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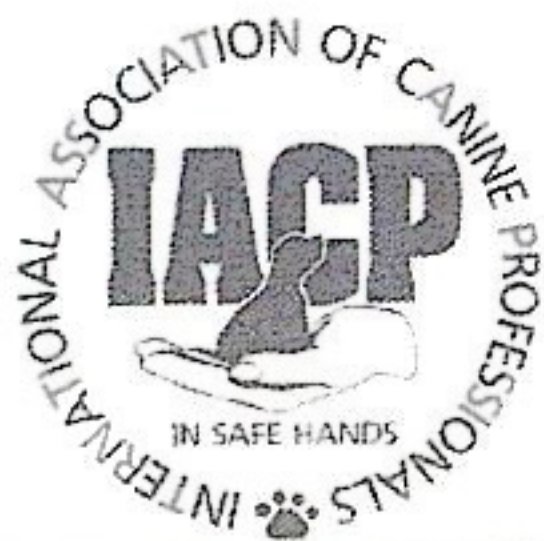
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS



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From the Editor

As we approach the annual IACP Conference and elections, the winter issue of SafeHands focuses on our central activity: training. From George Hobson's article on the puppy mentality to Roger Hild's thoughtful critique of behaviorism, there's something for everyone. We are delighted to have a series of pieces from Vivian Bregman, suitable for copying and distribution as handouts. These are Vivian's own material and not IACP copyright or endorsed. Therefore we thank Vivian for allowing this. The first, "Crate Training," will make a fine addition to your student materials.

A second focus concerns books and videos. Our fall issue included a list of must-read books, contributed by Cyndy Douan. Members have already begun sending in reviews of those books, and George Hobson's take on the Monks of New Skete appears in this issue. Meanwhile, Donald McCaig reminds us that not all the important books about dogs are professional manuals. The first review from his list, Margory Cohen's appreciation of "Adam's Task" by Vicky Hearne, appears in this issue.

SafeHands is your Journal, and it's a special pleasure to have so many of you volunteer for reviews and other articles.

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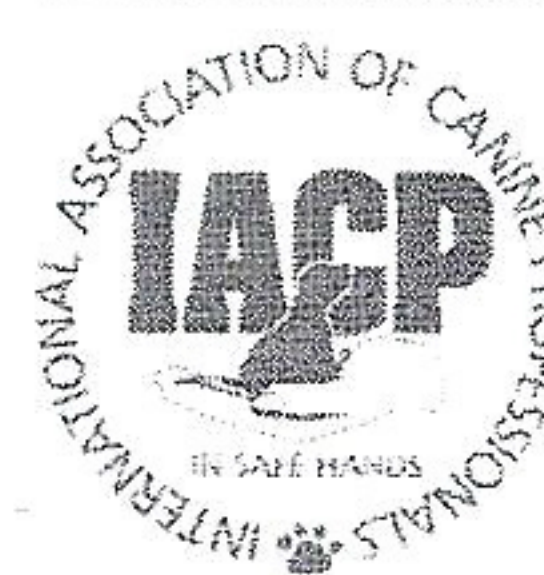
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WHAT IS A TRAINED DOG, REALLY?

By Thomas A. Beitz, Pet Behavior Specialist

My purpose in writing this article is to examine the influence of the entertainment industry on the dog training profession, as well as to raise the standard of what a trained dog actually is. I am referring to your basic house pet, on which I have concentrated and to which I have devoted my entire career.

When you observe a dog in a park walking by his master's (or if you prefer owner's) side seeming very attentive, obedient and well mannered with all kinds of distractions, you can count on it that this dog did not learn such compliance by watching Animal Planet. As informative as the show might be, it is still entertainment at its core. Many will argue that some learn better when you can make the educational process fun. This may be true for some, but the proof is in the pudding as the old cliché.

Television has had a significant influence on formation of our culture's intellectual and social preoccupations. What people think about politics, religion, journalism and education has been influenced by television and what people think about dogs is no exception. Thirty years ago the entertainment industry gave us the image of dogs like Rin Tin Tin and Lassie. Today we have the image of Cujo. We have become a country bent on pursuing entertainment at any cost, and I am afraid that we are beginning to see the adverse affects everywhere.

The dog training profession is following down the same path. The amusement mentality has made its way into various modes of education, including dog training. At one time, dog training was considered a discipline. Today discipline is too often associated with perseverance, perspiration and strictness. All of which are diametrically opposed to our natural bent to have fun. Fun has its place, but should it be woven into every aspect of our lives? I know this is a sobering introduction but I ask you to stick with me because I am going somewhere with this.

Webster's Dictionary defines training as "to form by instruction, discipline, drill, etc; educate narrowly, to teach as to be fitted, qualified, proficient. To form habits or impart proficiency by subjecting oneself to instruction, drilling and exercise." Boy, where's the fun in that? It doesn't sound to entertaining to me. After training dogs for nearly ten years and working with thousands of people it hasn't been until just recently that I have ever had any one ask me to teach their dogs some kind of trick. The vast majority of the calls I receive are from frustrated dog owners that are experiencing one problem or another—problems like housebreaking, jumping up, nipping, pulling on a leash, not coming when called, and a host of others.

Trick and treat training is training too. Teaching a dog to go to the fridge to get you a drink is training. Training a dog to perform a specific task is certainly training—and, perhaps more difficult than obedience or manners training. My question is, does training a dog to do tricks actually constitute having a trained dog? Only you can answer that question. A child can go to high school and learn to be a star football player too. But does it mean that he also received an education? The two are, in most cases, mutually exclusive.

In a previous article I spoke about the educational theory practiced in our schools today known as "Holistic learning and Outcome Based Education". In the end analysis, the main objective of these theories is not the acquisition of knowledge, but does the child feel good about himself and what he is doing. Without elaborating on this theory, I will say that it was developed by highly motivated people that excel in intellectual surroundings and the theory seems to be very effective with highly motivated children. The problem with such a theory is that most children are not highly motivated. So as a result we have seen the test scores and overall performance drop. I could sight a number of books that dissect such teaching methodologies like Charles Sykes book "Dumbing Down of Our Kids" to Neil Postman's book "Amusing Ourselves to Death."

So what does all this have to do with dog training? I'm glad you asked; let me explain.

Whether you are sending your kid off to school or your dog off to training class, you need to know what your specific goals and objectives are before you get started. You need to know that whatever methodologies are being employed are going to produce results in a reasonable amount of time. How much homework is required? Does the homework really have any bearing on the final product, a trained dog. So what is a trained dog? The answer to this question will vary from person to person depending upon their individual objectives. However, I will say that that for a house pet that there are some basic skills that he should know. I don't think anyone would argue that a dog should understand that the bathroom is outside and not on the living room carpet. That an 80-pound Lab understands that jumping up on grandma could be injurious to her health. How about the poodle that likes to chew on young children? I think you get the message. Good manners don't come with age; they are cultivated through training.

You can't talk about training without at least mentioning the word "commands." "I've tried to teach my dog the heel command but he thinks that heel means to pull me down the street". I taught my dog to sit for a treat, and he will do it as long as there aren't any distractions. There is a nationally known trainer in Las Vegas named Fred Hassen. If I'm not mistaken, the name of his training school is, "Sit means Sit." I've never met this man, I think that he has a profound insight into what dog training is all about. Sit means sit may be a terse statement but it speaks volumes. Achievement is not a matter of whether the dog feels good about himself or how the owner is feeling, sit means sit. How can anyone argue with that? So what is a trained dog? A dog that has good manners, is not dangerous to friends, family or

Continued on Page 5

WHAT IS A TRAINED DOG *continued*

strangers, and is obedient to whatever commands you have taught the dog regardless of the distractions. By some trainers' standards this statement has just lowered the bar. For others it may expose a need for reevaluating their methods and furthering their education.

Some dogs admittedly need more work than others. It is easy to train a highly motivated dog; it's another thing to train a stubborn dog.

I am commonly asked if dogs resemble their owners. My response is that dogs reflect their owners. So a trained dog should be able to comply with whatever request his owner has taught him. I know that this is just one dog trainer's opinion (convictions) and they are certainly open to debate. Some will say that these guidelines are too rigid while others will argue that they are too slack. If you find yourself frustrated with your dog's behavior, maybe additional training is in order. Entertainment is not a substitute for education.

