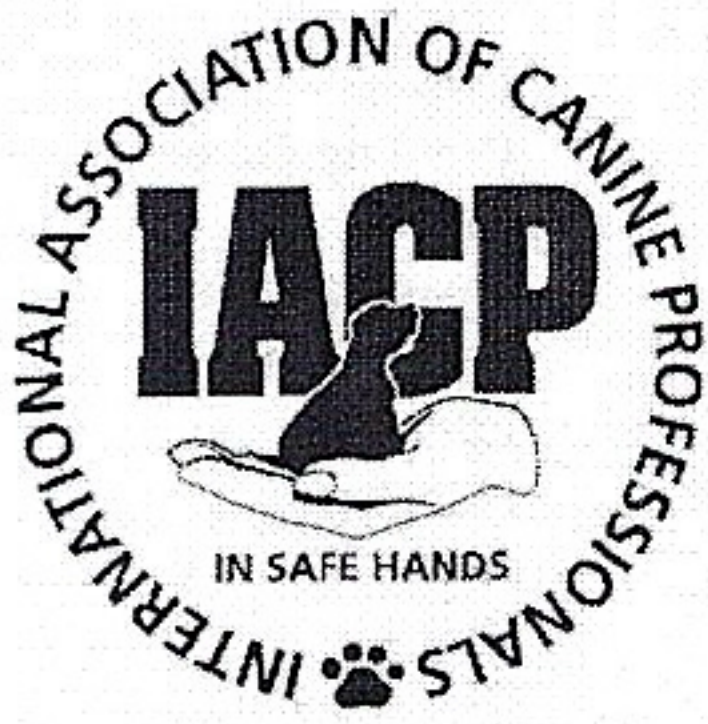




FRANK INN AND BENJI INDUCTED INTO THE IACP HALL OF FAME



IACP Management Board Members Captain Haggerty and Sharon Benter present Frank Inn with his Hall of Fame award—with a little help from Benji

Report on Page 11.

See also www.dogpro.org for Hall of Fame

ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES CERTIFICATE IN BASIC TRAINER SKILLS

Cyndy Douan, Director of Education for the International Association of Canine Professionals recently announced the IACP's new Certificate of Achievement in Basic Dog Trainer Skills is now available. Much needed within the industry, this examination tests the practical skills

and analytical ability of participants as well as their theoretical knowledge. This is a Certificate that professional dog trainers will be proud to gain, as it reflects the actual practical ability of the recipient to achieve results.

See Page 5 for further details



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS MEMBERS LIST FOR 2001/2

IACP NEWSLETTER

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For more information on Members visit the IACP web site at www.dogpro.org

REGIONAL MEETING GROUPS TO BE ENCOURAGED

The IACP was established to create more understanding across the professions. To achieve this we now wish to encourage and support regular meetings of local groups of professionals where they can get to know and understand each other's profession and especially to network for the benefit of their business and the world of dogs. Already groups are meeting in different parts of the United States and we are now asking for Voluntary Regional Organizers who will bring together groups in their area. Professionals attending these groups do not necessarily have to be members of IACP.

The success of the present groups has been inspirational in our desire to formally create Regional meeting groups and to encourage everyone within the professions to work together and to join us within the IACP.

If you are interested in become a Regional Organizer please contact Martin Deeley at Head Office.

Tel. 407 469 2008
e-mail IACP@mindspring.com

TIME FOR INCREASED UNDERSTANDING

From the Desk of the Executive Director—Martin Deeley

Recently I was at two conferences, one the International Association of Canine Professionals Conference and the second the National Animal Interest Alliance Conference on dogs. The first I was involved in organizing and the second I was speaking at and running a problem-solving workshop. One thing that struck me forcibly at both was the support for eclectic training. That is selecting what is the best method in different circumstances from various doctrines, methods and styles to train a dog. It is composed of elements drawn from many sources and is not rigid in its selection of just one approach. There was a relief in the voices of many trainers who talked to me especially after my talk at the NAIA. They were relieved that someone would stand up and talk about a variety of methods and not a narrow few. They admitted that they also use many methods and feel almost condemned by the 'totally positive' movement because they are not 'totally positive' and use some tools that have been condemned by this movement. All these trainers were obvious dog lovers, keen trainers and highly respected for the work they do in their work with pet, rescue and service dog communities. For me this was not only sad that they felt condemned but also very unfair. There is no approach or group of methods that can be applied to all dogs and all situations that will be 'totally positive' and even those who strongly promote a highly positive approach accept this fact. There trainers who do use many diverse methods and training equipment and apply them both correctly and humanely are in the majority not the minority. With all good trainers correction and punishment is minimized as we find the most effective way of training a dog but if applied they do not constitute abuse and such words should not be used in any way to indicate or insinuate it. I have noticed almost a fear among trainers to use these words lest those that do become condemned as abusive in their training methods.

Dog trainers are professionals and have to produce results. Their clients want their dogs to perform to certain acceptable standards after training. As trainers of dogs and people we have to be able to pass on the skills to clients, we must show them how to continue the training, reinforce accepted behavior, and create an ability to handle their dogs in a variety of situations. Anyone experienced with a variety of breeds and different dogs will realize that there are many differences in them and the training required. Add to this the differences in owners and their situations and we should begin to realize that to get the results expected there is no one method that is the best in all cases. Practical experience is a valuable asset and learning all the various ways in which to change behavior is essential to become a good and effective trainer. Simply knowing and understanding theory does not make us trainers or able to train — only to understand the theories behind training and behavior.

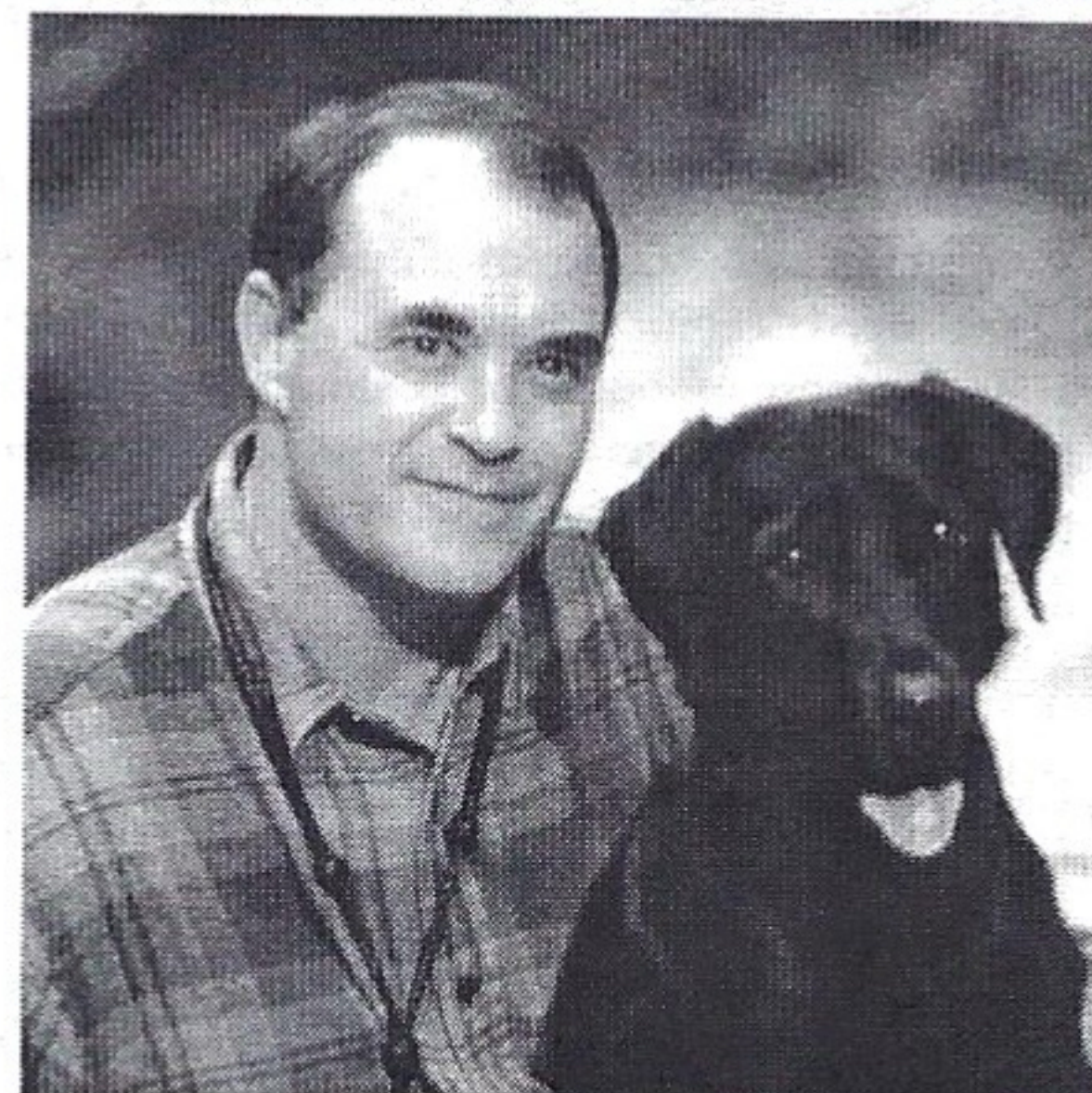
A feel for dogs, reading and understanding them coupled with an intuitiveness and ability to apply what we know and have experienced makes us more competent trainers who produce results. In addition we have to be able to train our clients to behave as required and that is often more difficult than training a dog.

A trained dog is a dog responsive to his owner's commands and behaves politely with good manners among other dogs and people. And in my opinion this is both on and off leash. However a trained dog may also be trained to do specialist work, - service dogs, hunting dogs, search and rescue, police work and other specialized work including sports where dependability, reliability and commitment to work are essential, and can mean the difference between life and death for humans. There can be no options when a command is given for some of them and yet others have to make a decisions sometimes even counter to a command (guide dogs) but they are trained to do so and must do so reliably. There are different requirements, different environments, different dogs (breed and temperament), different owners and handlers and we therefore must ask ourselves can one approach meet all the requirements even for one specific need and one specific breed? In the life of all animals, there has to be limits, boundaries, and consequences for action, to teach and change behaviors.

