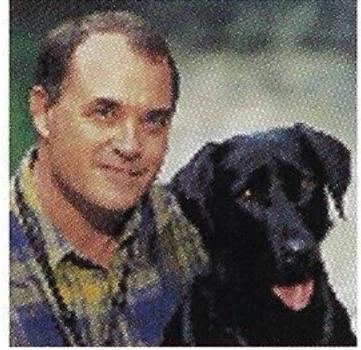
## IACP Executive Director \*\*



#### Martin Deeley



he IACP is an organization for all canine professionals to provide communication across the varied occupations about events within the dog world that

could affect all of us. One of our main roles is to stay informed and provide a voice for IACP members.

Some of you will remember that in mid-year of 1998 the Delta Society funded a project coordinated by the American Humane Association (AHA) known as the "AHA Guidelines for Humane Dog Training." AHA contracted Dr. Suzanne Hetts, a Certified Animal Behaviorist, to lead the project for them.

Dr. Hetts established a voluntary working party of well-known and influential veterinarians, behaviorists and dog-training professionals to lend their time and expertise to the project with the promise that they would see, approve, and agree to the final draft of the guidelines prior to publication. In May of this year, DVM Magazine printed excerpts from the guidelines along with comments from the project leader, Dr. Hetts, and an AHA Director. The excerpts partially itemized a list from the Guidelines of "techniques or tools" which "are harmful or cruel, and should never be used as training techniques." This list could lead an inexperienced reader to the incorrect impression that these were standard practices among dog trainers. The wording of the small excerpt was such that there was a lack of clarity that could be misinterpreted in a way that would lead to controls being imposed on accepted practices and exceptional-circumstances action by a trainer. The article also contained an important and very disturbing statement made by AHA's Director of Shelter Programs, Connie Howard, who was quoted as saying, "This is an opportunity to professionalize the hobby of dog training."

The minute this article came to the IACP's

attention, our communication "wheels" went into motion. Some of the trainers (a number of them now IACP members) who had spent a lot of long, hard work for this project were contacted and we found that they had NOT seen a final draft of the guidelines and that the excerpt in DVM Magazine was NOT what they had expected.

It is essential when there are guidelines, restrictions, controls and regulations that affect one specific section of our profession, that the professionals who prepare, write and take responsibility for them are from that specific group of professionals. It is equally important to obtain agreement and acceptance of the final document from as many professionals and associations as will be affected, and that at all times they are kept informed, involved and consulted. This has not happened with this project. Every member of the working party was, I quote from several members, "sworn to secrecy," which immediately created, among many within the profession, doubt and mistrust about the purpose and content of the guidelines.

In an effort to help our dog-training members and the industry, IACP ensured that the contents of this DVM article and our interpretations of them were communicated to as many members of the dog community as possible. The result was that the Delta Society and AHA received enough letters and telephone calls to call a halt in printing the guidelines, which had already been submitted to a printing company for publication.

Through the coordinated action of the IACP, NADOI and NAIA, the AHA has now agreed that all the professional team members on the project, along with a group of professional trainers, independent of the original working party, will do a final review of the guidelines prior to printing. AHA has been very attentive to the collaborative concerns and recommendations received and members of the IACP Management Board are part of that external review group. This review is now in process.

Equally as important as the total agreement by ALL the project members and the independent group of trainers, is the need in the future for open commu-

nication channels and involvement by other associations who will be affected. I believe our voice, for our dog-training members, has been heard. These guidelines can provide a strong and much-needed support foundation for the dog-training world. Then again, it could provide the foundation for unnecessary and unacceptable controls to be implemented and imposed upon dog trainers and used as a potential political tool to obtain governance on methodology and equipment.

This is just speculation, of course, because the aim of the guidelines is supposed to provide a professional basis from which to work, and to provide advice and support information to those entering the profession. The IACP and NADOI both have guidelines and a Code of Practice in effect within their respective associations, and some of you may be asking, "Then why do we need more?" The IACP welcomes any attempt that will help professionals within this industry become more professional and succeed in their chosen career. What it will not accept and will challenge is the reduction of already established lawful training techniques and equipment. Neither will we accept the demeaning of its professionals and false implications of professional malpractice among its members and fellow professionals without substantiated proof.

Many professionals and associations within the dog industry could be affected by these guidelines for dog trainers. The IACP wants you to know that, together with our fellow organizations and associations, we are determined to ensure that when they are published it will not be to the detriment of the dog profession or dogs, but be a positive and balanced guideline for the future advancement of our professions and our first love, dogs.

Coordinated efforts do work and I encourage those reading this who are not yet members of IACP to join and help us to provide a united voice of reason and common sense.

May I take this opportunity to wish all a happy and successful New Year.









Pro-Files:

# An Interview with Captain Arthur Haggerty \*



### Jan Gribble © 2000

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Deadlines

Feb. 1, May 1, Aug. 1, Nov. 1, 2000

Subscriptions

"Subscription only": Individual newsletters are available for \$25/yr. Bulk subscriptions are available to Associate and Professional members only. Please write IACP for quotes at address below.

IACP Membership/Newsletter Information

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Jay Stull

mong the more well-known names in the world of dog training is Captain Arthur J. Haggerty. His friends call him "Cap," while those less disposed to his company might utter such terms as (censored) and (censored). One point both camps can agree upon however: The Captain calls 'em the way he sees 'em.

Cap, can you tell everyone a little about yourself: where you are from and how you got involved with dogs?

1'm originally from New York. I was raised with dogs. My father bred Irish Setters. I was always obsessed with dogs and was always bringing stray dogs home.

I understand you worked with dogs when you were in the military. Can you tell me when that was, and what you did?

1 was in the military during the Korean War. Basically the dogs used were German Shepherds. Generally they had two types of dogs-sentry dogs and scout dogs-although there were some other types, these dogs existing just for demonstration purposes and research purposes. When I took over the dog training in Fort Carson in Georgia, I pushed for that. We did some other work with the different types of dogs. Worked some dogs in tripwire and explosive detection. That was before the Vietnam War where this type of deployment was officially underway.

What breeds of dogs have you owned in the past? Can you tell us about the dogs you currently live with?

I've had Dobermans, Bull Terriers, Pit Bull Terriers, Corgis, Chihuahuas, Yorkies, Goldens. I probably have bred over 1,000 German Shepherds. I've probably owned 20 different breeds of dogs. I currently have a Shepherd, Malinois and Golden.

You have made a name for yourself as a dog trainer and author. What activ-Uities have you been involved in with your own dogs?

Well, I certainly think that I have made a name for myself in more areas than writing and training. I'm not doing anything with my dogs right now. You know the old story about the shoemaker . . . I've competed in obedience in the past up to the UD level and in many other areas of training.

Mho are some of the people you feel have had the biggest impact upon the profession in the last century?

Hard to say. I can come up with a who's who" of dogdom. Everybody that I dealt with had an influence on me, one way or the other. Even the [bleep]s had an influence on me and I'll tell you I learned stuff from real jerks. They've got it wrong and are doing it backwards but if you look at what they say and what they claim, there is a certain merit there and if you can separate the wheat from the chafe you've got some good stuff. I've had some real dum-dums give me great ideas.

Tell us about the changes in the profession you have seen during your career, and your perception of these changes.





