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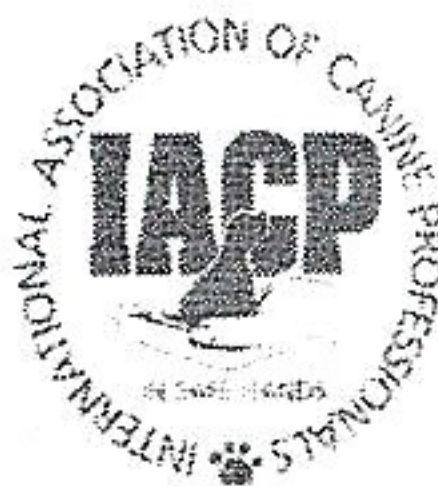
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS



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From the President

We hope you are enjoying this new look to the SafeHands Journal. As we grow, we want to ensure that not only do we bring you a variety of articles and thoughts, but also a Journal that you will be proud of and want to share with friends and professional colleagues. We are always on the look out for interesting and educational articles and features from our members, and we welcome your submissions. Putting yourself in print not only is of benefit to our professions but is also recognition of your experience and knowledge, which we wish to share.

The greatest advantage from belonging to IACP is the ability to share and network. We are pleased to help this sharing through the Journal. We want to emphasize that this Journal, like the IACP, is open to ALL methods, approaches and equipment. To be knowledgeable and educated on all aspects of our professions means we can better serve dogs and their owners.

Martin Deeley

How to Join IACP

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.

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the PET GUARDIANSHIP QUESTION?

guard-ian (gärd'ēən, gärd'yən) *n.* **1** a person who guards, protects, or takes care of another person, property, etc.; custodian **2** a person legally placed in charge of the affairs of a minor or of a person of unsound mind —*adj.* protecting —**guard'li-an-ship'**

Proponents insist that the guardianship movement is about taking better care of animals. But if they succeed in changing the legal status of pets, what will it mean for the future of the pet industry?

By Cathy A. Foster

Guardian **1.** A person who guards, protects or takes care of another person, property, etc.; custodian. **2.** a person legally placed in charge of the affairs of a minor or of a person of unsound mind.

Depending who you talk to, that word represents either a kinder, gentler way for people to think of and behave toward their companion animals, or a sneaky first step toward eliminating pets altogether.

Even though they disagree on almost everything else, proponents and opponents of pet guardianship agree on one point: The type of changes made to animal ordinances thus far have no legal effect—for now.

"These are subtle changes—at least that's what the animal rights people are trying to say it is—designed to have real impact later," said 25-year pet industry veteran Bob Vella, the creator and host of the nationally syndicated "Pet Talk America" radio show broadcast from Bakersfield, Calif.

Along with the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (Washington), the American Kennel Club (New York), the

American Dog Owners Association (Castleton, N.Y.) and others, Vella believes guardianship proponents are trying to create leverage to eliminate the property status of animals through legislation and/or litigation. In turn, that could put an end to the sale of companion animals—and what that would mean to the pet industry needs no explanation.

Elliot Katz, D.V.M., the founder and president of In Defense of Animals (Mill Valley, Calif.), the animal advocacy organization pushing the guardianship campaign, doesn't deny he would like to see an end to the practice of selling animals. But he contends that the guardianship campaign has a simple goal: "There's too little value placed on our companion animals, and that needs to be changed. They need to be much more respected and treated in a more responsible manner, and that's what the guardianship campaign is trying to do."

What's in a Word?

Guardianship opponents ask how a simple word change will make people

treat their animals better. "It's not an all-of-a-sudden thing," Katz conceded. "And just as there are good parents and bad parents, there's always going to be people, no matter what you say to them, [who are] not going to be good parents. So it is with some people who acquire animals. But animals stand a far better chance of not being abused when the guardian term is used than when they are bought and sold and thought of as property. A seed will be planted. I firmly believe that that will happen to a lot of people."