Is it not about time that we realize we can apply a variety of approaches? For example that we can use a prong collar, a clicker and treats all at the same time; that a collar correction is not necessarily abusive; that 'punishment' is a term used in Operant Conditioning and does not imply unsubstantiated retribution. Is it not about time that we accept that different trainers can achieve the same good results using other techniques than our own and that we should not condemn them for this or attempt to force them to change? Many trainers have been pushed undercover regarding how they work when we should be encouraging, communicating and learning openly with each other to do the best we can for dogs and their owners. In any profession there are always those who will not be working by the correct rules and yes, those need to be identified but I am finding that there are a large percentage of trainers who are definitely working by the rules of humane dog training and doing a wonderful job for the dog community but feeling condemned because they do not just follow a narrow methodology. In my opinion and that of the IACP we should be more accepting of our fellow professionals approaches unless proven otherwise and that does not mean because they use differing ones to our own. Let us not limit the ways in which we can help and guide our best friend and lets all work together to do just that.

NEW CERTIFICATE

Finally, I have to say I am delighted that the IACP have once more seized the initiative and demonstrated their commitment to Professionals with the launch of a new Certificate in Basic Dog Training. This is a much needed qualification in an industry where there are few standards set. Dog training is a skill, a craft and a profession. To test ability through a question and answer paper test alone will not provide the evaluation required to show competence as a practical trainer.



The IACP's Certification provides a practical comprehensive test of an individuals abilities and skills using video, and journal case studies. The examination is designed to evaluate Basic Practical Skills and problem solving, together with a knowledge of the theories that support the practice. Preparation and success in this examination will demonstrate the true abilities of a trainer intent upon a professional career within the industry.

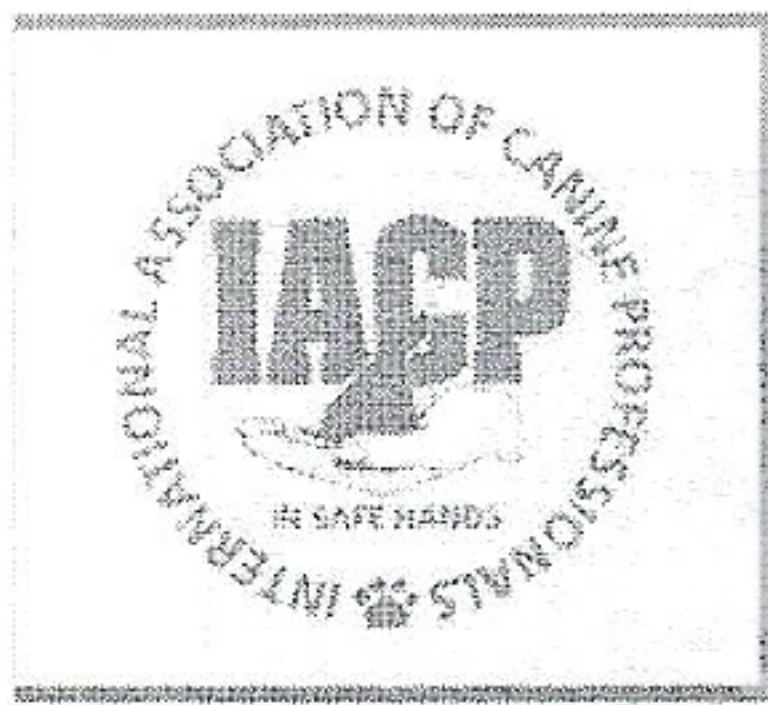
We really believe this is the way forward and the IACP is proud to assist in developing our trainers of the future.

Martin Deeley Executive Director

Renewal Fees Reduced

Due to the continued growth and success of the International Association of Canine Professionals, at the Winter 2000 Board Meeting the Management Board of the IACP passed a motion to reduce renewal fees for the IACP for Professionals to \$75.00 per annum and for Associates to \$50.00 per annum. This became effective from January 2001. It also agreed that members who joined prior to the Innotek matched funding scheme and paid \$150.00 would have their second term of membership renewed for no additional fee. In other words these members will receive two years membership for their initial subscription. This has been made possible because of the growth of the IACP and the generous funding provided by Innotek Inc.

The IACP is an Association committed to passing on savings and economies to members wherever possible. Already registered as a corporation, it is now applying for non-profit status. Surpluses in income will be used for the benefit of all members. By investing in ways that will encourage and support our professions, this Association will equally grow and in doing so be able to further provide support for its members.



Educations

Joel McMains

I felt a chill during the night and set a couple logs amid the embers. By dawn the scent of pine filled the aged cabin, triggering memories equally warm, those of the bygone autumn and winter and spring and summer I'd spent with Skate, discovering, learning, awakening. I'd be glad to tell you the old man's real name but for the life of me I can't figure how. Not via the written word. His ancestry was Okinawan and Cherokee (a story in itself), and while I can pronounce his full name—more or less, as he often pointed out—I'm hard pressed to spell it.

Which is why I settled some years ago on "Skate." Part of his name, a part I could hear pretty well, sounded like that. I rose from the guest bunk, a.k.a. the couch, and heard buzzsaw and ga-zorp noises coming from his bedroom. I quietly dressed and leashed-up Sadie, Skate's dog who'd spent the night near my feet, and we eased outside and set off into the bright Kentucky fall colors.

"You know what he's going to say when we get back, Sadie?" The two-year-old German Shepherd glanced up at me, perhaps wondering if that was the longest command she'd ever heard. "He's going to say, 'Where you two been? We got dogs to train!'" I chuckled at the image of my snow-haired mentor who'd likely be waiting in the doorway, regarding our approach with a steely gaze, red long-johns, scuffed leather boots, a mug of coffee, gray wisps rising from his ancient pipe.

"Then, friend Sadie"—she glanced at me again—"He'll pet you and say, 'Right good.'" That was Skate's favorite praise phrase, though he rarely spoke it to the few apprentices he took on. To them he'd say, "Don't look to me fer a pat on the back. The joy of being with a good dog and learning what the critter's world is about is reward enough." I smiled in memory of the crusty words. "The dog'll teach you about your own self, too," Skate often said. "If'n you can get past the fool notion that only you can teach and only the dog can learn."

Sadie and I trekked up a small hill, and as I gazed down at the gravel driveway that led to the ramshackle cabin, I flashed back the day I'd met old Skate. He was younger then but so was I, and as such he'd always been something of an oldster to me.

"Yeah, I got your letter," he'd said that afternoon, rocking in his porch chair. I could see him in my mind's eye: faded flannel shirt, tan leather vest, jeans, sneakers. "And no, I didn't answer it. Got more to do than write letters. The serious ones, they show up here anyways, on their own hook." "I see," I said, though in truth I didn't. Skate was quick to point this out.

"No, you don't see! You don't see a damn thing or you wouldn't be here with your face hanging out! I expect you checked some of them diploma-mill schools, huh?"

"Well, I—"

"Course, you did! I done seed their ads. 'Learn dog training in five weeks!' Or thereabouts. That's what they told you, huh?!" Skate made a scoffing noise. "Then they'll give you some fancy piece of paper that says you're a Master Trainer or some sech!" He spat, downwind, thankfully. "Hell, pay me the kind of money those places get and I'll give you a fancy piece of paper that says you're a friggin' astronaut! Or President! Or that you own the entire state of Kentucky!"

Skate's raucous laughter was an inviting thing, and before long I was in full hoot myself, without really knowing why. Then suddenly he went still and stared at me. Like a cobra he stared at me. "Tell me, boy, why you laughing?" "Well, I guess . . . I mean, that is, uh, you see, I, uh—"

"You laughing because you know in your gut that no one can learn about dogs in a few weeks. Cain't be done. Them that says otherwise, they's either fools or liars. Either ways, by claiming it they insult the species. The dog's too grand! Not any sort of complicated, but grand!" I wondered if Skate had ever felt a calling to the pulpit.

He went on. "I can tell by the way you're petting old Jack there, and the fact that he's letting you, you got a feel fer animals."

I looked at the powerful black-and-red German Shepherd who'd sidled up next to me. He'd given me the once-over twice, and apparently decided I was alright. Harmless, anyway. "A feel's necessary, boy. Without it you got nothing to build on. But it ain't enough! Not by a damn sight, it ain't! You got to let that attraction lead you past itself, to knowledge, to understanding, to acceptance. Know what I'm saying?"

"I guess I do."

Skate's aspect went cold. "Well I by-God guess you do not! If'n you did, you wouldn't need to be here. And I don't want to hear nothin' more from you about 'guess!' They ain't no room fer guessing with dogs. They already know, y'see? Then here you come and you want to know. But if'n you're guessing, then that says that sure as God made little green apples you don't know! You hear?!"

Two damns, a hell and a by-God in less than three minutes. And a feeling that I was 27 going on 11.

I had to ask, "How long did it take you to learn?"

"I don't know. I ain't done yet."

I must have raised a questioning eyebrow. I do that sometimes.

"Some trainers think they are," Skate said.

"Done learning, I mean. And when you meet one like that, and there's a mess of them out there, you grab your dog and you skedaddle.

