

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS

SAFEHANDS JOURNAL



SAFEHANDS is the offical journal of the...

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International Association of Canine Professionals

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The International Association of Canine Professionals is an organization established to maintain the highest standards of professional and business practice among canine professionals. Its aim is to provide support and representation for all professional occupations involved with any aspect of canine management, health, training and husbandry.

The International Association of Canine Professionals' commitment is to develop professional recognition, communication, education, understanding and cooperation across the wide diversity of canine expertise and knowledge.





How to Join IACP:

PROFESSIONAL MEMBER — At least five years experience as a canine professional. Can vote on IACP issues and use IACP name and logo on business materials.

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AFFILIATE MEMBER — An active interest in a career as a canine professional but lacking the experience to be an Associate or Professional member, i.e., apprentices, students of canine professions, trainees, volunteers, part-time, and devotees of canine related occupations. Cannot use the IACP name or logo for business purposes and may not vote.

Annual Fees:

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Benefits:

All IACP members receive our SafeHands Journal, have access to our email list, seminars, educational materials, business support materials, events and activity calendars, regional group participation, and our Certification Programs. Discounts for sponsor services are available to members.

Applications and renewals can now be paid through MasterCard, Visa and AMEX.

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President's Letter

by Chad Mackin

Another conference is on the books, and I have to say, it was one of the most enjoyable ones I've been to yet. Denise Collins, Cyndi Graham and Martin Deeley did a great job of pulling this thing together. It's a tough job, and they make it look easy!

The location was great, and it was so nice to get to spend so much time with so many members. Thanks to all of you who came for helping to make it such an enjoyable experience.

It's getting to be time for elections again, and we should be sending out the call for director nominees soon. So start thinking about who you'd like to see on the board

of directors! (The call for nominees may be out before this reaches you, actually).

Also, here is a bit of great news! After consulting with a professional parliamentarian, we learned that the bylaw ballot sent out in the spring of 2011 did in fact have the votes necessary to pass. According to our bylaws, after the memberships have voted to accept a bylaw change, the board of directors must vote to accept those changes. We asked our parliamentarian to review them and she advised us to not accept a few of them because of some

wording issues. We voted in the ones she recommended and an updated version of the bylaws should be available on the website soon.

Finally, I am happy to announce that the board of directors has started a new program to acknowledge members who exemplify what it means to be an IACP member. This is simply an acknowledgment of who they are and how they represent our organization. These members are designated IACP Ambassadors, and we announced several at conference. The complete listing is available on the IACP website along with the what we look for in potential ambassadors.

Lots of things are happening in the IACP that we can't announce just yet! But there are many projects in the works, including some new certifications, webinars, and a few other things that we believe will help our members and their clients!

Thanks to all of YOU who make IACP such a great organization!



The IACP is proud to announce that IACP Members Brian Bergford, Candiss DelCastillo, & Aleksa Kosinski

have successfully completed their Certified Dog Trainer examination and are now able to add the designation IACP-CDT to their names. Congratulations to all of you! We know how much work goes into this and we are proud of your achievement.

Well done!

Tawni McBee, Director for Certification & The Board of the IACP

Want to find out more about IACP Certification? Contact Tawni McBee: mcbeeiacp@yahoo.com or go to http://www.canineprofessionals.com/Education/Certification



URBAN MUSHING: Take to the Pavement!

by Georg Schluender

Welcome to our second installment! We were pleased to receive IACP member emails wagging tales of their own canicross experiences after the article in the previous *SHJ*. Their questions about other K9 silent sports such as long boarding have had us hitting the trails at sunrise as the heat starts to build. Utilizing suggestions and experimenting with equipment, we continue to develop the seasonal K9 silent sport disciplines, concepts and skill levels for tourism and resort marketing.

Urban mushing the rail trails and asphalt jungles via scooter and roller blades is how we'll progress our K9 silent sport experiences this issue. Railroad commerce of yesterday has blessed North America with over 20,000 miles of trail corridors which have created 1,600 preserved pathways. It's a growing trail system that spans communities, regions, states and, indeed, the entire country, with another 9,000 miles just waiting to be built. By far the best suited for acclimating to all K9 silent sports, paved trails can be found in your area at www.railstotrails.org.

Let's start with safety. The number of distractions out of your control that may arise have caused too many wipeouts at break-neck speeds. Let's make it very clear--if you don't know how to roller blade or ride a skateboard without a dog, don't go hooking up your dog for a cruise through town!

"Stupid should hurt!" Not taking the proper safety precautions by purchasing protective equipment and just tying your dog companion to you is plain stupid and it will hurt. A bike/skateboard helmet, wrist guards, knee and elbow

pads, and 8-panel padded shorts are de rigeur wear when training a new dog or while joring. Combined with your canicross equipment and the additional rigging for the scooter, your K9 silent sports toy box will grow with every season. No matter how well your canine companion has mastered canicross to this point, distractions can take you to unstoppable speeds in a blink of an eye. A squirrel leaping between branches overhead or a child with an ice cream cone can get you wrapped around a tree in midst of a command. A "Darwin Award" is easily obtainable by just not getting your K9 companion to stop at an intersection. So safety in the urban setting is of the extreme nature, even though both scootering and rollerjoring are relatively easy to learn after the dog has mastered the commands.