Even if one were to agree that the word "guardian" implies a higher level of responsibility and caring than does "owner"—and many don't—why choose a legislative avenue to encourage its use? "When elected legislators support the idea of people thinking of themselves in a more positive relationship with their animals," said Katz, "it gives additional credibility to somebody who now wants to be recognized as a guardian."

Kelley Filson, education program manager for the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to

What Is a Pet Guardian ?

As applied to pets and other animals, the terms "owner" and "guardian" have vastly different legal definitions that could create any number of quandaries.

Whereas an owner possesses and controls the pet as property, a guardian has limited or temporary possession of the pet, acting as a trustee for a ward. It's a fiduciary relationship that obligates the guardian to work for the ward with a single-minded loyalty to the exclusion of all personal gain, wrote the American Veterinary Medical Law Association (Lake Zurich, Ill.) in a four-page white paper.

Thus, guardians may be removed for several reasons, including failure to perform their duties or having a conflict of interest that may prevent them from performing their duties.

According to the AVMLA, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (Washington) and others, here are some of the thorny legal questions associated with legal guardianship of pets:

- May persons claiming the best interests of an animal petition a court to grant guardianship?
- Could other persons intervene and assert that the guardian's acceptance or refusal of recommended veterinary care and treatment provided is not in the best interest of the animal?
- What objective criteria would be used to determine what is in the best interest of the animal?
- How would a city enforce its animal laws against nonowners of pets?
- Would local governments be able to levy animal-related taxes based upon guardianship, as they do now upon property?
- Would citizens have the right to challenge treatment of shelter animals?
- If a local or governmental entity declares that an animal owner no longer owns the animal, has an unconstitutional taking of private property happened without just compensation?

—Cathy Foster

Animals, supported the guardianship ordinance the city adopted in January. "What I really liked about the ordinance was that it added 'guardian' to 'owner' so that it makes my message stronger," she said.

Will Guardianship Redefine Rights?

Not everyone sees the addition of "guardian" to city ordinances as a harmless way to encourage humane treatment of animals. "What they're doing is attaching ['guardian'] to the word 'owner' and making them equal words," said Bob Duffy, executive director of the American Dog Owners Association. "While right now that does not have a profound effect, we fully expect that in two or three years you're going to see the first attempts to remove the word 'owner' so you'll only be left with 'guardian' ... [whose legal definition] is much different than that of 'owner.'"

The San Francisco ordinance says guardians have the same legal rights and responsibilities as owners, so it takes a little steam out of opponents' arguments, conceded Mike Maddox, government affairs specialist with PIJAC. "It's hard for opponents to make the argument that we're making—that there are dangerous legal implications—because of that language, but my whole problem with this is that advocates are working on an incremental process to modify legal rights of companion animals. This is just one step in that direction."

Katz contends that the democratic process will determine the ultimate extent of guardianship.

"If enough people feel that [legal guardianship of animals] is the way to go, then that is what will happen," said Katz. "Society is eventually going to decide what powers one has over people or children or dogs or so forth, and so there's no way to know whether there will actually be such a thing as guardianship as opposed to ownership. If there is, I think there's enough wise people around to make sure that things are put in place in an appropriate manner."

Will Guardianship Legislate Care?

Opponents say guardianship terminology is bad for people and pets. For one thing, says the California Veterinary Medical Association (Sacramento), it

could harm animals by creating confusion about who is responsible for their care and result in unnecessary legal delays.

Others fear that a change in terminology would result in attempts to legislate care for pets. Their fears are being justified in West Hollywood, Calif., which adopted a guardianship ordinance two years ago. In January, the City Council voted unanimously to publicly condemn declawing of cats as inhumane and proposed a ban on the surgery. According to published news reports, Councilman John Duran sponsored the ban because it would be a "great first step to putting some teeth in the animal guardianship ordinance."