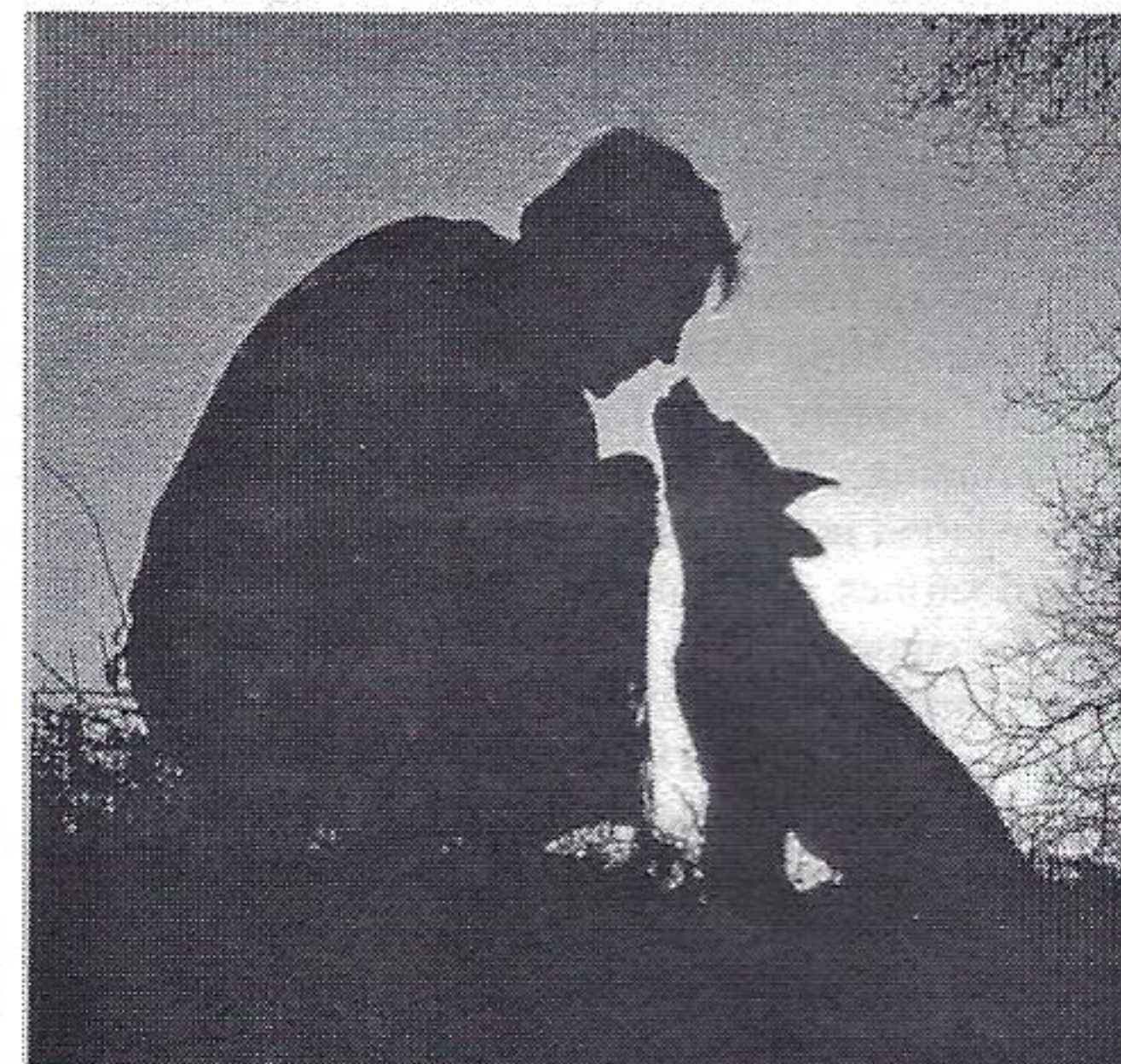


Photo from *Dog Logic* by Joel McMains published by Howell

Pronto." He paused. Then, "And if'n you shook hands, you count your fingers, too."

A jay screeched indignantly from a red-leafed maple, brought me back to the present. "Sadie," I said. "We'd better be heading back."

"You're driving," her expression seemed to say. The Von Stephanitz delight and I crested the hill, and while jogging down it I impulsively commanded her to go into formal heeling mode and put moves on her that no dog could keep up with. No dog except one of Skate's, that is. She was glue on my left leg, never missed a beat, and at one point she shot a glance at me that said, "Is that your best, sport?" Shaking my head, laughing, I patted her neck as we broke into an easy trot once more, and a feeling of lightheartedness came to me as I remembered running long ago with another dog, my dog, the protective soft-eyed crossbreed who saw me through childhood.

I glanced up and saw Skate leaning in his doorway, watching us, attired as I'd imagined, a light breeze teasing his tousled hair. He took the pipe from his mouth and grinned, at both of us, and he called, to both of us,

"Right good!"

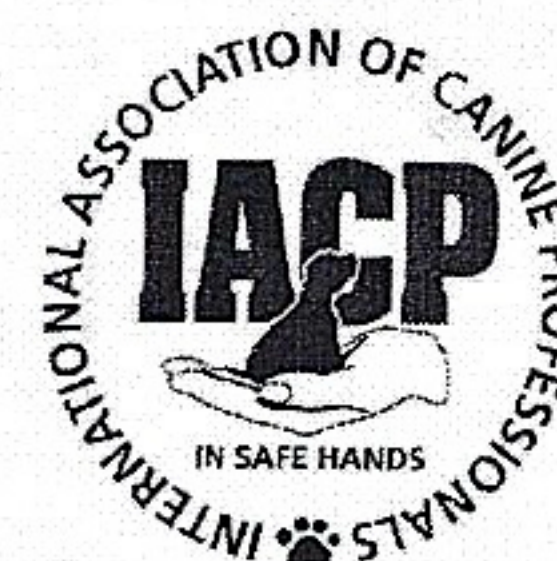
Joel M. McMains is a world renowned and highly respected author of a number of dog training books. Three of his many sought-after titles are "Manstopper," "Dog Logic," and his Dog Writers' Award winning book, "Kennels and Kenneling."

KEITH BENSON PROMOTED



IACP Professional Member Keith Benson has been promoted to Senior Vice President of all Operations at The Triple Crown Academy and Events Center. Keith has been with Triple Crown since the beginning and has been instrumental in its success through every stage of its growth. We wish him continued success in this new position and look forward to celebrating with him at the next Conference in March 2002.

A PRACTICAL EXAM AND CERTIFICATE FOR PRACTICING DOG TRAINERS



*SHOW THAT YOU CAN WALK THE WALK
AS WELL AS TALK THE TALK*

BASIC DOG TRAINING SKILLS EXAMINATION AND CERTIFICATE

from
**The International Association of
Canine Professionals**
For Information visit
www.dogpro.org or contact
Cyndy Douan P.O. Box 1511, Rome, GA 30162-1511

BASIC DOG TRAINER SKILLS EXAMINATION AVAILABLE

The IACP Education Department is delighted to announce the release of its Basic Dog Trainer Skills Exam. Since the inception of IACP in 1999, one of our primary goals has been to develop tools to measure and evaluate the competency and ability of trainers so we could begin to credential trainers through our organization. In less than two years we have realized the first step in meeting this goal. The Basic Dog Trainer Skills Exam will be the first of a series of examinations and educational modules that IACP will develop in order to provide and maintain standards of skill, expertise, and professional practice within the dog profession.

The IACP Basic Dog Trainer Skills Exam is a unique evaluation tool. Its primary focus is practical, hands-on skills. These are the talents that trainers exhibit when they put their knowledge and experience to work in order to teach dogs and effect changes in behavior. Practical skill best reflects a trainer's level of knowledge and ability in real-life situations. There are an abundance of different methods, theories, styles, and even language and terminology among trainers. A test of practical skill is the best way to bridge those differences and language barriers while allowing each individual trainer to show the best of his/her own unique styles and abilities. No written test of dog training skills can ever clearly show that a trainer can use academic knowledge in a practical, hands-on and skilled manner. Training on paper and in books is never the same as dog training in real life. In acknowledging all these considerations, the IACP has designed an exceptional examination and we are proud to offer it to our fellow trainers.

The two main components of the Basic Dog Trainer Skills Exam are the videotaped practical component and the case study component. The videotaped practical component requires trainers to submit a videotape of themselves training dogs. The case study component requires that trainers record in journal format real life training programs they are conducting. Specific criteria have been developed for evaluating these exams, and each exam will be reviewed and evaluated by 3 IACP judges. Exams will be graded on a scale of: A-Excellent, B-Passing, C-Needs work/re-apply in 6 months, D-Failing. All exams will be evaluated by basing practical competency at a basic foundation level, with no bias against methods, theories, tools, or equipment use. All trainers are eligible to take the examination, regardless of years of experience or time spent in classroom settings or training in the field. The exam shall be offered to members of IACP at the cost of \$150.00, and offered to non-IACP members at the cost of \$250.00. There is no travel requirement involved in taking the test. It arrives in the mail and you return it through the mail when you have completed it.

This exam is designed not only as a testing tool but also as an extraordinary educational opportunity. It allows trainers to critique their own performances while also receiving constructive feedback in the evaluation process about specific strengths and/or weaknesses in trainers' abilities. The Basic Dog Trainer Skills Exam is as suitable for the novice trainer who is seeking

guidance and direction in his/her education, as it is for the long-time professional trainer looking to have his/her abilities recognized and adherent to the standards of a professional organization. Upon successful completion of the exam, trainers will receive a Certificate of Achievement. The Certificate shall state that the trainer "has successfully completed an examination and demonstrated a practical ability to train dogs at a professional foundation level."

The Basic Dog Trainer Skills Exam can be conveniently completed during a trainer's everyday work routine, and is available in workbook form. The workbook may be passed from trainer to trainer with permission from IACP to photocopy the workbook. The cost for each workbook is \$15.00, which covers production and shipping costs. To order the Basic Dog Trainer Skills Exam, send a check or money order payable to IACP for the number of workbooks you are ordering to:

International Association of Canine Professionals

**Basic Dog Trainer Skills Exam---
Version 1.0**

P.O. Box 1511

Rome, GA 30162-1511

The IACP Education Department is continuing to develop programs such as this. Any member interested in joining the Education Committee to help with these projects, please contact IACP for more information.

A Rewarding Experience

Martin Deeley

To train a dog, the animal has to want to learn and be trained. Some have a natural learning drive and high intellectual ability; others may be willing but have no aptitude for certain tasks, and some have the ability but no willingness, no desire to learn or to please. A few will have neither. There are varying degrees of willingness and aptitude, and that is what makes training so interesting and challenging. Every dog is different, requiring slightly differing approaches, attitude and technique. So the trainer has to understand and read each individual dog's strengths and limitations, whether the goal is obedience, agility, Frisbee, hunting, or just as a family pet.

All dogs can be motivated and encouraged to learn in some way, but whether they learn at the pace you feel is acceptable for what you are teaching, or whether they learn correctly, is another matter. What gives a dog the desire to learn and work for you? What makes him learn quicker and retain that learning? If we consider why a particular dog wants to work, play or learn, then there are a variety of reasons.

As a trainer one has to know the dog being worked with, the dog's individual motivation, and general breed character. Even within breeds, differing bloodlines can dictate degrees of willingness and ability to be trained. Any dog will work and learn from experience to obtain the basics in life: Food, water, air, shelter. The animal will protect herself from danger and injury. Then her emotional needs—yes, emotional needs—must be met: Belonging, pleasure, enjoyment, exercise and fulfilment of natural abilities. The dog will learn how to obtain these needs by herself, through working with the owner or by experimenting with actions to get the response she wants from its trainer or owner.