Dog training hasn't changed. The world has changed. "Autres temps, autres moeurs." There are innovations. More dog sports available. I see a lot of people going in the right direction, they just don't know how to get there. They want to be the person who invented the wheel but it's been done before. People want to be the first one there but man, what are you going to be there first with-someone's done that before you. My perception is you have a lot of part-timers and they have no business sense at all. You see these people doing stupid things business-wise and they don't even realize what their time is worth and I find that annoying. Dogs as a hobby are great. It started as a hobby for me. Your approach to it as a hobby vs. a business should be different.

I say I don't have a trust fund and I don't have a significant other to support me. We should all realize what we are doing.

With all the current attempts to pass breed specific legislation in various parts of the U.S., what do you think dog trainers should be doing to protect their rights as dog owners?

Dog trainers don't look out for themselves. They believe the party line and don't know what in the hell they are talking about. What they should do is go out and find out about different things-the whole picture, not just their little narrow area of training. Reach out and find out everything about dogs and life in general. Breed specific legislation is unfair and evil. Strictly from a selfish point of view, I don't want them to

restrict any breed of dog at all. Breeders are getting themselves boxed in a corner, backing laws that are going to hurt them indirectly. These people will back a law and they don't realize, hey, what's going to happen when the law applies to them? We are all stupid and we're all sheep and we do what they tell us. We should protest all the time. Don't let them ram this stuff down our throats. They pass this stuff that has no basis in fact.

nlf someone was to compare you to a breed of dog, what breed do you think you would be?

A Pit Bull or a Bull Terrier, but with the intelligence of a Standard Poodle.



## \* Are You A Scientist or An Engineer?

#### Vivian Bregman

y husband is an engineer and for many years he has said that the difference between an engineer and a scientist is the following:

A scientist doesn't care if something works, he is only interested in the why of it. An engineer isn't so much interested in the why of it as he is interested in getting it to work.

It seems to me that some dog trainers are not interested so much in the why of behavior; they are interested in changing the behavior of the dog so that the dog stays in the home. It also seems to me that some dog trainers are not interested so much in changing the dog's behavior as they are interested in figuring out why the dog does what he does, and why he doesn't do what he doesn't do.

> This leads to interesting discussions on semantics, in which the point is not to train the dog but rather to show off the

science. I spent many days discussing the following problem on one of the email dog training lists:

Let's say that A has a student with a dog who pulls on the leash.

Let's say that B has a student with a dog who also pulls on the leash.

A decides to use a lead pop to teach the dog to stop pulling. He then starts to walk and when the dog pulls he turns around and goes in the opposite direction. The dog quickly learns that not paying attention makes him uncomfortable because he feels a jerk on the collar.

B, on the other hand, uses what he thinks of as a much more positive method. When the dog pulls, B stops. The lead tightens and the dog gets a collar jerk, but the dog is doing it. When the dog stops pulling, B walks. The dog learns that if he wants to walk he can't pull.

A calls what he does punishment, because the dog no longer pulls on the leash. Punishment is defined by behaviorists as that which causes the behavior to happen less often. B calls what he does a reward, because when the dog stops pulling B walks. And the walk is what the dog wants. Reward is defined by behaviorists as that which causes the behavior to happen more often. Both dogs have gotten a collar jerk. Both dogs have been trained.

Do you care what it's called? Does the owner? Does the dog?

Remember that the point of dog training is to train the dog, not just to explain the behavior.

Vivian started showing and training dogs in 1963, and has put 32 titles in three registries on her eight dogs. She is endorsed by NADOI and is one of the founders of IACP.





## A Breed Apart \*



he Thai Ridgeback was practically unknown in the western world until the early 1990's. This primitive pariah dog is a domesticated, direct descendant of the Asian dingo, and retains most of the physical, and many of the mental, characteristics of his wild ancestor. Cave drawings dated as early as 3500 BC depict dogs that appear to be Thai Ridgebacks assisting men in the hunt. There is archeological evidence that suggests these dogs may have been aiding the prehistoric Asians in the hunt thousands of years before that!

The earliest domesticated Thai Ridgebacks may or may not have



been ridged. It is unknown at what point the mutation that created the reverse hairgrowth on the spine occurred. There is, however, an existing ancient Thai manuscript that describes the dogs exactly as we know them today, and which demonstrates that the ridge was well established 400 years ago.

The Thai Ridgeback was historically both hunting companion and guardian to his family in rural Thailand. He assisted in the hunt by locating, flushing, or treeing prey, and was expected to keep his owner's land and home free of vermin (such as cobras) and trespassers (human, dingo, or wild dog). He accompanied his owner to market as protection against highwaymen.

DNA testing has proven that the Thai Ridgeback was the original ridged dog and the source of the ridge in the only other ridged breeds, the Phu Quoc and the Rhodesian Ridgeback. These same DNA studies also indicated that the Phu Quoc is merely an isolated population of Thai Ridgebacks. All indications are that the native South African Hottentot dog, which lent its ridge to the modern Rhodesian, owed his own ridge to the Thai Ridgeback. There is also strong evidence that the Thai Ridgeback is the ancestor of the Basenji and the Shar Pei. Very young Thai Ridgeback pups are often mistaken for Shar Pei puppies because of their heavy wrinkling.

The philosophy in eastern Thailand, where the breed was preserved until modern times, was to allow the dogs to breed by natural selection. Artificial selection has only been practiced over the last twenty years or so, and the majority of the dog population is still left to procreate by natural selection in their native country. This has resulted in an amazingly hearty breed. To date there are no reports of hip dysplasia in any Thai Ridgeback in the western world. The first Thai Ridgeback imported to Europe was a bitch who is currently fourteen years old, healthy and active.

This author owns the oldest Thai Ridgeback in the United States, a nineyear-old bitch who is in excellent health.

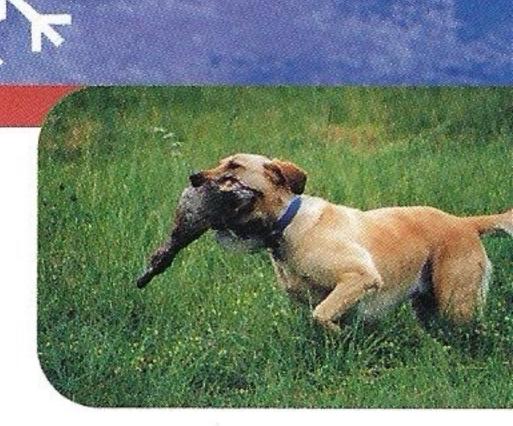
The most serious breed-related health issue is dermoid sinus. This condition also plagues the Rhodesian Ridgeback and the Phu Quoc as it is directly related to the ridge. It is believed to be polygenetic in origin, and ranges in seriousness from a minor cyst that is easily removed to a life-threatening situation if the sinus is connected to the spine. This condition is present in some form in at least 30 percent of all offspring.

The exotic and beautiful Thai Ridgeback is not for the faint-hearted or inexperienced dog owner. Those who are attracted to him because of his unique coat (very short and soft as suede), ridge, and rarity should think twice. The ferocity of the Thai Ridgeback is widely known and greatly feared and respected in Thailand. His personality is similar to that of the Basenji. He is very prey driven, prone to intense dog aggression, extremely territorial, very independent and very athletic. He can be difficult to contain and a challenge to train. Many Thai Ridgebacks still possess a primitive pariah temperament and never socialize well. Many also suffer from very poor stress recovery.

