

# VSA Mentor Quick Reference Guide

This guide is designed to give you a quick reference to the activities and requirements of your mentor—student relationship during the Dog Trainer Course (DTC).

**Please see the VSA Mentor Handbook for complete details and information.**

## Dog Trainer Course Modules at a Glance

**Introduction Module** – Orientation lesson, call with Mentor, etc. (14 days)

**Primer Intensive Module** – In-person (5 days)

**Field Study Module** – With Assigned Mentor (60 days)

**Core Essentials Intensive Module** – In-person (8 days)

**Field Training Module** – With Assigned Mentor (90 days)

**Graduation Module** – Online assessment and other virtual activities (7 days)

Note: Students also complete bi-weekly cyber classes and online lessons during the Field Study and Field Training Modules.



## Snapshot of Mentor's Requirements

- **Mentor Orientation Call with VSA** – Virtual group meeting of all VSA mentors who are about to embark on mentoring a student. This call occurs before you begin working with your student.
- **Pre Mentoring Call with Student** – VSA will “introduce” you and your student via email. You take the lead on scheduling a call between you and the student. This should occur before the Primer Intensive Module.
- **Monthly Mentor Connection Calls with VSA Mentors** – Mentor Connection Calls are an opportunity to connect with other VSA mentors to discuss what is working well in the field, share best practices and address any challenges that may occur.
- **Planning and Scheduling** – Working closely with your student throughout both field modules to coordinate visits and optimize your time working together.
- **Weekly Check-in with Student** – One-on-one connection to schedule the student’s visits for the upcoming week.
- **Bi-weekly Student Progress Report** – Logging into the Student Learning Center at least once every two weeks to submit reports.



## Need Additional Help?

VSA Administration

VSA Main Phone

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678-459-5786

***“We cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening our own.”***

***- Ben Sweetland***



## Snapshot of Student Requirements per Field Module

During Field Modules, the student will refer to the *Key Learning Checklist* to understand the specific learning objectives while completing the activities and requirements listed below.

### Field Study Module Activities – to be completed in 60 days

- Observe and assist mentor in at least 6 individual group classes (one complete six-week class series or a combination of 6 individual classes).
- Observe and assist mentor in at least 6 private lessons.
- Complete 1 visit with mentor to a dog park and/or dog daycare.
- Complete 4 visits to a shelter to observe and assist dog related activities (Note: mentor participation for this activity is optional.)
- Listen to at least 2 of mentor's initial phone consultations with potential clients.
- Conduct 6 skill building (hands on dog training) sessions and accept feedback from mentor.
- Attend or audit a continuing education opportunity such as a positive dog training seminar or webinar.
- Recommended but not required: Attend at least 1 dog-related event such as a pet fair/rescue adoption or similar event with mentor to shadow and observe mentor interactions with pet owners and potential clients.

### Field Training Module Activities – to be completed in 90 days

- Assist and perform teaching and training activities per mentor's instructions in at least 6 individual group classes (2 classes /mock classes should be lead by the student).
- Assist and perform teaching and training activities per mentor's instructions in at least 6 private lessons (2 lessons /mock lessons should be lead by the student)
- Complete 1 visit with mentor to a dog park and/or dog daycare.
- Complete 4 visits to a shelter to train basic behaviors with dogs (Note: mentor's supervision is required during Field Training.)
- Conduct 2 initial phone consultations with a potential client/mock client.
- Conduct 6 skill building (hands on dog training) sessions and accept feedback from mentor.
- Attend or audit a continuing education opportunity such as a positive dog training seminar or webinar.
- Recommended, but not required: Attend at least 1 dog-related event such as a pet fair/rescue adoption or similar event with mentor to shadow and observe mentor interactions with pet owners and potential clients.

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