Some dogs, once they have their basic safety and emotional needs met, try for greater achievement and more recognition for their efforts. They seem able to focus on their training and put all their energy into jumping higher, running faster, finding hidden objects quicker, getting the undivided attention of the audience at a show, and are ultimately rewarded for their efforts by recognition from us in the form of clapping, applause, whistles, whooping, praise, etc.

In training we use repetition, but with clever "high fliers" we have to recognize their abilities and balance repetitive training with a variety of increasingly challenging games, exercises and problems, to stimulate the dogs' intelligence and motivational demands.

If we consider therefore what the individual dog we are training wants from life and what motivates him, we can then comprehend what will be a reward for doing the work we are going to do. If we study the basic and natural instincts of the dog and then add the challenge that he and many dogs need, one of the real reward forces to utilize is retrieving.

Although food is a basic requirement of life and definitely a reward, I am often left wondering whether we are underestimating the intelligence of many dogs. Children will often do small chores, even homework, for the bribe of candies, but as they get older and grow in their needs from life, then even candy may not be sufficient inducement to do their homework. For puppies, food may be the ideal introduction to minor controls, and it is an easy way to get required responses, but in the long run does it create the bond required between handler and dog? Does it provide leadership for the handler? Does it generate respect for the handler or for the dog from the handler? Does it create affection and a loving relationship? Reward (and the occasional reprimand) has to be in a form which does all these things. It also has to create and enhance a partnership where handler and dog are linked mentally through confidence, trust and understanding. I have found that food, if given, should be a small additional reward, not the main reward nor part of the main reward.

Reward for the dog comes from two emotions. First, reward comes from the feeling of doing a job well and enjoying it. This is an intrinsic reward. Second, it comes from an extrinsic reward, which is something independent of the task: Food, ball, ragger, tugger, given in addition afterwards as payment for doing the job asked. Actions and learning which are enjoyable to the dog, and which the dog obviously wants or is seemingly compelled to do because of her natural instincts, are easily rewarded and need only be further reinforced through praise recognition. Work and training routines that need encouragement, and which may be slightly more tedious or boring to the dog, are often better rewarded at the end with something which is enjoyable, such as food or a fun retrieve. However, should routines be boring? Or as trainers can we make the majority of them more enjoyable by using extrinsic rewards as an integral part of the training exercise? The reward then becomes the exercise and the training session, which when additionally reinforced through praise and recognition of a job well done, develops the dog's mind much quicker. Moreover, the bond between trainer and dog grows stronger at an increased rate.

You will find that usefulness of rewards and their intensity varies from dog to dog. I have trained dogs who did not want conventional praise via voice or hands. Their reward was the hunting or retrieving of bumpers or balls which they got during the training exercises themselves. You only have to watch dogs playing ball or Frisbee, either as just a game or in competition, or watch amazed the work of sniffer dogs, to understand that their main reward is the retrieve.

Think through a training exercise or game be-

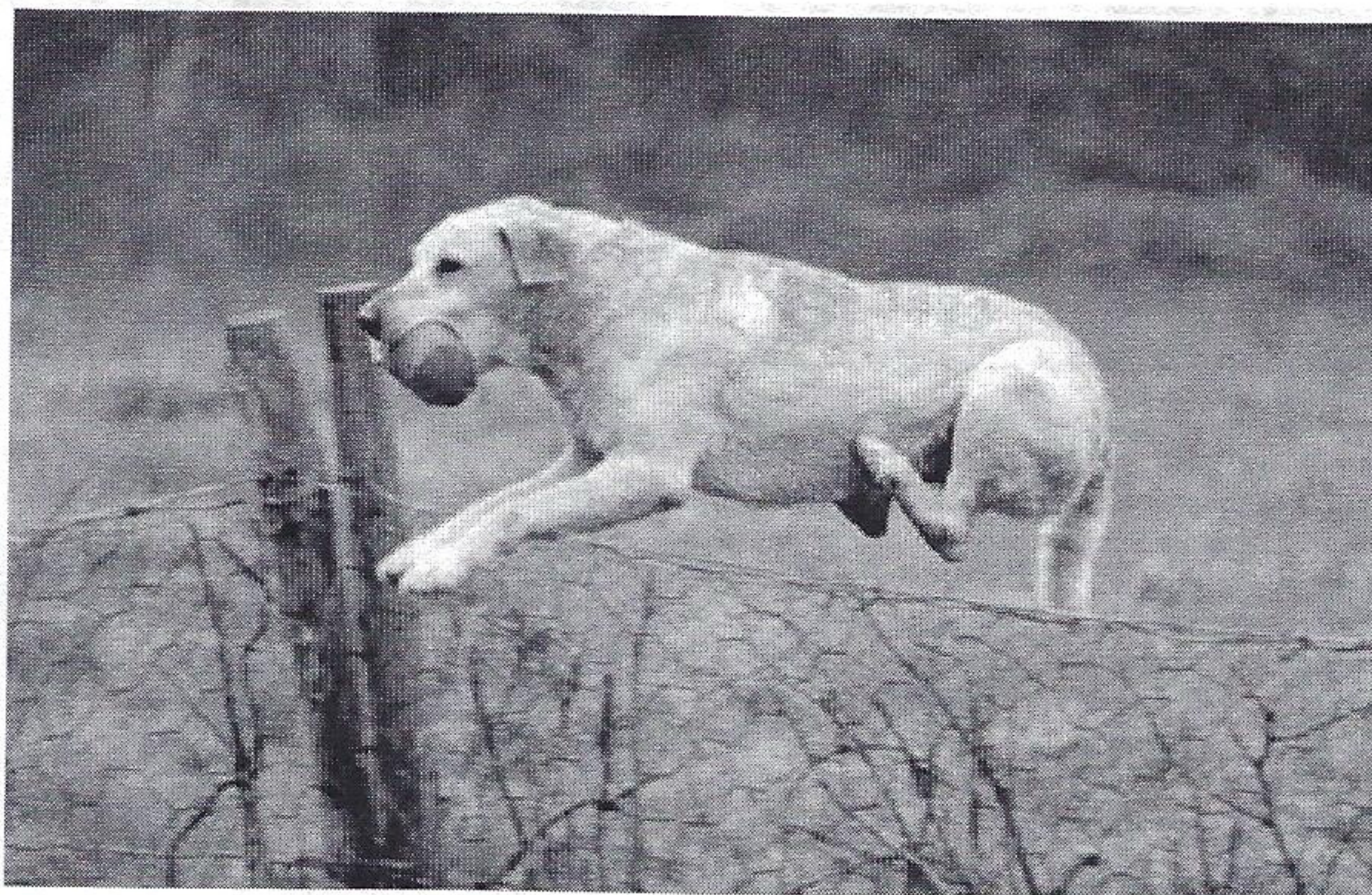
forehand so you can use it to help the dog succeed. With structured fun training, you keep the fun and reward built-in (intrinsic). If you keep the training within the dog's ability, and do what each individual dog really enjoys and can succeed at, and then increase the complexity gradually, the dog will learn intelligently and happily. Nothing succeeds like success.

In small steps, show the dog what you want him to do; and when he succeeds let him know how pleased you are with what he achieved. Smile! For many dogs, laughter from you can be among the bigger rewards.

In training dogs with genetically inherited working backgrounds, such as sheep dogs, hunting dogs, working dogs, and even terriers, all of which have been bred for their natural ability and instincts, the extrinsic-reward process easily becomes an integral part of the training exercises. Recognition through praise reinforces the dogs pleasure at doing the job well and strengthens the learning process. Many dogs enjoy retrieving, chasing, or just carrying an object. Some, as puppies, may have to be encouraged, but once the habit and pleasure of the action is imparted the problem may be to stop them. With creative training exercises, any of these rewards can be built into a training program and, depending upon the dog, the trainer will probably find reward that works better than another. When a reward is found to work, others can be made enjoyable simply by chaining the rewards.

A good example of this is the training of drug-detection or "sniffer" dogs. The training starts with encouraging the dog to be a keen retriever. Gradually the retrieve object is made more and more difficult to find until it is finally hidden. The dog now enjoys the hunting because he knows it will result in the ultimate rewards: the find and the retrieve. I trained two of my dogs to do this for fun in the house, a Jack Russell Terrier and a Miniature Poodle, and recently a client's dog, who is a Polish Lowland Sheepdog. Using a ball we got them interested in retrieving and then in small stages we began to hide it and encourage them to, "Find it." The Polish Lowland Sheepdog, Huntley, lives in a very large house. Guests are invited to hide the ball, while Huntley waits. He is then told, "Find it," and off he goes, checking out every nook and cranny. If he has problems we can step in and help by giving hand signals. Occasionally repeating "Find it" keeps him going for up to half an hour or more and rarely does he fail. The way he sits and waits for the ball to be hidden, and when hunting constantly keeps checking back with the owner, is a delight to watch. Rarely do I go to the house without Huntley disappearing, only to reappear with a ball that he wants me to play-retrieve with or hide. If I ignore him he just lies down with it and waits, or follows me around

Cont'd next page



carrying it patiently waiting in case I decide that I want a small game. Huntley is no retrieving breed, and as a puppy he was most energetic and at times unpleasant. But now he is the perfect gentleman. There is no doubt in my mind and that of his owner that the rewarding games that used retrieving have helped channel his herding instincts in another direction that results in acceptable behaviour for a household dog.

Rewards and the response to them is relative to the experiences the dog has of being rewarded. A dog who constantly gets a ball thrown may not see it as a reward, may even get bored with the exercise, or so excited by it all that control and training becomes impossible. Another client of ours had a Fox Terrier, Duke, who was an obsessive tail chaser. He did it, his owner told us, for no real reason but the behaviour was more likely when the doorbell or telephone rang. The vet had

tried drugs but it still continued. It was felt that the tail might have to be totally removed due to chronic infection if the behaviour could not be extinguished. During our consultation we asked the client what games he played with Duke. The answer: "Ball." So we asked him to show us. We went outside where immediately the little Fox Terrier started barking and jumping up at a tennis ball which was jammed in the fence some five feet above the ground. The owner encouraged the excitement even more with, "Do you want to play ball?" After several jumps Duke would stop and spin, and then growl and bite at his tail. The owner naturally laughed at this ridiculous ritual and immediately took the ball out of the fence and threw it for the dog. The dog raced after it picked it and then went away to some grass, put the ball down and started sniffing, totally ignoring the owner and us. When asked how often they played this game we were told, "Whenever Duke wants to!"

