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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.

For Those Dedicated to the Well Being of Dogs



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President's Letter

by Chad Mackin

This is a great time to be president of this organization. The conference was a huge success, one of the very best I've ever been to. If you missed it, I hope you will make it a point to be at the next one. The change of venue did us all a lot of good.

We had great sponsors, vendors and attendees! I can't say enough good things about it. The Board is already talking a lot about next year's conference and Denise Collins is working hard on getting that together. We are all very excited about it!

But since we are an organization about moving forward, I'd like to talk about that. The IACP is a great organization. I've always believed that. That's why I joined; that's why I accepted a board position, and that's why I accepted an officer position. I believe in IACP. But I want more people to

know about us. I want to see our membership increase, and I want to see our members taking advantage of the services we have to offer.

While speaking with another member a short time ago, I realized that many of our members don't know about some of the services we have to offer. I'd like to mention one of my favorites.

We all know that you can be great at what you do, maybe the best within 300 miles, and if no one knows who you are, you aren't going to be earning what you deserve.

Before you can help the client, you have to get the phone to ring. One nice way to intro-

duce yourself to a potential client is to give them some information to get them started. Many of our members have helpful articles on their websites for just this reason. Offering useful information puts you on the potential client's radar, and if the information is good, it builds trust.

Putting brochures about housetraining or children and dogs or canine nutrition etc, at vet's offices, grooming businesses, boarding kennels and other public places could do a lot to help get your name out there for potential clients. But writing all that up can be time consuming, and then you have to format it so it looks nice. For many of our members, this can be a daunting task. It doesn't have to be, though. The IACP has created just such brochures for our members to use. You can download them from the member's section of our

website. There are eight currently available on a variety of topics. Take a look and see if you can't put some with your contact information around town.

These eight are great, but I'd like to see more. If you think you might be interested in writing more, let us know. You can contact me at chadmackin@packtobasics.com or you can call me at 281-455-2061 and I'll help you get started.



Chad
Mackin,
President IACP



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Everything Starts With Nutrition!

by Wendy Volhard

Dental disease in dogs is up 12.3% since 2006 and now affects 78% of dogs presenting themselves at veterinary offices. Flea infestations are up 16% and last year alone, 15.4% of dogs were experiencing ear infections.

These figures come from a compilation of statistics representing 2.1 million dogs collected by Banfield Pet Hospitals and appear in their "2011 State of Pet Health" published recently in DVM Magazine.

What's going on? And why, as a trainer, dog groomer, dog walker or humane society employee, should you be interested in these statistics? Because all of these problems can be, and frequently are, influenced by nutrition.

Since as trainers we mostly deal with "behavior" problems, how do we know whether the dog really has a problem or feels so terrible that he is actually just lashing out or acting up? The fact is, we don't.

Having worked with dogs a lifetime, all I can tell you is that in my experience, well over half of the dogs I deal with are just plain unhealthy. It can be an ear infection that affects how the dog responds to the collar and leash, it can be a gum infection which makes it difficult to eat, and not possible to pick things up in his mouth, or he is scratching himself silly and any attempt on your part to teach him falls literally on deaf ears. Aggression can often be attributed to liver disease or undiagnosed hypo-thyroidism (readily determined by a blood test) that affects a large percentage of dogs today, according to Jean Dodds, DVM, author of "The Canine Thyroid Epidemic" (Dogwise Publishing, 2011).

So what is happening to our dogs? Why are they so unhealthy? My take is that many, if not most, of today's dog foods are inadequate in nutritional content. As a result, we have decreased their life spans almost by one half, and increased the need for frequent veterinary visits.

In January 2011, Kansas State University issued the following statistics: Dogs that weigh up to 20lbs die at 11 and are classified as "senior" at 8. Giant breeds at over 100lbs die at 6 and are classified as "senior" at 4.

These statistics have shown a downward spiral in the last 5 years. I am forced to ask the following questions: Is it the advent of all the new foods on the market that has caused this problem? Have any of them been tested over several generations of dogs? Is it the grain free foods that have contributed to the huge rise in diabetes, teeth and gum problems, ear infections and the like? Or are dogs just generally weaker these last 5 years than those in previous generations?

Dog food manufacturers are governed by AAFCO (American Association of Feed Control Officials) rules, which require that the food meets the Minimum Daily Requirement of known nutrients to keep a caged dog alive for 24 hours. If eight dogs participated in the required 26-week trial, two could be removed (died?) and if the remainder did not lose more than 25% of their bodyweight, the food passed the trial as complete and balanced. Not exactly confidence-inspiring, especially when we consider the lifestyle of most dogs!

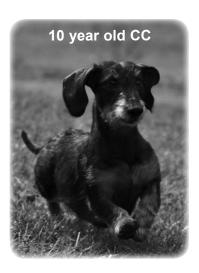
Even so, dog foods are convenient to use, take little time to prepare and are popular.

If you are going to feed them, here's how to choose the best of the bunch. Not all dog foods are alike and there are enormous quality differences.

