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The following are talking points about the benefits of professional licensure and the Model Legislation drafted by the Alliance for Professionalism in Dog Training. You can refer to these when speaking with other dog trainers or local legislators after legislation has been introduced.

**Benefits of Professional Licensure**

* Licensure and the qualifications associated with it advance recognition and validation of the dog training profession.
* Without licensing requirements, there’s a “buyer beware” system for dog owners seeking professional dog training or behavior consulting. Unfortunately, those most at risk from unqualified or abusive trainers are the animals, who have no say in how careful or well-informed their owners are in selecting the trainers to whom they entrust their dogs.
* The model licensing legislation builds on current training and certification systems and adds a level of consistency by setting minimum standards and providing for enforcement of those standards.
* All 50 states have licensing laws for occupations where public safety and protection are at stake; dog owners and their companion dogs deserve a similar level of protection.

**About the Model Legislation**

* The Alliance has developed a model for dog trainer licensure legislation that (1) prioritizes the well-being of the dogs receiving training, (2) provides assurances to the public of the competencies and quality of dog trainers, (3) is appropriately inclusive of other pathways to licensure besides CCPDT certification, (4) creates an appropriate and balanced structure of licensing board oversight of dog trainers, and (5) supports dog trainer geographic mobility. State legislators routinely utilize model legislation developed by stakeholders and/or experts as a guide when crafting formal legislation.
* At least two states introduced legislation to require licensure of dog trainers, but not at the prompting of CCPDT, APDT, or the Alliance. The hope is that this model legislation will help ensure a more equitable licensing structure.
* Beyond protecting dogs and their owners, another outcome of this model legislation is to give dog trainers a voice in shaping informed and effective legislation.

**After Legislation Has Been Introduced in a State [to be customized based on the Bill):**

* [Bill number] is based on model legislation developed by professional dog trainers and certification law consultants. It was shared with a 5,000-member-strong global community of professional dog trainers and edited with the input of those trainers.
* The bill establishes minimum standards that prioritize the well-being of dogs and provide assurances to the public that the dog trainers they hire are professional and qualified and will follow accepted and humane practices.
* To be eligible for a license as a professional dog trainer, applicants would be required both to hold an approved certification and to adhere to policies equivalent to or more restrictive than the Joint Standards of Practice, Professional Code of Ethics, and Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive Effective Behavior Intervention Policy, as developed by the Association of Professional Dog Trainers, Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers, and the International Association of Behavior Consultants. Dog trainers who have not earned an approved certification can obtain a permit to practice under supervision of a licensed dog trainer.
* The bill provides for appropriate and balanced enforcement. Any licensed dog trainer who violates the standards or engages in fraud or other enumerated offenses would be subject to disciplinary action by the Licensure Board. Penalties could include revocation of licensure, denial of eligibility for licensure, lesser disciplinary actions, or other remedial measures as a condition of licensure.
* The bill recognizes and validates the dog training profession. Establishing professional licensure for dog trainers will create a consistent, accessible standard for dog owners seeking qualified trainers.

**About the Alliance for Professionalism in Dog Training:**

The Certification Council for Professional Dog Training (CCPDT), the leading independent certifying organization for the dog trainer profession, and the Association for Professional Dog Trainers (APDT), a 5,000-member-strong global community of professional dog trainers, formed the Alliance for Professionalism in Dog Training to advocate for the advancement of the dog training profession.

The Alliance, with input from the dog trainer community and experts, has developed model dog trainer licensing legislation that (1) protects dogs from substandard or dangerous practices, (2) helps ensure that consumers can obtain safe and effective training for their dogs, (3) is appropriately inclusive of other pathways to licensure besides certification, (4) provides an appropriate and balanced structure of licensing board oversight of dog trainers, and (5) supports dog trainer geographic mobility.