Opponents say guardianship language has several other drawbacks:

- It imposes care standards upon owners that far exceed conventionally accepted standards.
- It allows third parties to meddle in the ownership rights of individuals, including taking away people's pets.
- It allows animals to initiate frivolous lawsuits against their keepers.
- It could treat animals as wards of the state, leading to increased governmental power over animal ownership.

Will Guardianship Protect Pets?

On the other hand, proponents say animals would receive better protection under a guardianship arrangement because they would have the same kind of rights as children. "Children don't have rights to vote or to drive a car, but they have certain rights—we call them rights, but they're basically protections—and that's what we're talking about," Katz said. "[They have] the right not to be just arbitrarily harmed or killed or abused or mistreated."

Opponents say cruelty laws already provide ample protection from mistreatment, or can be strengthened.

"There are a lot of cruelty laws in the United States that need beefing up," said Duffy. "But that's happening all over the country. They're getting stricter and stricter and tougher and tougher. And that's an ongoing process. So I think we will be accomplishing that same thing without having to go to the extreme of appointing guardians for dogs."

Others argue that too few cases are actually prosecuted to rely on cruelty

Continued on page 6

laws to protect animals adequately. For example, only four cases of first-degree or second-degree cruelty were brought in 2000 in King County, Wash., according to Adam Karp, founder and chairman of the Washington State Bar Association's animal law section.

Explaining these low numbers, Karp said that many cases of animal cruelty go unreported, and that some prosecutors are reluctant to pursue animal cruelty cases when so many human victims are pressing for their cases to go forward. Furthermore, some laws require proof of intentionally caused pain, injury or death—a standard that can be difficult to meet.

In any event, the fact that animal cruelty is now a felony in 37 states—up from just seven in 1992—does not preclude the need for guardianship language, said Katz. Instead, it is indicative of the rise in consciousness that the use of the word "guardian" engenders. "The concept of acting as a guardian falls right in line with the same reason that states and more people are saying, 'Yes, there should be stronger laws.'"

Changing animals' legal status wouldn't erode the rights of responsible pet "owners," Katz maintains. But he'd like to see restrictions on the rights of abusive pet keepers.

"We sometimes spend hundreds—sometimes thousands—of dollars in veterinary bills to get dogs back to decent health after they've been so neglected or starved or abused, and then the people go to court and say, 'I want those animals back, they're my property,' and the courts—because of property rights—give those animals back only to be starved again and abused again. So do I want to see some stronger measure of not having dogs just thought of as nothing but a piece of property that somebody can starve and abuse and beat and then end up getting back? Yes."

No More Pets?

Retailers shouldn't be fooled by the benign sound of guardianship, said Vella. "If [retailers] side on the guardian side, they're cutting their own throats because the true underlying agenda of this whole campaign is no animals for breeding, no animals for pets. They don't want companion animals bred, period."

Katz insists that the guardianship movement is not about the eventual elimination of pets. "I think our society has reached a point with the domestication of dogs and cats that to

most people the dog or cat or puppy or kitten is truly thought of as a member of the family and that the animal gets as much out of it as the family does. Because of that, I don't think there's reason to be thinking that companion animals should be done away with."

That doesn't mean he's in favor of pets being sold. "I think dogs and cats will have a far better quality of life if people are not thinking of them and treating them as commodities but as individuals that are going to be a member of the family and therefore should be adopted as you adopt a child."

That might not be so farfetched, said Maddox. "To the degree that legal ownership rights of companion animals are modified, that is where you're heading. That would be the manner in which animals could be transferred. The problem with that is, when you're talking about the guardianship of people, there's a whole regulatory and administrative apparatus that exists to deal with that. ... So the whole thing comes down to, are we honestly going to treat companion animals like kids or something? Because then you're talking about the demise of the pet industry."

Katz, however, maintains the guardianship movement will help retailers. "As more and more people feel that their companion animals are members of their family and deserve better treatment and a better quality of life, pet stores will have far greater business because people will spend more money on their animals because they're members of the family and will want to do the best for them."