By applying the K9 silent sport commands we learned in the last issue with our own rollerblading skills, we'll average between 6-8 mph. This primordial pack migration speed of the canine's

ancestors while hunting prey creates a zenful like expression and fluid motion. Seemingly along for the ride, you must keep focused on obstructions feet from your roller blades and all activity ahead that may distract your K9 companion. Stopping has to be anticipated and initiated much earlier, for you are not coasting to a stop, but rather stopping a dog from pulling forward. A wellconditioned joring dog unfamiliar with urban mushing will run through a stop sign into traffic. Therefore, I recommend a few canicross sessions introducing intersection stops on the trail you choose for rollerjoring. (My biggest nemesis would have to



be the Midwest tree rat on my urban routes. They leave acorns that monkey wrench my blades, and they seemingly lie in wait to distract my dogs.) Obstructions, obstacles, and distractions are the extremes of rollerjoring the cityscapes.

The same is true of scootering, although the kick bikes of yesterday have been made lighter, faster, and on-the-dime-stoppable. Scooters come in all sorts of flavors and you should seek out manufacturers that design specific to k9 silent sport needs such as hooking-up a towline. I recommend starting your research with Diggler Mountain Scooters - http://www.digglerstore.com/ scooters dog home.html, and Pawtrek USA: www.pawtrek.com. Diggler will familiarize you with models for specific uses. (As of this writing, I've been waiting for my Pawtrek Explora for a few weeks as they are sold out and on back order!) Many folks scooter singletracks and recommend using scootering as a stepping stone to bikejoring too. Begin feeling how to shift your weight when

cornering, how to manage slackline, and brake feathering which we'll introduce to IACP members in the fall edition of the *Safehands Journal*.

If you're trying to decide which one to pick-up first, the consequences of the learning curve for scootering allows you to bail with less likelihood of road rash. The synergy developing between you and your dog is clear to you by now if you started canicrossing with us six weeks ago. You should know what I mean when asked, "Where are you when all paws leave the ground?"

Whatever your response to the question above, my answer always starts with a grin, for Eckhart Tolle didn't teach me the "Power of Now"--my dogs do. For that reason, I'm mindful of when, where, and for how long our urban mushing excursions will last. We all prefer dusk and dawn, when temperatures are coolest, and never on extremely hot days. A tree-canopied blacktop along a water source such as a river or lake is wonderful. Mileage considerations will depend on trail congestion,



temperatures, and more importantly, on your K9 Veterinarian, triathlete, and author of Chow companion's conditioning, strength and stamina. Hounds, Dr. Ernie Ward wants you to be aware of

Once again, let me recommend that you and your dog get checked-out by your vet and physician prior to kick-n-gliding down a trail.

Take the time to create the K9 1st Aid Kit veterinarian Dr. Mindy Cooper of Banfield Pet Hospital in Traverse City, Michigan has prepared as a checklist (see sidebar). Utilizing the Banfield Optimum Wellness Plan (http:// www.banfield.com/ Optimum-Wellness-Plans,) Dr. Cooper takes care of all my K9 Silent Sport mishaps.

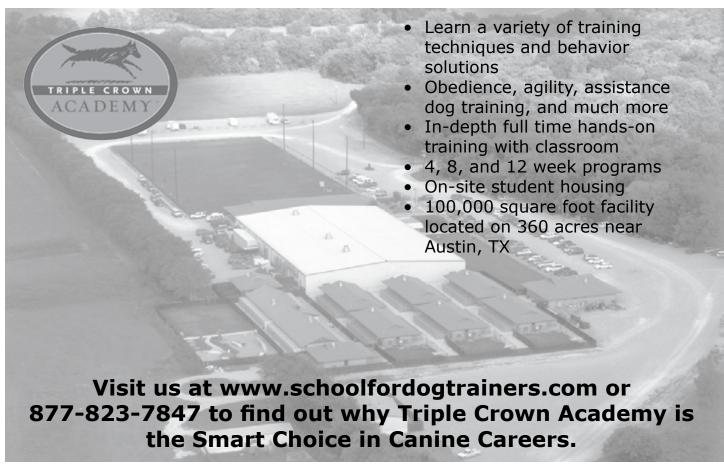


the potential of heat stroke in the summer. Not going out during the hottest times means going in the early morning and evening when ticks and mosquitoes are at their worst, so make sure your K9 companion is vaccinated!

Have a blast!