To begin our search for the food for our dog, we should start with the dog himself. Select a food and in short order your dog will tell you whether you made the right choice:

The first few months:

- Does your dog like the food and demolish it?
- Does he have large, voluminous stools with a bad smell?
- Does he have gas?
- Are his teeth getting brown?
- Does he burp a lot?
- Does he have bad breath?



After a few months does he:

- · Continuously shed?
- · Have a dull coat?
- Smell like a dog?
- Pick up fleas and ticks?
- Have too much energy and is hyperactive, or act dull and lethargic?
- Have to be w o r m e d regularly?
- Frequently pick up infections such as ears or bladder?
- Frequently have diarrhea?

Any one of these can happen with every dog, but only occasionally. If this is a picture of your dog, then it's time to make a change and to find out why.

12.5 year old Annabelle.

At this point, I am mindful that this is an article and not a treatise, so I'm going to make it easy for you. If you want the science behind it all, you will need to read my book <u>The Holistic Guide for a Healthy Dog</u> (Howell Book House, 2000).

Diet Choices

Below I list some options for you to think about when feeding your dog.

Feeding Option 1

Use a high quality kibble dog food and add the allin-one supplement Endurance to the food. You will see results in less than a week. In a busy kennel environment, Endurance is an easy supplement to combat stress that can cause behavior problems and diarrhea.

Feeding Option 2

If you want to feed a totally natural diet, but don't have the time to make your own, there is now an alternative: Natural Diet Foundation 2.

All you add is water and the meat of your dog's choice. This recipe exceeds MDR and has been tested on dogs in real life situations over the last 35 years. The ingredients are tested before they are mixed together,

and tested again after they are mixed, for all known bacteria, fungi and molds.

If you want your dog to live a long and healthy life and be able to cope with stress, I can tell you that the above suggestions work. Healthy dogs learn more quickly, are calmer and retain their lessons.

For more information, go to: www.volharddognutrition.com

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- ♣ Sheila Hamilton-Andrews, RN, MSc. – Clinical Animal Behaviourist and Chairman of the UK Registry of Canine Behaviourists.
- **♣ Robert Simmons**Clinical nutritionist and the genius who makes our foods.

Go to: www.volharddognutrition.com for more information

"D" in Daycare? "A" in Canine!

by Camilla Gray-Nelson, Dog Talk Diva

At my boarding and training facility, daycare has become a booming business. But with the popularity of daycare services for dogs, I find there comes an unrealistic expectation on the part of dog owners – that all dogs can and should be social with others (they're "social animals," aren't they?). The truth, as all of us dog people know, is not nearly as simple or clear-cut, however, and many of our clients find themselves disillusioned and confused when their dogs fail to make the grade in daycare. This disconnect between their fantasy and our reality can wreak havoc with our customer relations. To help with this dilemma at my own facility, I find that educating my clients about dogs is the answer.

Many dog parents believe that if their dog is not good around other dogs, a) something is wrong, and b) this can be overcome by more social exposure, so they sign up for doggie daycare. Or, when they get a new puppy, a superresponsible owner will carefully introduce him to other dogs, and to provide plenty of positive social experiences by getting him enrolled in a doggie daycare program. They believe that this will "guarantee" their puppy's future social skills. Oh, that it were so simple!

Dogs are wired by Mother Nature to live in packs. But what is a pack, exactly? Most people

don't realize that it's an extended family of dogs, all related to one another – parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and cousins. Day in and day out, the same dogs are in this big family. New puppies grow and develop through their infancy, adolescence and finally into their serious

adult character, whatever Nature has genetically coded for them. Once he's an adult, a dog's duty is to help defend the family pack. Woe to the new dog that wanders into a family territory! The adult pack members will rise up and drive off the intruder. They do not welcome him in and offer him a seat at the dinner table.

But newcomers are the norm in doggie daycare and dog parks. Every few minutes, a new dog is arriving. The daycare or dog park "pack" is often made up of a core of familiar regulars and an assortment of newer dogs that vary day to day. The entire group must decide to accept or reject each new arrival, and each newcomer is faced with the uncertainty of whether or not they will be accepted by the group as a whole. When the group is made up of young, carefree pre-adults, there's usually little problem. Kids like everybody! With an older demographic, however, harmony between the dogs can become more elusive. After all, it was the job of their ancestors to drive off newcomers, not accept them!

The most difficult situation I encounter as a daycare operator is when a wonderful client brings his young dog to daycare and all starts out well, but over time the dog becomes less and less social until he starts to fight and is no longer appropriate in a social daycare setting. Failing to understand

this behavioral change as a result of maturation, the client, understandably, tends to think his dog is being singled out unfairly or unjustly. He can take it very personally or worse—think we did something to "ruin" his dog while it was in our care! In reality, however, it is the result of the inevitable passage of



time and the genetic code that predestined his dog's adult personality from the get-go. When he hears it explained in this way, feelings are spared.

