MENU

MONDAY MARCH 25 2019

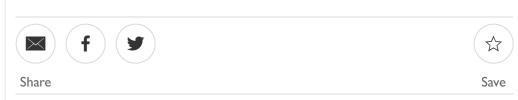
College launches degree in training guard dogs

Will Pavia, New York

March 23 2019, 12:01am, The Times



All breeds are welcome to join the canine training course $\ensuremath{\mathsf{ALAMY}}$



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.

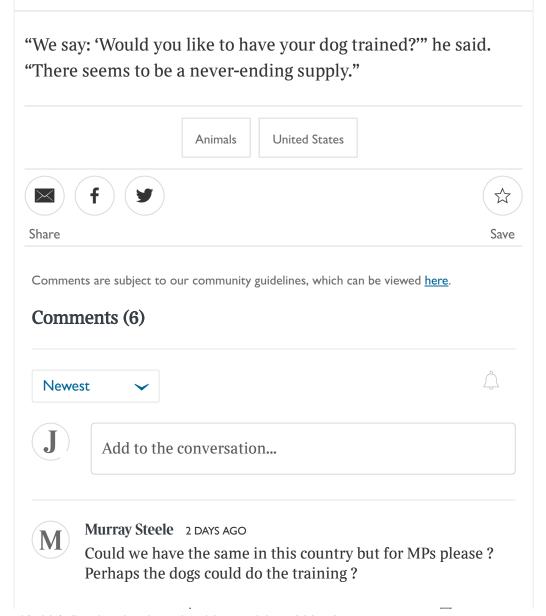
Following the attacks, "the security and working dog industry really expanded," he said. Police and government agencies sought sniffer dogs and search and rescue animals. Demand

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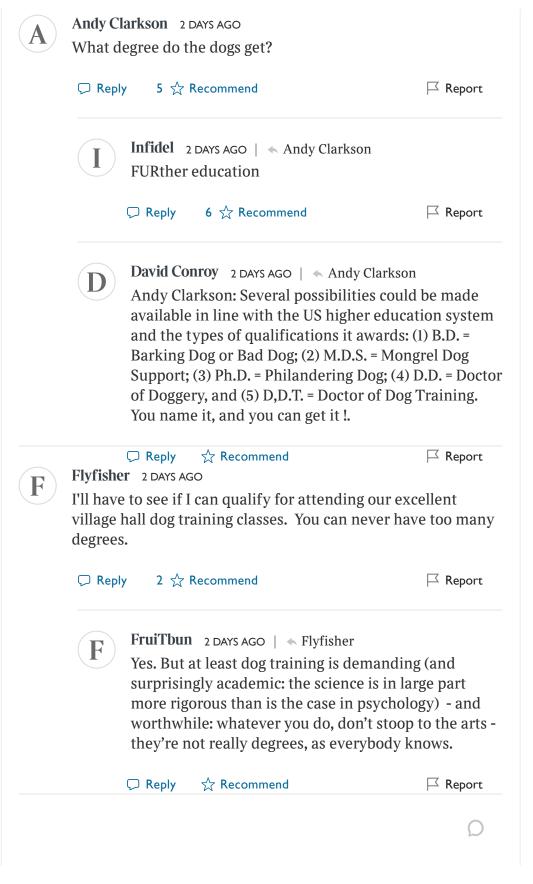
and people to teach them, Dr Mackenzie said.

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.



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