Georg Schluender is a certified dog trainer who has been rescuing German Shepherds for over 20 years. He is the developer of DoggieTrek Fitness, based in Traverse City, Michigan, specializing in "nature based wellness for dogs and their human companions." Email him at: pack_leader@doggietrekfitness.com

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Outdoor Sports First Aid Checklist

- Poison control phone number
- Adhesive tape
- Self-adhesive bandage roll
- Gauze pads
- Hemostats
- Tweezers
- Scissors
- Emergency blanket
- Clean towel
- Empty container for ticks and other extractions

- Gloves
- Eye / Ear Flush
- Porcupine extractions:

Leatherman (or similar)

• Regional considerations:

Snake Bite

Insect bites

List provided Dr. Mindy Cooper, co-owner of Banfield Pet Hospital in Traverse City, Michigan



Dealing with Aggression (in Cyberspace)

by Sarah Wilson

If you're in cyberspace for any length of time, you may well be the target of some internet aggression. After twenty years moderating internet groups, here's what I know right now about such attacks:

Expect Intensity

By the time someone attacks, they have been pacing around their inner hallways for a while, talking to those who agree with them and demonizing you in their free time. You've been happily living your life, so when their attack does come, it is often at a level of confidence and vehemence you can be unprepared for. And really, I hope you ARE unprepared, for who wants to walk around life ever-ready for that?!

Expect a No-Win Situation

It is hard enough to work through a conflict with someone face-to-face, so give up on that hope over cyberspace. By the time they are attacking you, they are worked up to the point where listening, never mind hearing, is unlikely.

Expect to be Shut Down, Shut Out, & Shut Up

Attackers don't want to hear your point of view, find a middle ground, or understand you as a person, so expect any and all efforts you make to this end to be fruitless. They are not attempting to "communicate"—they are wanting to demonize. Any explanation will be framed negatively.

Expect Multiple Changes of Subject

Have a good response to one of their points of attack? They simply move to another. Giving ground or giving credit is not part of their plan so they change course rapidly and repeatedly.

Expect Mention of Others

10

Oh, and the whole wide world agrees with them. You will know you made a good point when you hear about how "everyone" they know agrees with them. Recently, one of my attackers was telling me how senators she "knew" agreed with her about dog training methods. A classic example.

Expect Storming Off

And when, by using some of the suggestions below, you make some headway against some of their argument? They will then storm off, which is just fine. As the saying goes, don't let the door hit you in the posterior region on the way out.

What Can You Do?

Try these, in whatever order you can muster:

Stay Calm

It's not easy, but stay calm. Not only will it help you respond from your best professional self, but it has the added benefit of annoying the heck out of your attacker who is trying to get you to synch up with them NOW! The more aggressive someone is, the calmer I get. At the very least, the contrast between our two styles will reflect poorly on them to anyone reading the exchange.

Take Control of the Conversation

You do not have to respond to what they say. Decide what you want to say and go there.

Bring in a Neutral Third Party

"Are you aware of this study?" Triangulating out to factbased info is mighty useful. It always interests me how much some angry people fling "fact" at you, but want nothing to do with it when it is presented to them.

Stay On Track

When they head off on to some other topic/point, bring up the first one again. Keep them on one topic and they won't stay long. Thinking and conversing is not the plan. That would require calming down and they have no intention of doing so.

Find Common Ground

Oh, this is SO irritating to the irritated. If you're attacked by another trainer, mention how great it is to have so many professionals passionate about the field, how dogs and people benefit from multiple perspectives, etc. It'll be like throwing a match into gas--so break out the marshmallows (and chocolate)!

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Be Kind when Warranted

Whenever you get a chance, be polite and be kind. It makes you harder to vilify and is mighty confusing. If you are supposed to be an "abuser" but refuse to abuse them? That will make their eye twitch.

Agree when Possible

As above, infuriating for the infuriated. "Yes, I like that tool, I use that method, I agree with that theory." This is an extremely potent approach because the foundation of most outright attack is "me against you" thinking. Every time you make it an "us," the attack becomes harder. Often the angry person will just leave. That's fine.

Remember Your Life

While the online world may feel big, the fact is that most of this rigmarole has no impact on your day-to-day world AT ALL. The dogs still love you, your business still rolls in, your kids still kiss you good-night. So, if this stuff has gotten into your head, log off of the computer and into your real life for a bit.

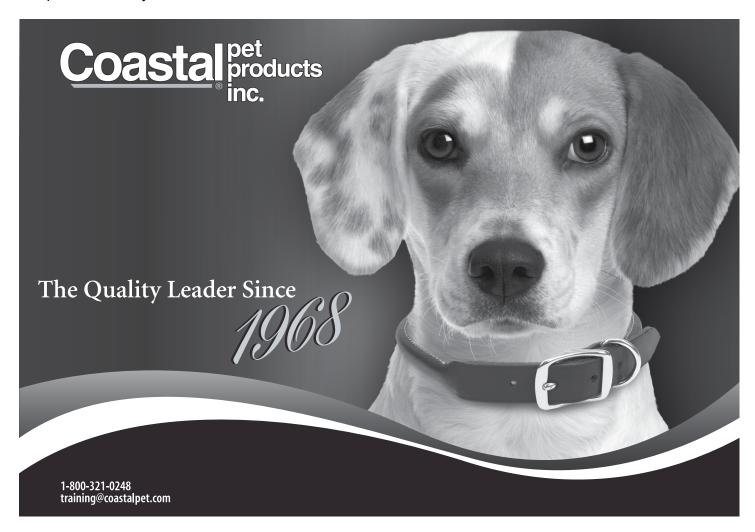
Lastly, remember: it isn't personal. It feels personal, I know, but they probably don't know you. They may think they do. They may be projecting all sorts of ick onto you, but none of that means they know you. Remember to breathe, to walk away, to go have fun with your dogs, call a good friend and talk about it. Something I tell myself at such times: Bigger things than this weren't the end of the world, and if this IS the end of the world, then it really doesn't matter.