We as dog trainers and pet behavior specialists have a

responsibility to the consuming public to help people solve their dog's behavior problems and obedience problems. If we have fun along the way, great, but the fun ought to be a byproduct not the prime product. I realize that this statement is not calculated to win friends and influence people. I am challenging the very fabric of our society. It is very possible that the more uncomfortable you are with the content of this article, the more influenced you have unknowingly become by the onslaught of the television industry.

One of the most rewarding experiences for any of us involved in education is to see a past graduate succeeding in life and knowing that we played a part in that success.

Tom Beitz is a Pet Behavior Specialist, Dog Trainer and owner of the Academy for Puppies and Dogs. Tom helps people solve the pets problems and can be reached at (716) 628-0651, or on the web www.smartdogtrainer.com

BOOK REVIEW

Title: The Art Of Raising A Puppy

Author: Monks of New Skete

Book Review by George K. Hobson

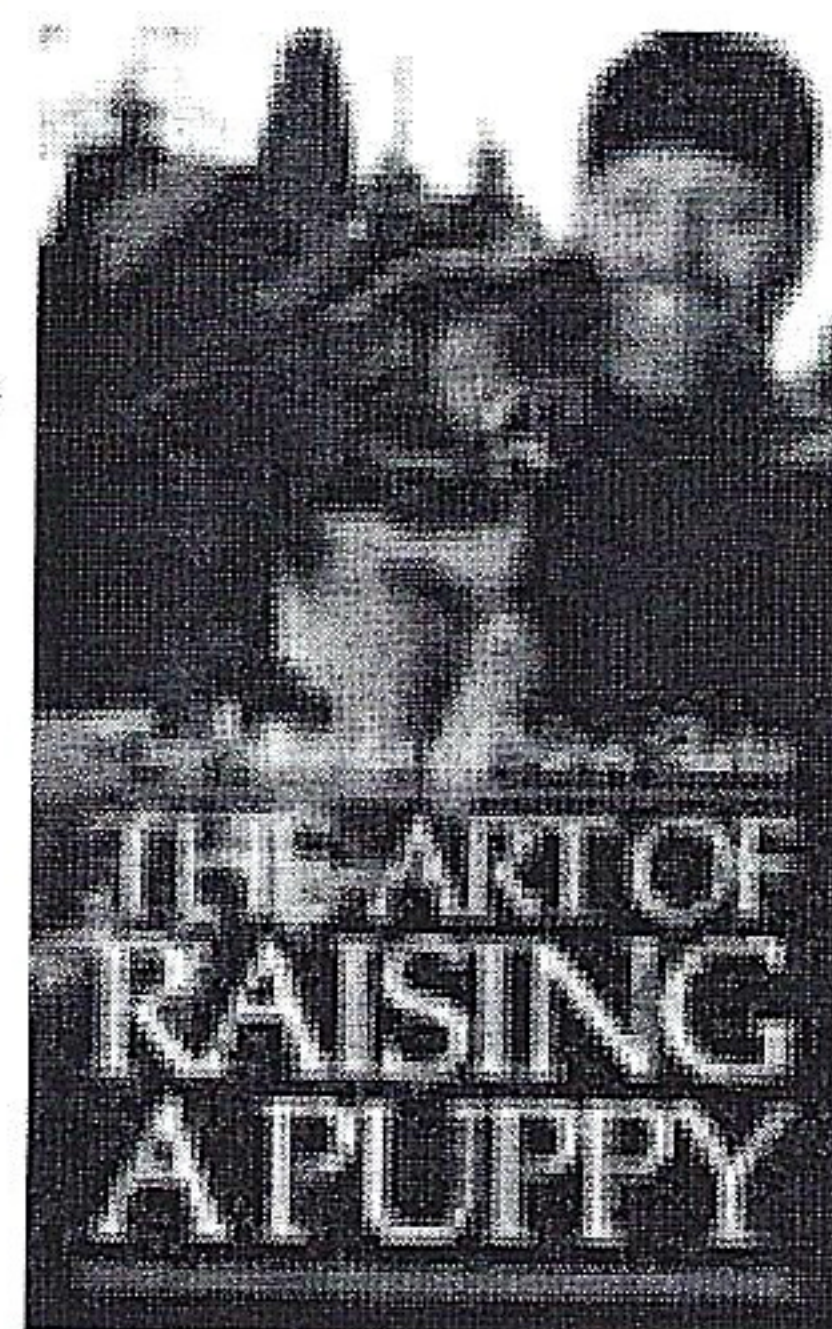
The perspective from which this book is written, and the unique environment of the authors, is of significant influence on the manner of presentation and training philosophy. Rather than presenting the view of a single individual, the information represents a collective experience spanning more than twenty years and many breeds of dogs. The influence and advice of individuals in various disciplines of canine business and training is acknowledged in its development.

The book contains valuable information for breeders in developing their puppy program, and for prospective buyers to evaluate a breeder's methods of litter management. The Volhard Puppy Aptitude Test is included with a complete scoring and explanation of the evaluation it provides.

From selection of a breed, to picking a puppy and nurturing it with clearly defined objectives for the adult dog, the organization of the material is extremely well sequenced in a clear and easily read style. By using a case study approach to much of the material, new owners in particular are shown how their actions influence the puppy's development.

Discussion and recommendation of training activities is balanced, and the appropriated use of physical correction receives clear explanation and attention. Food is not used in training at New Skete. The section on puppy equipment and how to use it is well done in text and illustration. The one deficiency in the book is the failure to address bringing a puppy into a multidog household.

This book gets a must read recommendation for professionals and owners.



THOUGHTS ON BEHAVIORISM

Roger Hild

I have always been tolerant of differing points of view and believe in each person's freedom to choose their own set of beliefs and values. It was only after I began to notice a "Loss of Habitat," metaphorically speaking, that I decided to say something. The habitat of which I speak, is "that place" where dogs and the people who enjoy living and working with them, come together.

It seems that numerous missionaries began arriving at "that place" (the place of which I speak) and began to loudly proclaim the behaviorist message. Coming from the land of academia, the young among them seemed to have a mission to enlighten the good folk of this land. Even as they were being welcomed into our midst, they were attempting to carve out large sections of territory around which they planned to erect fences. Once they had the fences built it was their plan to post signs stating, "None but behaviorists may enter here." The more evangelical among them had, as their creed, "We are the way, the truth and the light - no one may enter or train dogs but through us."

What I am attempting to show is that behaviorism does indeed have its flaws, that there are many who deal quite successfully with behavior and are not (nor do they need to be) a behaviorist and sometimes, quite frankly, "the emperor has no clothes." I am perfectly capable and comfortable with using some behaviorist principles while rejecting others - for me it does not have to be an either/or situation. Behaviorism is like going to a distant relative's house - "it's a nice place to visit but I don't want to live there."

While I know the difference between a dog and a person, I'm not so sure a behaviorist sees much difference. In behaviorism only one thing matters, stimulus->response. Because it frames their approach to life regardless of the issue at hand, there are many within the behaviorist movement that would apply the same philosophy regardless of whether it's teaching a rat to run a maze, a child to do his time-tables or a dog to hold a sit stay.

Quoting Skinner: "A person is first of all an organism, a member of a species and a subspecies, possessing a genetic endowment of anatomical and physiological characteristics, which are the product of the contingencies of survival to which the species has been exposed in the process of evolution. The organism becomes a person [i.e., a unique individual] as it acquires a repertoire of behavior under the contingencies of reinforcement to which it is exposed in its lifetime. The behavior it exhibits at any moment is under the control of a current setting. It is able to acquire such a repertoire because of processes of conditioning, to which it is susceptible because of its genetic endowment." (From Skinner, "About Behaviorism," 1974, p. 213).

The following is from Pamela J. Reid, "Excel-erated



Learning," pg.15:

"The acceptance of behaviorism went hand in hand with the rejection of the study of the mind. B. F. Skinner believed that we could understand behavior by studying the things that happen to animals. There was no need to study what was happening inside the animal's head. Understanding the laws of behavior and how events affect an animal's behavior do not necessitate understanding the mind. In fact Skinner's form of 'radical behaviorism' even rejected the notion that thoughts, feelings, and emotions could cause behavior."

Reid does go on to acknowledge that psychology (not behaviorism) has undergone a major shift in focus over the past 20 plus years toward a "Cognitive revolution." However, while psychology is undergoing shifts in focus, behaviorism remains fixed on stimulus-response.