And that may be the one thing everybody agrees on. **PA**

Cathy Foster is senior editor for PET AGE.

DEBARKING – IACP POSITION STATEMENT

A dog that is debarked doesn't realize it is debarked. Any pleasure it receives from barking is still there although it does keep the noise level down. Those that would prevent this safe, simple and inexpensive operation are perhaps well meaning but they do not understand the canine mind. A "reason" that has been given for attempted passage of anti-barking laws is that the criminal element may debark so that law officers would not know when they were being attacked. This is a ridiculous statement as the dog will still be able to make a noise albeit not so loud and the criminal element is unlikely to spend money and effort on debarking. Even though debarked, the dog is still able to bark and does so, simply at a lower volume. It is a prime example of the tail wagging the dog.

The International Association of Canine Professionals are well-qualified in all aspects of

Where People Are Guardians

The following jurisdictions have amended their codes to include the designation "animal guardian:"

San Francisco
Jan. 13, 2003

Amherst, Mass.
April 24, 2002

Menomonee Falls, Wis.
March 11, 2002

Sherwood, Ark.
Sept. 24, 2001

State of Rhode Island
July 5, 2001

Berkeley, Calif.
Feb. 27, 2001

West Hollywood, Calif.
Feb. 19, 2001

Boulder, Colo.
July 12, 2000

Source: In Defense of Animals

Debarking Contd

dogs and their behavior and has taken the position that such laws will present problems to some dog owners and potential annoyance to the general public.

Dogs will bark for many reasons. Some are good reasons and some are without reason in our minds. Whatever the reason there is no doubt that continual barking does create public annoyance and be very disturbing. And, even the best behaved family pet can be a neurotic barker when outside in the yard. With certain breeds it is in their genetic make up. It is possible, through training, to efficaciously teach a dog not to bark and generally peaking that would be preferred over surgical debarking. However, there are so many variables involved in whether or not to debark that the decision is best left in the hands of the dog owner who can make the required decision with the advice of a Qualified Veterinarian and a Dog Trainer. To restrict the debarking of dogs through government regulations could result in dogs being removed from a family and even euthanised.

The IACP is unalterably opposed to these oppressive laws which are based on human emotions and not on canine common sense.

HAPPY FACES AT IACP 2003 CONFERENCE—REPORT IN NEXT SAFEHANDS ISSUE

Photography by Bob Maida



Training in Public Places

Ideally, we'd all have indoor/outdoor facilities: a spacious meadow, perhaps, a fenced ring with agility equipment, a shaded area, an indoor classroom, and one or more indoor, climate-controlled training areas. Right. In our dreams.

In the real world we have less than ideal facilities, or rented ones, or none—or we may choose to teach in public places for our own reasons. As a club trainer who teaches once a week in a city park, by choice, let me share a few thoughts about what's different there from my indoor classes.

First and most important (as well as most obvious): you're on public display. All the time. Second: you have no control over the environment, or very little. Third: the distraction level for your students, both human and canine, is unusually high.

Problems? No. These are some of the biggest advantages of working in a public place; it's impossible for anyone to forget that this is closer to real-life training than the schoolroom or armory. Let's look at the implications.

On Display

Working indoors, you can tell your students dozens of times that their dogs need to be "good citizens" and that they, the owners, need to set a good example. Most of your energy is wasted; in fact, the memory of your words doesn't usually make it out the door. In the city park, though, even the dimmest owner can see that spectators and passers-by are judging German Shepherds (in the case of our club), or big dogs, or dogs in general, by those working right in front of them. This perception has an electrifying effect.

You'll want to take care that your students follow any laws that apply, such as keeping dogs on leash and picking up after them. (Watch out for show-offs who let their dogs off-lead because they're so "advanced." If you do off-lead training later, it will have to be in a less public place.) You'll also want to make sure your demeanor and language are such that you'd be pleased to be recognized on the street later by one of the spectators.