I hope you've found this helpful though, really, I hope you never, ever need any of this.

Onward!

Sarah Wilson is a trainer, teacher, author and hands-on seminar presenter, and holds a Master's degree in the human-animal bond. She is the founder of My Smart Puppy, an interactive website for pet owners and professionals, has appeared on television in such shows as PBS "Nature," and is frequently quoted on "all matters dog" in publications from "O" magazine to Forbes.

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Conference 2012: a Whale of a Time! by Denise Collins, Conference Director

Conference 2012 at the Doubletree in Orlando. Florida definitely made the list for "Best Conference Ever." The resort-like grounds, guest rooms, conference room area, and great food provided the ambience for our fantastic lineup of presenters. Comments on the evaluation forms confirm that the speakers did a great job presenting their topics. We were educated about the canine thyroid epidemic by Dr. Jean Dodds, DVM, the evolution of dogs and how their future may be shaped by pedigrees by Patrick "Terrierman" Burns, what the benefits and pitfalls are of being a versatile trainer by Martin Deeley, how canine disaster dogs are trained by Vernon " Max" Frayser, massage techniques by Jenifer Funk, and how to grow your business by Camilla Gray-Nelson. Leslie Horton helped us understand the differences and terminology for service animals, Debby Kay showed us how to teach dogs nose work in her Super Sniffer workshop. Chad Mackin educated us on how to integrate an aggressive dog into a group of dogs with Pack to Basics, and our Radio Systems presenters helped us with business ideas, shelters, Invisible Fence, and how to market your business using social media and blogs.

As always with our conferences, this one provided an abundance of take-home information that can help us in our businesses.

New for this year, our conference attendees were treated to a tour and dinner at SeaWorld. Even though it rained during the tour, it didn't put a damper on the fun experience had by all. A surprise lengthy presentation by SeaWorld's K9 trainer provided a glimpse into not only how they train their canines, but also their marine mammals.

We always tell you what a wonderful experience is to be at our conference, and about the friends that are made, the networking that is accomplished, the overwhelming sense of camaraderie that exists because everyone is so nice and friendly. It is one of those things you just have to experience for yourself. Don't miss another year! Start planning now for conference 2013! The date and place will be announced soon.

I would like to thank our sponsors and vendors for their contribution to making this another successful conference.

A special thank you to my conference committee, Cyndi Graham for her endless amount of help, ideas, and support, and Martin Deeley who found the location for our conference, provided the voice of reason and experience of the past, helped with all the decision-making and ALL of the other jobs (and there are a lot of them) he does behind the scenes, to make our conferences turn out to be wonderful events!

Another special thank you to the Board of Directors and Officers; Chad Mackin, Brad Strickland, Tod McVicker, Bruce Hartsell, Pat Trichter, Gayle Justice, Tawni McBee, Karen Laws, Christine Norris, Linda Beard, and Shirley Rodgers for all their help during the conference. Without their help, the conference could not run as smoothly as it did. They jumped in and helped wherever needed and it was very much appreciated. Thank you to Jack Clark for his invaluable help at the registration desk. Thank you to Russ and Janice Mahan for being in charge of our silent auction and raffle. They did a fantastic job of organizing, manning the tables, and completing the auction.





















Texas Advertising receives IACP Presidents Award

Texas Advertising's Chris Brailsford, Web Site Developer (on left), and Brian Schaeffer, President (on right) after receiving the Presidents Award from IACP Director, Gayle Justice (center). Pictured also are Brian's dogs, Patches & Palin, who are the official mascots of TXAD and who always accompany Brian to work. Many thanks to *Texas Advertising* for their generosity this year. TXAD's donation of web design and hosting for our conference web page, combining all information, enrollment, and payment processing on one page, greatly contributed to the success of this year's conference! Thank You TXAD!

Anyone wishing to increase the effectiveness of their web site should call TXAD: (Office) 817-426-9395 www.texasadvertising.net

Fulfilling Your Potential

by Cyndy Douan, MHDL, CDT

"What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail?"

We've all heard this question at some point in our lives. The older you get, the more poignant it becomes, too. I spent the first years as a professional dog trainer doing what I did best: training other people's dogs. I had my own dogs, of course, and they were more than pets to me, but I wasn't really fulfilling their potentials.

When I was a young trainer, eager to soak up all the knowledge that I could about dogs and how best to train them, I seldom looked at my own dogs as avenues toward that goal. Some of my best opportunities for that came and went. Consequently, they spent much of their time staring out the window, waiting for me to come home. It's surprising how short the time can seem as the end of a dog's life approaches, and just how short the time seems with them. I recall sitting with one of my former dogs, outside on a sunny day, when I knew that days were drawing to a close for him, and wishing that I'd had more time. It was then that I decided my priorities had to change.