Some will say that since behaviorism addresses behavior very nicely, it is very useful for dog training. A frequent comment was, "regardless of species, regardless of who is applying the rules, if you follow R+, P+, R- and P-....they work."

First off, using various kinds of reinforcements and corrections, applying or removing various kinds of pressure does not make one a follower of behaviorist dogma. Those so called principles have been a part of various teaching tech-

niques for many eons of time. If I reject behaviorism, it does not mean I can no longer use a reward for instance. If, however, I treat every training goal as a "conditioning process," then I am no longer open to other possibilities, as to either what is going on or what needs to be done.

Associative Learning (of which Operant Conditioning is a part) is something I do use at times and find it to be useful on occasion. It is, however, only one form of learning, a small piece of the puzzle. I see evidence all the time of automatic behavior and reflex-type behavior but I also see more complex behaviors where there is clearly some forms of mental processes involved – behavior where choice (or some kind of decision making) is clearly involved. Sometimes the "stimulus-response" model is sufficient, but more often I see the process (and thus the premise from which I work) as "stimulus-mental process (choice?)-response," and it is that choice that I confirm/acknowledge or correct. Dogs have good memory and it can be used to great advantage in any training sequence. Memory comes into play in that "mental process" and is part of the choice. Once the dog is clear on what he is being directed to do and is able to remember his "job," he can then be held accountable for that sequence of behavior.

A few other problems with the behaviorists model include, but are not limited to, the following: <http://www.reststop.net/dave/behavior.html> by Dave Paulsen.

"This phenomenon of the complete breakdown of conditioning theory was called 'instinctive drift' by Breland and Breland (p.684.) It seems that conditioned behaviors that are close to instinctive behaviors cannot take a long term hold on an animals behavior, and are "a demonstration that there are definite weaknesses in the philosophy underlying these techniques. . . . When behaviorism tossed out instinct, it is our feeling that some of its power of prediction and control were lost with it." (p.684.)

"In addition to instinctive drift, it seems just as likely that boredom was setting in due to lack of novelty or loss of purpose in what had basically become an impoverished environment, or that they were witnessing the onset of neurosis by keeping animals in a forced, unnatural environment. This would seem to be in keeping with Konrad Lorenz's view on the possible total conditioning of humans when he says, "I strongly doubt whether you can condition man so that he does not become nervous and neurotic when he is crowded." (Evans, 1974.) Breland and Breland then conclude "that the behavior of any species cannot be adequately understood, predicted, or controlled without knowledge of its instinctive patterns, evolutionary history, and ecological niche." (p.684.)

"When it was discovered that control was possible, and could be generalized and manipulated with a fairly high repeatability, it was a major triumph of empiricism in the science of psychology. However, everything this new psychology of behaviorism was based on was then thrown out the window as no longer relevant. By then denying the pertinent information that can be derived from, and the

effects of, cognitively caused and/or transformed behavior, and biologically innate behaviors and patterns, radical behaviorism loses its ability to predict and control with the accuracy and completeness necessary to assume law-like status or to become the epistemology of the science of psychology."

"When we try to reduce behavior to the strict one-to-one functions of the stimulus-response paradigm, we forget the warning of the cognitive scientists "that any theory of mind that fails to talk about the intervening mental processes that link these stimuli and responses will be unacceptably incomplete." (Flanagan, 1991, p.177.) As E. C. Tolman pointed out, incoming stimuli are "worked over and elaborated . . . into a tentative cognitivelike map of the environment. And it is this tentative map, indicating routes and paths and environmental relationships, which finally determines what responses, if any, the animal will finally release." (Tolman, 1948.)

Quoting from Heather Houlihan: "However, to the extent that behaviorism as a theory *does* explicitly negate not only internal life, but the self, personal agency, choice, it's perfectly valid to force the proponents of 'pop' behaviorism to confront those negations and defend them. What one usually finds when one does that is that these proponents will not or cannot "handle the truth" about the theory they claim as their own -- much as so-called "animal rights" proponents do not understand the philosophical position called Utilitarianism that underlies their movement.

"Arthur Koestler summed up the wrong turn that behaviorism took from this perfectly sound ground: 'For the anthropomorphic view of the rat, American psychology substituted a rattomorphic view of man.'

"But Koestler was not quite there yet. Because beneath it all, the behaviorists got it fundamentally wrong about rats (and pigeons and cats and dogs, and for all I can tell, flatworms).

"The better minds in the field of human psychology have wasted a good part of the past fifty years refuting behaviorism as a model. The most devastating refutations have come from 'the field' -- not only from the simple mechanistic ideology's failure to resonant with ordinary experience and common sense, but its failure to produce results as advertised when 'applied' by its true believers for over half a century. Alfie Kohn: 'One wonders how long it is possible to continue accounting for the lack of meaningful results by insisting that a basically sound approach is poorly implemented in every case.'

"Earnest attempts to redefine the criteria of success by the true believers eventually came smacking into the demands of living as a human being in a society. Many of the claims behaviorists made for public consumption were designed to resonate with progressive-thinking people -- that their methods were more humane, first and foremost, that they were "modern" and 'scientific'-- and implied or explicit, that other

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CRATES AND HOUSEBREAKING

By Vivian Bregman

Why use a crate?? I certainly wouldn't want to spend hours locked up in an area barely big enough to stand up and turn around in. BUT --- I am not a dog, and neither are you. A dog is a den animal. If you look at where your dog chooses to spend his sleeping time, you will most likely find that it is behind a chair, under a table, or in a secluded corner. He wants and needs a bed of his own, a den, someplace where he can be alone.

A crate is by far the best and easiest way to prevent most of the problems that cause many people to get rid of their dogs. You need a crate for your dog if he has housebreaking accidents, if he destroys things. When left alone, if you have small children who don't understand that a dog needs time alone, if you have company who is afraid of dogs, if you travel with your dog and want to reassure the motel or your host that the dog will not get into trouble when left alone, and, most important of all, you need a crate for your dog if you want the very best trained dog possible.

When do you want to start use of the crate? The best time is when you first bring the puppy home. If you have bought the puppy from a breeder there is an excellent probability that he is already used to a crate. If he is under four months old he should have no problem accepting the crate as his "home." If he is older it will not be as easy, but it can and should be done.

Where does the crate go? My crate sits in the corner of the dining room, away from the heat and away from drafts. Yours can be in the corner of the kitchen or the playroom or someplace similar. That is, a people oriented place. Do not use newspaper in the crate. Instead use a piece of blanket, towel or some kind of matting that can be washed in case of accident.

A dog crate is a rectangular enclosure with a top and a door, made in a variety of sizes proportioned to fit any size dog. Constructed of wire, wood, metal, or molded fiberglass/plastic, its purpose is to provide guaranteed confinement for reasons of security, safety, housebreaking, protection of household goods, travel, illness, or just general control.

The dog crate has long been accepted, trusted, and taken for granted by dog show exhibitors, obedience and field trial competitors, trainers, breeders, groomers, veterinarians, and anyone else who handles dogs regularly. Individual pet owners usually reject the idea of using a crate because they consider such enforced close confinement unfair and even harmful to the dog.

The dog, however, sees it as having a room of his own: it's his own private special place, a "security blanket". A Playpen. The crate helps to satisfy the "den instinct" inherited from his den-dwelling ancestors and relatives, and

he is not afraid or frustrated when closed in. He is actually much happier and more secure having his life controlled and structured by human beings -- and would far rather be prevented from causing trouble than be punished for it later.

A dog crate, correctly and humanely used, can have many advantages for both you and your dog. With the help of a crate you can enjoy complete peace of mind when leaving your dog home alone, knowing that nothing can be soiled or destroyed and that he is comfortable, protected, and not developing any bad habits. You can housebreak your dog more quickly by using the close confinement to encourage control, establish a regular routine for outdoor elimination, and to prevent "accidents" at night or when left alone. You can effectively confine your dog at times when he may be underfoot (meals, family activities), unwelcome (guests, workmen etc.), over-excited, bothered by too much confusion such as too many children, or ill. You can travel with your dog without risk of the driver being dangerously distracted or the dog getting loose and helplessly lost, together with the assurance that he can easily adapt to any strange surroundings as long as he has his familiar "security blanket" along. He is also more welcome in motels and in other people's homes when the host is told that the dog will be crated in the room and therefore unable to make problems.

