**APBC Reflective Accounts Form**

Please use this form to record written reflective accounts on all self-directed and non-certified learning and training that you are submitting for APEL and how this relates to the knowledge section (eg Animal Health and Welfare) of the standard. Use one form for each knowledge section, making sure you do not include any information that might identify a specific client, service user, colleague or other individuals.

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| **Name: APEL Applicant 2**  **Knowledge section - K&U number(s): Animal Behaviour 3** |
| **What was the nature of the activity?** |
| A 3-day behaviour training course held by Puppy School that covered amongst other areas, building confidence in shy puppies and rescue dogs. The content was delivered by a Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourist in a classroom environment. |
| **Why did you choose to undertake this activity?** |
| It was part of my CPD and I am keen to continue learning whenever possible. |
| **What did you learn from this activity?** |
| I learnt about the early learning experiences particularly focusing on socialisation and social referencing and how things may go wrong across the developmental phases. For example in utero, the impact of a mother’s experiences during pregnancy, if high stress is experienced this may impact the puppies before they are even born. The breeding environment, if it is barren, the mother is absent, or shows aggressive behaviour to the puppies, or visitors, this can all have an impact on the puppies.  The course also covered appropriate socialisation and social referencing for puppies and the sensitive period known as the developmental window. Consideration was given to how owners can be coached to provide gradual exposure, working at the puppies pace and rewarding relaxed behaviour to create a classical association with a pleasurable emotion.  This course also covered hierarchy of needs; that an animals physiological, safety/security and social needs need to be met in order for a dog to build confidence and resilience and the dog-human bond to develop. |
| **How did you change or improve your practice as a result?** |
| Whilst it is not always possible to get the information I make sure that I ask all clients about the mother’s experiences, the breeding environment or rescue history as this will provide important information that can help to understand the presenting behaviour the client is having trouble with. Also as a Puppy School Tutor it is my passion to get all owners off to the right start in helping their puppy to develop into a confident dog, as well as learning how to train their puppy with me, owners also get guidance on the best ways to socialise their puppy with set weekly experiences and class support groups to review and discuss their puppies progress. |