Since that time, I have put my own dogs first on my training schedule. Early on, it was my desire just to set aside individual time with each of them,

doing something together instead of crashing on the couch with them exhausted after a full day of training appointments with other dogs. Simple tricks seemed liked a fun place to start. It was fun, and I saw my dogs start to change. They looked forward to our time and they seemed so proud of themselves for what they

had learned. Once we moved through the basics of training and learned all the tricks I thought were fun, I found I'd need to get some help if we were going to try to learn more. We signed up for other people's classes and workshops where we could find them. This became our own time to spend together and a nice break from the rest of my working life.

First freestyle dance, then dog agility, then frisbee, then flyball, then herding, then dock diving--with a dab of rally & obedience mixed in through the years. While some skill sets were easily adapted from one sport to the next, it has always been an adventure to apply them, always adding something different or extra to get us to proficiency. As a process-oriented person, I thoroughly enjoy delving into the training steps or progressions used by trainers to teach each sport, from beginning all the way to the end. While I never much considered competing once I'd gotten some skills on my dogs, it just always seemed like an "Aw, what the heck?" decision with each sport, usually accompanied by some pressure from my mentors and dog friends. I will say that now, I would recommend competing as a goal to training your dogs for any sport.

Competition in the dog sports for which I have trained has so many facets that I find entertaining,

educational, and beneficial for me in my work with other people's dogs. Strategy involved in each sport is an element that you may never get if you decide to limit yourself to back yard play with your dogs. While flyball, for instance, was not that difficult to teach my dog, the strategies used to play and succeed in a



tournament were complex and so much fun to learn about. I love implementing strategy in dog agility trials, and I especially love the agility games for the brain-bending challenges I have seen so many keen judges present to competitors. Competition has helped me to understand how to overcome stress and nervousness when working my dogs. I have also met so many wonderful people and developed long- standing friendships through my travels to competitions. I also believe that, through this journey into dog sports, that I have developed more empathy for my clients and their excitement and fear about bringing their dogs for training and attempting to learn skills that are often completely foreign to them.

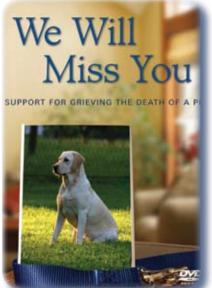
I am still learning and still developing deep and close working bonds with my dogs through training in dog sports. Of all the training I have done, the sheepdog work has been, by far, my biggest challenge. I have 4 dogs who work sheep now and I have been training on and off for the past 9 years with some very accomplished mentors. Still, I do not have the skill it takes to train for the Open Trials. So, I load up the dogs, and travel to the sheep farm for a day, or even a weekend. We're all making great memories, having a good time together, taking a break from reality, and doing what we love. I can say now, since I have rearranged my priorities, I have lived a more fulfilled life with dogs, and for those who I have sent to the great beyond ever since, I really have had no regrets.

Cyndy Douan, MHDL, CDT, IACP Past President, IACP Founding Member. Cyndy is a 22-year pro-trainer, owner of Georgia Dog Gym, Georgia's Largest Canine Activity Center. Cyndy has competed with multiple breeds in Obedience, Rally, Canine Disc, Dock Diving, Agility, Flyball, & Herding. She has earned over 80 Performance Sport titles with her dogs. Cyndy's border collie Riff is the #2 Veteran Big Air Dog in DockDogs 2012 Worldwide Rankings.

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As professionals, often we have to deal with the bereavement of a beloved pet. This can be our own grieving or support for a client experiencing a loss. Our relationships with our pets, and in our case dogs especially, are deep and meaningful. Our dogs become part of ourselves and the loss of a canine partner requires understanding and support. This video not only provides support for those experiencing loss but also in doing so explains and guides how we as professionals can show support and understanding with our clients experiencing grief.



I especially enjoyed the words of our fellow member and friend Brother Christopher.

"Animals are guileless. That sort of honesty touches the human heart in a unique way. It allows us to see a better side of ourselves than sometimes is visible in our relationships with our fellow human beings." - Brother Christopher Savage, New Skete Monastery

For more information on this video go to http://www.paracletepress.com/we-will-miss-you.html

~Martin Deeley

Check out these resources for you and your clients

Yep, owners love their dogs. The old lady with her feist, the gangbanger with his Pit Bull, the sheepdog handler working his dog at 800 yards, the Police K9 Officer: the dog ignorant and dog savvy alike love their dogs.

Traditional dog training with rewards and corrections evolved from military dog training which prepared dogs to work under fire and avoided shows of affection. Sure, one could love one's dog, but one oughtn't show it. Consequently, many traditional training manuals from Tossuti to Koehler to the Monks of new Skete to Cesar Milan emphasize the dog's ability to manipulate its owner; the dog's agenda, they warn again and again, is not its owner's.