We then discussed and went through the whole procedure of controlled retrieving, explaining how to make it fun for both of them. In this way the owner would be taking charge and controlling the game, rather than Duke (who was being rewarded for all the wrong actions). Within two weeks using structured retrieving as part of his "rehabilitation" program, the dog was no longer tail chasing and both Duke and his owner were going through positive and pleasant transitions.

I only have to watch owners and their children playing fetch in the park to realize how much others and their dogs enjoy retrieving. Therefore why not take the opportunity to get the dog learning from the activity? It is not difficult to use the retrieve and all the rewards it provides to have a dog heeling, watching you, sitting and waiting, coming when called, comfortable around people and other dogs, even ignoring them and focussing only on you. Retrieving and all the activities involved can be great fun for dog and owner both. The training does not have to be regimented, only controlled so that the dog learns from you.

I love to see dogs who come out of their "home" wanting to be with me, asking, "What fun thing are we going to do?" and wanting to work together. They are responsive and their minds become blotting paper for learning, soaking up what I want to teach them. Make your training sessions short, productive and fun. You, the trainer, must be instigator and provider of fun training, and retrieving can provide the foundation for fun training.

Martin Deeley is an International dog trainer specializing in hunting dogs and retrieving. He is Executive Director of the IACP and has written 3 books on Hunting Dog Training.

Business Policies By Jan Gribble © 2001

One of the least enjoyed aspects of operating a business is often the amount of paperwork involved. Creating and periodically reviewing and revising policies can be a time consuming task. The type of business and number of employees will be a major factor in determining what policies, if any, are necessary, and an evaluation of your business needs should be undertaken before proceeding with writing policies.

Properly written policies are used to protect both the business owner and the employee. All businesses with employees should have, at a minimum, written policies addressing equal opportunity, substance abuse, sexual harassment, and termination of employees. Additional policies should cover topics which are pertinent to the specific business. All too often employees are expected to read, remember and adhere to policies which have no relevance to the job performed or which are seen as punitive or not recognizing that the employee is capable of sound judgment. While corporate businesses are more likely to have entire manuals of policies and extensive employee handbooks, the tendency to believe that if something is good, more is better can negatively impact upon every business when it comes to initiating policies.

The goal in writing policies is to inform the employee what is expected in terms of behavior, conduct and job performance. The best policies are those which are clear, concise and understandable. A single page will suffice for most, if not all, policies.

In addition to policies, for some businesses creating written procedures can also be useful. Procedures can be instructions on how to perform certain job duties or tasks, or simply guidelines that can be used when orienting new employees to the business. Procedures are best written by the employees who actually perform the jobs on a daily basis rather than the employer who may not have hands on experience.

For more information on policies and some examples of policies which may be useful for your business check out the Small Business Administration website at <http://www.sba.gov> or call your local Small Business Administration office. Also keep in mind that while consultation with an attorney specializing in employment law may sound like an unneeded expense today, a little money paid out now may pay large dividends in the future as your business grows.

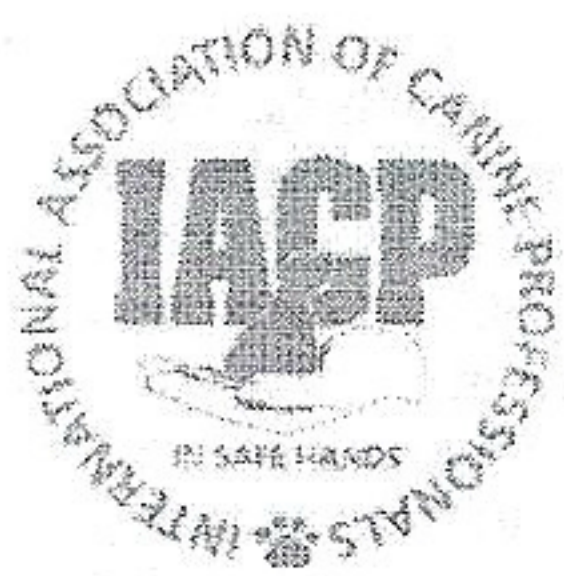
IACP Business Advisory Group Mission Statement

The Business Advisory Group exists to support IACP members in their business ventures by providing sources of information and contacts that may assist members in the creation of a new business and maintaining or expanding a current one. Information from the Business Advisory Group is available to members via the IACP email list and newsletter. Requests for assistance can also be directed to members of the Business Advisory Group:

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PROPRIOCEPTION:

BALANCE BY ANY OTHER NAME

Maryna Ozuna

Proprioception, which means self-perception, is the body's ability to reference itself in space. Like vision and hearing, it is a sensory ability, the proverbial sixth sense. Understanding proprioception is vital to canine professionals because at core level your dog's sense of well-being, his emotional balance, is based on his neurophysiological perception and awareness of himself in his universe. A dog perceives his world through his body. The more accurate and integrated your dog's perception of his body, i.e. his proprioception, the more well-balanced mentally he will be. High proprioception equals increased mental well-being; low proprioception equals impaired mental well-being.

Proprioception is how your dog occupies his body. It's how his feet meet the ground, whether he moves through all his body or seems to leave parts of himself behind. Proprioception has much to do with how integrated your dog is in his movements. Proprioception is what he has lost after surgery when his movements are awkward and clumsy, as though having to learn to walk and run all over again (which, in fact, is what he is doing).

Proprioception is what babies and puppies are developing when they crawl, or roll and tumble. This may sound like coordination—indeed, proprioception is an element of coordination—but proprioception has more to do with the body's ability to orient itself spatially. Coordination also includes the speed and accuracy with which the muscles are recruited. Just as a human gymnast needs superb proprioception, an agility dog requires highly developed proprioception.

This physical sensory ability is key to behavior because a dog who is out of balance physically, whose proprioceptive sense is impaired, is one whose limbic system, the autonomic reflex system, is out of balance. Thus, a dog not balanced in his body is one whose reflex arcs are more volatile. Since training is replacing reflex with learned cognitive responses, it is impossible for an animal in reflex mode to learn as well, if at all, as one not being distracted by triggering fight, flight, or freeze reflexes. A dog who is physically unbalanced means a dog with impaired proprioception, and an animal who perceives of herself as potential prey. The result is an animal with learning impediments.

While proprioception is a sensory ability, it is not immutable. What your dog was born with, or what he has right now, is not necessarily all that is possible. Impaired proprioception can often be completely healed; low functioning proprioception can be increased. As skills are improved or altered, improved personality changes are often noted. Proprioception is obviously not the only ingredient in a dog's personality. Lousy training or management can turn a perfectly lovely physical specimen of a dog into a blithering idiot. Equally, a skilled and patient trainer can turn a dog who seems to have six left feet into a modicum of

happy coordination. However, a dog's proprioception level will still always be behaviorally manifest. This may be revealed in the subtle differences in learning curves between two siblings; the speed and efficacy with which rehabilitation can be accomplished after injury or illness; or personality issues such as aggression, timidity, a high startle reflex, or a very forward, obnoxious personality, to name a few. Knowing how to evaluate and work with proprioception can provide another problem-solving tool.

So how does one evaluate proprioception? What are you looking at to make an analysis? The most basic gauge is the dog's footfalls. It matters how his feet meet the ground. Footfalls not only provide major proprioceptive information for your dog, they are among the easier events to observe. For example, dogs who continually forge at heel, dogs with very busy temperaments who can't seem to settle, and younger dogs generally tend to have their weight disproportionately on their forequarters. Because their weight is distributed unevenly during movement or stationery posture, their proprioceptive picture is distorted. A dog whose footfalls are not squarely balanced is one whose mental balance is not all it could be.

Footfalls can be distorted in other ways. Regardless of breed, a dog who is balanced extremely backward, with all of his weight on his hindquarters, will have more clumsy movement, perhaps even lumbering, and may seem sullen to exercise. This may not reflect the dog's personality at all—it may simply be difficult neurologically for him to get organized and moving forward. This pattern of footfalls can also occur in timid dogs, and can be one of a variety of extreme proprioceptive imbalances found in fear biters. From a purely movement perspective, if your dog is balanced either forward or backward, he will be unable to move with the freely flowing, floating movement prized in many breeds.

While balance forward or back offers insights into defects in footfalls that may lead to behavioral imbalances, there are a myriad of combinations: Crab-walking, criss-crossing, paddling, unevenness in one leg, hitching a leg, flicking one leg more than others, etc. There are also infinite combinations of irregularities throughout the body that can cause behavioral fallout. Wherever you have tight or restricted or uncomfortable areas, those areas of your dog's body are not receiving sensory information.

Look at your dog as he moves. Ignore rigid notions of breed characteristics—study the angles, waves, and ripples of movement. Observe your dog at the walk, trot and run, moving straight away from you and straight back, then side to side. Observe the flight path of the feet, then the knees, hocks, shoulders, hips, trunk, head, and tail. What moves? What doesn't? Movement should be a continuous oval or circular line. When movement is broken, the wave often flat-

tens out or drops off suddenly. Where the wave breaks, look closely at that part of your dog's body. Feel it. Is it tight and unyielding? Is it soft and elastic while surrounding structures are tight and stiff? What is causing the break in movement? Remember, a break in movement, a break in body integration, means a break in sensory information coming into your dog.

A great example of how lack of balance can affect personality concerns a female Jack Russell Terrier I worked with. The first thing I noticed about her was her voice—she commented on everything. Her idea of a long sit was three seconds. Her notion of stay resembled an obsessed child with a Jack-in-the-Box. Mapping her body and an analysis of movement revealed that her weight bearing was so far forward that it resembled a tipped-up wheelbarrow. Her hind feet made minimal contact with the ground, as though she were perpetually in a handstand. Her hindquarters were extremely tight and tense. Her idea of heel was substantially in front of the handler, actually a full-on lean at the end of the leash. From a limbic system view, she was in flight at all times. She had no point of peace.