Am I implying that no adult dogs can be successful in daycare? Not at all! Many breeds have been so domesticated and dialed-down as to smooth out the sharp edges of the original adult canine, making these breeds, in essence, perpetual puppies. Labs, Goldens and similar breeds come to mind. No wonder they do great in our daycare programs! Other breeds, however, were not bred to be social as adults, as there was no need for that characteristic in the job for which they were developed. German shepherds and other serious working breeds are good examples of this. These dogs can find daycare much more challenging, especially as adults. Many of these dogs would

rather be home in their territory than romping with the "Great Unwashed."

If a client's dog is a daycare drop-out, I tell them it's nothing to worry about. It just means their dog is a true canine, very grown up and probably smarter than the average dog. Dogs are like kids. Parents may not have the doctor they were hoping for, or the social chairman of the dog park...but success and happiness come in all forms. They can love their children for what they are, and their dog for what he is. They can give them each the life that makes them happiest – not necessarily the life they think they "should" have. For some kids, that's being a musician or an artist or an auto mechanic – not a lawyer. For some dogs, that's privacy, peace and quiet – not daycare or dog parks.



How should we counsel those clients whose dogs are not suitable for daycare or dog parks on ways to exercise their dogs? I have a couple of favorite suggestions:

- 1. If their dog is simply selective with the dogs he will tolerate, I tell the client to find several friends with easy-going, non-aggressive dogs that their dog likes, and form a private playgroup. In practice, they are creating a type of familiar dog pack of their own.
- 2. For dogs that are decidedly anti-social, they can get their dog a nice backpack, and depending on the size of the dog, add something of certain weight to each side pocket. For a larger dog, this can be one or two water bottles. With backpack in place, the client can take their dog on a simple leash walk and the added weight of the load makes every stride worth five or ten! Even a walk around the block is now sufficient exercise.
- 3. If the client owns a treadmill, they can teach

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- their dog to walk or run on it for exercise on rainy days. In the case of dogs that are both antisocial and unmanageable in public, a treadmill can be a useful last resort for daily exercise.
- 4. Last but certainly not least, I recommend getting training! Regardless of the social character of a dog, every canine yearns for a leader and the clarity of knowing his place in the pack. Training of this sort not only makes a dog easier to take out in public for their on-leash exercise, but calms and relaxes the dog psychologically overall.

Feel free to print out my blog post, "D in Daycare? A in Canine!" for your clients. It has been extremely helpful for us! You will find it at www.dogtalkdiva.com (May 22, 2011).

Camilla Gray-Nelson is the President and Director of Training at Dairydell Canine. She has trained, bred and shown dogs since 1989, and holds professional memberships in both IACP and NADOI.



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2011 IACP Annual Conference San Diego, California

by Denise Collins, Conference Manager

"Unbelievable, Outstanding. Excellent, Incredible. Phenomenal; Best Conference Ever!" These are a few of the comments we received describing our 11th Annual Educational Conference, April 7-10, 2011, in San Diego, CA.

We had a fantastic lineup of speakers culminating with our keynote Cesar Millan, speaking about Pack Leadership for Dogs and their Humans. All that attended came away revitalized and motivated to do more for their clients and dogs. Because you asked for it, we had more hands-on workshops. Our new venue at the Hilton Mission Valley allowed us to offer multiple concurrent sessions. We had so many great topics and speakers that it was difficult to choose whom to see! The conference committee will look at ways to improve on the scheduling to allow for repeating sessions in the future.

At lunchtime, attendees were able to sit down at a table of their choice for an informal Q&A discussion on topics that included; aggression, Koehler method, E-Collar training, Ask the Vet, Pack 2 Basics, and more.

As for food, it was delicious and plentiful. Business Insurers of the Carolinas provided the Welcome Reception appetizers. Continental Kennel Club provided a coffee service and sponsored Cyndy Douan and her dog Riff to present her workshop, and Radio Systems Corp. (PetSafe/Invisible Fence) sponsored the bar and our Banquet Dinner on Saturday evening.

Our vendors had great things to say about how well-received and interested our attendees were in their products. The hotel staff were more than accommodating, and they bent over backwards to help with even the smallest details. They admitted, many times during our 4 days, that they were excited to have us there, as most of them are dog owners and bring their dogs to work every day. The hotel manager even had special cookies made with photos on the icing of many of the staff's dogs!

Having the conference, food, and lodging in one place was a big benefit. Many attendees and speakers expressed how much more time we had to spend together with old friends and getting to know new ones.

You will hear this statement over and over, but, it is so true that it bears repeating. The camaraderie you will experience among our members is noticeable. We are welcoming, open, and willing to talk and help each other.

You must come and experience the conference for yourself to see what we are talking about.

2012? See you there.

iacd



IACP Board of Directors at Conference with Cesar Millar

L-R. Bruce Hartsell, Martin Deeley (Exec. Dir), Tod McVicker, Cesar Millan, Chad Mackin (at Rear) Tawni McBee, Al Marx, Pat Trichter, Brad Strickland, Gayle Justice, Denise Collins.





