Jennifer Cattet Ph.D.
– CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF –
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE CANINES



MEDICAL ALERT DOG TRAINING

PROFESSIONALCERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Train Medical Alert Dogs Using Proven, Evidence-Based Methods

JANUARY 26TH
2027 COHORT

SCIENCE-BASED ETHICAL | LIFE-CHANGING

LIVE ONLINE INSTRUCTION
Interactive classes with expert instructors

HANDS-ON PRACTICE
Apply what you learn with real dogs and practical assignments

EXPERT COACHING
Personalized feedback and ongoing support every step of the way

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION
Earn your CMAC Professional Certificate

SPECIALIZE IN MEDICAL ALERT DOG TRAINING



Medical alert dogs can be trained to recognize changes associated with a variety of medical conditions and respond with specific, trained behaviors.

This program is designed for experienced dog trainers who want to develop the practical skills needed to select, train, and work with medical alert service dogs.

Over approximately one year, you'll work through the process from dog selection and foundation training to medical alert work, public access, client coaching, and follow-up.

AT A GLANCE

START DATE
January 26th 2027

TIME COMMITMENT
Live instruction + assignments
3–4 short dog-training sessions most weeks

FORMAT
Live, Online

WHO SHOULD ATTEND
Professional dog trainers

DURATION
Approximately one year to complete certification

CERTIFICATION
CMAC Professional Certificate

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

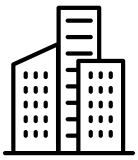
From Dog Selection to Certification

1 

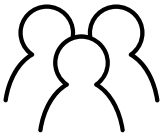
DOG SELECTION
Evaluate temperament, behavior, health, and suitability for assistance work.

2 

SERVICE DOG TRAINING
Develop reliable foundation and intermediate service dog behaviors.

3 

PUBLIC ACCESS
Prepare dogs to work reliably in public environments.

4 

WORKING WITH CLIENTS
Learn client selection, matching, team training, coaching, and follow-up.

5 

MEDICAL ALERT TRAINING
Train alert and response behaviors for a range of medical and psychiatric conditions.

6 

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION
Demonstrate competency through practical assignments and assessments.

WHY TRAIN WITH CMAC?

CMAC brings together research, more than 20 years of hands-on medical alert dog training, and experience working directly with clients and service dog organizations. The program is taught live, with practical assignments and individual feedback throughout.

- **40+ HOURS OF LIVE INSTRUCTION**
- **WEEKLY PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENTS**
- **VIDEO COACHING AND INDIVIDUAL FEEDBACK**
- **DETAILED TRAINING PLANS AND ASSESSMENTS**
- **READY-TO-USE FORMS, TEMPLATES & DOCUMENTS**
- **CASE DISCUSSIONS**

MEET THE CMAC FACULTY



Jennifer Cattet, Ph.D.
Founder & Lead Instructor

Founder of Medical Mutts Service Dogs and CMAC, Jennifer is an internationally recognized expert in medical assistance dogs. She has spent more than 20 years developing evidence-based methods for selecting, training, and placing, while collaborating on research in canine scent detection and behavior.



Melissa Morris
CPDT-KA, CMAC-CT

Melissa specializes in dog selection, client screening, and building successful long-term partnerships. With a background in animal behavior, shelters, and low-stress handling, she helps students develop the practical skills needed to create successful service dog teams.



Eva Rudisile
CPDT-KA, CMAC-CT

Eva oversees Medical Mutts training programs and brings expertise in advanced dog training, public access, service dog development, and coaching. Her diverse background also includes board-certified music therapy and extensive work supporting people with various disabilities.



Ann Ronayne
LPC, NCC

Ann combines years of experience in assistance dogs, applied behavior analysis, counseling, and animal-assisted intervention. She previously directed client services for a large service dog organization and now integrates behavioral science and mental health into service dog education.

A COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM

From candidate selection through client follow-up

Our live curriculum follows the development of a medical alert service dog from initial candidate evaluation through foundation training, public access, medical alert and response work, client matching, team training, and follow-up.