Uncontrolled Environment and Distractions

People need to be aware that they can't always control what happens when they're out with their dogs, and that they need to be prepared to cope with whatever comes up (such as a loose dog). Working in the park, or any other public place, is a splendid antidote to "back yard syndrome." In the park, your students will encounter squirrels, loose dogs, louts on bicycles, well-meaning folks who stroll up to pet the nice doggies, and a variety of other hazards and distractions. A dog that will walk on a loose leash through all this is more solidly trained than one that has never met such temptations—this difference may be obvious to us, but

it usually isn't to the average owner.

You'll need to pick a fairly quiet place to introduce each exercise initially, and you'll probably want to have a method agreed in advance for dealing with predictable problems such as loose (non-class) dogs that intrude. In our class, once the alert "loose dog" is heard, students put their dogs on a sit-stay, I do the same, and then I go get the loose dog and return it to its surprised owner with a few pithy remarks. The students learn not to panic, and they also learn the usefulness of a solid stay (because while their dogs are right beside them, mine is quietly showing off her sit-stay while I recede into the distance). Good assistants make all these contingencies easier to manage.

Unintended Benefits

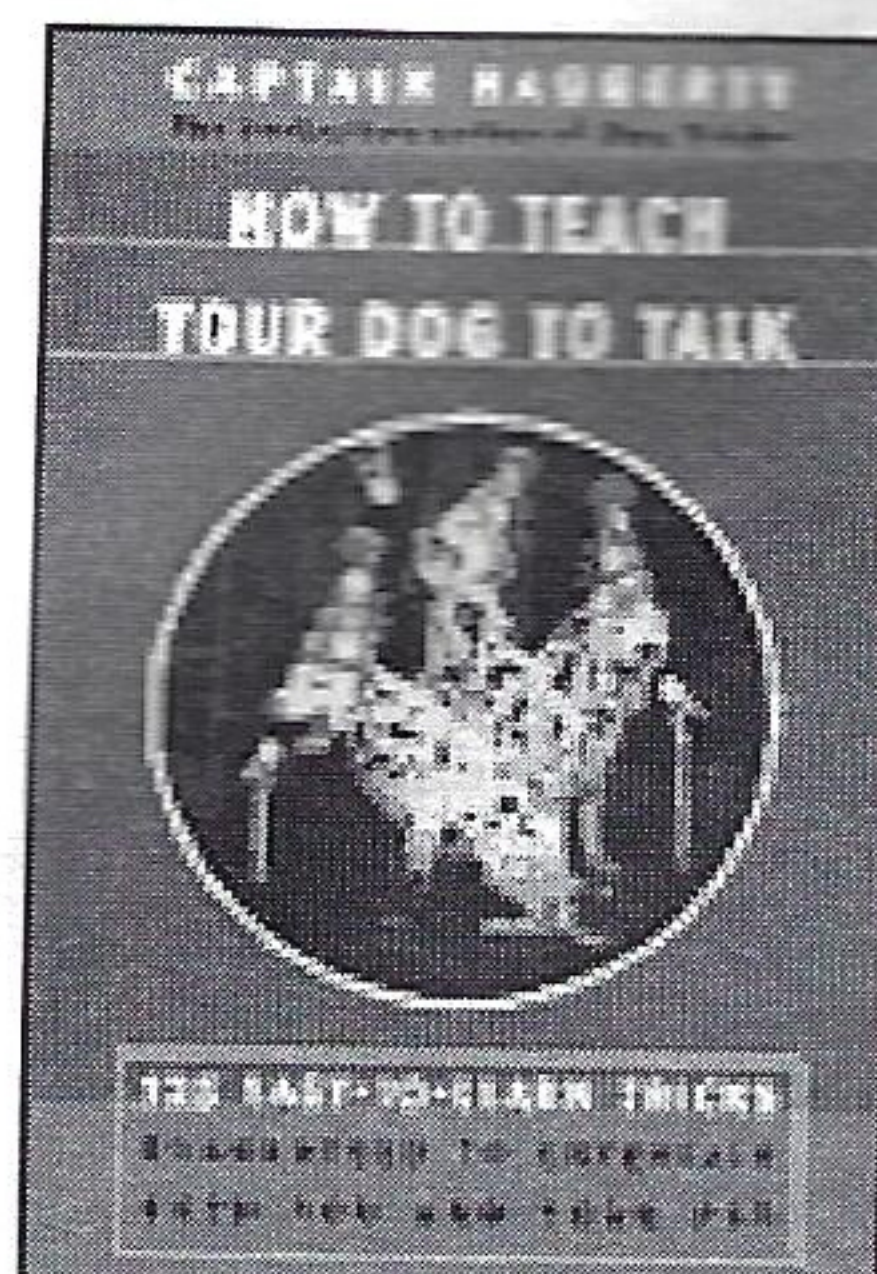
Our club works in the park as a public service; we are currently the only group in this area offering free help to people with big, out-of-control dogs. Nearly all the owners who show up, either for our socializing sessions ("Sundays in the Park") or for the CGC classes that I teach, hear about us by word of mouth—not only from previous students, but often from people who come by, get interested, and ask details "for my neighbor with the big dog that barks all the time," or "for my son whose roommate just moved out and left a sweet Rottweiler, only it doesn't like men." From our point of view, this ripples-in-the-pond effect means a few more dogs with some training, a few more citizens with an improved view of big dogs (especially GSDs), and perhaps, just perhaps, fewer dogs ending up in shelters or in our rescue program.