The crate should be large enough to permit the dog to stretch out flat on his side without being cramped and to sit up without hitting his head on the top. Remember that a crate too large defeats the purpose of providing security and promoting bowel control.

New crates can be purchased in retail pet shops and discount pet food and supply outlets, through catalog sales firms such as Sears, at the larger dog shows, from dog equipment catalogs, from a crate manufacturer, or from an obedience instructor. Even the most expensive dog crate is a bargain when compared to the cost of repairing or replacing a sofa, chair, woodwork, wallpaper, or carpeting. Make it very clear to children that the crate is NOT a playhouse for them, but a "special room" for the puppy, whose rights should be recognized and respected. However, you should accustom the puppy from the start to letting YOU reach into the crate at any time, lest he become overprotective of it.

Establish a "crate routine" as soon as you bring the puppy home, or as soon thereafter as possible. Close the puppy in it at regular one to two hour intervals during the day (his own chosen nap times will guide you) and whenever he must be left alone for up to three or four hours. Give him a chew toy for distraction and be sure to remove collar and tags which could become caught in an opening.

If things do not go too smoothly at first, do not weaken and do not worry -- just be consistent, firm and aware that you are doing your pet a real favor by preventing him from getting into trouble while left alone. Make sure that you do not let the dog out of the crate while he is barking or he will think that barking is the key to opening the door to the crate.

Start by making the crate smaller, and then increase the space inside the crate as the puppy grows so that he remains comfortable. Plan to use the crate until the puppy is ten or twelve months old -- well past the chewing stage.

Most people feel that a chewing puppy is normal, and that he will "grow out of it". Be aware that dogs do not grow out of problems. While puppy chewing is normal teething, it very quickly becomes a habit that can be easily prevented with the use of a crate together with his "chew toy".

In order to housebreak a dog, take him out of the crate on a six-foot lead (carrying him if he is small enough) to the "potty" spot. Stand still so that the dog cannot wander. This spot should be close enough to the house so that you can get to it when the weather is bad, and to clean it up, but far enough from the house to avoid odors. Say "Potty" or "Business" or whatever word you want to use, and praise him for the act, and give him a small treat if he does what you want. Once he has relieved himself, take him for a walk of at least fifteen minutes. The mistake that many people make when house training their dog is to walk the dog until the dog relieves himself and then take him into the house. The dog, in order to get a longer walk, puts off relieving himself, sometimes miscalculating and waiting too long. This leads the owner to say that the dog is "spiteful" and waiting until he is inside to "do it on the carpet on purpose".

Once your dog has relieved himself outside in the potty spot, and has gotten his treat and his walk, take him into the house and let him loose for about one hour. Although the chances are the dog will not relieve himself in the house, he must be watched. If he starts to do something you don't want him to do, you can catch him in the act and teach him that it is wrong.

After an hour or so loose in the house, take him out again. If he does his "Business" you can reward him and take him for a walk. Continue this system all day long, putting him in the crate when he cannot be supervised. Since he does not want to soil his bed, he will wait for his walk. This may not work as well or as quickly with a "pet shop" puppy because they spend so much time in a crate and use the crate for their "business".

When your dog has an accident do not rub his nose in it or hit him.

a. If you catch him in the act of eliminating, startle him with your voice, scold him and immediately take him to his toilet area. Praise him there if he finishes eliminating. Praise him mildly even if he only sniffs the area.

b. If you didn't catch him in the act, don't scold him when you find the mess, just clean it up and vow to watch him more closely. Punishing after the fact doesn't work. Your dog simply can't understand and connect your punishment with the act of eliminating which he did sometime before. If this punishment method worked, all dogs would be housebroken! He may look submissive ("guilty") because he knows you are angry with him - he can easily tell by your body posture and tone of voice - but this has no bearing on the act of elimination he did earlier.

c. Clean accidents thoroughly as the scent will draw him back to use the area again. Don't use ammonia, as there is ammonia in urine.

d. If your dog consistently house soils in one area try feeding him there or keep his water bowl there.

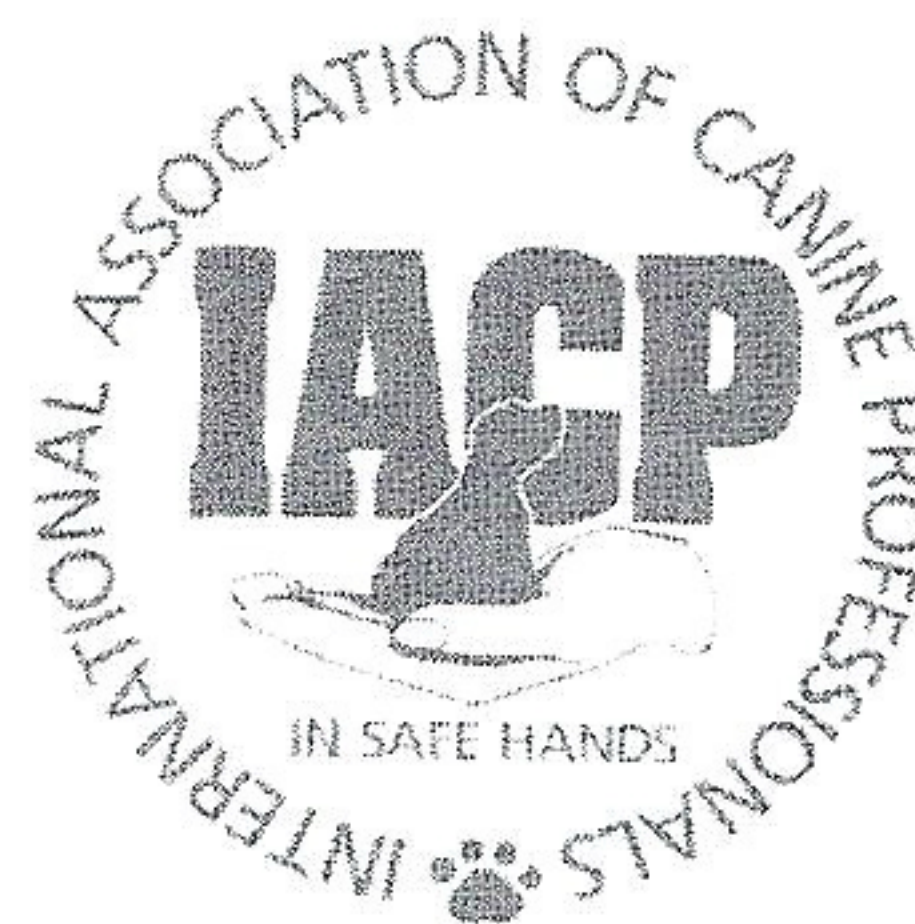
e. If accidents are frequent he needs to be watched much more closely and taken out more often.

Don't be in a hurry to allow your pup unsupervised freedom. Housebreaking will be done long before he learns what not to chew. The crate will protect him and your belongings!

Housebreaking is an all-or-nothing procedure. If your dog eliminates occasionally in the house, he's not housebroken! It does not mean "tell me when you have to go out" as some dogs will ask you to play doorman many times a day. Housebreaking eventually should mean, "hold it and wait until I take you out."

The key to housebreaking is really simple: Prevent accidents and praise correct performance!

Vivian Bregman has given her permission for any IACP Member to reproduce this as a hand-out for clients.



PUPPY MENTALITY - A Trait for Life?

by George K. Hobson

Mentally, puppies are like a sponge in that they soak up everything, and if they've been properly raised will approach almost anything without a preconceived attitude. As they mature, some of this predisposition to "I wonder what that is, it might be interesting" attitude wears off, and the "you can't teach an old dog new tricks" concept leads most owners treat the dog in just that manner. To keep or develop the puppy-like interest in life, we need to change the owner's attitude about the dog's mental development. Doing both can contribute to the enjoyment and productivity of the companionship enjoyed by both dog and owner.

Some training approaches seek to erase the puppy traits for a number of reasons. Most commonly it appears that because in doing so it overtly demonstrates a human dominance over the dog, and/or from a different semantic description, the dog is "well behaved." For pointing breeds I like to train them while maintaining a lot of the puppy mentality. It is more difficult to accomplish this with family pets because the owners don't generally have a clear image of what their dog's job is, or what the dog will become as it gets older. First time owners seem to be especially clueless, and that's why they seek a quite (intimidated?), obedient (submissive?), possession (dog?), that is only in their lives (little to no daily effort?) when it's convenient to them (quality time?). First time owners are especially clue less that the playful puppy can/will turn into a grouch, and that an older grouch with ailments may become actively antisocial. A puppy mentality is part of preventing this.