1 SELECTING SERVICE DOG CANDIDATES



- Temperament testing
- Candidate evaluation
- Breeds
- Breeders & Shelters

2 FOUNDATION & INTERMEDIATE TRAINING



- 20+ behaviors
- Learning theory
- Problem-solving
- Training plans
- Training records and assessment

3 PUBLIC ACCESS TRAINING



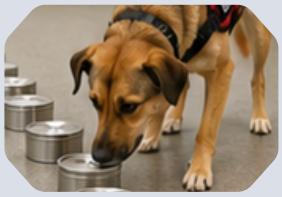
- Laws & standards
- Managing distractions
- Public Access Test
- Professional standards

4 WORKING WITH CLIENTS



- Client selection
- Disabilities
- Matching dogs with handlers
- Team training
- Long-term follow-up

5 MEDICAL ALERT DOG TRAINING



- Diabetes alert
- Seizure alert
- Psychiatric assistance
- Autism support
- Response behaviors

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM, YOU'LL RECEIVE

- 40+ HOURS OF LIVE INSTRUCTION
- WEEKLY PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENTS
- INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK
- ACCESS TO TUTORIAL VIDEOS
- COMPLETE RECORD KEEPING SYSTEM
- ASSESSMENTS & TRAINING STANDARDS
- CASE STUDIES
- TRAINING PLANS FOR OVER 30 BEHAVIORS

OUR MISSION: CMAC advances the science and practice of medical alert and service dog training through education, research, and ethical, evidence-based training.

IS THIS PROGRAM RIGHT FOR YOU?



Designed for experienced trainers with a strong foundation in clicker training and positive reinforcement.

This professional certification is intended for trainers with a solid foundation in clicker training and positive reinforcement. Because the program is interactive and highly practical, applicants must demonstrate their training skills before acceptance.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1- DEMONSTRATE YOUR TRAINING SKILLS

Applicants are asked to demonstrate their current training skills as part of the application process.

As part of the application, you'll submit two short videos:

✔️ Video 1: Shaping a new behavior using a clicker
✔️ Video 2: Luring a dog to perform any behavior of your choice

2- ACCESS TO A DOG

You must have access to at least one dog throughout the program for the practical assignments.

The dog does not need to be a service dog.

THIS PROGRAM IS IDEAL FOR:

✔️Professional dog trainers
✔️ Trainers expanding into medical alert dogs
✔️ Behavior consultants
✔️ Experienced positive reinforcement trainers

THIS PROGRAM IS NOT INTENDED FOR:

✖️ Beginner dog trainers
✖️ Individuals without clicker training experience
✖️ Those unable to practice regularly with a dog throughout the program

TIME COMMITMENT

The certification is designed to be completed over approximately one year.

Students should expect to:

✔️ Attend weekly live online classes
✔️ Complete weekly assignments
✔️ Train with their dog 3–4 short training sessions most weeks
✔️ Submit videos and practical work throughout the program

PLAN FOR CONSISTENT PRACTICE AND PROGRESS

BY THE END OF THE PROGRAM, YOU'LL BE PREPARED TO...



EVALUATE SERVICE DOG CANDIDATES

Assess temperament, behavior, health considerations, and suitability for medical alert work.

TRAIN RELIABLE MEDICAL ALERT DOGS

Train scent-based alerts, response behaviors, disability-related tasks, and public access skills.

DEVELOP PROFESSIONAL TRAINING SYSTEMS

Use structured assessments, training plans, documentation, and protocols.

COACH CLIENTS

Support handlers through matching, team training, placement, and follow-up.

EXPAND YOUR CAREER

Add medical alert dog training to your services or strengthen an existing assistance dog program.

BUILD PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS

Learn alongside trainers working with medical alert and assistance dogs in different settings and countries.

"Every reliable medical alert dog begins with an educated trainer."

MEDICAL ALERT & RESPONSE TRAINING



Learn to train individualized alert, response, and support behaviors for a range of medical and psychiatric disabilities.

Throughout the program, you'll learn training plans for more than 30 medical alert, response, and support behaviors and how to adapt them to the needs of individual clients.