Most of the appeal of the less effective and not one whit kinder "positive" training comes, I believe, from its emphasis on the caring relationship owners have with their dogs. "Positive" trainer Pat Miller asks, "What would you rather do, punish your dog, or give it a treat. Seems obvious doesn't it?"

Put in this way, yes it does seem obvious.

When Carol Benjamin wrote *Mother Knows Best*, she broke important ground. Her core thesis: treat your dog the same way its mother treats her pup, was brilliantly intuitive, emotionally appealing and helped

train hundreds of thousands of dogs. It was the best selling dog book in history and earned Carol a place in the IACP Hall of Fame.

With *Dog Smart*, Carol breaks new ground again. *Dog Smart* is an illustrated pet dog training manual which recognizes the owner and dogs' mutual affection, mutual interest in training, and the difficulties that impede getting things right. In whimsical comic strips, Carol shows how thoughtful rewards and gentle corrections work to produce a happy dog, happy owner and a sensible, strong relationship.

And it's an ebook, available for kindle or iPad for only \$4.99.

Dog Smart is a thorough training guide from an author whose service border collies help Carol live a normal life. Read Dog Smart for useful training or the sheer pleasure of Carol's profound dog sense and gentle wit.

~Donald McCaig



The Longe line as a "Freedom" Tool

by Janine Lazarus

I think I have heard just about every excuse in the book for not exercising our dogs enough!

It's too cold, wet, windy...there's not enough time, health, strength...he/she doesn't want to...my kids don't want to...he/she is old, sick or doesn't "go well" on the leash. The list goes on and on. So, it seems to have become a personal mission of mine to get people out with their dogs on a regular basis in most weather.

When we do finally persuade our clients to exercise their dogs more, what does that exercise actually look like? Walks at a human pace on a 6-foot leash don't really get the dog's heart pumping, do they? Some will have access to other dogs for romping, and some belong to active humans who run and bike and hike. But, let's face it, the average person doesn't exercise very much. So how can we encourage him or her to do more for the dog? And if they cannot, or will not, can we make a simple walk more fun for both the human and the dog? I have found that an old but essential tool can change the nature of "walking the dog" to the benefit of both owner and his pal.

It is certainly true that the natural gait of most medium to large dogs is faster than many of us normally walk. Therefore, in order to effectively exercise our dogs on leash we would have to

"trot" or run fairly briskly in order to keep up with our dogs' pace. Likely? Probably not in most cases.

With this reasoning in mind, the clever dogsuppliers came up with the idea of the retractable leash. This is a device which "feeds out" line as the dog requires it and is activated by the dog pulling against the retractable handle. The idea is that the dog will have on-leash freedom but still be attached/controlled by the handler. The problem with this idea is that the dog has to PULL to get this additional freedom and so he learns that pulling has a reward. (Plus, most every dog professional can cite numerous horror stories relating to the retractable leash besides teaching the dog to pull: tangling around everything, slicing skin, causing the dog to dart into traffic, or take off and yank the leash out of the owner's hand, and then the terrified dog is being chased by a scary plastic box to who knows where, etc.)

As I have spent many lessons with dogs and their owners teaching the dogs NOT to pull on the leash, this has always seemed to me to be a clumsy (and dangerous) restraint tool. So, for those dog owners who are not, for one reason or another, going to use a remote collar or spend the many hours necessary teaching a reliable recall (and for those who must walk the dog but cannot allow it off leash where they live), I will often suggest the use of a longe line.

I recently had the pleasure of working with a group of Irish Setters belonging to a couple who breed and show them all over the country.



Setters are, as we all know, working dogs who can cover a great deal of ground when inclined but who do have the tendency to "follow their noses" to the exclusion of any other stimuli. To allow these dogs off-leash in a public park was obviously not something that this couple were about to do. The problem was that they also needed to get some fairly



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strenuous exercise along with learning to handle outside stimuli if they were to look calm, balanced and fit in the show ring. Physically and mentally, a run in the park on a regular basis was going to do everyone some good!!

So I suggested that we start to take them out using 20' longe lines.

The longe lines were initially rolled up and used as short leashes on the walk to the park and then, accompanied by a release phrase "you can go, boys" once we reached an open area, they were allowed the full length of the line to move at their own pace, smelling, circling, prancing, moving away and returning - all within the 20' circumference of the line. The dogs quickly became aware of when they were to be allowed more freedom and where their lines ended. The walks were anticipated with great enthusiasm and their owners did not have to race around in order to exercise their dogs. The result has been that these animals have been allowed to experience a much greater use of their bodies, they return to the house much calmer, and their general health issues have diminished hugely! They also trot into the ring with much more presence and better bearing - and needless to say - a happier attitude.

This is a specific case, but I have used this exercise method with many people and their dogs, always with great success and always to the benefit of the dog. My clients have become accustomed to handling and avoiding the longe line and apart

from the occasional muddy hands, are mostly delighted with the results. The longe line can also be used while walking to reinforce a "come" command and a "leave it" or "off." Jumping on new people or dogs can be controlled and discouraged and when the play is over and we are heading home, the longe line is rolled or replaced with a short leash for "heel."