The Thai Ridgeback is an extremely loyal, one-person dog who is prone to separation anxiety. He is exceedingly intelligent and very affectionate with his own family. A well-bred, properly socialized and trained Thai Ridgeback can be a wonderful companion and pet for the right owner; but owning a Thai Ridgeback requires a strong commitment of time and attention.

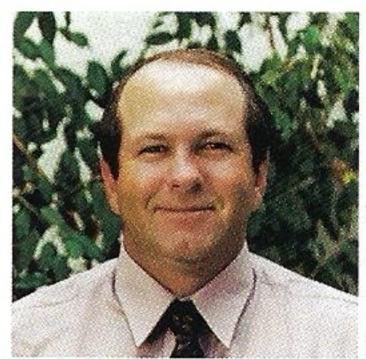
Kathy Hughes has been training and breeding dogs for over 30 years. Earning her first obedience title at seventeen, she continued on to operate training businesses in the Detroit, Nashville, and Atlanta metro areas.





## \* From the President

#### Rocky Boatman



ello everyone and welcome to all our new members. Since our

inception, we continue to grow in numbers. Joining IACP is the right step forward in ensuring the total dog concept. Welcome aboard.

In this issue, I would like to discuss certification of dog trainers. There has been much buzz around the Internet about which organizations will certify dog trainers, do we even need a certification program for this profession, and how will the process be carried out? In reading all the emails on various discussion lists, it is obvious that many want some sort of a certification program; however; many wonder who would be the most qualified to ensure the certification process is fair and equitable to all concerned. I would like to offer you my thoughts on this process.

First of all, I strongly agree that some sort of a certification for professional dog trainers should be in place. I have met many so-called dog trainers who realistically do not understand dogs or clients and many have done more harm than good. Some of these dog trainers have never trained a dog themselves, yet call themselves trainers based on a book they have read and a class they have taught. Anyone can pick up a book, read it, make an outline, organize a class, and teach it based on what was read. This, in itself, does not necessarily hurt the public; however, when they

go beyond their knowledge and skills, problems do develop. When these people advertise that they are behaviorists or that they conduct behavior modification, without proper training and experience, many dogs end up in shelters or worse. Of course, the public does not know any different. They do not know if this person has the experience or skills to solve training or behavior problems. They can only go by what is published in the yellow pages, word of mouth (which can also be misleading if the person making the recommendation did not have any problems), or what the trainer tells the potential client. Many dog owners place the fate of their dogs in the hands of amateurs. This is one of the main reasons a certification program needs to be in place.

# any certification process should be welcomed, as long as it is geared toward experience and not concentrated on particular methods.

Secondly, who is qualified to develop and administer a reliable and tested certification program? Well, there are three major organizations that cater to trainers. One already has an endorsement (or certification) program in place, but it is only geared for instructors. The second one is writing a certification program; however, the organization does not have the best interest of ALL trainers in mind. The third and only organization capable of devel-

oping and administering a certification program for all levels of trainers is the IACP. We are working hard to ensure the test will encompass all trainers, not just ones who train a certain way. When completed, IACP will have the responsibility to ensure professionalism within our field. This certification will ensure that those who deserve to be certified by IACP will carry our seal of approval, while those who need extra skills and training will know what areas to improve. Education will go hand in hand with the certification process so that everyone who wishes to reach the goal of certification will have clear guidelines as to what paths need to be followed.

In closing, I want to say that any certification process should be welcomed, as long as it is geared toward experience and not concentrated on particular methods. Certification will separate those who claim to be dog trainers from those who actually are. We take pride in our profession, as do groomers, kennel operators and owners, veterinarians, and many other canine professionals.

It is time to bring our profession up a notch into a recognized and respected career.

Until next time,

Rocky Boatman President, IACP

Rocky Boatman has been training for 29 years and owns Arizona Canine Academy. He is a founding member of the IACP and also belongs to NADO and APD. Rocky is also the Regional Representative for PAWS With A Cause.









# \* Practical Ethics

#### Sharon Benter

hen we address the subject of ethics in our professions, it encompasses a great deal of meaning. So rather than ponder the deepest meaning of the word, let's narrow "ethical" down to something we can walk away with and use on a daily basis.

Consider ethics in a slightly different way than you might have read about lately. To cut to the heart of the matter, read the following words and you may derive a slightly different feeling about yourself, your business, maybe even your life. Think about integrity, professionalism, and a quest for excellence.

Integrity means soundness. It means to firmly adhere to a moral or artistic value. It means to be incorruptible and honest. Without integrity, we cannot say we adhere to true ethics.

And we all think we have it. But do we? Answer this question: How honest were you on your taxes? Does that hit a nerve? Did you immediately start to rationalize that everyone fudges just a little bit, therefore you are justified to claim that extra dinner out, that road trip that really wasn't business? Did you have a ride on the train of excuses?

"Just what does this have to do with dog training, veterinary work, kennel operations, grooming etc.?" you ask? Nothing and everything. Nothing directly and everything if you wish to call yourself someone with integrity.

A canine professional faces tough clients, patients, and other business people that may or may not leave us feeling good. We sometimes have to break bad news, and we sometimes fail our own or someone else's expectations of us. All this is inevitable, but we can at least adhere to a set of standards that is becoming all too rare these days.

This is Integrity, and it begins with each one of us.

We've seen actions of others (oh, always of others) that leave us confused and maybe a little sad. This world seems often to be in the grasp of those with the most power, and clawing to the top was the only way to get there.

Consider what the author Max Lucado said about power. "The quest for excellence is a sign of maturity. The quest for power is childish." This is the "quest for excellence" that I'm focusing on. Excellence is part of who we are, not just an outward display we show the world.

We must passionately believe in what we do, and end the compromise of our values. It means being honest not just to our clients, but to ourselves and everyone else.

It means getting off the train of excuses when we don't measure up, admitting our mistakes and moving on.

"But," you say, "if I admit I made a mistake with a client's dog, it can spell untold trouble." Yes, it can. Nobody said having integrity would always be easy.

And it's getting harder every day. Just take a look around you. Read today's newspaper.

Somebody, somewhere is in trouble, andto hear them tell it-it's not their fault.

They've been caught, and the reason they were involved in \*Fill in the blank\* is because of \*Fill in the blank.\*

Do you believe in absolutes? Do you think there is an absolute wrong and an absolute right?

If you feel right and wrong are relative, you'll have difficulty with integrity. If wrong can be justified by circumstance, then you are on the road of the everlasting excuses.

Working toward excellence means not making excuses. It's not saying you were too busy to call, or that you forgot. It means making darn sure you do call, it means being there when you said you would, when you don't feel like it and could easily skip out. Is this hard to do? You bet it is, at times.

About a week ago, a friend invited me over to visit with some women who were home while their husbands were away on a church retreat for men. I accepted. I had just returned from a small vacation and had not started this article, and the deadline was near.

I could have called and said that my schedule was tight, that I had a deadline to meet, apologized and bowed out gracefully. In fact, I truly wanted to do just exactly that. But a voice within me said, "If you're going to be writing an article on ethics, do what you said you would do."

So I went to my friend's home. As it turned out, she surprised me by making a lovely cake for my birthday the day before and another friend was there to present me with a gift they had bought for me on a recent trip to Israel. I had a lovely time, and would have felt rotten had I not gone but found out later what these friends had done.