DIABETES



- Alert to hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia
- Retrieve glucose supplies
- Bring a medical bag or medication
- Find another person for assistance
- Activate emergency alert devices

SEIZURE DISORDERS



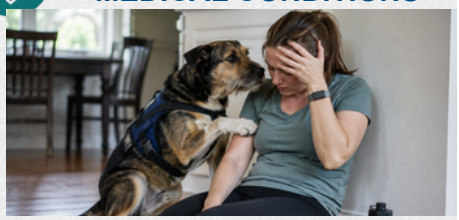
- Alert to impending seizures
- Respond during and after a seizure
- Retrieve medication or a phone
- Seek help when needed
- Provide grounding and recovery support

PTSD & PSYCHIATRIC CONDITIONS



- Alert to panic attacks and anxiety
- Interrupt harmful or repetitive behaviors
- Perform Deep Pressure Therapy
- Create personal space in crowded environments

POTS, SYNCOPE & OTHER MEDICAL CONDITIONS



- Alert to physiological changes
- Retrieve water or medication
- Respond following fainting episodes
- Seek assistance
- Perform customized response behaviors

MIGRAINES



- Alert before migraine onset
- Retrieve medication
- Provide comfort during recovery
- Assist with customized response tasks

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER



- Provide grounding and calming support
- Interrupt repetitive behaviors
- Assist with transitions and routines
- Improve safety and independence

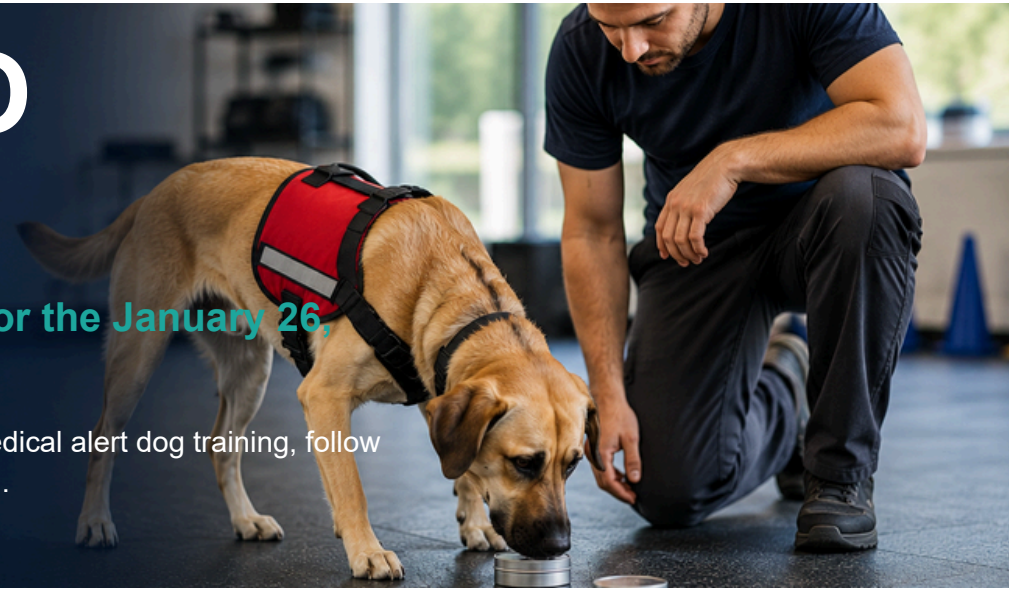
EVERY CLIENT IS DIFFERENT

Learn to customize and combine behaviors to create individualized training plans.

Individual needs + The right dog = Successful partnership

30+ Medical Alert, Response & Support Behaviors

READY TO APPLY?



Applications are now open for the January 26, 2027 cohort.

If you're ready to develop your skills in medical alert dog training, follow the steps below to submit your application.

1 ACCESS THE APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Visit our online enrollment page to access the required forms and get started.

https://www.assistancedog.center/course-enrollment-forms

2 PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

You'll need:

- ✔ Course Application
- ✔ Trainer Pledge
- ✔ Professional Reference
- ✔ Two short training videos demonstrating:
  - Clicker shaping
  - Luring a behavior of your choice

3 APPLY ONLINE

Submit your completed application materials for review.

Once accepted, you'll receive instructions to register and reserve your place in the cohort.

EARLY ENROLLMENT

Pay in full by December 15th

$4,000 USD

$500 Deposit + $3,500 Balance

Save $500

STANDARD TUITION

Pay in full before the first class

$4,500 USD

$500 Deposit
+ $4,00 Balance

MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN

$440/month

$500 Deposit
+ 10 monthly payments of $440

Total Tuition:
$4,900 USD

A $500 non-refundable deposit reserves your place after acceptance and counts towards tuition