



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fear Free Veterinary Care Training Now Available for Toronto Pets

Local Certified Trainer earns certification to ease pets' fear, anxiety during veterinary visits

Toronto, ON. – Can you imagine telling your dog, “Let’s go to the vet!” and seeing her tail wagging as she races to get in the car?

Local pet owners won’t need to imagine it if they visit The Toronto Centre for Canine Education in Leslieville. That’s because Caryn Liles is part of a new initiative sweeping veterinary medicine designed to ease the stress, fear, and anxiety so many pets experience while at the veterinarian.

Known as Fear FreeSM, the training and certification program helps veterinarians modify their procedures, handling, and facilities to help pets feel safe and comfortable while receiving the medical care they need. While Caryn Liles is not a veterinarian, she recognized the value of becoming a Certified Fear Free Professional as she works closely with Toronto’s veterinary community and leads The TCCE in helping dogs and their guardians prepare for low-stress veterinary visits through training.

“As a Certified Professional Dog Trainer, I have noticed over the years that dogs come to our classes and lessons with such enthusiasm and comfort, even if they start out as fearful or stressed. The feedback we often get from clients is that their dog is petrified of vet visits. I often wondered how we could help to make dogs feel more comfortable in those situations, while protecting our esteemed colleagues from bites. I had anticipated the Fear Free Certification program and when it was made available, I jumped at the chance. Now I feel even more equipped to help clinics prepare for pets showing signs of fear, anxiety and stress, and even better, I can put more focus on prevention and teaching clients and their dogs low-stress handling skills. It’s a win-win-win!”

Founded by veterinarian Dr. Marty Becker, the Fear Free training program was developed by board-certified veterinary behaviorists, veterinary technician behavior specialists, board-certified veterinary anesthetists, well-known veterinary practice management experts, and boarded veterinary practitioners experienced in Fear Free methods.

“Providing veterinarians with the tools they need to ease this burden of fear and anxiety of our patients is the pinnacle of my 37-year veterinary career,” said Dr. Becker, who was dubbed “America’s Veterinarian” by Dr. Oz and appeared on “Good Morning America” for 17 years. “Veterinary professionals are hungry for this information. Animals and their humans need and deserve it. And now it’s here!”

To become certified, students are required to complete a comprehensive, 8-part educational course and exam. They also have to take continuing education to remain certified.

“How do we work toward our goal of a Fear Free experience at the Vet clinic? We focus on three major targets – the dog, the client/public, and Veterinary clinics.

We offer a free Orientation twice monthly for the general public, which is also mandatory for all new students prior to joining our classes. In this Orientation, we cover canine body

language, signs of fear, anxiety and stress, how dogs learn, and the fundamentals of marker-based training.

We offer a full class in each training level that covers handling for the vet and groomer. We are even launching a Low-Stress Handling program, co-taught by a seasoned Registered Veterinary Technician specializing in behaviour, who is also a Certified Professional Dog Trainer.

Lastly, we offer free VetTalks to Toronto's veterinary community – a lunch n' learn where we cover various topics starting with body language and behaviour. We take this very seriously but we strive to take the pet out of petrified and put the treat into treatment!"

Pet guardians who would like their pets to experience the Fear Free difference can schedule an appointment by calling 647-893-5580.

About The Toronto Centre for Canine Education

The Toronto Centre for Canine Education is comprised of a team of certified, professional Dog Trainers with years of experience and a solid foundation in animal behaviour, psychology, and learning theory.

Each trainer is held to the highest standards in the industry; formal certification is required through one of four approved institutions, a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education each year, Pet First Aid & CPR training every two years, and experience training at least two species (not including canines or humans).

The TCCE's trainers have trained dogs, horses, cats, chickens, rats, goldfish, hamsters, and most importantly, people! The role of a trainer is not simply to train a dog, but to coach the other end of the leash as well, therefore continuing education hours are also dedicated to working with the human half of the equation in a manner that is compassionate, non-judgemental, and accommodates various learning styles. The TCCE prides themselves on being people-trainers first, animal-trainers second.

Learn more at www.TheTCCE.com .

About Fear Free

Developed by "America's Veterinarian," Dr. Marty Becker, the Fear FreeSM initiative aims to "take the 'pet' out of 'petrified'" and get pets back for veterinary visits by promoting considerate approach and gentle control techniques used in calming environments. Utilization of Fear Free methods and protocols leads to reduction or removal of anxiety triggers, which creates an experience that is rewarding and safer for all involved including pets, their owners, and veterinary health care teams. Learn more at www.fearfreepets.com.

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