Admittedly, I'm a spoiled dog trainer. Primarily training pointing breeds for hunting, I get less of the problems faced by other trainers. And importantly, the owners generally understand what the dog's job is - or are very likely to accept my definition of it.. By asking, "Is there any reason you wouldn't want a dog that's fun to be with at home as well as when you're hunting?" I can get a positive lead into the following points about the desirability for a state of puppy mentality.

1. Thinking every new thing I want to do will be interesting.
2. A happy personality.
3. Trusting of everyone and every other dog.
4. Never getting tired of looking for "something new".
5. Complete trust in me and every other human not to intentionally hurt it.
6. Know when it's time for business and when it's time for fun.

There are of course jobs that dogs have which make all or some of my above desires unacceptable (e.g. guard dogs), and then my (rather utopian?) approach may be inappropriate. I guess that's why I love the hunting dog work best.

I don't see rapid and correct obedience to commands of mannerly control (here, sit, down, off, heel) to be in conflict with business/hunting and training/maintaining for the 6



items above. I require proper deportment in the appropriate settings. (Children may race around the house at home, but know darn well not to do it when visiting.)

- a. Correcting a dog that intentionally disobeys a trained command does not bring resentment if the correction is appropriate in the dogs mind.
- b. Demanding training and high standards are not punishment.

From the view point of a pointing dog trainer, here are some thoughts on how to accomplish my six points of puppy mentality in work and play.

- 1a. Make training required things interesting when possible.
- 1b. Find new interesting things to do.
2. Read the dog during training and don't train a "down" dog. b. If you aren't having fun when "playing," then the dog isn't either.
3. Give the dog things to do which require it to be trusting of you: teeter board, high board walk, jump off a high place into water -- be imaginative and look to every dog for what challenges it. Don't allow aggressive behavior and don't be around dogs that are aggressive.
4. Find something that "looks interesting" and be interested while encouraging the dog to do so. I take my personal dogs on walks around the farm, and will sometimes stop at a mouse hole and encourage them to help me "find it." Their tails get to moving at warp speed and we all dig and scuff about trying to find it. THEY KNOW this is a "permissive" behavior and isn't appropriate when business (hunting) is being

PUPPY MENTALITY Contd

conducted.

5. Don't hurt the dog and don't permit others to be hostile to it. I've got acquaintances that just are not dog people, and I don't let them around my dogs. Their manner of petting and other actions just scream to the dog "I don't really like dogs and you are a pain in the @\$\$. If I liked dogs I'd have one and I don't." Remember that dogs read even subtle body language VERY well. If you want a people friendly dog, then people need to be friendly to the dog.

6a. Give the dog cues for start and stop, and business versus play.

6b. I never just turn out my dogs from the truck when hunting. They get out, are put at sit while I put the beeper collars on, and then are put at down until I'm ready. Then I give them a "go pee" (I'm not too socially sensitive in my language except around ladies), and recall to heel before leaving the truck. They are released to hunt by whistle.

6c. Field training is done from standing, and water work done from sitting.

6d. Play is initiated with "OK, lets do some stuff!", and stopped with "Enough" and a heel.

I also spit into my dogs mouths, a very senior-to-subordinate action in the canine world. This is not to be done if you can't read a dog's willingness to be voluntarily subordinate: you can get badly hurt. Spit serves me as a top reward to the dogs for doing something very well, or as a reassurance. My dogs actually seek for me to do this. Try it with your own dog, or perhaps one that isn't, and be prepared for one of three general reactions: (1) Dog doesn't reject the action, may be a bit puzzled at first or immediately ask for more. In any case, the dog will readily continue to accept the action. (2) Dog acts offended and retreats, but does not become unfriendly. Will return if called, but clearly indicates it is unsure of its status. (3) Dog rejects the action, hackles may rise, and you need a new nose and lots of stitches. Reaction (1) is the most indicative of existing puppy mentality. Always be cautious and prepared for reaction three.

Any one that believes money can't buy happiness has never bought a puppy. Perhaps we can keep some of that for the life of our dogs.

George Hobson is a Professional Hunting Dog Trainer from Missouri and a Professional Member of the IACP.



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CROPPING AND DOCKING

By Captain A. Haggerty

Well, yes, I do think that docking and cropping enhances the appearance of certain breeds of dogs. I also understand that there are those that are opposed to docking and cropping maintaining that it is cruel. After all beauty is in the eye of the beholder. The uncropped Boxer has a somber appearance. The undocked and uncropped Doberman looks goofy.

Let's take a politically incorrect approach and 1) attack the attackers and 2) question the motivation of the attackers. My first question is are those same people protesting the enhanced appearance of dogs also opposed to plastic surgery in humans? People that are politically correct take the position that they are on a higher plane the rest of the world. They need an excuse for their position. They often are not consistent. If their unorthodox approach winds up in chaos they blithely move on to their next "project" ignoring the damage they have done. This Attila the Hun approach works. Attila never looked back on the destruction he left behind.

A case in point is the prohibition of docking of dogs in Sweden. In a Swedish study conducted after the docking ban German Shorthaired Pointers showed the tail injuries in the undocked dogs. At 1 to 1.5 years of age 27% of the dogs had tail injuries. At 2 to 2.5 years of age it was 35% and at the end of the study it was 51%. Now a serious tail injury has a "simple" solution. Cut it off! At a year-and-a-half it borders major surgery as compared to the simple nipping at four days. That is okay. The anti-dockers have gone on to their next project while the dogs, the injured dogs are left behind under general anesthesia.

Let's talk about tails. The tails most likely to be injured are those of the more active breeds. If they are happy and active they wag their tails more often. The Swedish study found that males are more likely to have tail injuries than females. What is the dog's job? What it does has a bearing on total injuries. Should we keep these dogs in padded cells so they don't injure their undocked tails? A tail can be injured in a living-room or in the field....and it can be docked at four days or four years. Which is more humane? The moyl doesn't use anesthesia at a bris. Medical doctors in circumcisions will not use anesthesia because of the potential problems incurred. Perhaps circumcision is a poor example because that is becoming politically incorrect in some areas. It's tough keeping track of what is politically correct.

Note that puppies and babies are slower in their initial development than horses or cows. There doesn't seem to be any English word to describe this but the end results are that recently whelped pup or recently born baby doesn't feel pain at an early age as a pony or calf. Within 24-hours that pony is prancing around with its eyes open looking to run. To use the German term for these differences the more highly developed neonate is *Nestfluchter* or a bird that immediately flies out of its nest. Now birds, despite the term are not *Nestfluchters*. They, like puppies and babies are *Nesthockern*. The less advanced neonates do not feel the pain because their nerve endings aren't fully hooked up..

At the other end of the dog we have cropping. In between we have dewclaws. Dewclaw removal doesn't seem to be open to attack but if PC people were consistent they would attack that also. After all why subject the unfeeling pups to simple surgery if you can wait and have them undergo more painful surgery at a later date?

Ears. The PC profess that they want the natural ear. Whoa! What is the natural look? What is the natural ear? The "natural" ear in the dog is the prick ear. Let's look at the "natural" dog. The pariah dog has a prick ear. So does the dingo. So does every natural dog on the face of the earth. As a matter of fact check all mammals. They all have prick ears with some notable exceptions: humans and dolphins.

Do you think there is no reason for cropping? There are health reasons. The erect ear gets better air circulation and has less infection problems. Check with your veterinarian and ask her if the hound ear has more infection problems than the prick ear. Now maybe she just hasn't been paying attention and hasn't cataloged the ears with infections. I have. Cropping is good animal husbandry. What about the taping? Some people are worried about the pain incurred with taping. Just use the Haggerty-method of ear taping. Use masking tape. If the cropped dogs are with their littermates masking tape will come off in ten to thirty hours. Then you just re-tape them with masking tape. What does this accomplish?

- 1) Infection is reduced considerably and/or is more readily spotted.
- 2) Air circulation is increased.
- 3) You learn to do a better job of taping.
- 4) You learn to do a faster job of taping.
- 5) Minor improvements in *how* you tape the ears insure better end results.
- 6) There is no pain and no strain.
- 7) The puppies don't develop hand shyness around the ears as sometimes happens with traditional taping. As a matter of fact they "enjoy" the taping. You're giving them extra attention. Rather than hand shyness they welcome hands around the ears.

