

College launches degree in training guard dogs

Will Pavia, New York

March 23 2019, 12:01am, The Times



All breeds are welcome to join the canine training course

ALAMY



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Every morning in upstate New York about 50 dogs are dropped off at a university campus. They are part of a course at the State University of New York at Cobleskill, which is offering the first degree in canine training in the US.

Stephen Mackenzie, the professor in charge of the canine training and management programme, said that the degree was responding to the demand for working dogs after 9/11 in 2001.

Following the attacks, “the security and working dog industry really expanded,” he said. Police and government agencies sought sniffer dogs and search and rescue animals. Demand

and people to teach them, Dr Mackenzie said.

The students work with all breeds, though labradors and German shepherds are well represented. They are supplied by locals who drop them off on their way to work. One, a black labrador named Molly belongs to the university provost.

“We do need some perfectly trained dogs, so our students can learn how to handle them,” Dr Mackenzie said. Undisciplined ones are needed, too, so that students can try basic training techniques. So far, it has not been hard to find them.

“We say: ‘Would you like to have your dog trained?’” he said. “There seems to be a never-ending supply.”

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Murray Steele 2 DAYS AGO

Could we have the same in this country but for MPs please ?
Perhaps the dogs could do the training ?

MENU

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**Andy Clarkson** 2 DAYS AGO

What degree do the dogs get?

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**Infidel** 2 DAYS AGO | Andy Clarkson

FURther education

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**David Conroy** 2 DAYS AGO | Andy Clarkson

Andy Clarkson: Several possibilities could be made available in line with the US higher education system and the types of qualifications it awards: (1) B.D. = Barking Dog or Bad Dog; (2) M.D.S. = Mongrel Dog Support; (3) Ph.D. = Philandering Dog; (4) D.D. = Doctor of Doggery, and (5) D,D.T. = Doctor of Dog Training. You name it, and you can get it !.

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**Flyfisher** 2 DAYS AGO

I'll have to see if I can qualify for attending our excellent village hall dog training classes. You can never have too many degrees.

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**FruiTbun** 2 DAYS AGO | Flyfisher

Yes. But at least dog training is demanding (and surprisingly academic: the science is in large part more rigorous than is the case in psychology) - and worthwhile: whatever you do, don't stoop to the arts - they're not really degrees, as everybody knows.

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