From the point of view of a non-club instructor, too, the PR is all good ("I saw this guy teaching a bunch of dogs in the middle of the park, and you can't believe how good they all were.") At least three local trainers work in our vicinity from time to time, a good arrangement for them as well as for us.

Many IACP members already work, at least some of the time, in public places. If you haven't, give it a try. You'll never forget the first time a mounted policeman walks up to the class and every dog goes right on doing what it's supposed to do, without more than a sidelong glance. Your students will be astonished. You'll just say, coolly, "Of course the dogs were fine. That's why we're training here, remember?"

"How To Teach Your Dog To Talk" ISBN 0-684-86323-5

Captain Haggerty



A Fireside Book Published
by Simon & Schuster, NY,
NY; 2000; 336 pages

Clever man, our Cap Haggerty and I say "our" because, after all, he is a member of IACP. Clever man, not a title I hand out freely or often, but one that in this case is most certainly deserved. When I first read the title, my original thought was something along the lines of "oh bother, not another one of THOSE." The "those" referring to cutesy

dog trick books. Out of deference to the good Cap, I went to the kitchen, got my self a Coke and then headed for my red chair. Sometimes I think that chair should be called my read chair since it is where I always head when I plan on doing any serious reading. Not necessarily serious reading material, just serious reading.

By the time I had finished my Coke I was well into the book and thinking to myself, clever. Then as I continued to read, the word clever began to change to sneaky. Yes, downright sneaky. In an era when it would sometimes appear that doing anything remotely resembling dog training is considered by the young, first-time dog owners as the final cruelty, Cap as figured out a way to get them to not just train their dogs but do a good job.

For more than 50 pages, there is not much in the way of training per se but much in the way of explanations about training. We get to read about what sounds some dogs can learn to make and what position their body must be in to make these sounds. All the while, I am thinking to myself, "so?"

So the line was tossed in the water. I read a few more chapters, which of course means I have in truth taken the bait. I persevere and all of a sudden here comes the zinger I was wondering about. Sure enough, you actually have to train the dog before you can start teaching all the tricks. HA! Quick, quick -- just like that, he sets the hook. Starting with the chapter entitled, "Light and Fluffy," where we learn about such things as teaching a trick called "bump" to a trick rather inelegantly called "Kiss My Ass," Cap sets the stage for the need of standard commands like sit, stand, down, come. At the very same time he is setting that stage, he is helping the reader build a learning foundation and he just reels them in. Shoot, he has the reader wanting to do all sorts of training that rightly is the topic of another book all together.