Humans have bred and developed dogs with unnatural ears so let's get rid of all the sporting dogs and the trail hounds. Then there are the----well you get the idea.

Shall we replace good animal husbandry with political correctness? Walt Disney's Goofy has hound ears. Do you want a pretty dog or a goofy dog?

Captain Haggerty became interested in Boxers in the late forties. He has also bred Dobermans. Both these breeds are docked and cropped. Haggerty judges six breeds plus Junior Showmanship. He prefers pretty dogs over goofy-looking dogs. The Captain's latest book is How To Teach Your Dog To Talk.

NEW DIRECTORS FOR IACP

The International Association of Canine Professionals has appointed four new Directors from the membership. There were vacancies for four new Directors and due to only four candidates being proposed there was no reason for an election. All four candidates were proposed and accepted onto the Board by the existing Board.

These Directors will serve from January 2003. They are

John Van Olden (JVanOlden@PAWSitiveSolutions.com) from California,

Steve Appelbaum (topdawg@dawgbiz.net) from California,

Gina Lynn Hayes (heartnsoul7299@hotmail.com) from Massachusetts

George Cockrell (larjk9@aol.com) from Maryland.

The growth of the International Association of Canine Professionals has been rapid over the last year and these new Directors will bring new ideas and additional vigor to the management. More information on these new Directors will be available in the next IACP Bulletin. Members are encouraged at all times to contact Directors if they have any questions, thoughts, ideas or proposals for the Association.

IACP President Martin Deeley told Safehands that he was delighted with the appointment of the new Directors. "They have already proved through their commitment and support of the IACP that they will be a valuable addition to the management team. I welcome them with open arms—we are definitely in Safehands."

IACP HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES FOR 2003

The International Association of Canine Professionals has proudly announced the induction of four new members in to the Association's Hall of Fame. The dog world has been very remiss in recognizing the contributions of professionals who have dedicated their lives to dogs and their welfare. Their contributions have enabled all of us who love dogs to learn more and enjoy them for the work they do and the companionship they provide. The four inductees are Lois Meistrell, Ede Munneke, Winifred Gibson Strickland, and Carol Lea Benjamin. A short bio of these new Honorary Members in the Hall of Fame is presented below.

Winifred Gibson Strickland

Winifred Gibson Strickland certainly has had a full-life with dogs....and with her favorite the breed, the German Shepherd Dog. She is known at Ms. German Shepherd of Obedience. In November of 2002 she put her 208th title on one of her dogs with a score of 297 ½. Wynn has over 1500 awards and trophies to her credit. One award she takes special pride in is the one from "des Verein fuer deutsche Schaeferhunde" or SV, the parent club for the Shepherd in Germany. As the world's largest single breed club (100,000 members) the SV rarely acknowledges outside accomplishments yet they gave her an award for Excellence in Obedience Training. Over forty perfect (200) scores in obedience isn't too shabby, either.

Ms. Strickland was an AKC Obedience judge for 18 years and judged all classes including Tracking. She was a Direc-

tor of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America as well as a member for 54 years. She is President and Founder of the Diamond State German Shepherd Dog Club, Honorary member of the Southern New Jersey German Shepherd Dog Club, member of the GSDCA-WDA, the USA Schutzhund Club and the "des Verein fuer deutsche Schaeferhunde" (SV). As an author Wynn has written Expert Obedience Training for Dogs, Joll and Me, The German Shepherd Today, and Obedience Class Instruction for Dogs: The Trainer's Manual. Wynn also has three videos dealing with Novice, Open and Utility. Ms Strickland has trained thousands of dogs in her Obedience classes and clinics. They were all different breeds not only Shepherds.

With the rapid growth in Agility few recall that Wynn Strickland designed and put on the first agility test in 1971. It was much tougher to navigate than the current tests and had fewer obstacles. It was held at the German Shepherd Dog Club of America National Specialty in Arizona.

Her classic quote is, "Dog training is becoming a lost art."

Lois Meistrell

Continued on Page 14

HALL OF FAME - Contd.

Lois Meistrell's involvement with dogs pre-dates World War II. Both she and her husband Harland were, at the behest of Mrs. William (Dorothy) S. Long of the Westbury Kennel Association, involved with training dogs for the military prior to World War II at Mitchell Field, Long Island, NY. The work was quite advanced for that time in history. They were training dogs to cast as bird dogs, rather than tracking. The thought was that in the "new" age there would be greater use of planes and therefore a greater chance of parachutists winding up in trees. Realize that the US did not have War Dogs as such in World War I. Despite what you have read World War II was the first time that we used dogs. Yet, here was Lois Meistrell using techniques that were "new" to American dog training. She even had a dog trained to run communication wire off a reel on her back. It was a German Shepherd named Alana that had belonged to Roy Schwarz, noted handler and trainer.

During World War II Lois wanted to do her best for the war effort. Her husband was working with dogs in the US Coast Guard and the shortage of male workers gave her the opportunity for work not normally available. For years the Seeing Eye in Morristown, NJ had a policy not to hire female trainers. "*Autré mouers, autré temps*". Different times and different morals. The Seeing Eye also only wanted "virginal" trainers. Trainers that had no previous training experience. Lois and another woman trainer joined three acolyte trainers at the Seeing Eye because of the shortage males.

At the end of World War II the Meistrells went into professional handling and joined the PHA when Laddie Carswell was president. The PHA gave them a little bit of friction because of the training guarantee they gave on putting obedience titles on dogs. Not only did they do the training but they agreed to handle the dogs. If a dog did not get a title within 5 shows they would continue to handle the dog at no cost until the title was obtained. They were merely guaranteeing their performance.

Mrs. Meistrell was a stringer for a number of the New York papers having written for Newsday and the Newark News. She also did a number of regular columns for a few newspapers. Some of the worthy books Lois has written are *The New Dachshund*, *Sports Illustrated Guide to Dog Training* and three or four breed books for TFH. Lois is a Life Time member of the Dog Writers Association of America. She has been a membership goes back to 1939. Now that is longevity.

Lois' dog activity has taken the painless way. One of the neighbor's dogs, a Coonhound-Beagle mix sleeps over. A number of the neighbor's dogs visit on her porch when the owners are at work and she always has a biscuit for them. Lois Meistrell at 96 still keeps her hand in with the animals.

She rounds up her neighbor's horses when they get out of the paddock by banging on the feed bucket. A little animal sense goes a long way.

Edi Munneke

Edi Munneke had the enviable record, still unbeaten, of having the only dog to score 39 perfect obedience scores in Rusty her Golden. At 80 she decided to stop judging because the bending and walking was slowing her down.. She wrote the Dog World Obedience column for 32 years. (1968-1995). She is now 97. As a schoolteacher Edi was well aware of learning theory and realized the theory difference between people and dogs.

Edi helped shape the UKC's obedience rules and judged the very first UKC obedience trial. For years she was sent the AKC obedience regulations to check over before they went to press.

"I spent my life making things right," Edi said. A life long hard worker she was more interested in the results than the accolades. She often worked in the background and feels she was responsible for the AKC finally permitting woman to become delegates. The Ladies Kennel Association even had a male delegate. Edi threatened to sue and viola! A female delegate appeared. "I made them behave." Edi says of the AKC.

Mrs. Munneke has written for Front and Finish and for seven years was the Golden Retriever Club of America's obedience columnist. . Edi was elected president of the Golden Retriever Club of America on the same day another president was sworn in: Gerald Ford, August 9, 1974. Ford replaced Nixon when Nixon resigned. She managed to get elected more times than the unelected President Ford. The GRCA has two year terms for president. Ford did three years and Edi did four. Total elections won for President: Edi 2, Gerald 0.

Edi Munneke was secretary of the Dog Writers Association of America for ten years. Separate and apart from that task she re-wrote the DWAA constitution because she knew it was in shambles. She is a Life Member of the DWAA. Mrs. Munneke is also a Life Member of the Cincinnati Obedience Training Club that she joined in 1954 and the Golden Retriever Club of America.

Carol Lea Benjamin

Carol Lea Benjamin is a noted author and trainer of dogs. Her award winning books on dog behavior and training include *Mother Knows Best*, *The Natural Way to Train Your Dog*, *Second-Hand Dog* and *Dog Training in Ten*

HALL OF FAME —Carol Lea Benjamin

Minutes.

