

SCREENING TEST for Potential Registrants

APLB Online Counselor Training Class, January, 2020

This course is intensive, and work is at the college/university level. But higher education degrees are not required for taking this training, or doing well. Prerequisites for taking this course are 1) being a dues-paid APB member and 2) owning a hardcopy Fourth Edition of “The Loss of a Pet”.

A minimum of 10-12 hours per weekly assignment is required, and a minimum B+ average needs to be maintained in each of the first four weeks, in order to be eligible to take the final exam. We use excellence as our watchword, and expect everyone to internalize this way of thinking, for success in the class.

This course is all about love of companion animals, and their devoted owners. Here, we also love others who feel that way. But occasionally we get very caring and well-intentioned applicants who will not be able to keep up with our strict requirements for comprehending and keeping up with all that we teach, here. If you prove not to be proficient in this, we want you to know that although we will not be able to accept you for this course, we here at the APLB respect and admire you. Not everyone can schedule the required study time, or can be a good counselor, despite the best of intentions.

With our special training, follow-ups and guidelines this is easily attainable. Our students must start off with good writing skills in English, and the willingness and time to give whatever extra of themselves is necessary. If you have any questions about this I am available to discuss it with you, now.

It is presumed that how you write your homework answers will be with the same focus and clarity that you would use when later counseling a pet bereavement client. Using that as an indicator, if your answers are deficient in this, you will not be allowed to continue in the class.

If you successfully complete this course, you will join our many successful alumni, all over the world. I am a tough taskmaster here, and they all now say that they are so glad that I worked with and galvanized them to discover that excellence within themselves.

Send this to us only at sife@aol.com.

On an attached Word file please write your full name at the top, your mailing address, Email address and your cell phone number. Then copy each question (below) skip a line and then write at least 10 lines for the first one.

The second question is particularly important, as that will show me if you understand what our specialized training is about. If we feel that you got that idea, and would be a good candidate for this course I will process your application and contact you to make the tuition payment. Please Email your answers to me within three days. Name that file with your lastname.firstname – nothing else. Don’t overlook that.

In our search for qualified students we have implemented this brief screening process, as part of the registration application for this course. Candidates are required to give answers the two numbered questions listed below. We want to avoid the disappointment of taking your money and then investing a great many hours of hard collaborative work, only to later discover that this course is not really for you.

Anyone who does not fully understand the last part of #2 will not be able to do acceptable homework assignments for this training. Answer only what is asked. This approach is the crux of our teaching

methodology. Focus clearly. Writing about anything else is digression, and it will not be accepted. We need to be sure that our students understand the similarity between spotlighting what our homework questions actually ask and the presenting needs of clients. Grasping and rephrasing this is a basic prerequisite for the course. The answers we seek are surprisingly simple, especially since they are already stated in this introduction. Hint: If you were asked to explain our acceptance policy to someone else, how would you word it, without adding anything that we did not write?



The Test

Tell us about yourself. Be expansive. In separate paragraphs include:

- a) What is your occupation and educational background?
- b) Why do you want to take this course?
- c) How do you feel about being required to work hard to reach down within yourself to find the excellence we seek within you?

In answering the next part, write no more than 2-3 sentences for each. Simplify! Answer only what is asked – and never elaborate after that.

1) Explain why focus on your assignment questions is excellent practice for how you should later examine and deal with a client’s immediate presenting problems. Don’t write anything else, as that would be a digression – and not acceptable. Do not write introductions or give examples. Explain *only* what was asked.

2) In a second paragraph follow up on that and re-state why focused homework answers are so important in this class, and why we will not accept digressions.

Do not read anything else into the last question; it is very simple and clear. We need to know that you “get it”. Clearly understanding that is the prime requisite for acceptance into this course. If you still need some clarification you may Email and then phone me at (718) 382-0690.

If you are overseas you may use FaceTime without the video (917) 797-9048. We are in NYC (Eastern Time).