Thank You & Congratulations

2011 Conference Awards

The Board of the IACP congratulate all award winners and thank them for their support and dedication to the world of dogs, and to the International Association of Canine Professionals.

We also wish to take this opportunity to thank all who work unselfishly for the Association and dedicate their work to improving the lives of dogs and owners.

A very big thank you also to our sponsors. Your partnership and support make all this possible.

Together we can and do make a difference. Thank you all!

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IACP Annual Conference 2012 April 19th - 22nd

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Mark your calendar now and join us for another year of workshops, great speakers and fun with your fellow IACP members across the nation!

Enjoy our Annual Conference and all that Orlando has to offer!

Pay It Forward by Tod McVicker

Well, this article started to brew while I was working at the 2011 IACP conference in San Diego. I can say "working" because attending the conference as one of the directors is a completely different experience from the four annual conferences I went to as a member. The conference was very well received from the feedback I got, so even though a few things did not go as planned, apparently the attendees were kind enough to not notice much of that.

I specifically attended this conference with the mindset that I was there to serve – the conference was not about me, but about making the experience excellent for the other attendees. My contribution did not even come close to the level of work put in by folks like Denise Collins or Martin Deeley, but being there for others is the attitude I tried to keep. Funny thing is, I learned more, connected more, and got more out of this conference than any other.

Volunteering has never been my "thing," but few actions immerse you more in an experience than taking responsibility for part of the outcome. Sometimes it is the best way to move out of your current comfort level and up to the next level of performance.

There is a well known law called Pareto's law: 20% of a population accounts for 80% of an

effect. Those of us who train know that fixing a few key behaviors in a dog often ripple out to correct other undesirable aspects.

In the IACP, we almost never hit even 20% of participation! To move forward, we need to get more folks stepping forward with a desire to serve. Serving is frustrating, time consuming, humbling, misunderstood, and unappreciated. It is also the lynchpin to moving our group forward in terms of size, professionalism, ability to help our membership, and prominence in the "world of dog." Just as teaching a skill really tests your own ability, the experience of volunteering will improve your skills as a dog professional. Serving will test you to see if you really know what you think you know. I guarantee you will come across vocal people that do not appreciate what you do – but there will be many more that do, who benefit from your efforts.

Some say that it is impossible to help another without enriching yourself in some way. I'm starting to believe that. Please, please consider serving in some way within the IACP.

We have many committees that are understaffed, and some fresh insights and perspectives can add life back to these groups.

One of the tasks I'm taking on as a director is Communications. I'm not even sure yet what all that will entail, but at a minimum it will be social media aspects and inter-organization communication. I'm sure that the process of improving communications will help my business too, but that is just a side benefit. Writing is a skill where I've become lax, and practice is the best tonic for that malady.



It was touching to me toward the end of the conference when people came up and said, "I'm new here, but I want to help – what can I do?" It meant much that people realized we gave of ourselves, and it made them want to as well. Regardless of what your skills are, we have a place for you to use them.

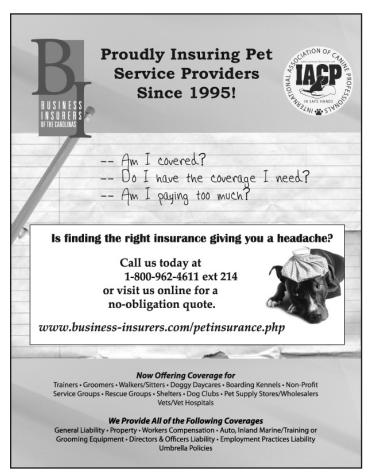
I think we are at a key juncture. We can either reach higher from the shoulder of the giants that got us to this point (the founders, directors, previous volunteers and board members) or we can get immersed in past hurts, conflicts, etc. and just let someone else take care of things since they aren't going to our liking.

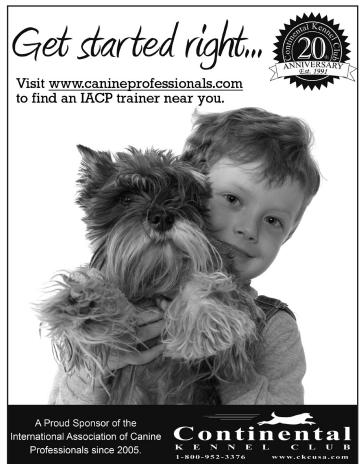
One of the most important things you can do is bring other dog professionals into the fold of the IACP. Please do not miss opportunities to invite others; the worst thing they can say is "no." And then you have an educational opportunity!

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Gayle Justice (k-9trainer@aircanopy.net). She is specifically coordinating the effort of getting the right volunteer in the right place.