But my decision to "just do it" wasn't a magnificent gesture on my part. In the scheme of things, it was a small part of the big picture. But if you put enough of these pieces together, the small acts of honesty, the little remembrances of a promise to do something, they all add up. Pretty soon, those around you see something different about you. They begin to see that you are reliable, honest, and that you have integrity. It is a wonderful feeling, and while I may



ANNOUNCING!

not have arrived at that point in my life yet, one of my goals is to leave this earth with that reputation.

Another thing we must avoid is gossip. I admit, I thought that was an easy one. People with integrity do not involve themselves with such nonsense. Then I began showing dogs.

It's not easy, but it's not impossible either. Gossip destroys the gossip's reputation. It is one of the reasons some canine professions have trouble with one another. It tells the person we gossip with that we are untrustworthy, but we so often enjoy it. We must stand out. Don't get involved in gossip.

I hope I have encouraged you to be professional and above board, not just act or say that you are. It must start from within, in order for it to show on the outside. It must encompass all areas of our lives, not just what we do for a living. If we claim to be honest in business, we must be honest with our families. If we don't steal, then we return items we borrowed from others. If we don't cheat, then we don't cheat on our taxes, either. If we have our canine friends in our best interest, then we treat colleagues and humans with respect also, even when they try our patience. If you have compassion for a dog, then have compassion for the idiot who just cut you off on the freeway.

I welcome your comments and suggestions. You may contact me via email at: dogmother@earthlink.net

Until next time,

Sharon Benter Special "T" Dog Training Huntington Beach, Ca.

Sharon Benter has been a respected dog trainer for 23 years. Her reputation for integrity and honesty is well known.

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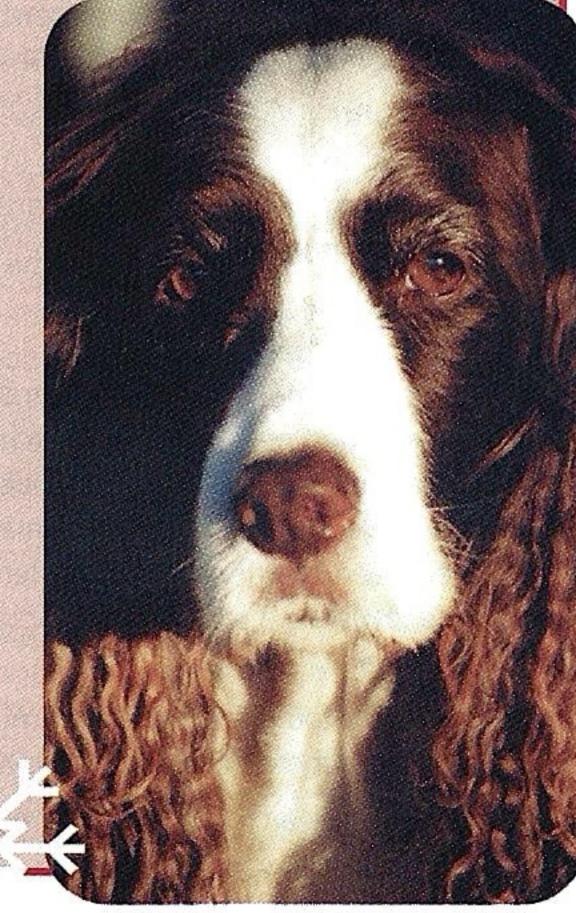
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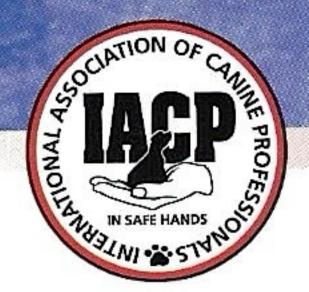
Please allow 30 days for the review and processing of your application. Should the IACP need to clarify any aspect of your application, we will contact you. Upon acceptance of membership, you will receive an IACP Membership Card and ID Number. In addition, your name and business will be announced in the IACP newsletter.

We look forward to welcoming you into the International Association of Canine Professionals.

Martin Deeley
Executive Director, IACP









# \* Second Chances

#### Karla Clinch

oughing and hacking, he is barely able to stand while he urinates. You can count every bone in his back and ribs. Yet his gentle nature shines in his eyes. His tail continues to wag, and kisses abound joyously.

His name is Drager, and he just walked into my life, via Jean Burns, DVM, who has an incurable love for all mastiff breeds and is very active in rescue. A wonderful person, with a love that I have seldom seen for animals and their needs.

As near as we can determine, Drager is 18 months old and was thrown from a moving vehicle. Weighing a mere 70 pounds, he is 30 pounds underweight. And he has kennel cough to boot.

In Miami-Dade County alone, you can walk into their animal-control facility on any given day and find well over 400 dogs, 90 percent of which are purebreds. Most will die within three to five days. Some will be adopted, to good homes and to bad homes.

Why? My mind cries out. I know that the answer is ignorance on the part of the general public, and complacency on the part of some canine professionals.

There is a treatment for this disease-Education. And education comes in several forms. Here are a few things I am trying to do to educate and solve this problem.

- 1) Offer free "pre-pet seminars." I offer these a few times a year, before major holidays when pets would be purchased. I provide a small packet of materials in inexpensive folders, most of the material having been gleaned from the Internet. The following are some of the topics that I cover:
- A) Where to purchase a pet and more important, where not to purchase a pet.
- B) How to research breeds and breeder.
- C) Information on the AKC, and how registration papers are not a guarantee of quality.

- D) Where to acquire more information regarding certain breeds.
- E) A listing of shelters and purebred rescues in the area.
- F) Why adult dogs are just as good as puppies.
- G) And of course, my business card, with a 10 percent discount on all services.
- H) Instead of buying someone a pet as a gift, buy a crate, books, obedience-class gift certificates. Or a gift certificate from the local shelter, so the person can pick their own pet.
- I) Point out that since they wouldn't buy a car without researching, they shouldn't buy a pet without researching.
- 2) Offer obedience training at a discounted price for those that adopt from animal shelters.
- 3) Get together with local shelters and teach classes at their facilities. Charge for the classes but donate the money to the shelter.
- 4) Rescue, provide health care and obedience training for at least two dogs a year. Then place them in good homes. Don't give them away, sell them. Then donate the money to the same rescue that you acquired them from. I do this, charging \$400.00 for the dog, requiring a contract, and forwarding all the money to the rescue.

If every canine professional-whether trainer, groomer, vet, vet tech, breeder or whatever-would rescue two dogs a year, we'd make a serious dent in the number of dogs who die in shelters every year.

I am not saying take the sickest, most timid dogs out there. I am saying take a dog that is on death row, who is a nice dog, with kind eyes, and give him a chance. A chance at life. A chance to be happy. A chance to make someone happy.

A chance for deliverance from certain death.

If you have any comments, or would like further information on pre-pet seminars or teaching obedience classes with shelters, please feel free to contact me.

Karla Clinch Dog Training By Karla Ft. Lauderdale, FL 954-255-2389 dogtrner1@aol.com

A Veterinarian Technician, Karla Clinch has trained dogs for over 20 years. She teaches obedience classes and trains assistance dogs in Ft. Lauderdale. Karla is a consultant with Department of Defense's Assistance Dog Training program.









# \* Halter Collars - Pros & Cons

#### Lyn Richards

alti Collars and Gentle Leaders have been compared to horse halters and harnesses, but they are neither. Nor are they muzzles, a long-misunderstood concept by the public. They are actually collars that the dog wears on the face.

