Shelter Playgroup Alliance Educational Program Structure

Program overview: This series of educational modules will prepare participants to manage playgroups using the LIMA ethical standard and use conspecific interactions for behavior modification.

Cohort structure: Learners will be invited to join a cohort that will meet virtually for four months via the Litmos LMS platform. Each cohort will be invited to twice-monthly (bi-weekly) hour-long, live meetings via Zoom webinar so that questions can be answered live. The bi-weekly meetings will feature video analysis and discussion of relevant topics. A discussion board per cohort will be maintained and moderated.

Registration process: Individuals interested in joining each cohort must submit an "e-mail of interest" re-questing to be added to the upcoming cohort to mara@shelterdogplay.org. Each person will be added to a spreadsheet and bulk added to the LMS pending completion of a learner agreement once the registration period is closed. Each person must login at least twice a month and complete modules in order to continue. If, after a period of 30 days, a learner has not logged-in, they will be contacted; if no response or login within five days, their user account will be deactivated.

Completion timeframe: Learners will be expected to complete one module per week, which will require 60-90 minutes per week. The program consisting of Foundation and Intermediate modules will be expected to be completed within a four month time-frame. The total seat time per week is estimated to be two to two and a half hours, which is a combination of reviewing the modules and completing assessments and assignments.

Other requirements: In order to complete the assignments, learners must have access to at least two species of animals during the cohort period (e.g., dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, horses). Application of knowledge and demonstration of skill are key components of this educational program.

Learner Agreement: Prior to registration, each learner must sign an agreement stating that they will agree to the discussion rules, not screen record the sessions or content, nor use any of the materials provided for their own financial gain without prior written consent. Violation of the learner agreement will result in immediate account deactivation.

2022 Cohort Dates	
Spring 2022 Cohort	Fall 2022 Cohort
Enrollment Period January 1-20: "E-mail of interest" acceptance period for Spring 2021 Cohort January 20-30: All learner agreements must be received January 31: Cohort enrollment complete *Session Period* February 1: Session begins February 12, February 19*, March 12, March 26, April 9, April 23, May 7, May 21: Live sessions, 9am - 10am Pacific Time May 31: Final day for homework submissions June 1: Cohort ends June 5: All Spring 2022 Cohort accounts deactivated *Date shift due to in-person handling workshop*	*Enrollment Period* August 1-20: "E-mail of interest" acceptance period for Fall 2022 Cohort August 20-30: All learner agreements must be received August 31: Cohort enrollment complete *Session Period* September 1: Session begins September 10, September 24, October 8, October 22, November 5, November 19, December 3, December 17: Live sessions, 9am - 10am Pacific Time December 29: Final day for homework submissions December 30: Cohort ends December 31: All Fall 2022 Cohort accounts deactivated

Foundation Modules

Overview: This set of modules will serve as the foundation series for implementing the Shelter Playgroup Alliance guidelines. Each module will be between 60-90 minutes in length. Lecture video components are no more than 20 minutes per module. Activities are expected to take approximately 40-60 minutes to complete.