Tod got involved with dogs when he began showing Cardigan Welsh Corgis in the 80s, never expecting to make working with them his full time career. He trains full time now in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, lovingly encouraged by his wife, two daughters, and three dogs

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Medical Basis for Training Issues by Debby Kay

It is often very easy to label something a dog does as a behavior problem, but as the following case studies show, the real root cause was medical. There are times as a dog trainer when we need to recognize we cannot do our job until the medical issue is resolved first. We need to recognize a dog's behavior just does not fit into any neat categories. If you suspect a medical condition, you should always consult the dog's veterinarian to eliminate the possibility of an underlying medical problem. Trained veterinarians can see things you and I as dog trainers cannot see. Every once in a while, unusual things come along that stump all of us, so put this information in your back pocket for those times.

I have always stressed that a good trainer, handler, or just plain dog owner needs to be very observant of their dog(s). These case studies show how that observation in many instances saved the lives of the dogs. We all have different experiences and education upon which we draw to help people, and when one person cannot help you, try as many as you need until you find the solution. I am reminded of the story of Thomas Edison, who, when interviewed after his 20,000 attempts to develop a light bulb filament had failed, quipped, "I have not failed; I successfully identified 20,000 filaments that do not work."

The case studies I use to make a point are aimed at the relevance to training. I have included two issues below to give you more insights into the complex relationship between good health, behavior and training.

Hypothyroidism

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The thyroid gland is one of those small innocuous glands of the body that everyone knows about, few understand, and very few people really pay any attention to. Bloodwork rarely ever includes thyroid testing, and if anything, only at a very general and not-so-accurate level. Yet, this small gland is one of the key controllers in orchestrating a smooth running, healthy body. Equally important is how the imbalance in this gland can affect behavior and training in our dogs.

The Role of the Thyroid

The thyroid gland produces hormones that are critical to maintaining your dog's normal metabolic rate. When too little thyroxin, a thyroid hormone, is produced you have the condition known as hypothyroidism. Thyroxin is so important that almost every tissue in the dog's body is controlled by the thyroid gland. Canine hypothyroidism is the most commonly diagnosed endocrine disease of dogs.

The thyroid gland plays an important role in the regulation of growth and development and the maintenance of normal protein, carbohydrate, and lipid metabolism of the dog. The thyroid is so crucial to maintaining the health of the dog that when it is not functioning properly, the overall condition and behavior of the dog is affected. I have seen so many dogs at performance events in such poor condition lately that I wonder if this might not be the underlying cause. Several studies on hypothyroidism have found the Labrador to be among the breeds commonly affected.

Often, by the time you begin to notice the signs of hypothyroidism, it has been going on for quite a while, often 6 months to a year. Most hypothyroid dogs will show some or all of the following signs: lethargy, infertility, weight gain, cold intolerance, exercise intolerance, dull and/or dry coat, slow hair growth, hair loss on the body, and hyperpigmentation of the body (this really shows on light skinned dogs when the skin darkens). I look particularly for sudden changes in behavior or the coat condition as a clue that something might be amiss with the thyroid levels. It is surprising

how many behavior "issues" can trace back to dietary imbalances. The case study below is very poignant example of the crucial role the thyroid plays in our dog's well-being.

Case History: Badger

Badger was an energetic, happy-go-lucky totally black 11-week-old Labrador with very lovely dark brown--almost black--eyes. He was raised on a natural diet as a family companion with cats, dogs and by humans experienced in dog ways. He was well socialized, attended training classes frequently; in short, Badger led the ideal life.

When Badger was about 7 months old, his owners had him out at a group training session where he suddenly acted insecure around all dogs, submitted to everyone including dogs younger than him, and was even stressed when crated. He became increasingly hyperactive; all the other dogs began picking on him, he continued to get stressed when crated, and when out of sight of his owners, he would bark, whine, and get wide-eyed.

Overall, Badger was a nervous wreck. Whereas previously he could perform novice stays, he could no longer even do this simple exercise. The problem continued to get worse with Badger injuring himself even more by running into things on walks or hurting himself in the crate.

By the time Badger was 10 months old, his owners decided this was not just a growing up phase he was going through, but perhaps something else and began to look at other possible explanations. Since Badger was a little overdue for his rabies shot, it was decided while he was at the vets to have a complete blood chemistry scan, as well as a fecal digestant test, done. Badger was showing an unusual amount of discharge

from the penis, and a nasty ear infection in both ears that could not be cleared up.

The blood workup and fecal tests were very revealing. Badger was allergic to something as his test showed high values for EOS, and also showed a malabsorption of proteins and low calcium. This diagnosis was not a good thing in a growing puppy. He also had whipworms, something very difficult to get in a stool sample. With some further testing it was determined he was allergic to the soap powder used to launder his bedding and that he needed digestive enzymes in his food. He did not improve all that much even with adjustments made to correct these problems. Now, Badger was beginning to fall asleep during training classes and even at the vets' office! Immediately everyone suspected narcolepsy, which some read also as a precursor to epilepsy. Due to his young age, no one had thought before to run a thyroid test, but at a recent seminar the owner attended, the presenter gave the owner cause to reconsider the thyroid. Badger was due for a recheck on

his blood work and this time a special thyroid panel was also done. His protein and calcium absorption was better according to the test results, though both were still low, and it turns out his thyroid was also low. Generally speaking, hypothyroidism begins in dogs around 4-6 years of age. Medication was prescribed for Badger.

