behavior College Certified Dog Trainers (ABC DT).
- Certified trainers can hold group classes and/or teach private lessons.
- ABCDTs practice positive-motivation training and are positioned to advance their careers by building on the foundation they've acquired at ABC so they may move on to learn more advanced dog training methods.
- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that jobs for professional animal trainers is projected to grow by 11% from 2014 to 2024.

#### NAVTA-Approved Certified Veterinary Assistant Program

*Launched in 2008*

- Recognized and approved by the National Association for Veterinary Technicians of America (NAVTA)
- Graduates are deemed Animal Behavior College Certified Veterinary Assistants (ABCVA).
- Certified assistants can work in a variety of places such as animal hospitals and clinics.
- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that jobs for veterinary assistants is projected to grow by 9% from 2014-2024

#### Pet Grooming Instruction Program

*Launched in 2010*

- Graduates are deemed Animal Behavior College Professional Groomers (ABCPG).
- Certified groomers can work in grooming salons and select veterinary clinics.
- Certified pet groomers give animal enthusiasts an opportunity to utilize their creative and artistic talents in an occupation that is not only fulfilling but also contributes to the overall health and well-being of animals.
- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has predicted that job opening for non-farm animal caretakers in general, including pet groomers, will increase by about 11% between 2014-2024, a faster than average growth rate.

#### Cat Training Program

*Launched in 2017*

- Graduates are deemed Animal Behavior College Certified Cat Trainers (ABCCT).

- With 94.2 million cats kept as pets in the U.S., there are many opportunities for certified cat trainers to offer feline behavior counseling.

### Short-Term Programs

A Short -Term Program is a course of study that provides students with a window into an additional facet of animal career education. Every ABC Short-Term Program gives individuals advanced knowledge in a particular area of the animal services industry. ABC offers five professional Short-Term Programs on relevant topics including, Training Shelter Dogs, The Art of Selling and Teaching Private Lessons, Pet Sitting and Dog Walking, Pet Nutrition and Diet and Pet Massage.

### Graduation Statistics (as of September 30, 2017)

Dog Obedience Program – 14,395 students  
Grooming Instruction Program – 2,541 students  
Veterinary Assistant Program – 7,564 students

### The Alumni Group Members

*Founded in 2005*

Of ABC's 24,359 alumni, 18,859 are also members of The Alumni group. This group continues to grow, and as of 2017, approximately 90% of ABC graduates joined.

### Company Growth

In ABC's first year, the school enrolled a modest 35 students. Between 2004 and 2006, ABC grew an average of 53 percent per year. In 2007, ABC enrolled over 1,800 students and nearly 2,500 in 2008, thanks to the addition of the Veterinary Assistant Program. The Grooming Instruction Program was added in 2010 and the Cat Training Program followed in 2017. As of September 30, 2017, 2,674 students are currently enrolled in all four ABC programs combined. The reasons for ABC's phenomenal growth are simple: ABC offers outstanding relevant programs at reasonable costs.

### Unique Course Structure

All ABC programs consist of an 11-stage curriculum that features a distance learning component along with either an observation, volunteer and/or hands-on training module. Students master Stages 1 through 9, under the guidance of a Program Manager. Stage 10 consists of the Externship, which is an integral part of the program. However, students enrolled in the Cat Training Program aren't required to participate in an Externship, during Stage 10. Instead, they observe and interact with cats while volunteering a minimum of 25 hours at a local humane society, rescue group or shelter in their communities. For ABC's dog training, pet grooming and veterinary assistant program students, Externship Coordinators connect them with a professional dog trainer or a grooming salon for hands-on training and, a veterinary clinic or hospital for observation and/or hands-on training.

ABC has an extensive network of more than 1,500 mentor trainers, 2,000 grooming facilities and more than 3,500 veterinary hospitals and clinics throughout the United States and Canada that work with students during their Externships. Once their Externships are completed, students move on to Stage 11, the final exam.

### **On-Site, In-Classroom Dog Obedience Instructor Program**

This intensive Program requires students to attend class for 8 hours a day, 5 days a week for 5 months. The course is taught by a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who is a certified ABCDT. Enrollment is open to non-military students, military veterans, their spouses or dependent children who are eligible under the provisions of Title 38 of the United States Code under the following programs:

- The Montgomery GI Bill – Chapter 30
- Post 9/11 GI Bill – Chapter 33
- Selected Reserve – Chapter 1606
- Reserve Educational Assistance – Chapter 1607
- Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment – Chapter 30

### **Students Saving Lives**

- Every year, approximately 670,000 million dogs are euthanized.
- According to the [ASPCA's National Rehoming Survey](https://www.aspca.org/animal-homelessness/shelter-intake-and-surrender), pet problems are the most common reasons owners rehome their pets, accounting for 47% of rehomed dogs. Pet problems were defined as problematic behaviors, aggressive behaviors that grew larger than expected, or health problems owners couldn't handle. (<https://www.aspca.org/animal-homelessness/shelter-intake-and-surrender>)

Through ABC's Students Saving Lives program, ABC dog training students volunteer at least 10 hours of training at local humane societies, rescue organizations or shelters across North America. These students train and socialize dogs and cats to increase their chances for adoption. Since the program's inception in 2004, Students have volunteered more than 137,000 hours.

### **Websites**

[www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/](http://www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/)  
[www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/dog-trainer/](http://www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/dog-trainer/)  
[www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/VeterinaryAssistant/](http://www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/VeterinaryAssistant/)  
[www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/grooming/](http://www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/grooming/)  
<http://www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/cat-training/>

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