Dr. Roger Mugford invented the Halti, and Dr. R. K. Anderson, DVM & Ruth E. Foster of NADOI invented the Gentle Leader. The collars are constructed of nylon, are very durable, come in several sizes and have either a conventional metal buckle or a plastic snap-release closure.

The Gentle Leader fits closer to the eyes, and can be fitted around the muzzle fairly tightly without impeding breathing or the opening and closing of the mouth. The Halti fits lower on the muzzle and is looser and self adjusting.

Each fit has its advantages and disadvantages. I find the Halti is easily removed by dogs not adequately acclimated to the collar, but it also has the advantage of being a much more comfortable fit for a long-nosed breed (such as my breed, the Great Dane).

The Halti is constructed more like a horse halter, with supporting side bands that connect the muzzle band and the neck closure. This gives the collar a looser fit, but requires a very careful fitting and close attention to the dog for every minute it is wearing the Halti. New users and dog owners who do not pay proper attention to their dogs should be very closely supervised while the dogs are wearing the collars for the first time.

On the other hand, the Gentle Leader works great on brachycephalic breeds and other shorter-nosed dogs, as it is much harder to slip out of. The Gentle Leader tends to ride up to close the eyes on some long-nosed

dogs. Built similarly to an upside down figure eight, the eight crosses over itself under the chin, very close to the throat. This same design is the reason that the collar works better on shorter-nosed dogs, and is extremely hard for dogs to remove.

I strongly recommend that the handler use a special lead with either of these halters, which will save a lot of heartache and problems. It is called a European or Traffic Lead. This leash has two clips, one on each end. The smaller clip is attached to the Halti or Gentle Leader ring, the second, larger clip is attached to the dog's conventional collar. The purpose of this lead is twofold: First, the dog is still attached to the owner should the animal ever slip its halter collar. Second, control of the dog is not just placed on the halter, which will prevent neophytes from possibly damaging their dogs' necks by jerking or pulling sharply, but is distributed evenly on both leads.

The halter is based on the principle that a dog's body will follow his nose, and the gentle turning in of the head prevents the dog from leaving the handler. The theory is that dogs who otherwise tend to pull on a leash will self-correct without any jerking, yanking, pinching or damage to the neck. The dog learns very quickly not to forge ahead. Slight wrist pressure is all that is required to turn the dog's head back toward the handler.

The pros of this collar are that proper use provides simple, fast and easy control over just about any dog, without pain. Even the frailest of my elderly clients can easily train their pet dog not to pull but to walk quietly alongside them, without incident. Dogs quickly learn that to pull away while wearing this collar results-sometimes with amusing expressions on the part of the dog-in the dog squarely facing the handler, instead of hauling the handler along like a feather on the wind.

Once the dog grasps the concept that he must stay with and pay attention to the handler, then the next step to attention and obedience is a small one.

Cons involve client/handler misuse of the halter, such as jerking or pulling the head around sharply, which can certainly cause vertebral damage. Owners who are new handlers or inattentive may also end up with a loose dog, if they are not taught to pay attention. This can end up as an advantage if the instructor uses it to educate the owner/handler from day one that the only way to train a dog is to give a dog as much attention as you expect. This means, your full attention is on your dog when he is on lead.

Finally, many people who use these collars tend to get lazy, because the devices do work. Then they come to depend upon them and stop "training" the dog to walk properly in heel position, or on a loose leash. It is imperative to teach every dog how to walk properly on any lead or collar. As well, training should be done to proof all dogs to listen to the owner and respond immediately, under all circumstances. The proper use of this collar is as an aid to handling a puller, to obtain the dogs attention long enough to train, without harming the neck or causing pain, as can happen with misuse of chokes, pinches and martingales.

The negatives of this collar are certainly not reasons not to use it; they are reasons to learn and teach the collar's proper use, as well as to graduate beyond the need for this collar in the dog's future.

Lyn Richards operates
www.DogLogic.com, belongs to DWAA
and APDT, and writes for several Great
Dane and online publications. An IACP
Director and website administrator, she
is the Education Director for the Great
Dane Rescue Alliance.







### The Management & Training Equation

## \* A View To Balance

### Mary Mazzeri

hen interacting with a dog it is only human to impose our human thought processes on the animal and interpret canine behavior through human perspective. Unless a dog's owner makes some effort to understand their pet's behavior and instincts, there is a high probability that the dog will develop behavior problems. Some pet owners assume their pooch is preprogrammed to understand all that is required. Many pups grow up like Topsy, without any "fetching up." They are expected to figure things out on their own and understand the subtleties of human linguistics and society.

Dogs do come pre-programmed-to act like dogs. Dogs want to know who is in charge. They crave enjoyable, understandable relationships, and consistent rules. Those in charge set the relational rules of order. Wise owners teach their pups what is acceptable play (e.g., retrieving puppy toys) and what is not (e.g., knocking down the toddler). They teach the pup to sit patiently while the food bowl is placed. In the pup's mind, those who control resources are the

leaders. Leaders teach the pup to accept gentle restraint. In the pup's mind, those who control personal space are the leaders. Leaders teach the puppy where to sleep, where she is and is not allowed and to move out of the way when the leader walks by. In the pup's mind, those who control territory are the leaders.

# Some per owners assume their pooch is preprogrammed to understand all that is required.

These types of simple rules establish healthy relationships within the perceived pack. Such a relationship is fun, safe and secure. These relational skills help mold the pup's worldview. Dogs learn these things through both intentional and unintentional training.

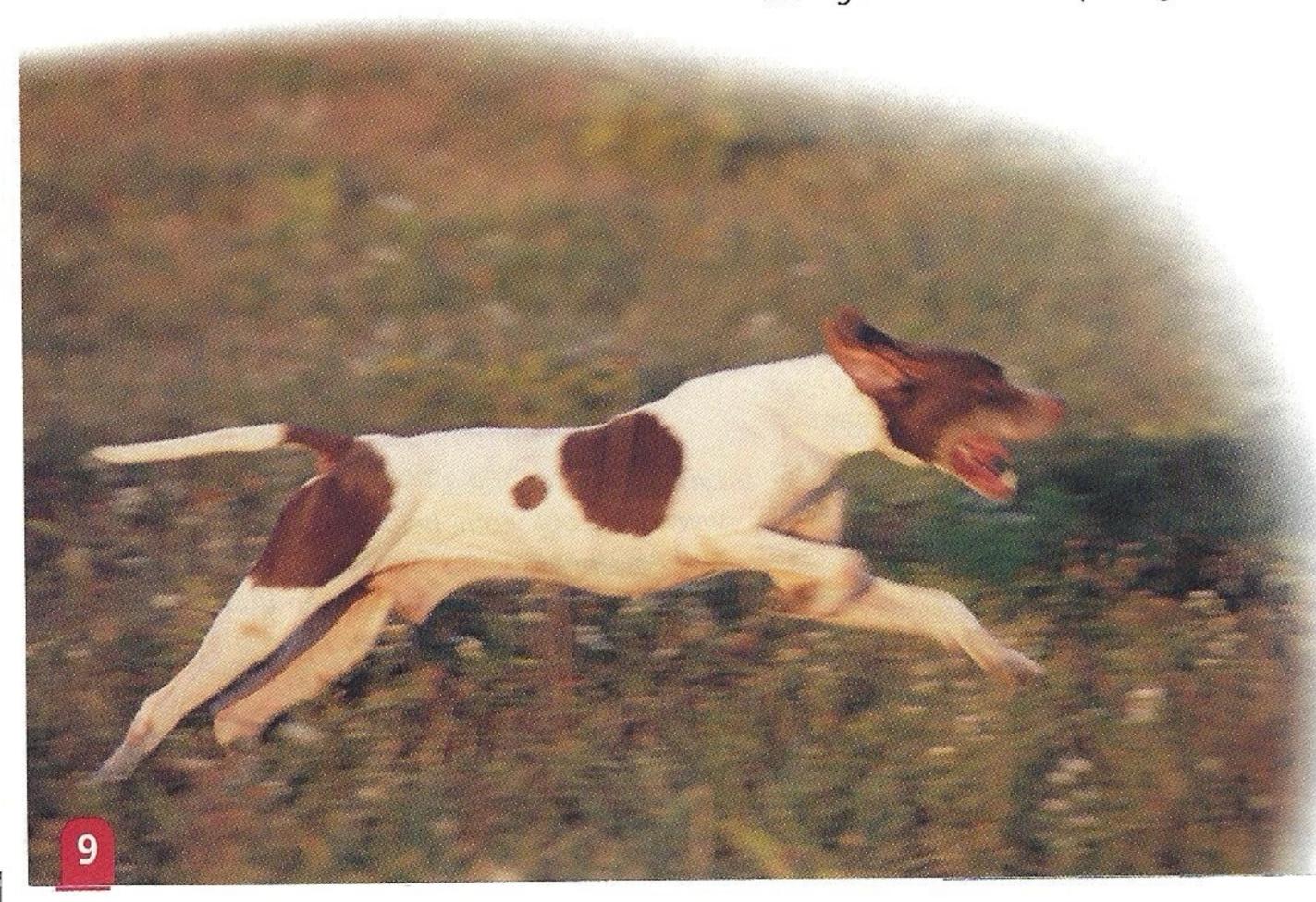
An essential element of learning is management. Management means controlling the learning experiences to direct the outcomes. Examples of management would be placing barriers