Badger began to improve with the new thyroid medication and while he was not getting as stressed as he did previously, he still did not respond to the training and acted very miserable when the leash came out and it was his turn to go to work. Clearly something was wrong, but was this a training issue or still possibly a medical issue? Badger was fortunate his owners were dedicated



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enough to continue looking at sources for the problem. His owners took him next to a veterinary chiropractor. This seemed to be the missing link in this case study, as it turned out Badger had 6 neck vertebrate badly out of alignment as well as his hips being badly out of alignment. It took a total of 8 adjustments to make everything right again, but after only 2 adjustments there was a noticeable improvement to his coat and his chronic ear problems cleared up completely.

The story has a very happy ending, Badger eventually earned his advanced obedience titles with very nice scores, gained his status as leader of the doggy pack, and made friends wherever he went. Perhaps most notable however, his eyes turned to a soft, light, yellow brown indicating his system was back in balance and he was healthy once again!

Chiropractic

Every year hundreds of well-bred seemingly healthy dogs end up being cut from training programs because trainers can no longer deal with behavior issues. As in the case shown above, behavioral problems are often an expression of an underlying health problem and are just not recognized. The following two cases illustrate how spinal problems can contribute to behavior.

Case History, Blackjack:

Blackjack was a typical Shepherd puppy, full of energy, bright and responsive to his owner but he could not "hold" his bladder long enough to make it outside to relieve himself. By 7 months of age, after many consultations with professional trainers and a full exam by the local veterinarian, he was still not housebroken. A very frustrated, disheartened owner gave Blackjack to German Shepherd Rescue.

Case History, Dana:

Dana was a lovely yellow Labrador that came from a highly regarded kennel with impeccable bloodlines known for their good temperaments. She was well socialized and was never mistreated by her owners, who were very experienced dog trainers. At 9 months however, Dana was growling and nipping with vicious intent at every human and animal that came near her. Fearing for their children's safety, Dana was given to Lab Rescue with the label of "fear biter."

These and similar situations are common and are repeated countless times across the country every year. At first glance, it would be too easy to say Blackjack and Dana were either the result of bad breeding or had poor training or socializing. The truth is that neither situation applies in either of the case histories.

Both dogs were fortunate enough to be examined by a knowledgeable veterinarian who recognized they needed a chiropractic adjustment. Blackjack actually had 6 spinal vertebrate and 2 toe bones out of alignment. After his initial adjustment, he went to his new home and has not had an accident in the house since. He continues to do remarkably well in obedience and is a very well-mannered companion. Dana had a slightly different problem in that nearly every vertebrate was out of alignment but in particular, several of the nerves controlling vision were affected. Dana had her eyes cleared for PRA at a breeder's clinic at 6 months; however, it was pointed out that this type of problem would not show up normally in that type of examination. Dana took several visits to make everything right again, but her attitude improved immediately after the first adjustment. She is a wonderful and trustworthy companion today with no signs of aggression or fear biting.

Trainers, when dealing with health and behavioral issues, frequently overlook alternative veterinarian chiropractic treatment. A chiropractic veterinarian must undergo specialized training in this field in addition to their regular training and as a result there are not many in practice; however, that is no reason to discount a potential problem with the spinal column as a contributing source of a health or behavioral issue. The chiropractic involves adjustment of subluxations of the spinal column and as in the case of Blackjack, the toes or extremities. Their examination will include posture analysis, gait analysis as well as examination of the spine and legs including range of motion. X-

rays may or may not be part of the examination, depending on the nature of the initial diagnosis. What I find particularly good about chiropractic is that it is a drug-free approach to health care. The basis of chiropractic is that if an individual has a spinal column properly adjusted (which in turn keeps the nervous system inside it operating properly), the result will be a healthy benefit to the entire system.

Most of the breeds used for professional detector work are active dogs and thus are subject to many potentially damaging jolts, twists, and turns that we might overlook as insignificant. However, these small, seemingly harmless events can build and potentially lead to significant health and behavior issues. I think all dogs can benefit from an annual chiropractic examination in addition to their regular physical. This type of exam should also be considered if you have tried other solutions

to behavior problems and the problem continues to persist.

The whole purpose of raising these issues is to make you aware as canine professionals that there are often medical issues contributing to behavior. You need to always be alert to signs that could possibly indicate that another look at the situation from a different point of view might just be the solution you (and more importantly, the dog) need to bring about a happy ending.