I used bodywork and leading exercises to initiate change. Because touch is a key component in altering proprioceptive awareness, gently resting your hand on different parts of the body can affect change. With this JRT, I paid particular attention to her hindquarters, since tight, tense, unintegrated hindquarters often contribute to a very forward type of response. My goal was not so much to get her as soft and flexible as possible, like I might do to facilitate athletic performance, but rather to touch every square inch of her, front to back and top to bottom, repeatedly, so that she had a better sense of herself.

Next I wanted her to integrate these new body sensations into her movement. I used different kinds of ground exercises, some based on Linda Tellington Jones' work, others from agility and obedience, others of my own invention. Because I wanted her to get a feeling of balancing further backwards, I used two leads, one connected to a harness ring in her mid-back, the other to a neck-collar ring. At heel, all backward corrections for forging or not sitting were first made with the lead at her mid-back, then via the regular lead, my idea being that I wanted her to develop a different sense of her hind end.

The more complicated you make the movements, the more you begin to see a thinking response, not just a reflex behavior. At heel, I used a stuttering series of forward movements: two steps forward, stop; half step forward, stop; three steps forward, stop—never the same thing twice. Since the dog never knew what we were about to do, she had to pay attention, not just memorize a pattern, as in walk across the yard and sit, *ad infinitum*. This stutter exercise also



created a rocking movement which not only "woke up" the spine but began to displace the dog's weight backward.

In half hour her weight bearing changed significantly. More pleasantly for her human companions, her behavior calmed, and she was able to lie down and rest. No, her behavior was not "fixed." The work would need to continue over time. Nor do I suggest that this was the only way to resolve her behavior. However, bodywork and exercises that focus not so much on classic obedience movements but on increasing proprioception do create immediate and long-lasting change. Olympic athletes are now increasingly incorporating proprioceptive exercises into their regimens along with skill, strength, and stamina training. They work in the dog world as well.

Another powerful tool for trainers to increase evenness and balance, and therefore the proprioceptive quotient of a dog's footfalls, is using the

HEAVEN IS ALSO FOR YOUR BEST FRIEND

A man and his dog were walking along a road. The man was enjoying the scenery, when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead. He remembered dying, and that the dog had been dead for years. He wondered where the road was leading them.

After a while, they came to a high, white stone wall along one side of the road. It looked like fine marble. At the top of a long hill, it was broken by a tall arch that glowed in the sunlight. When he was standing before it, he saw a magnificent gate in the arch that looked like mother of pearl, and the street that led to the gate looked like pure gold.

He and the dog walked toward the gate, and as he got closer, he saw a man at a desk to one side. When he was close enough, he called out, "Excuse me, where are we?"

"This is Heaven, sir," the man answered. "Wow! Would you happen to have some water?" the man asked. "Of course, sir. Come right in, and I'll have some ice water brought right up." The man gestured, and the gate began to open. "Can my

stutter exercise over obstacles, such as ramps and steps. Move the dog a footfall or two at a time, however, so the stutter becomes a matter of isolating footfalls. Don't let the dog rush. Insist after each step that she rock back squarely over all four feet.

Working the animal in rough country is also useful. Colonel Podkhasky, famed head of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, took his more problematic stallions to a freshly plowed field where he made them move through their exercises in crumbly, uneven, deep-clotted ground until they began to calm and focus. This enabled them to feel their bodies differently. As they increased the complexity of their neurophysiological coordination, they increased their ability to settle. As the horses came back into their bodies, they came back into their minds, literally.

Working over uneven terrain, stutter exercises, and isolated footfall work are also great ways to re-tune a soured competitor. A few minutes of proprioceptive leash work can change a burned-out campaigner's attitude from, "Gawd! Must I heel one more time around this bloody figure 8!" or "Must I run around this ring one more time!" to a turned-on, excited outlook again. Exercises which increase proprioception are like lighting up an old-fashioned telephone switchboard: The more lights you illuminate, the more mentally aware and integrated the dog.

Because body awareness changes an animal's universe, physically and behaviorally, these kinds of exercises, combined with bodywork, are magical. They can be the key to reprogramming a whole sensory world, the world of proprioception.

Maryna Ozuna, founder of the Kinaesthetics system of therapy, has worked with humans and animals for over 20 years. Her animal clients have included World Champion performance horses in a multitude of disciplines, dogs of innumerable breeds, and a variety of other animals.

friend," gesturing toward his dog, "come in too?" the traveler asked. "I'm sorry, sir, but we don't accept pets."

The man thought a moment and then turned back toward the road and continued the way he had been going. After another long walk, and at the top of another long hill, he came to a dirt road, which led through a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed. There was no fence. As he approached the gate, he saw a man inside, leaning against a tree and reading a book. "Excuse me!" he called to the reader. "Do you have any water?"

"Yeah, sure, there's a pump over there" The man pointed to a place that couldn't be seen from outside the gate. "Come on in." "How about my friend here?" the traveler gestured to the dog.

"There should be a bowl by the pump." They went through the gate, and sure enough, there was an old-fashioned hand pump with a bowl beside it. The traveler filled the bowl and took a long drink himself, then he gave some to the dog. When they were full, he and the dog walked back toward the man who was standing by the tree waiting for

Tricks Are For Kids

by Carol Lea Benjamin

One of the better things you can do as a professional trainer, aside from the obvious—getting the dog trained—is to endear yourself to the kids in the dog's family. Doing so will help them engage with the dog in a positive way, inspiring them to help with walking, feeding and, most important, showing off his astonishing intelligence. Some tricks, like give your paw, encourage appropriate submissiveness on the part of the dog. Others let the dog—and the kid—shine. Here are two of my favorites, directed, as they should be, at the dog's best kid friend.

Reading:

Make a sign that says: WAG YOUR TAIL. Then walk up to your dog and hold up the sign for him to "read." Now in your friendliest voice say, "Do you want to read this? Good boy, read this." The tone of your voice will make your dog happy. A happy dog will wag his tail. Once he does, show the sign to your audience and you'll get a big laugh. People will think you have the smartest dog on the block. (Be sure to praise him so that he knows that you're pleased.)

Spelling:

Did you know that your dog can learn to spell? Once your trainer shows you how to get your dog to do all the basic commands, and teaches you the hand signals that go with them, you can use the hand signals to "teach" your dog to spell. Use the correct hand signal and say, "S-I-T" or "D-O-W-N" or "C-O-M-E." Everyone will think your dog is a genius. And they're probably right.

Of course, teaching a trick or two will make the trainer look like a genius, too.

Happy training!

Carol Lea Benjamin is the author of Dog Training in Ten Minutes and Mother Knows Best, The Natural Way to Train Your Dog. Her latest Rachel Alexander and Dash mystery, The Long Good Boy, will be out in Fall, 2001.

them.

"What do you call this place?" the traveler asked. "This is Heaven," was the answer. "Well, that's confusing," the traveler said. "The man down the road said that was Heaven, too." "Oh, you mean the place with the gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That's Hell." "Doesn't it make you mad for them to use your name like that?"

"No. I can see how you might think so, but we're just happy that they screen out the folks who'll leave their best friends behind."

Author Unknown



Mad Max

Bob Warren

I was asked to write an article on rehabilitating dysfunctional dogs. This story has very little to do with rehabilitating difficult and dangerous dogs. It has to do with a neighborhood's dog that needed rehab, but that's close enough for now.

It was difficult for me to decide who should have the honor of being my first rehab story since there are so many. There's Shogun, the mixed-breed who caused his owner to move to another city to avoid giving up her dog. There's Hunter, the Golden Retriever who, after becoming aggressive when seeing another dog, redirected his aggression towards his owner when she told him to stop. Hunter's attack knocked her to the ground and she needed the assistance of a stranger to get the dog off. There's Kodiak, the Malamute owned by a famous sports figure. Originally scheduled for just a weekend boarding, he stayed a month in the "Dysfunctions 'R Us" wing at the kennels. A tough field to choose from. So many dysfunctions, so few words to put them in. Finally, I decided on a story about a German Shepherd.

The event started innocently enough. The quiet of my day was shattered by the sound of the phone next to my ear as I catnapped at my desk. Startled but always pretending to be professional, I regained control of my senses and answered the call with the rehearsed greeting, "Good afternoon, Canine Academy, can I help you?" "Yes," an authoritative-sounding man responded. "I'm a police lieutenant here in town and I need a protection sleeve. Do you have one? And could I borrow it?" "Sure", I said, hanging up the receiver and dropping my head again on the cool hardness of my desk to finish my nap. But once disturbed always disturbed, and I knew the cop was on his way, so off I went to find some equipment to lend him.

It seems that a neighborhood dog had broken off of his tie-out in his yard and was attacking people as they went by. He had supposedly bitten several people already and the situation sounded serious. The Lieutenant explained his plan to capture this aggressive dog. Having had previous Police K-9 handling experience over ten years ago, he was going to approach the dog and when the animal attacked him, he would feed the sleeve to the dog.

I wasn't quite clear as to what he was planning to do once he had the dog biting his protective arm, but always needing to score points with the local law enforcement departments, I kept my real thoughts of his plan to myself. I did not think his plan was bulletproof. As he talked I saw a completely different scenario-taking place. I envisioned a dog who had never had formal aggression training (bite development), had never even seen a protection sleeve, and would not commit to a bite on a man. Simply, I did not see this renegade dog as likely to leap and bite the sleeve, even if we tried to feed it to him (stuff it into his mouth). An untrained dog, acting defensively,

would look for cheap-shots, or angle bites, and not commit to a bite. He would be more likely to run under or duck that large protruding arm moving towards himself and take shots at the leg. Then, equally as quickly, he would release his bite and look for another safe area to attack. A classic hit-and-run strategy. I did not foresee a happy ending for our police hero.

As I placed a couple of sleeves on the training floor for the lieutenant to choose from, I had a fleeting moment of Good-Samaritan ship. I decided that maybe I should go too, to try to help out. Anyway, when the lieutenant arrived at my shop I asked if he wanted my assistance. He said, "Sure!" (I have since come to understand sure as a four-letter word.)

