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Join the Global PADA-ICofA Community: Become a Certified Evaluator, Leader, or Technician

Are you passionate about understanding dogs, their behavior, and unique personalities? Take the next step in your journey by becoming a certified PADA-ICofA Evaluator, Leader, or Technician and contribute to the well-being and understanding of dogs worldwide.

If you do not see yourself conducting live PADA-ICofA tests but have a genuine passion for learning more about dog mentality, the theoretical part will be of utmost interest to you.



Why Choose PADA-ICofA?

- **Expand Your Knowledge:** Learn advanced techniques to assess and understand canine behavior, mentality, and personality through our expertly designed programs.
- **Be Part of a Global Network:** Join a worldwide community of professionals committed to advancing canine personality assessments.
- **Make a Difference:** Help create a better world for dogs by understanding their unique traits and supporting their mental well-being.

Who Is This For?

Our programs are designed for professionals and enthusiasts alike – whether you're a dog trainer, behaviorist, veterinarian, or simply someone passionate about canine welfare.

Choose Your Certification Path:

- **Evaluator:** Specialize in assessing and documenting canine personalities.
- **Leader:** Support handlers in guiding dogs through the PADA-ICofA Test.
- **Technician:** Work hands-on with dogs during the testing process.

Why Wait?

By becoming a certified PADA-ICofA professional, you'll gain valuable skills, join a growing international movement, and make a meaningful impact on canine well-being.

Requirements for Full Certification

- **Theoretical Course:** Estimated 150 hours
Price: €899

To obtain **full certification**, allowing you to conduct PADA-ICofA tests independently with your PADA-ICofA team, you must also complete the practical part of the certification. This requires submitting an application to begin the practical training, which includes:

- **Practical Training:** Estimated 100 hours
- **Zoom Meetings:** Estimated 5 hours
- Price:** €299

Prerequisites and Competency Standards for PADA-ICofA Team Members.

Technician

Purpose: Support safe, standardized test execution.

Core responsibilities

- Prepare the test area, equipment, and stimuli according to protocol.
- Handle dogs calmly and safely.

Minimum requirements

- **Demonstrated passion for dogs** and canine welfare.
- Reliability, attention to detail, and the ability to follow procedures precisely.
- Basic handling skills and confidence working around unfamiliar dogs.

Preferred

- Prior experience in dog handling, shelter/clinic/training settings, and animal welfare.

Leader

Purpose: Guide the dog-handler team.

Core responsibilities

- Maintain timing, sequence, and safety checks throughout testing.
- Communicate clearly with handlers/clients; manage expectations and consent.

Minimum requirements

- **Official certification as a qualified dog instructor.**
- **Strong communication skills** (clear instructions, calm de-escalation, professional client interaction).

Evaluator

Purpose: Observe, code, and rate behavior; synthesize findings into a fair, welfare-first judgment.

Core responsibilities

- Apply the ethogram-based coding scheme and standardized rating scales across subtests.
- Distinguish between state, trait, and context effects; note recovery and regulation.
- Produce a concise verbal summary and a clear, defensible written report.
- Uphold dog welfare and test integrity; halt or modify procedures if needed.

Minimum requirements

- **Advanced education:** at least **three years of higher education focused on canine behavior** (e.g., ethology, behavior analysis, veterinary/animal science, psychology with canine focus).
- Strong grasp of learning theory, stress/arousal, and welfare indicators.
- Excellent observational rigor and inter-rater reliability.

Experience-based pathway (equivalency)

- Candidates **without the formal education** may be considered if they can **document substantial, relevant professional experience with dogs** (e.g., multi-year behavior practice, advanced training/behavior credentials, supervised case portfolio).
- Equivalency is determined case-by-case and may include skills review, reference checks, and a **supervised evaluation period** to confirm reliability.

Preferred

- Prior work in standardized assessments, behavior casework, or research/data coding.
- Evidence of high agreement in mock ratings (inter-rater checks).

Onboarding & Quality Assurance (applies to all roles)

- **Orientation & ethics:** welfare, consent, safety, data privacy.
- **Protocol training:** role-specific checklists; shadowing and sign-off.
- **Calibration:** periodic inter-rater reliability and file audits.
- **Continuous development:** feedback sessions and updates to protocol.

Engagement & Continuous Updates (applies to all roles)

- **Stay current:** Team members must keep up to date with PADA-ICofA protocol updates, guidance notes, and version changes.
- **Communication:** Check and respond to email within **3 business days**.
- **Meetings:** Attend scheduled **Zoom calibration/briefing meetings as announced**). If you can't attend, watch the recording.

- **Camps/Intensives:** Participation in **international camps** is **strongly encouraged** (not mandatory) for skills refresh, calibration, and networking.
- **Compliance & consequences:** Repeatedly missing required updates/meetings may result in a **temporary pause of “active evaluator” status** (and/or restricted access to materials). Reactivation may require completion of missed modules and a **calibration check**.

To become certified as a PADA-ICofA Team Member, you must either be an individual member of IAHAIO/AASI or a member of an organization recognized by IAHAIO/AASI.

Learn more and enroll today: <https://www.pada-icofa.com/pada-dog-certification>

Christine Olsen

PADA-ICofA Developer, Head of Research and Development, International Community of Anthrozoology

Email: christine@icofa-community.com

Telephone.: +4790682983