to confine a pup to keep him safe and to keep him from developing bad habits or causing damage.

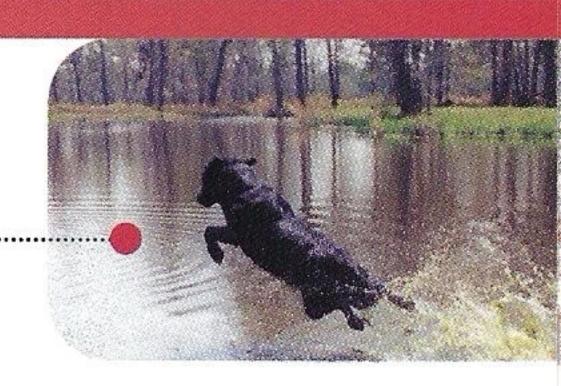
Fenced yards, doorway baby-gates and

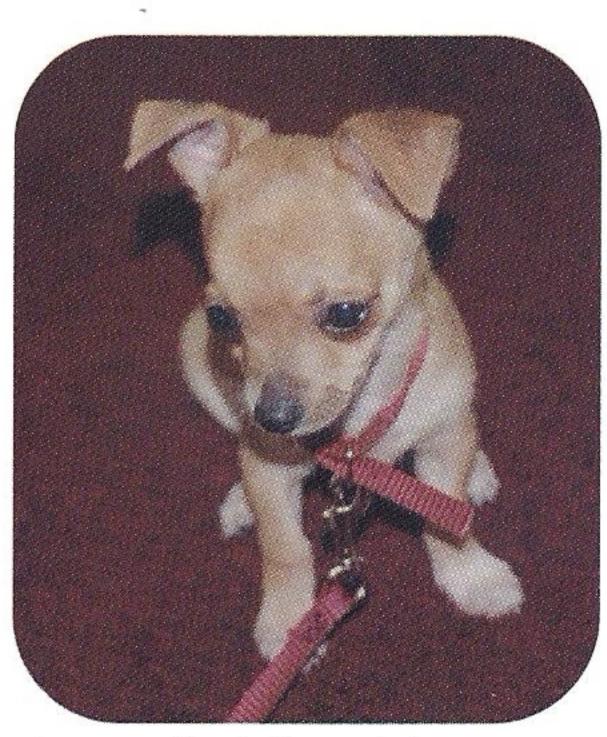
cages are examples of managed barriers. Other types of management involve keeping out of reach items that might harm a pup or that a pup might damage. It is providing the pup with safe toys, healthy food, and good health care. The ultimate managing principle is supervision where all behavior can be rewarded, redirected, or corrected in a timely way. When a pup can't be supervised, she should be safely confined. Initially, training is externally imposed or induced. Once a pup learns a behavior, however, it can be maintained either through external management, internalized motivation, or a combination of both. Initially training relies to some degree on setting up or controlling learning experiences. Outcomes are orchestrated to teach the puppy how to respond appropriately. This is training management and it is a good starting point. Some dogs, though, never get past being managed and don't by themselves develop intrinsic reliability. This higher level of training requires that the dog understands and acts on what is desirable and what is not desirable in his behavior, reaching beyond management to a certain level of personal accountability. You can see this admirably demonstrated by thousands of working military, police, guide and service dogs, who take responsibility for learned behaviors. This level of training requires a balanced approach covering all aspects of behavioral reinforcement and punishment.

Positive reinforcement (reward) is essential for the teaching of a new behavior, but positive reinforcement









does not effectively stand alone to produce reliability in real-world situations. When using only positive reinforcement (no punishment) training, the trainer is permanently cast in the role of the manager. When a dog is expecting a reward and doesn't get it, the animal becomes disappointed. Disappointment leads to extinction, wherein the trained behaviors tend to disappear if the reinforcement is not continued.

In a balanced approach, (rewarding desired behavior and unrewarding undesirable behavior), as soon as any behavior using rewards has been established, it is tested by applying positive or negative consequences based on the dog's behavior. This allows the reward for performing the behavior to be internalized, to become self-rewarding. Selfrewarding behaviors tend more strongly to continue throughout the dog's life. A correction occurs when a dog fails to respond to a known cue. Responding to a cue prevents the correction. This results in what psychologists refer to as relief, which is the opposite of disappointment. For instance, the trained dog understands that failure to "Stay" on

command results in punishment (e.g., a snap on the training collar), whereas compliance brings a sense of completion. He knows he has avoided a correction. The dog is empowered to choose the consequences. Since the dog's underlying motivation for doing an act is to move toward comfort, anything that causes relief has the effect of making performance rewarding in and of itself. This removes the trainer from the role of manager and insures long-term continuation of the behavior. When the dog moves into this role, you have a reliably trained dog.

A trained dog is one that gives behaviors long-term without external reward. The dog has internalized the reasons for doing things.

They offer the behaviors long-term. When something is positively reinforced from within, it keeps on happening.

Management is a good place to start.

Self-motivation is a great place to get to. It comes through

balancing both sides of

equation.

the reward and punishment

Mary Mazzeri has bred and trained Champion, UDT, FCh and Agility Irish Wolfhounds since 1969. Director of Car Dunal Obedience Dog Training Club and Care Dog Training since 1970, she holds private/group obedience classes.