A former detective, Carol blends her knowledge of dogs with her real life experiences to create the Rachel Alexander and Dash Series. Her latest is The Long Good Boy.

Carol continues to have a tremendous influence on the dog world and those entering it. She is recognized in the Hall of Fame for her contribution not only to the training of dogs, but also for the inspiration she has given so many through her enthusiasm and writing. She makes dog owning and training fun, fascinating and part of family life, motivating owners to love and learn along with their dogs.

MARTIN DEELEY ELECTED AS IACP PRESIDENT

A unanimous Board of Directors elected Executive Director Martin Deeley as the President of the International Association of canine Professionals. A founder member of the Association, Martin has been at the hub of management from the very beginning. His drive and enthusiasm is infectious and has been the motivating force behind the rapid growth and recognition of the organization. There is no doubt that Martin's election to president will be a popular choice among members who have met or had any dealings with him. As Vice President Jay Stull commented "Martin is IACP and without him we would not have even got started."

A delighted Martin told Safehands. "This is a great honor and a big responsibility. We have some first class Directors and a terrific membership. As we grow, managing, coordinating and keeping as one, a large group of professionals is never easy. Our aim as an Association has to be to keep our membership as the 'team' it now is. There will be differences and there will be issues we may not all agree upon but we do have a common aim and that is to bring together all professionals to support and help each other for the benefit of dogs. Integrity, trust and professionalism will hold us together and move us forward to further growth and success. Our past President Rocky Boatman helped us build a foundation for this and now with our Directors and the membership I look forward to building upon this foundation for the benefit of all our members and those who will join us in the future."

White Shepherd Recognized by Caroline Hunt

Dr. Carmen Battaglia of the GSDCA reports that as of 20 December, the FCI has officially recognized the White Shepherd. FCI (Fédération Cynologique Internationale), the governing body for European canine matters, will call the breed "Berger Blanc Suisse" or Swiss White Shepherd.



Manny, an 85-pound white German Shepherd Dog, was recently adopted through Mid-Atlantic German Shepherd Rescue.

Though largely absent from the gene pool of German Shepherd Dogs in Europe for decades, white specimens continued to appear in the United States and Canada. (The American Kennel Club allows white GSDs to be registered but not, since 1933, to appear in the conformation ring.) White GSDs from North America were reimported into Europe in the 1970s, and in 1991 Switzerland recognized them as a separate breed—followed by Denmark, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic.

For those seeking more information on White Shepherds, a Google search will bring up national clubs in the United States, Canada, Australia, and most Western European countries as well as a White Shepherd web ring and several rescue sites.

IACP Certification Test Tips

by Julie Winkelman and Cyndy Douan

Filming Portion:

There are several steps that you might want to take to insure that your training film is successful. Preparation can help you to feel more confident in an area that may be intimidating to you.

- 1) After selecting the video tape portion that you will be working on and the dog you will be working with, create an outline to follow. Write the outline in bold letters and place it in a spot that is easy to see while you are taping. It may also be helpful to have a trial run with your chosen dog.
- 2) Set the video recorder up on a tripod, focused on the area in which you usually train. Leave it in position for as long as it takes for you to become accustomed to its presence.
- 3) Lighting is very important to the quality of your tape. Video tape a sample session to check for proper lighting. Extra lighting can be added using inexpensive spring clamp lights from the hardware store.
- 4) Set up a clock or stop watch with large numbers so that you can easily manage your time. A minute does not seem long until you are required to intelligently fill it with your own presence.
- 5) When filming time arrives, be sure the area will be quiet and free of distractions. Your attention to preparation will make the task much easier.

Case Studies:

- 1) Keep the test outline in mind when training your case study dogs. It is important to fulfill each requirement of

the test.

- 2) During training be sure to take accurate notes. They will be your guidelines for the case study requirements.
- 3) It may be helpful to keep up with the case study writing as you progress with your selected dog. Writing the entire study at the end of training can seem daunting.

Suggestions for obtaining the necessary dogs to complete the test:

- 1) Clients' dogs. Offering a discount on the next training session will help motivate your client to participate.
- 2) Borrow dogs from a local shelter. At any given moment you should be able to pick up a wide range of dog types to use. It is, of course, helpful if you have an existing relationship with the shelter.
- 3) Borrow a dog from a cooperative family member, neighbor or friend.

NOTE – In the filming or case study portions of the exam it is acceptable to borrow dogs (as suggested above) to use without the dog's owner. You may even "board and train" if this is advantageous to you.

Tips for mailing the test to the IACP:

- 1) Make copies of everything that you will be sending in, especially the VCR tape (this would be the most difficult to replace).
- 2) Insure the package or send it registered. This is an important package, so take precautions.

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REMOTE COLLAR AND SEARCH WORK

Fred Hassen and Behesha Grist

Someone once said "Don't worry about people stealing an idea. If it's original, you will have to ram it down their throats." How true!

Remote collars are a very good idea, and they are here to stay. And for those who are serious about their working dogs, this is good news! Today, more and more informed dog handler/trainers are recognizing the excellent place of the e-collar in the world of modern dog training.

Yet there still remain certain disciplines that handlers and trainers alike believe are 'verboden' when it comes to e-collar usage. The field of Search work seems to be one of the last bastions of e-collar phobia.

The basis for this fear is the erroneous belief that if an e-collar was ever used on a search dog, the dog would become so reluctant about leaving its handler's side that it would never search again. With that kind of propaganda floating around, it is no wonder handlers were so afraid of using an e-collar. But of all the passions, fear weakens judgment the most. Fortunately, knowledge is power and through the assistance of knowledgeable trainers that understand both remote collars *and* search work, handlers can go from fearful to successful.

Those of us who understand the e-collar to be a positive means of training are troubled by the popular attitude that it is merely a corrective device. What a supreme disservice to a valuable tool! Even though using the e-collar for curbing unwanted behaviors may do the job, limiting its use this way could be likened to utilizing a finely honed Swiss Army knife for nothing more than prying open paint cans. When it comes to productive search training with the e-collar, there are many more appropriate and productive uses for this exquisite tool.

The key to mastering the successful use of the e-collar for training your dog in ANY discipline is to obtain your training from trainers who are skilled in its use. Remember, regardless of your training methods, training problems can and do arise in every area of dog training and search work is no different. Seek guidance from trainers that are capable of helping you work your dog work through any problem that may arise. Trainers who lack experience in problem solving with the e-collar may resort to issuing dire warnings about falling skies and dogs that will never search again. For some people, a good scare is worth more than good advice.

Look for trainers that have consistently and reliably produced dogs that are enthusiastic, focused, and rock-solid in their understanding of their work. Beyond that, make sure those trainers can effectively assist you in getting the same results with your own dog.

Let's take the problem of crittering (chasing unwanted

game, or animal smells), for example. Crittering is a common complaint from search dog handlers. Over time, the e-collar's use has been grudgingly accepted by some for use in eradicating, or at least inhibiting this frustrating behavior. But if you learn from a trainer how to stop your dog from chasing a rabbit, (or have had the trainer demonstrate their corrective method for crittering), make sure the trainer can help you take the next crucial step.

Have that trainer follow up the corrective action with a send-away exercise or some other type of search work and see how the dog goes out. What if the dog is reluctant to go? Can that trainer work the dog through it and have the dog rapidly returning to active, enthusiastic obedience to the commanded task? It is essential that the trainer be capable of bringing the dog through the correction and back out the other side because you will need to be able to put your dog back to work once you've addressed his wayward crittering behavior.

One very good measurement of a reputable e-collar trainer is to see the work of his/her dogs. These dogs should be tremendously confident, fearless about send-away type exercises, be social, and have a diligent work ethic that can carry them through lengthy tasks without distraction. We would not consider holding a seminar or other demonstration without having one of our own dogs, (or at least a dog that we have worked closely with) as an example of our work. There is much to be learned when a trainer is ready, willing, and able to show the work of their own dog(s) under a variety of distractions and conditions and for a considerable amount of time.

We emphasize working the dog for a length of time because in reality, a handler will never know how long a search might last. If the dog has only been conditioned to search for short bursts of time, he will not suddenly become capable of maintaining attention and possessing the stamina to search for extended periods just because the demands of the search require it. A good trainer must be able to show that their dogs are capable of maintaining attention to command.