Debby Kay has been a dog training professional since the late 1960's and is primarily known for her work with detector dogs. Her internationally renowned breeding program of Chilbrook Labradors has produced record setting dogs in many areas of competition and professional work. Check out www.chilbrook.com and www.debbykay.com

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Lessons From Lucy

by Sharon Larson, CDT

On March 26th, 2008, I was teaching a first lesson to an 8 year old Boston Terrier. The woman, who I'll call Sara, was in a wheelchair with MS. Her husband Tom was with her, along with a 4-year old daughter, Ali. The dog, Lucy, was being trained late in her life because Sara had been moved up on a list for a service dog. There were some concerns that Lucy wouldn't play nice with the upcoming addition. She was spoiled and used to running the show at home.

I had just finished my new training facility and was eager to do a lesson with lots of room in my own place. They were the first official private lesson!

We started training Lucy and her owners. Ali was entertaining herself flitting around like a real everyday Lucy distraction. My GSD was patiently waiting for her job as my canine helper for a little farther into the lesson. We had been working about 10 minutes when I stopped to give Lucy a bit of a break and explain some things to her owners. Lucy wasn't acting particularly different than one would expect from an 8-year-old dog whose power was being usurped.

She was lying comfortably near the three of us as we stood talking. Sara commented on how much she liked to lie frog-legged like she was. While we were talking, however, my instincts kicked inhaving worked in vet clinics since 1979 has given me some pretty good ones. I noticed a very small droplet of urine, and I knew Lucy was checking out.

I looked at Lucy on the floor, ran to her and did an initial first-aid assessment while Sara screamed. I am a Pet Tech First Aid Instructor, but knew Lucy's only chance was the vet. I handed Lucy to Tom and grabbed my keys.

Tom and I ran out, leaving the now hysterically screaming Sara, the oblivious Ali and my GSD to fend for themselves. I instructed him to get in my vehicle and high-tailed it to the vet.

The couple was from a small town nearby, so it was easier for me to drive and give instructions to Tom as I was driving. I had him keep Lucy's head positioned between his legs, lower than the rest of her body. She appeared to be the most comfortable and have the easiest time breathing that way. He needed to be reminded often in the 10 mile ride that seemed more like 1000 miles.

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Living in a very small town has advantages and disadvantages. We have three single-practitioner vet clinics. The nearest true emergency vet facility is about 100 miles away. The local vets take turns providing emergency services one week at a time. It so happened to be the week the vet clinic where I groom was on emergency call. It also happened the timing was such I knew the vet would just be finishing morning surgeries.

As we pulled into the parking lot, I saw Lucy give up. I got out of the car and scooped her off his lap and ran into the clinic door leading directly to treatment/surgery.

The timing was impeccable. Not only had surgeries just finished, morning appointments hadn't yet started so the vet was doing chart work right there at the treatment table. In the rush to get out the door with Lucy, I left my cell phone behind so I couldn't call them to warn them we were coming. I surprised everyone by showing up with a dog in distress, but everyone jumped to action.

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We had her intubated, bagged and medicated while I did chest compressions within the minute we arrived. Sadly, as is the case in many situations like this, Lucy couldn't be revived. I knew she had died in the parking lot as we pulled up to the clinic. We continued efforts until the vet could explain to Tom there wasn't any improvement. Lucy was gone.

Lucy was left at the clinic while I drove Tom back to my training center and his waiting family. I asked him on the way if he wanted to tell her or if he wanted me to. We talked about how to handle the situation with his young daughter. He felt Ali would be fine. Sara, on the other hand, didn't do well with situations like this.

I walked in to see Ali throwing the ball for my GSD. Bless both their hearts. They'd managed to entertain themselves while Sara spent most of the time locked in the bathroom.

She knew when she saw my face. I went into autopilot. I approached her wheel chair, knelt down and put my hand on hers. She was already bawling. I told her we did everything possible, but we were unable to save Lucy. I was sorry, but Lucy had passed away.

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Having the vet clinic background, I understood the backlash of anger coming next. Even though Sara directed it at me, it really wasn't at me as much as at the situation. I just made an easy target for her anger.

They left. I returned to the vet clinic to make arrangements for the bill. Everyone there was sympathetic and helpful. Even though I knew I wasn't to blame, there was a part of me very concerned Sara was holding me responsible.

The next day their vet did a necropsy. He called me personally with the results (another plus of having decades of vet clinic experience in a small town). The vets all know me and my reputation. Lucy had a tumor on her heart that had ruptured. It was a ticking time bomb waiting to go off. It could've happened in her sleep, jumping off the couch, running with the young girls. It just happened to occur during a break in my training session.

About a week later, I received a very nice letter from Sara. After the initial shock and grief had subsided, she thought about the timing of the events. Her vet told her it could've happened any time. In retrospect, she remembered signs of Lucy being off just a bit. Her letter says she believes it happened with me so they wouldn't have to go through it alone. She believes Lucy stepped aside so she could get her service dog without feeling guilty.

This letter, along with a photo of Lucy, hangs above my desk. I think of the events of that day from time to time. So many things fell perfectly into place, yet Lucy still died. But Lucy's family was given the comfort knowing everything possible was done to make that outcome different.

