

Project: Dog training and boarding animal welfare standards and audits

Purpose:

To contribute to ongoing development of AnimalKind animal welfare audits for dog training and boarding businesses

Background:

In partnership with the UBC Animal Welfare Program and funding from the Vancouver Foundation, the BC SPCA developed AnimalKind, an evidence-based animal welfare standard development and auditing program to accredit humane businesses in BC. Wildlife and Pest Control standards were first developed in 2016, followed by Dog Training standards in 2018. Accredited businesses are listed at www.animalkind.ca. The next steps include expanding accreditation into other pet services with new standard development and auditing creation.

Responsibilities:

This position works under the direction of the Manager, Research & Standards. The practicum involves:

- Adapting the dog training performance audit to audit online dog training sessions and testing reliability
- Refining and testing repeatability and inter-observer reliability of performance audits via video analysis for: 1) Dog social groups (daycares) 2) Animal grooming, 3) Group housed cats
- Revising and updating the existing AnimalKind Auditor Training modules to include boarding audits
- Creating an information brochure to communicate the audit process to interested animal boarding businesses (*Applied Communications Piece*)

Candidate:

This practicum is suited for a student who is interested in the practical aspects of developing evidence-based animal welfare standards and audits, and has strong organizational and time management skills.

Schedule:

This practicum requires between a min of 300 remote placement hours, 8 weeks full-time (37.5 hours/week).

Weeks	Activities (estimated hours)
1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete BC SPCA online training (20)• Complete AnimalKind Auditor Training Modules, noting need for improvements (20)• Complete shadow auditing sessions using pre-recorded video (20)• Daily check in meetings with Field Supervisor (15)
3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carry out trial audits of online dog training sessions offered by current AnimalKind trainers (in parallel with Field Supervisor) (25)• Analyze data from online audits and make recommendations for improvements to online auditing process (25)• Carry out video audits of dog daycares, group-housed cats and animal grooming (pre-corded and livestream) (50)• Analyze data from video audits, including inter-observer reliability from a second auditor’s scores, make recommendations for improvements to audits (20)• Draft new modules for AnimalKind Auditor Training for dog daycares, group housed cats and animal grooming (20)• Bi-weekly check in meetings with Field Supervisor (10)
7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create new modules for AnimalKind Auditor Training for dog daycares, group housed cats and grooming, obtain feedback from Field Supervisor and finalize (35)• Create information brochure to communicate the audit process to interested animal boarding businesses, obtain feedback from AK marketing coordinator and finalize (30)• Bi-weekly check in meetings with Field Supervisor (10)