So into the cruiser I went. Into the cruiser also went the protection sleeve, leash and collar, welder's gloves and a catchpole (rabies pole). We drove several miles to a well-to-do neighborhood. Turning onto our destination street, a Kodak moment was before us. It looked like a SWAT team offensive. Five police cars were already there as well as the animal-control officer's paddy wagon. More than a half-dozen police were milling around the sidewalk and street, with their hands resting on the handles of their firearms. They looked like they were gunfighters heading to a shootout at the O.K. Corral. A crowd from the neighborhood was starting to grow on the other side of the street. The only thing missing was a news team.

On the porch sat a large German Shepherd, watching, and waiting for his next opportunity to wreak havoc on unsuspecting prey. Bad Dog's rap-sheet had grown after several more assaults in the community. When we arrived this conflict had progressed to a standoff. The dog was no longer coming off the porch, and the cops were no longer going into the yard. Maybe he was tired of attacking and needed to rest before carrying out his next offensive. Maybe he was getting concerned about the growing military buildup, and felt that slinking back into the shadows and safety of his porch would be a wise defensive maneuver.

The police Lieutenant, upon surveying the situation, did not put on the protection sleeve, retrieve the dog and rescue the day. Instead, he joined the committee discussing what course of action to take. Shooting the dog on his own property, in the middle of the afternoon, in the middle of an upper-crust neighborhood with a crowd watching, was rejected. Bad PR, I guess. Since no other suggestions were coming from the command-center committee, I volunteered my services to retrieve the dog.

Returning to the cruiser, I prepared for my mission. I strapped a leash around my body, pocketed a collar, stuffed gloves behind my back and grabbed the catchpole. As I started my approach toward the dog, the SWAT team started to move

with me. We looked like a flying-wedge formation of a football team and guess who was in the lead? I turned to my trusty teammates and stated that it would be better if I were allowed to go in alone. I explained this would be a lot less stressful for the dog, making for a less volatile situation. I continued my approach but so did the troops! Again, I turned and faced my following. I insisted they not continue with me. And again, I explained they were aggravating the situation and we would all be better off if I were allowed to continue alone. As I turned back to the house, I saw a charging dog nearly upon me! He was close enough for me to see the backs of his dilated eyes and the spit-foam outline of his teeth and lips. Estimated time to targeted prey—me—two seconds!

His waiting had paid off. He had found his moment to strike. I could not believe how fast and silently the dog was covering the distance. One moment he was safely perched on his porch, the next mere feet from the sweet taste of victory. Without thinking I spun with snag-pole perpendicular to the ground and inches from my body, connecting to the airborne dog inches from contact, effectively deflecting him (and his teeth) away from me. I'm sure it was the last thing he expected. The dog, missing his target and receiving a countermeasure, retreated. I turned back again to my group and found myself alone. Very alone.

Not feeling the need to thank each officer personally for finally following my directions, I proceeded cautiously with my apprehension of this psycho-dog. Since his strike did not work against me, Mad Max stayed cornered on his porch and allowed me to step onto the platform. Now all I needed was to secure him by getting him on a leash. If only he didn't have teeth.

When I crossed his threshold, that line mentally marked in his head, "don't cross," he tried to attack me several more times. His defense was easily defused with my snag-pole/block-stick now being used as a lance. Having checked his forward aggression, I advanced to attach the leash. Slowly and calmly I was able to slip the snag-loop over his head and, before he could pull out of it, clamp it tightly around his neck. Very tightly. With a gentle push (of sorts), his head was pinned against the side of the house and I proceeded to clip my lead to his existing collar. I determined it was the right type and of sufficient strength. I then released the snag and walked him cautiously off the porch, my snag-pole comfortably between us.

Still unable to pass him off, he tried to eat the dog officer, so I walked him to the animal-control vehicle, hoping he would jump into the back seat. He didn't. Instead he again tried to eat

Cont'd Col. 1 Page 11

FRANK INN HONORED BY IACP



Frank Inn proudly displays his crystal Hall of Fame Award.

Benji looked around like the film star that he is. It was old hat to him. It was also old hat to Frank Inn his constant companion and trainer. They were both repeatedly winning awards. Another award but this one was different and very special. Frank's peers honored him. The International Association of Canine Professionals is the organization representing all canine professionals with the emphasis on professionalism. Frank certainly is a canine professional. With over 65 years of training Hollywood dogs Frank Inn enjoyed an impeccable reputation. He also trained other animals including Arnold the pig from the Green Acres TV show. Been there, done that certainly applies to Frank and now the IACP was awarding his long history in the field. Benji was credited with placing over a million dogs by the American Humane Association but he couldn't have done it without Frank. Frank put all the training and handling into Benji. Two IACP board members, Sharon Benter and Captain Haggerty traveled to Frank Inn's compound in Sylmar to make the historic first presentation to the Grand daddy of dog trainers. Congratulations and we are proud to have Frank in our Hall of Fame.

Benji above on the left pulls his treats up to the climbing frame in Frank's 'museum' of film memorabilia.

The IACP Hall of Fame is unique and honors those who have made a lifetime contribution to dogs and provided the dog world with a legacy that will always be remembered.

Mad Max Contd.

me. We started, "Let's go for a ride" again. This time I arranged an assistant on the other side of the vehicle. I extended the leash by attaching two together and sent the newhandle to my helper to hold until I needed it. (I held Max not too near me on my half of the lead.) I then went around the vehicle to get the leash from my helper. Taking the leash, I crawled into the vehicle and encouraged Max to join me. He didn't. Persistently I asked him to get in and adamantly he refused. Finally I said, "I'm sorry, I insist," and with that I pulled. Bill Koehler once wrote "Pull, and the dog will follow, if only to be near his head!" He was right, Mad Max was in the vehicle, I was not.

Want to know what to do with a Mad Max once you get one? Come to IACP's Second Annual conference and event.

Bob Warren of Muttmasters comes from Colorado and has extensive experience dealing with difficult dogs and their rehabilitation. He will be one of the presenters at the IACP Conference in March 2002

See Page 13 for details of the IACP 2002 Conference.

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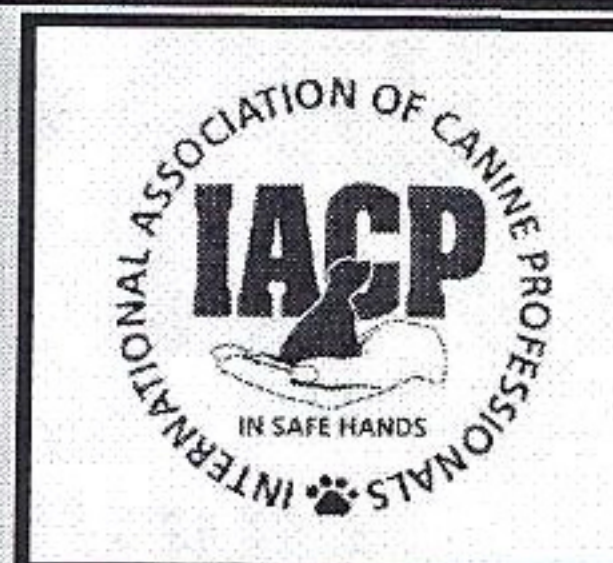
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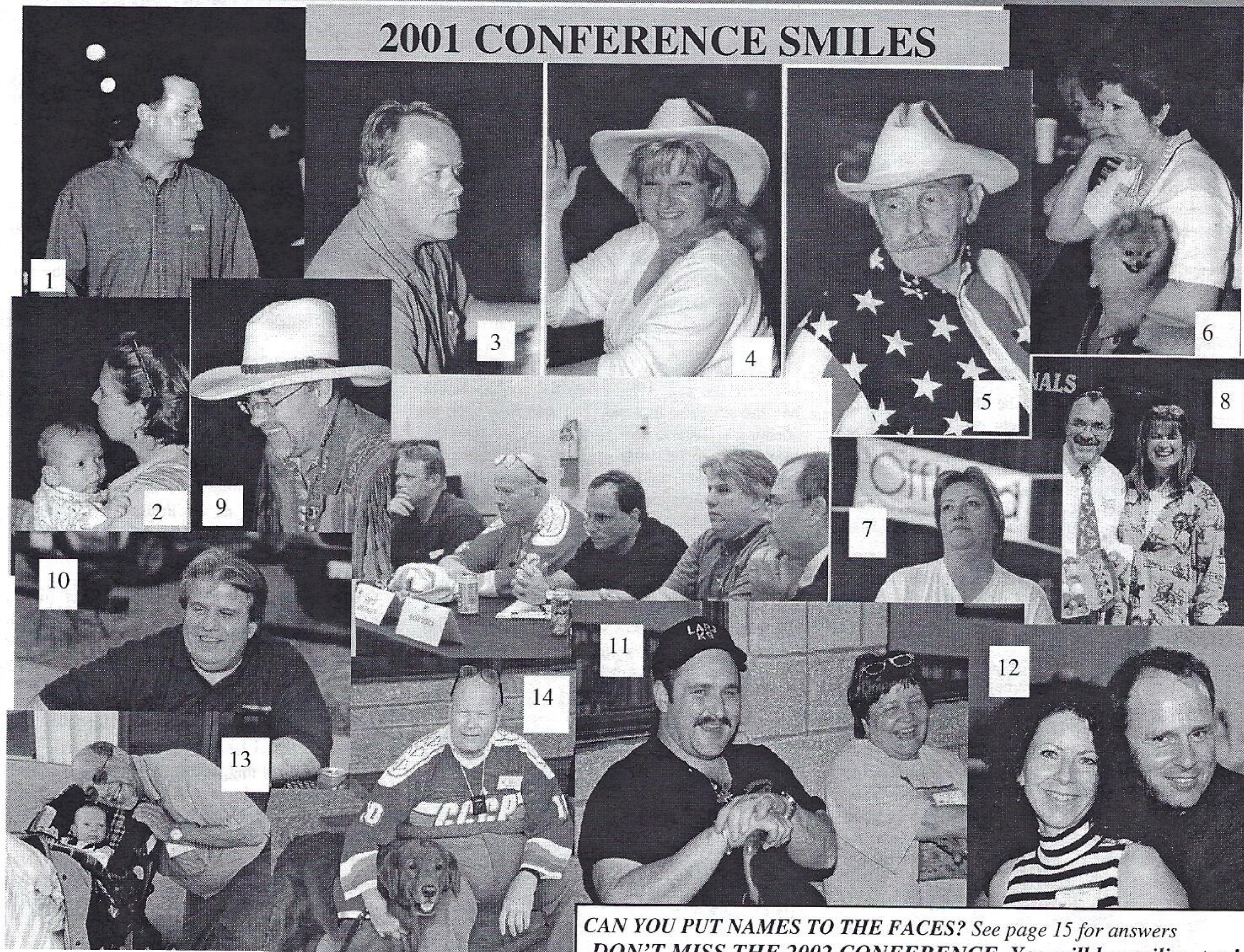
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2001 CONFERENCE SMILES



CAN YOU PUT NAMES TO THE FACES? See page 15 for answers
DON'T MISS THE 2002 CONFERENCE. You will be smiling too!