## Press Release

#### KELPIE TRAINER PUTS HIS MONEY ON A REMOTE TRAINER

n the 21st century even the drover's dog can't escape the world of high technology. Every year Jim Benton travels the Australian Great Dividing Range for 10 days, droving 120 head of cattle and sleeping out under the stars with only his working dogs for company. But he wouldn't go without his Innotek remote trainer, which he uses to keep his dogs on the job of keeping the cattle headed in the right direction. Using the handheld transmitter, Jim can correct any one of his 3 dogs for ignoring commands, coming on too hard to the cattle or for chasing after wallabies. He knows that the collar will deliver a lowlevel stimulus, which is just enough to get the message across.

Jim should know what works best for controlling working dogs because he has bred and trained working kelpies all his life. On his property, he trains about 15-16 dogs at any one time and he has discovered that when his dogs are wearing Innotek training collars they are much more obliging and more aware of his instructions. In fact, he'll put money on it.

Jim reports, "You can selectively touch the hand-held transmitter to control that specific dog, while at the same time not disturbing the other dogs during work with sheep and cattle. The dog's behaviour becomes more alert and refined for more precise work in the field. Kelpies are fairly headstrong and decided to use an Innotek training collar to assist with my training. I was training a very strong willed dog for a client to replace an aged dog that I had supplied him some eight years beforehand. The dog was working fairly well so I entered him in a cattle trial. I knew the client would be there working other dogs.

"A dozen or so dogs had run and the cattle were working fairly well. My turn came, I cast out Fred and he picked up the cattle and began the draw silently and well. I took my eyes off Fred for a spilt second and when I looked back he had a rabbit firmly in his mouth; it had been hiding in a tuft of grass throughout the trial. In the blink of an eye he had seen it, killed it and was back on the job. This was great entertainment value but did not help with the trial and no matter what I did I could not make him drop the rabbit. I retired from the event. My client maintained that the dog would never be as good as the old dog and I remained steadfast in my opinion that Fred would be better. The outcome was that we placed a \$100 bet on which of the two dogs would get the better score at a sheep trial to be held shortly.

"Prior to the sheep trial, I introduced Fred to obedience and the Innotek collar (in that order). Come the day of the sheep trial and the sheep are tough, the old dog scores 18 points, the client has to stay the distance because he believes Fred may be disqualified and score zero. Fred completes

a very controlled and satisfactory run and earns me \$100. An onlooker is so impressed with Fred that Fred is sold for a greater price than the cost of the remote trainer and my original client is considering investing in an Innotek collar."

Innotek can solve virtually any dog training problem with their selection of remote training collars, No-Bark collars, containment systems and a wide range of sporting products including Tracking collars for the sportsman. Innotek's products are distributed throughout Australia by their reseller network including Veterinarians, Pet Shops, Kennels, and Dog Trainers or direct from Innotek at 1-800-786-608. Check Innotek's home page at http://www.innotek.com.au.

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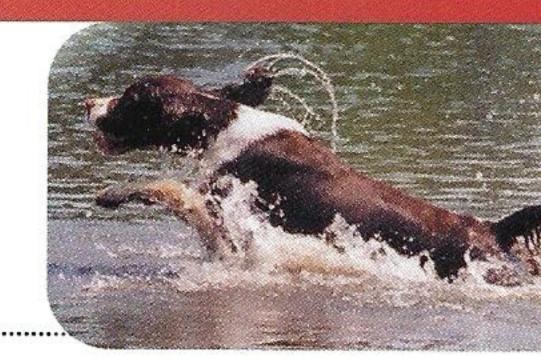
For further information or photos contact:

Colleen Holliday Innotek Australia 1-800-786-608









# \* A Day In The Life

#### Joel M. McMains

'd driven early to old Skate's patchwork cabin, to backslaps, hoots, and blazing sunrise coffee. During a lull in the lies and laughter, as my grizzled mentor flicked thinning snowy hair from his brow, our attention snagged on a timeless play outside the woodstove kitchen: A lone leaf, clinging with autumnal resolve to an empty branch, dancing as to appease the bright crisp breeze.

"Now, that there leaf," Skate said, "is a creature after me own heart." After a pensive moment he looked away from the window, drained his cup, and slid a faded flannel sleeve across his mustache.

"Well, got me some dogs to train."

The first owner arrived at nine, hottempered, saying, "Bruno lags somethin' fierce."

Skate broke from the Rotty's soft stare and met the man's. "Show me."

"Heel!" And the young leviathan did, until nagging leash-pops saddened his aspect and drove him further and further behind. Skate's jaw tightened but he only said, "Stop." In silence he took the leash and body-Englished the owner aside. "Hi, pupper." You couldn't have heard Skate two feet away but Bruno's tail fluttered as anxiety faded amid silver loops of saliva. Skate smiled. "You're doing right good." Hypnotic rubbing of the warm place behind the tent-flap of left ear. "Right good." The deep chocolate gaze melded with Skate's own. He nodded. "C'mon, Bruno. Heel with me."

Bruno moved comfortably at my old teacher's side, position constant, attention solid. At each stop the massive animal sat and pressed lightly against Skate's leg, and looked up, sighing in adoration.

Later, Skate counseled the owner in

Respect 101, emphasizing that you correct only if a dog says, "I refuse!" He also suggested the man drop "perfection" from his vocabulary.

An hour later came Ace the red Doberman, defiantly dragging his owner despite a snug pinch collar. Suddenly things kicked up to fast-forward. Skate shoved me aside. "Look out!" A red streak flew at his face. Or where his face had been. Quick as kindling he'd spun from bone-white teeth that cracked like a gunshot. He grabbed the leash and in a dusty blur Ace was on his back, staring up at Skate, amazed.

Owner: "He's done bit on me ever since he was a pup."

Skate: "Do tell?!-Heel!" My old coach lit out fast, and Ace, high of tail and springy of step, heeled shadow-close to Skate. Passing me, Skate whispered, "Need an exclamation point, y'know." I knew. Ace wasn't through.

Skate stopped dead. Ace surprised himself by sitting. Then he remembered his bad-actor image and rumbled like summer thunder. Skate bent over, hard and fast, blotting out the sun. Inches from bared teeth, his stare was a laser that punctuated his words whispered like white-hot steel: "Don't-you-ever-even-thinkit!" Ace lowered his flews. And swallowed. Hard. Skate straightened up, nodded. "Right good." He patted the dog's neck. Smiled gently, softened his voice. "Right good."

Then time with the problem, the owner's sure and certain knowledge. She said, "But a book said never punish."

Skate snorted. "I won't scare him?" Skate chuckled. "Doubt if you could."

Asleep on Skate's tattered couch, Ace mumbled, his head in Skate's lap. Then Skate and I piled into his venerable pickup and rambled off to see his lady

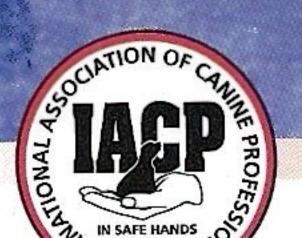
friend, Connie, who owned Ginger, a Yorkie who'd had several baby teeth pulled that morning, her permanents having not dislodged them. Connie's endless stream of "My pooooor baby" had brought the predictable result: Ginger was shaking like a leaf on an empty branch.

"Uh, Connie, may I?" Skate's weathered hands toted Ginger to a recliner. He settled in, held her to his heartbeat, and mentally erased the room's surroundings. Through an easy grin he whispered to Ginger how good she was doing, how she'd feel better soon, and how proud he was of her. The shivering faded to aftershocks, further and farther apart, then quit altogether. Skate matched Ginger's respirations, then slowed his own. Drifting into the old man's rhythms, imitating them, Ginger's eyelids drooped. Then they flickered, and she floated off to needed rest.