Course number & Estimated time	Module title	Learning objectives	Components
Foundation Course 1 30 mins	Canine enrichment in shelters	• Define enrichment • List species-typical behaviors in canines • Identify ways to measure success in enrichment • List potential in-shelter implementation steps	• Lecture video • Enrichment sample videos • Implementation assessment
Foundation Course 2 30 mins	Feline enrichment in shelters	• Define enrichment • List species-typical behaviors in felines • Identify ways to measure success in enrichment • List potential in-shelter implementation steps	• Lecture video • Enrichment sample videos • Implementation assessment
Foundation Course 3 40 mins	Canine Communication Basics: Part I	• List the functions of canine communication • Recognize common social signals	• Lecture video • Observation assessment
Foundation Course 4 40 mins	Canine Communication Basics: Part II	• List the functions of canine communication • Recognize common social signals	• Lecture video • Observation assessment
Foundation Course 5 40 mins	Canine Communication: Focus on Fear and Anxiety	• Describe the social signals that indicate a dog is feeling fear or anxiety	• Lecture video • Observation assignment
Foundation Course 6 40 mins	Canine Communication: Focus on Aggression	• Describe the social signals that indicate a dog is displaying threat signals	• Lecture video • Assessment • Observation assignment
Foundation Course 7 40 mins	Canine Play Behaviors: Part I	• Describe canine play behaviors	• Lecture video
Foundation Course 8 40 mins	Canine Play Behaviors: Part II	• Describe canine play behaviors	• Lecture video • Observation assessments
Foundation Course 9 40 mins	Basics of LIMA-based play	• Articulate how to manage an inter-dog playgroup using the LIMA ethical standard	• Lecture video • Assessment
Foundation Course 10 30 mins	Handling skills	• Demonstrate the ability to use defensive handling techniques • Demonstrate the ability to manage dogs arousal using leash techniques	• Lecture video • Demonstration homework
Foundation Course 11 40 mins	Dog introductions	• Articulate considerations for different types of dog introductions • Demonstrate the ability to safely introduce dogs on-leash	• Lecture video • Observation assessment
Foundation Course 12 40 mins	Playgroups for behavior modification: Part I	• List popular protocols for modifying high-arousal based behavior problems (e.g., BAT, LAT, RAT, CAT, pattern games) • Articulate when and how to use each popular protocol in the shelter environment	• Lecture video • Demonstration assignment
Foundation Course 13 40 mins	Playgroups for behavior modification: Part II	• List popular protocols for modifying high-arousal based behavior problems (e.g., BAT, LAT, RAT, CAT, pattern games) • Articulate when and how to use each popular protocol in the shelter environment	• Lecture video • Demonstration assignment

Intermediate Modules

Overview: The intermediate series provides additional support for implementing the Shelter Playgroup Alliance guidelines with an emphasis on using playgroups and enrichment for behavior modification within the shelter environment. Each module will be between 60-120 minutes in length. Lecture video components are no more than 20 minutes per module. Activities, including homework assignments, are expected to take approximately 60-120 minutes to complete.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the Foundation Series

Course number & Estimated time	Module title	Learning objectives	
LIMA Deep Dive 2 hours	LIMA Deep Dive	• Describe the LIMA ethical standard and how to apply the approach to behavior modification	• Lecture video • Assessment
Intermediate Course 1 40 mins	Enrichment for behavior modification	• Articulate the types of enrichment that can be used to assist in a behavior modification process in the shelter	• Lecture video • Demonstration assignment
Intermediate Course 2 40 mins	Behavior modification, part I: Fear	• Describe which behavior modification protocols are most successful in which contexts	• Lecture video • Demonstration homework
Intermediate Course 3 40 mins	Behavior modification, part II: Arousal	• Describe which behavior modification protocols are most successful in which contexts	• Lecture video • Demonstration homework
Intermediate Course 4: 40 mins	Behavior modification, part III: Conspecific aggression	• Describe which behavior modification protocols are most successful in which contexts	• Lecture video • Demonstration homework
Shelter Research Discussion with Dr. Eduardo Fernandez: 4 hours (Optional)	Shelter Research Discussion with Dr. Eduardo Fernandez:	• Articulate the key components of a research paper • Describe the considerations	• Discussion video

In-person Clinic

Overview: The in-person clinic is a hands-on learning opportunity at a host shelter for participants who have completed both the Foundation and Intermediate series, and will provide hands-on opportunities and coaching.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the Foundation & Intermediate Series

Host Shelter Qualifications: Host shelter staff who will participate in the in-person clinic must have completed the Foundation and Intermediate levels to qualify.

Day	Topic	Learning objectives	Materials needed
Day 1	• Handling basics • Slip leads to harnesses • Defensive handling	• Demonstrate the ability to use defensive handling techniques, a leash wrap, and low-impact handling for managing play	• Leashes • Harnesses • Food • Bait bags
Day 2	• Working with shy and fearful dogs • Dog introductions • Low stress handling (including for vet procedures)	• Demonstrate the ability to use behavior modification techniques with fearful dogs, and identify when conspecific interactions may assist a fearful animal	• Leashes • Harnesses • Food • Bait bags
Day 3	• Working with highly aroused dogs • Calm exits • Managing dog greets with highly aroused dogs	• Demonstrate the ability to use behavior modification techniques with aroused dogs, and identify when, and how, to use conspecific interactions to assist in the down-regulation of arousal	• Leashes • Harnesses • Food • Bait bags