An additional benefit is that, in many parks and public places, it is a requirement that dogs stay on the leash and so this method also satisfies the authorities.

Longe lines have been used for training for centuries and revisiting them as an everyday tool seems to have a great deal of validity. It has certainly changed many dogs' lives for the better and given their owners greater peace of mind and allowed them to have a sense of being "in control."

I suggest a good quality nylon longe line as they last longer, are easier to handle and come with reliable, sturdy hardware. Different weights of line are available for different sized dogs and longer or shorter lines according to individual preferences. For my tiniest dogs, I use a thin piece of parachute or clothesline and attach a small clip to the collar end.

Another happy side-effect of this type of exercise is that, if clients have been consistently asking for the "come" using the longe line to back-up their request, should the dog get loose by accident or should they lose the end of the line, their dog will be in the habit of returning when they ask him to, and the chances are that he will do so without thinking.

Happy "almost off-leash" walking!

Born in Cape Town, South Africa, and raised in London, England, Janine has worked with dogs and horses all her life. She believes in an individual and holistic approach to each

> new dog/owner combination and tries to stay "open." Her personal teachers, heroes and mentors include Brother Christopher, Diane Bauman and Robin Macfarlane. She is TMD certified.

> Janine works and lives in the Saratoga Springs region of NY and travels from Martha's Vineyard to West Virginia, troubleshooting and inventing new ways for clients to come together with their dogs.

She specializes in new career possibilities for confused canine clients

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Vacation Destinations with Dog Appeal

by Joshua Spiert

For some people, owning a dog means much more than simply having a pet. It is a way of life and a passion. These folks enjoy not only spending time with their dogs, but also taking educational classes and reading books about them. Canine professionals often find these folks to be the best of their students. You may get questions from them about things they can do with their dogs, including going on vacation. I've researched quite a few possibilities you can share with your students (or undertake yourselves) below.

In the summer months, many people visit their favorite resorts or cities and enjoy their favorite hobbies. It can be difficult, however, to plan a vacation that will allow the passionate dog owners to indulge in that passion. It just is not the kind of vacation idea that gets much commercial time.

If you look hard enough, there are plenty of nice getaways that will feed your "canine tooth." There are likeminded individuals all around the world who have created museums, hotels, theme parks and more that are either dog-friendly or dog-themed (and often both).

If you are a dog owner of the intellectual ilk, you might enjoy a museum road trip. Road trips may seem like they come with the possibility of disaster (especially if you include dog passengers), but they are also the best way to travel without missing a thing. This is not a *National Lampoon*'s type of road trip. Countless dog museums are located right in the heart of the country.

In Queeny Park, Missouri, the American Kennel Club's Museum of the Dog is the Mecca for those dog owners who fashion themselves as art entrepreneurs. This museum is a 14,000 sq. ft. facility and contains over 700 original pieces of dogthemed art. According to the AKC, their core reason in collecting art and literature of the dog is "for the purposes of education, historical perspective, aesthetic enjoyment and in order to enhance the

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appreciation for and knowledge of the significance of the dog and the human/canine relationship." It is also a dog-friendly museum. Unless you are prepared to buy some soiled artwork, however, Fido better be on a short leash.

Sporting dogs are among the first to get their own museums. The Greyhound Hall of Fame is located in Abilene, Kansas, which has been deemed the "Greyhound Capital of the United States." This museum presents the history of the sport and some of the most legendary dogs. It also encourages people to look into Greyhound adoption programs. Another unique bonus is the occasional retired Greyhounds that are present to greet visitors.

In Grand Junction, Tennessee, about an hour east of Memphis, the Bird Dog Foundation, Inc. has established four museums dedicated to hunting dogs and the wildlife they encounter. The National Bird Dog Museum, Field Trial Hall of Fame, Wildlife Heritage Center, and National Retriever Museum are all located in the same vicinity. The foundation is dedicated to preserving bird dog tradition as well as protecting the wildlife areas necessary to continue into the future. This is a great stop to see several different exhibits at once.

If you have enough time to spend (and snow tires), you could even make the trek up to Fairbanks, Alaska where you will find snow, more snow, and what they claim to be "the most comprehensive dog mushing exhibit in the world." It includes race-used dogsleds, Siberian skin clothing, styles of harnesses used throughout the sport's history, trophies, and a theater that shows footage of dog mushing.

The United States has fallen behind China in several areas, not the least of which is doggie vacations. In China, passionate dog owners can take their dogs to dog theme parks. One such park, the Coolbaby Theme Park, was the first of its kind in the capital Beijing when it opened in 2006. "[The

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park] has a swimming pool, obstacle courses, playground and has a restaurant specially designed for pets. Not only can pets have meals together with their owners, but the recipes offered are based on nutritional science and tailored for dogs of different breeds, ages and sizes." (Reuters, 5/20/2006) Unfortunately, this type of vacation is still a bit out of reach for Americans who haven't racked up enough frequent flyer miles.