Owners that day said, "Magic!" Skate said, "Hardly." He did what most any kid knows to do, something that inane political correctness and square-peg, round-hole education can knock out of us. He communicated with each according to the dog's essence, told them what they said they needed to hear.

That evening, in his kitchen, over supper at his plank table, Skate gave thanks. For the golden day, for shining times, and for being free in his soul to do a work he loves.

Joel M. McMains is a world-renowned trainer and highly respected author of many dog books. Three of his much sought-after titles are "Manstopper," "Dog Logic," and his Dog Writers' Award winning book, "Kennels and Kenneling."







# It's Time for His Shots, Doc! \*



lients have been programmed to bring in their pets every year to be vaccinated. Vaccinations are very important to keep our pets free of infectious diseases. However, what might be even more important in that yearly visit is the physical exam. Since our animals can't tell us directly what may be ailing them, the physical exam is the link for the trained eye and mind to pick up on subtle clues to diagnose illnesses in the early stages.

Since dogs age faster than their twolegged owners, missing one year and one physical exam is like us not going to the doctor for eight to ten years.

And many things can start to go wrong in that time span. Your veterinarian will

notice changes in weight, eyesight, heart and lung, and posture and gait, while asking questions about the animal's appetite, housebreaking habits and activity level. Something the owner may brush off as a "sign of him getting older," may in fact be a hint of a disease forming.

It is advisable to also have blood and urine samples drawn during these visits. This will give your practitioner a baseline for your pet in case something does go wrong in the future. There may also be minor changes in the blood or urine that could help your veterinarian to isolate a problem.

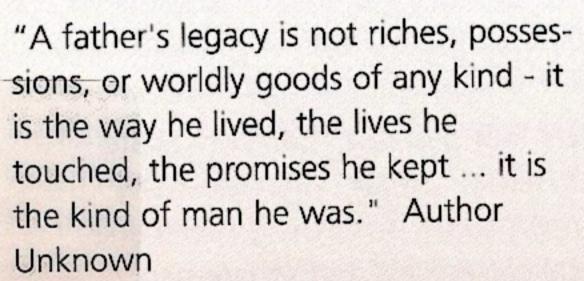
With the vaccine companies making their products better and better, it may not be

too soon in the future that our animals will not need yearly vaccines. There are task forces at work right now within the veterinary community on this issue. When this time comes, though, don't assume that "Fido" doesn't need to go in for his check-up every year. He does, and it is the physical exam that can be the key to keeping our pets healthy and happy for as long as possible!

Dr. Ray Caughman D.V.M. is a 1991 graduate of the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine and owner of Dogwood Animal Hospital in Lawrenceville, GA.

Visit them at: www.dogwoodanimalhospital.com

## Jack Deeley Memorial Fund



Jack Deeley was this kind of soul. He always had a warm, friendly smile, a genuine happy-to-see-you grin, an appropriate soft touch in greeting. He possessed a subtle eagerness to help anyone pursue any endeavor. He lived a life that proved that persistence, politeness and hard work provide the growth one looks for to have a full and rewarding life. He was always available to share what he knew or show someone what to do.

Jack passed away in December of 1999 at the age of 82. Although he was not a member of our Association nor even involved with the canine industry, he owned and affectionately loved dogs. The IACP wanted to honor this man in some small way because of his indirect

impact on all the membership. Jack passed along his talents and passion for life's experiences, his genuine willingness to help anyone, and his compassion for people and their animals to his only son, IACP Executive Director, Martin Deeley.

Martin has been a major force in organizing, establishing and launching the IACP. He is a Co-Founder and its first Executive Director. When Jack passed away, some of Martin's friends wanted to commemorate this gentle man who was true to his word and honest with his friends in a way that would last and grow as the Association grew. They set up and founded the "Jack Deeley Memorial Fund," by sending in monetary donations along with a beautiful wall plaque for the IACP office.

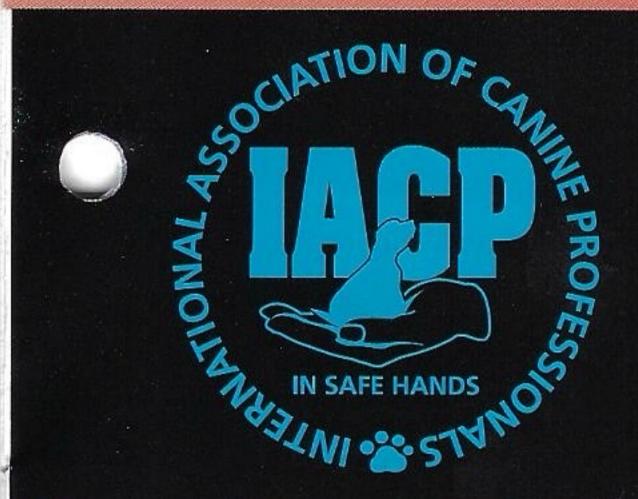
This fund will be used for special cases and especially to remember our canine friends as they leave us to depart over the rainbow. Members may request cards and messages of remembrance be sent to fellow members who have sadly lost their companions.

The fund recently gave a donation to "Wolfsong Ranch Foundation" in Arizona, which local pressure has forced to relocate. Unless enough funding is raised for this move to a new reserve, the wolves within the park will be destroyed.

Members who wish to make a donation to the fund, either in support or in remembrance of a recently departed loved canine companion of their own, or a friend, may do so through the IACP office. Only true dog lovers can understand the emotions experienced in losing a much-loved dog. By providing a message of understanding and support, and sharing in their loss, we hope that in some small way we will be able to help reduce the sadness and heartache such a loss brings.







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Brian Kilcommons. Is it Correct to Correct

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Two Days	\$130.00	\$150.00	\$117.00	\$130.50
Three Days	\$175.00	\$210.00	\$157.50	\$189.00

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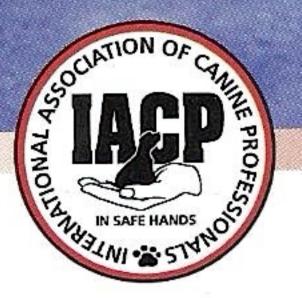
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Professional Member: At least 5 years experience as a canine professional.

Associate Member: Less than 5 years experience as a canine professional but practicing as a professional.

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, student, trainees, part-time, and devotees of canine-related occupations.

Annual Fees: Professional, \$150.00. Associate, \$75.00. Affiliate, \$35.00.

Newsletter Subscription: Non-members, \$25.00.

An additional \$25 fee applies for initial processing costs, but does not apply to Affiliate Memberships or Newsletter Subscriptions.

Professional Members can vote on IACP issues and use the IACP name and logo on business materials. They also can participate in the Registered Trainers' database on our web site.

Associate Members can use the IACP name and logo on business material.

Affiliate Members receive benefits but cannot use the IACP name or logo for business purposes.

Other Benefits: All IACP members receive our newsletter and have access to our email list, seminars, educational materials, business support materials, events and activities calendars, regional group participation, and our Certification Program for Dog Trainers. Discounts for all services are available to all members.

To Apply: Contact the IACP through our web site, email, address (all found on page 1) or phone 407-469-2008 to request an application, Mission Statement and Code of Conduct.

IACP Executive Director, Martin Deeley	A View To Balance, Mary Mazzeri
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