Note here that we said "attention to command", NOT attention to handler. There is a huge difference between the two! If you ever hear a trainer issue warnings about a search dog becoming too attentive to his handler as a result of e-collar use, let this serve as a red flag. Attentiveness to command is the operative concept and is very, very trainable in dogs of any discipline or working capacity, including search work. The

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REMOTE COLLAR AND SEARCH WORK contd.

difference between over-attentiveness to handler and attentiveness to command is the skill of the trainer.

It would be very understandable that a dog fearful of being shocked at high levels, low levels, medium levels or because the sky is blue certainly will be afraid to leave his handler, for *any* reason, whether it is a search dog or not. However, it would be unreasonable to believe that any dog that has learned to enthusiastically perform any range of commands such as going to a place board, retrieving an object, obeying a bite command, downing from a distance, (or any other command taught with the e-collar), would then, upon hearing his search command, suddenly think, "I can't obey *this* command - I'm too afraid of leaving my handler!" The simple fact is that when the dog becomes collar literate, obedience, focus, and attentiveness to command take on a whole new meaning in the mind of the dog.

In the search world, we know that producing a reliable, capable and confident working dog is of paramount importance. By learning effective training techniques from competent trainers, your dog can learn that his drives to hunt and search will be satisfied every time as a result of remaining focused and attentive to command. How gratifying to see a dog with an abundance of confidence and style, intently carrying out a focused search. The only thing better is knowing that this happy dog is accomplishing his tasks eagerly and virtually confusion free.

All good search dog handlers *hope* that they will produce a reliable working dog. All good search dog handlers *fear* anything that might inhibit their dog's abilities. But when it comes to learning the facts about e-collars and their role in training the search dog, what we fear comes to pass far more quickly than what we hope.

More information can be obtained on Fred Hassen at www.fredhassen.com and Behesha H. Grist at www.extremek-9.com

THOUGHTS ON BEHAVIORISM continued

methods are inhumane, antiquated, unscientific." Sound familiar?

Further on in her piece Heather says: "How long have the pop behaviorists been plying their wares for dogs? Do trainers need to spend the next forty years in refutation? Is it our obligation as the on-the-ground experts to do so? Is the act of refutation itself a surrender, since we allow them to define the ground of debate? I think that's what is happening when an effective trainer who uses a variety of methods 'defends the use of negative reinforcement.' But then, what would happen if we ignore them?"

When the Canadian association, to which I belong, suggests we head down the same road to certification that our cousins in the APDT are taking, I become alarmed. When they propose we might simply start with testing trainers knowledge of "Learning theory" (substitute Operant Conditioning Theory), I become outraged. If I wanted to become a CAPPDT "certified trainer" why should I have to pass such a test? (even though I have absolutely no doubt that I could). Why in the world should I be required to be tested on, and appear to support, a philosophy I do not subscribe to? To me the two biggest challenges for behaviorists can be summed up in two simple phrases, "Prove it," and "Show me."

Roger Hild, author of the books "Perfect Pals" and "K-9 Timed Event Challenge," has been training dogs for 19 years and is a founding member of CAPPDT, the "Canadian cousin of APDT." He owns and operates Tsuru Dog Training, Port Hope, Ontario. Visit him at <http://www3.sympatico.ca/tsuro>.

Some Dog Books

by Donald McCaig

Mr. Elliot once said "Don't trust a writer's opinion of books. He only likes the books he's learning from." (Or words to that effect).

With that disclaimer, these dog books will repay reading, or rereading. I haven't included training or breed books. Most are in print, and all are available at www.bookfinder.com.

"My Dog Tulip", Ackerley.

"The Plague Dogs," Adams

"Hunter's Horn," Arnow

"Timbuktu," Auster

"The Dog who Knew Too Much," Benjamin

"Travels with Lizbeth," Eighner

"A Rough Shooting Dog," Fergus

"Algonquin," Henderson

"Adam's Task," Hearne

"Lost and Found," Hess

"Lassie Come Home," Knight

"God Had a Dog," Leach

"White Fang," London

"Stickeen," Muir

"Winterdance," Paulson

"Lost History of the Canine Race," Thurston

BOOK REVIEW

Adam's Task by Vicki Hearne

New York: HarperPerennial, 1982.

Re-issued: Pleasantville, NY: The Akadine Press, Inc., 2000.

Reviewed by Margory Cohen

Originally published in *The Claymore*, September/October 2001 (Scottish Deerhound Club of America magazine.)

There is no book more important on animals and us than Vicki Hearne's *Adam's Task*. Donald McCaig's introduction to this re-issue is, simply, not only correct; it is perfect: this is a thrilling book. A compelling, stirring, thought-full book. For anyone living, working, training, observing animals, I'd say it's essential, beyond importance.

There is no one who compares to Vicki Hearne who writes of dogs and "the radiance they give to every landscape" – to use words from a new poem which appears in this edition.

Adam's Task has been described as a meditation on philosophy of training and language for our relations with animals; picking up this book is rather like running head on to an understanding of the blue in the sky. The range of Ms. Hearne's references, pulled from stories in classic and current literature, philosophy, animal studies, trainers and handlers, is seamless and vast.

This is a stirring book. Every pup in a new home should come with it, and old dogs can certainly benefit, too. First published in 1986, reissued in 1992 and back again in 1999, Truth, told from the pen of a poet, does not change with passing time. The title comes from a John Hollander poem: there, in the Garden of Eden, G-d assigns Adam to name the animals and so he does, with names they answer to. Then, the episode with the snake and Adam & Eve had to move out, with only some of the animals coming along: Companion animals. Outside, out of the Garden, a new way to call them had to be found: Vicki Hearne identifies that and gives it a name and purpose: the trainer's job.

Nobody writes to this work better than animal trainer, poet, philosopher, writer Vicki Hearne. Tales of training, stories of dogs, cats, horses come from the pen of this poet in words about training that actually become a training for the reader. Clear, rich prose describes concepts of relationships – reciprocal rights, genuine kindness and dangers of love (so-called), real animal rights (not HSUS propaganda). When Ms. Hearne writes of long-time trainer William Koehler following the search dog's route in a police chase, that he "has to be willing, in Stanley Cavell's words, to let his knowledge come to an end," it also is an invitation to the reader to do the same. As Mr. Koehler found the perp, so will the reader find new meaning to "fetch."

I experience the reading of this book as I reckon my hounds and I experience the results of training and work and happiness we find in each other. Obedience is a product, an exercise, of and for training; it is not the goal, it is reciprocal, and it is under attack nowadays beyond reason.

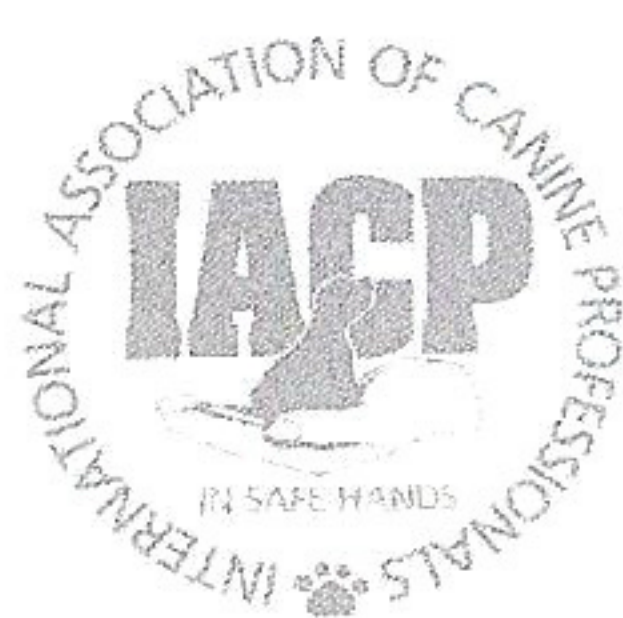
As more and more of life as we know it separates the dog from his work and his place in our lives, there is no book more important for anyone who works, lives, trains, handles, believes and asks of an animal who can and do and will come when called. With more and more threats and limits to these relationships, the importance of "Adam's Task" cannot be over-stressed.

Cally come.

Aurora heel.

Vicki write.

Vicki Hearne is an honored member of the International Association of Canine Professionals Hall of Fame. Her books are classics and we are delighted that they are presently being reprinted,. Her words and memory will always be with us all who love dogs as she did.



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS

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