Has this changed how I do business? Not really. I do now require a health release signed by a vet stating that my canine students are healthy enough to attend training. The health release puts the responsibility onto the vet in case something should happen instead of on me.

What if this had happened to you? Are you trained in pet first aid? Would you know what to do?

Sharon Larson has been grooming professionally at the same vet clinic since 1986. She started training dogs professionally in 2003, has been a PetTech First Aid Instructor since 2006, an Advanced Kinaesthetics Specialist since 2005, has degrees in wildlife management/biology, and holds an advanced wildlife rehabilitation permit. Sharon & her husband live off-the-grid in a solar home in the middle of a state forest in Northern Wisconsin with 7 dogs and 1 cat. She can be reached at www.caninecoach.net or www. wildinstinctsrehab.com

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

One of the hallmarks of maturity is, to me, the ability to listen to constructive criticism and allow it to change your course, and even your life. It's not easy to do—it's painful and sometimes feels like humiliation. It seems as if most Americans either never had the ability, or have lost it in our culture of instant gratification and celebrity-worship. The

result of this is that many of us are not challenged to grow in our lives, which is a shame. Fearful that criticism directed at us will be destructive rather than constructive, we avoid it. We play it safe, and surround ourselves with opinions just like ours. Stagnation is the result—and it affects dog trainers' work as much as anyone's.

So it's always refreshing when people invite criticism by stepping outside their egos and creating challenging work, or by standing up when they have made mistakes or upset others, taking the heat, and becoming better people. I have a lot of respect for individuals who can do this. I'm happy to report that

longtime IACP supporter and very well-known dog rehabilitator Cesar Millan has done it in his latest book. *Cesar's Rules* (2010, Crown Publishing, New York, New York, 305 pages) is the best of his books and I recommend you give it a look—even if you wouldn't consider yourself a "fan." Cesar can teach many of us about maturity, and respecting the work of others. Though he's a had a hugely popular TV show on National Geographic Channel for the last 8 years and is a well-known celebrity to dog lovers, Cesar still has an air of humility about him and this book shows it.

Cesar has taken his critics' words to heart and semi-remade himself as a trainer who is more balanced in the true sense of the word. For this book he consulted with 11 professionals in the dog training world (including our own Martin Deeley, who is extensively quoted) with many different training approaches, including several whose followers have been very critical of Millan in the past. Dog owners in general are fond of him (and he writes for them—not dog trainers), but trainers who limit themselves to positive reinforcement and occasional negative punishment have vilified Millan for not being science-based, for using tools they do not approve of, and for using what they consider way too much physical force.

Cesar's Rules is a more polished tome than Millan's previous works, and this is a "yay-boo" thing. As an avid reader, I appreciate good editing and skillful turns-of-phrase. Melissa Jo Peltier, Millan's co-writer, has done an excellent job turning Millan's folksy wisdom into easier reading. However, I don't hear his voice as much in the book because of it.

Regardless, the message is still quite clear: that despite what tools we use, making sure the dog is balanced is tantamount. He still believes strongly in the power of the pack walk, and of the need to touch dogs for more than praise. He's still an advocate for dogs being allowed to do what they are bred to, and for owners to make sure they meet a dog's true needs.

But his views have definitely been widened in a good way by his travels and time spent with the likes of lan Dunbar, Joel Silverman, Kirk Turner, Bonnie Brown-Cali, and others. He asks them to teach him, and they do. He acknowledges the parts that work, and kindly disagrees with the ones that don't. Then he summarizes their words pretty well and discusses what he agreed with and what he disagreed with. The reader can judge for himself what approach may be best in a certain situation.

One of the things I enjoyed most about this book apart from Millan's humility was that, for the first time, he gives concrete training information based on

the approaches he's learned. I was pleased to see several ways to get a behavior (something generally missing in dog training books for the public) for each behavior taught. Of course, the behaviors he discusses may not meet your criteria, and he isn't terribly expansive, but I believe them to be a good starting point for most pet owners.

Cesar's Rules is more than what I've told you here, but this is less a true book review than a commentary on the freshness of its author's behavior. Yes, it is possible for a man with no "formal" training to be a successful "dog personality," but we already knew that. What's remarkable to me is that this man "came to the party" with methods and approaches he knew to work for him, found that they made for good TV but didn't always send the right message (and that they didn't necessarily transfer to the owners after he'd left), and did what many dog trainers (and regular people) are loathe to do. He listened. And he made adjustments. Cesar Millan doesn't make excuses for his methods, and he shouldn't. But each and every one of us can grow and learn from others.

Cesar has done this with humility and grace.

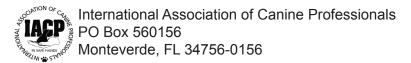
Mailey, The Pooch Professor, is Editor of SafeHands Journal. She has worked professionally with dogs and their people for nearly 30 years. Read more at www.carpek9.blogspot.com.

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