Geriatrics and Canines

Lyn Richards

My research on canine geriatrics led me to a surprising list of diseases and problems related to aging and the elderly dog. The worst problem by far is non-recognition of problems. It is amazing how much preventive care and its application can be directly attributed to fears and emotional attachments felt by owners. I was recently involved in a discussion between two Great Dane owners. One had a dog of seven years, who she classified as "old." The other's was eleven years, who she bragged of as "young." Granted, the longevity of an eleven-year-old dog is to be commended in the Great Dane breed and in a bloodline; but of the two, the owner of the seven-year-old is the wiser. At least she is open to the fact that her breed needs care to be taken to watch for and prevent signs and problems of aging.

Dog owners, especially those of large- to giant-size breeds, are loath to categorize their dogs as "old" at ages they feel are too soon. This places their animal at a higher risk, as the owner may not recognize possible warning signs as quickly. The biggest stumbling block to protecting one's pets is the refusal of owners to recognize that their dog is within the geriatric time frame. In an interview with Jackie Lynn, a writer for *Entrepreneur Magazine*, I found the perfect example:

Her dog, Jessie, is a twelve-year-old female, chocolate Standard Poodle. A sweet and good-natured animal, Jessie is a little goofy, really dumb-acting at times. She got into a fire-ant nest when she was about ten weeks old, and Jackie believes this caused Jessie to be a bit "slow." She's allergic to fleas (skin allergies), and when she was seven she was diagnosed with hip dysplasia. Jackie treats the symptoms with buffered aspirin but only when Jessie seems to feel especially poorly.

When Jessie was nine she developed a subluxated cataract in her right eye. The ophthalmologist said that surgery was not his first choice due to the risk of the lens detaching during surgery. Jackie has monitored the condition, and Jessie's been fine.

Within the last year Jessie gradually became increasingly lethargic. Telling herself that Jessie was just getting older and slowing down, that it didn't mean anything, Jackie ignored the problem.

Last fall, Jessie's left eye began clouding up. A trip to the vet confirmed that it was a normal part of aging, not another cataract, and that she still had vision in that eye. Fortunately there was nothing to be worried about, but the vet said he wanted to run some general blood tests. When dogs attain a certain age, he said, it's just a good idea to check certain blood levels. This vet has cared for Jessie for nine years, so Jackie trusted him explicitly.

The vet drew Jessie's blood. A phone call the



next day from the vet asked me to schedule her for a fasting blood test. The results were that she has Cushing's Disease (an abnormal bodily condition characterized by obesity and muscular weakness due to excess corticosteroids and hydrocortisone from adrenal or pituitary hyperfunction). The vet prescribed Lysodren and Jessie receives a maintenance dose; and since beginning the drug her energy levels have increased substantially. She regularly wrestles with Abby (Jackie's other dog, a Great Dane) and seems brighter and happier since the treatment began.

When Jackie gave Jessie a party for her twelfth birthday, she was the life of the party, entertaining guests for hours just by being her funny, goofy self, chasing balloons and eating treats.

Other than being concerned about the play between Jessie and Abby being too rough, Jackie has the situation in hand. The minor setback of Cushing's Disease did prove to Jackie that she now needs to be more vigilant in watching for further signs of aging. If the problem had been more severe, Jackie might have lost Jessie because of her refusal to recognize possible signs of aging. This was a valuable lesson to her, and should be to us all.

Knowing that geriatric problems are looming in the near future, Jackie is now prepared to do whatever is necessary in terms of observation, tests and treatments to maintain Jessie's quality of life.

The onset of old age in dogs varies by breed and size. The following data is from *Geriatrics and the Gerontology of the Dog and Cat*: Phil. WB Saunders 1996.

Dog's size	Begin geriatric screening
Typical onset age	
Under 20 lbs. (small)	7 years
10-13 years	

21-50 lbs. (medium)	7 years
8-12 years	
51-90 lbs. (large)	6-7 years
7-10 years	
Over 90 lbs. (giants)	5-7 years
5-9 years	

Canine health givers should be alert for the following symptoms in geriatrics or dogs older than five years:

- Increased or decreased water consumption
- Enlarged abdomen
- Appetite changes
- Energy decrease
- Coughing
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Lameness, pain
- Bad breath
- Weight changes
- Swelling, lumps and bumps
- Behavior changes
- Incontinence, urinary problems
- Loss of hair
- Lowered response to stimuli

Among the more profound changes that the aging dog tolerates is arthritis and pain related to aging bones. Owners can take many simple, inexpensive measures at home to reduce the suffering and ease the discomforts of their older dogs.

Keeping the dog indoors and giving him soft bedding helps, as does adding moist heat to joints by way of a hot water bottle or a damp warm towel around the joint, especially when the animal is particularly stiff, achy or limping more than usual. Apply the moist heat for short periods (20 minutes at most), repeating it a few hours later. I recommend the use of rosemary (anti-inflammatory) compresses in addition to moist heat.

Alfalfa taken internally is high in vitamins and minerals, detoxifies the body and promotes healthier joints. Willow is a natural pain reliever and, when taken as an infused tea internally mixed with alfalfa and burdock, provides pain relief and a nutritional boost.

Cosequin, a veterinary arthritis product (or its base components, Glucosamine and Chondroitin), can ease many types of joint pains. Adequan is now being used by some vets to treat older achy joints; an added side effect noticed by some who treat dogs with Adequan is occasional clearing of clouded eyes.

Other products that, taken internally, are said to help arthritis pain are: A.C.A., which is pure ground alfalfa leaf, Calcium Ascorbate (a form of Vitamin C), Selenium, Vitamin E, Chromium, and Inflammaway, which is also for hip-dysplasia symptoms. Inflammaway is made of Yucca schidigera, Glucosamine HCL, and garlic, in a base of liver, and bonemeal. Another product

Geriatrics and Canines contd.

called Joint Care has the same ingredients, and one called Gluco-C has the same plus antioxidants. Sea Pet Shark Cartilage is a supplement supposed to alleviate the pain and swelling of arthritis.

While the drug Rimadyl® has been developed to relieve elderly dogs of arthritis pain, and has extended many canine lives, it has definite risks. Pfizer, manufacturer of Rimadyl®, has been directed by FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine, to make sure that veterinarians hand out an information sheet containing safety information for dog owners at the time Rimadyl® is dispensed. For more information, go to <http://www.doglogic.com/rimadyl.htm>.

Part two of this series continues in the next IACP Newsletter

Lyn Richards has been training dogs and dressage horses for over 22 years. She is the Dog Site Administrator for NetPets.org. She enjoys dog training, web building and computer support for dog related businesses. A member of DWAA, IACP and APDT, she writes for several breed related magazines, and the Whole Dog Journal.

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IACP CONFERENCE 2001 QUIZ

DID YOU RECOGNIZE THEM ?

1. Jerry Wolfe
2. Babette Haggerty and 'Private' Ryan Haggerty
3. Brian Kilcommons
4. Debbie Kendrick
5. Dick Russell
6. Carol Scrimpsheer
7. Sharon Benter
8. Martin Deeley & Pat Trichter-Deeley
9. 'Tex' Deeley
10. Bash Dibra
11. George Cockrell & Margot Woods
12. Steve Appelbaum and Lisa Pincus
13. Uncle Bob Maida and 'Newbie' Ryan
14. Captain Haggerty and Tug

Photographs by Chris Kemper and Bob Maida

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PROFESSIONAL MEMBER - At least 5 years experience as a canine professional. Can vote on IACP issues and use the IACP name and logo on business materials.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER - Less than 5 years experience as a canine professional but practicing as a professional. Can use the IACP name and logo on business materials.

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. Receive benefits but cannot use the IACP name or logo for business purposes.

Annual Fees: (Matched Funding)

Professional \$75.00 Associate \$50.00 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.

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 or phone to request an application, our Mission Statement and our Code of Conduct.

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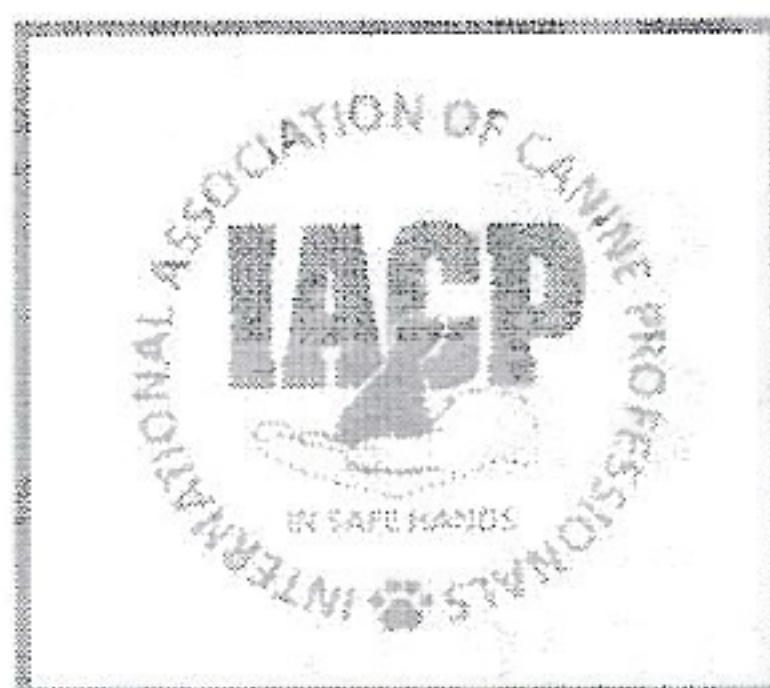
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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS is 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 co-operation across the wide diversity of canine expertise and knowledge.

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From:

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS

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