While Americans may not be able to visit a park specifically for dogs, many can bring their pets along to popular parks like Walt Disney World. It offers kennel services for visitors at \$15 per animal. While you are having a magical adventure in the magic kingdom, your pets will be getting pampered in luxury suites with walks, playgroups, ice cream treats, television, and bedtime stories.

In the end, the purest, simplest, and usually cheapest way to involve your pet in your vacation plans is in the great outdoors. Camping is a great way to bond with your pet. Places like Dog Paddling Adventures in Ontario offer exciting new ways to hang out with your dog outdoors. A dog

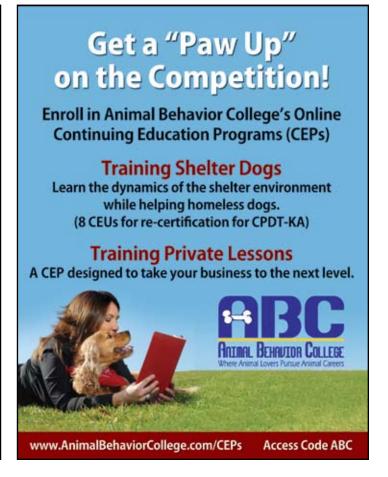
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who has been trained and acclimated to the outdoors can be a wonderful camping companion in the wilderness.

Whether you decide to teach your pup about his own history in one of the many museums around the country or fly to China so he can take a dip in the pool and relax at the Coolbaby restaurant, it is vital that you prepare properly. Travel can be an exhilarating experience for a dog, but it can just as easily be dangerous if done irresponsibly. Plan ahead to account for your pet's needs on the road, including avoiding heatstroke, and have the phone numbers of local vet clinics handy in each place you visit.

Josh Spiert is a veteran canine care assistant at Acme Canine of Columbus, OH. Josh graduated from Ohio University with a degree in journalism and an environmental studies certificate. Josh moved back to Columbus, his home town, after graduation and began working at Acme. He has written a few articles for Acme's blog and newsletter in the past and he is putting his studies to use as the new editor of Acme's newsletter, The Bark. Feel free to contact him via training@acmecanine.com.

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Critical Thinking

by Mailey McLaughlin, M.Ed., CDT, Editor

Blind Spots

I don't have a lot of patience, as a rule. It's a fault, and I know it. It would be a fault regardless, but for a canine professional, it's much worse. Dogs require consistent feedback to be their best, so impatience when working an actual dog is simply not acceptable. I've worked very hard to overcome this trait in myself when it comes to dogs, and I feel like I've succeeded, for the most part. You probably wouldn't notice this fault watching me work a dog.

But woe to the person driving imperfectly in front of me! My patience at the wheel is better than it was, but it is thin--unless I consciously catch myself and make myself not yell at the windshield. I still find myself forcing a smile when I want to give a one-finger salute. It takes an enormous amount of will to not let the stupid things others do on the road affect me. I would never actually do anything physical to another driver, and I drive carefully, believe it or not--but I can understand why road rage happens.

I'm getting better, but it is still work—hard work. And I am able to do it, in part, because I recognize that nothing in this world, conceptually, is black or white: every human condition has several shades of gray. Dogs, I tell my students, live in worlds where all information needs to be black or white, but we do not. Give me any issue, be it related to current events, politics, religion, economics, crime, human rights, animal welfare, or

anything else requiring thought, and I can come upwith perspectives from both sides of the issue. I may not be persuasive enough to convince you that the side with which you disagree is correct, and you should change, but I will have valid arguments for both.

And this is why I am able to contain my impatience, when it arises, in my face-toface dealings with humans. Despite years in retail and working with dogs and people, I actually like humans, as a rule. And as soon as I feel myself getting perturbed at someone, I try to switch perspective to feel what might be going on in *her* head to make her behave the way she is right now. There are always at least two sides to every story, and so many people refuse to even entertain the idea that all sides may have validity. The ease with which one can bloviate endlessly about one's opinion—with no real checks against its validity—is astounding, and exacerbated by the Internet. "I'm right, you are wrong, and it is settled" is the rule, not the exception. I find this depressing.

If you cannot empathize with human beings by trying to see their side of the story, at least part of the time (even if seeing it will not bring you around to agreeing with it), you will grow to dislike, or even despise, most of them, including your clients. This is no way to run a business, or live a life. Stop, take a breath, think critically for a moment, and try to put things into a perspective you may never have thought of before. It is work, but it is worth it.

I just finished reading a really neat book called *Blind Spots* by Madeleine L. Von Hecke. The subtitle is "Why Smart People Do Dumb Things," and it intrigued me because of my tendency to try to see all sides of an argument. Not only does Van Hecke explain how behavioral blind spots work, she gives practical suggestions to help the reader overcome them. I found

it at my library; if the subject interests you, look for it.

Mailey, The Pooch Professor, is Editor of SafeHands Journal. She has worked professionally with dogs and their people for nearly 30 years, holds a Masters in Education, is a CDT, and is Behavior and Training Manager for the Atlanta Humane Society. Read more at www.carpek9.blogspot.com.

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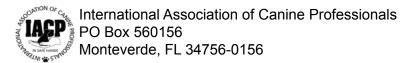
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