Then we come to the last chapter. This is actually a list of breeds and what sort of tricks they will most likely master the easiest. From the Affenpinscher to the Xoloitzcuintlis, it is a fun chapter to read all by itself. Some of the comments and ideas actually had me laughing out loud. Good stuff.

Interestingly enough, I no more than finished the book when I had a call from someone who wanted me to teach their 2 children, ages 6 and 10, how to teach the family's 7 month old Australian Shepherd pup some tricks during the Christmas break. Remembering what I had just learned from Cap, I cheerfully said, "sure, I'd love to do just that." And I did and I gained a new student and...well who knows where it might end up?

You just must buy, read and use this ever so clever book. So I close by saying good stuff indeed and well worth the read.

Margot Woods

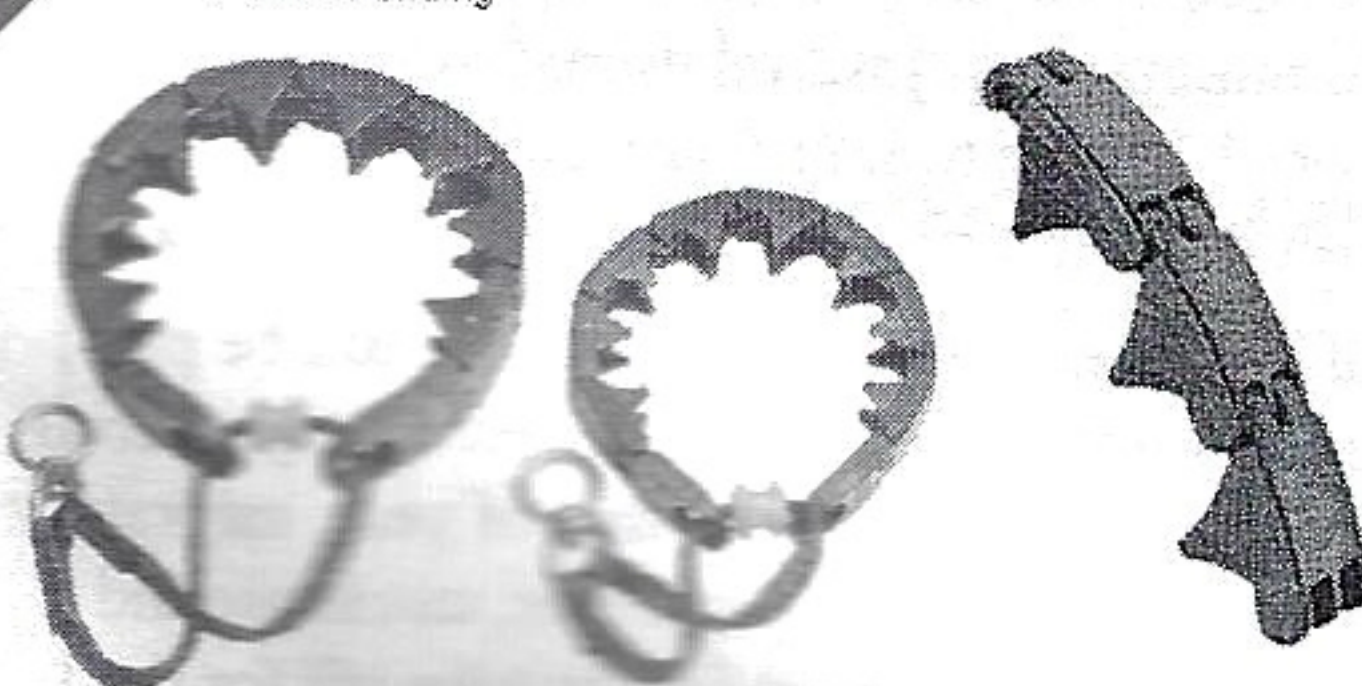
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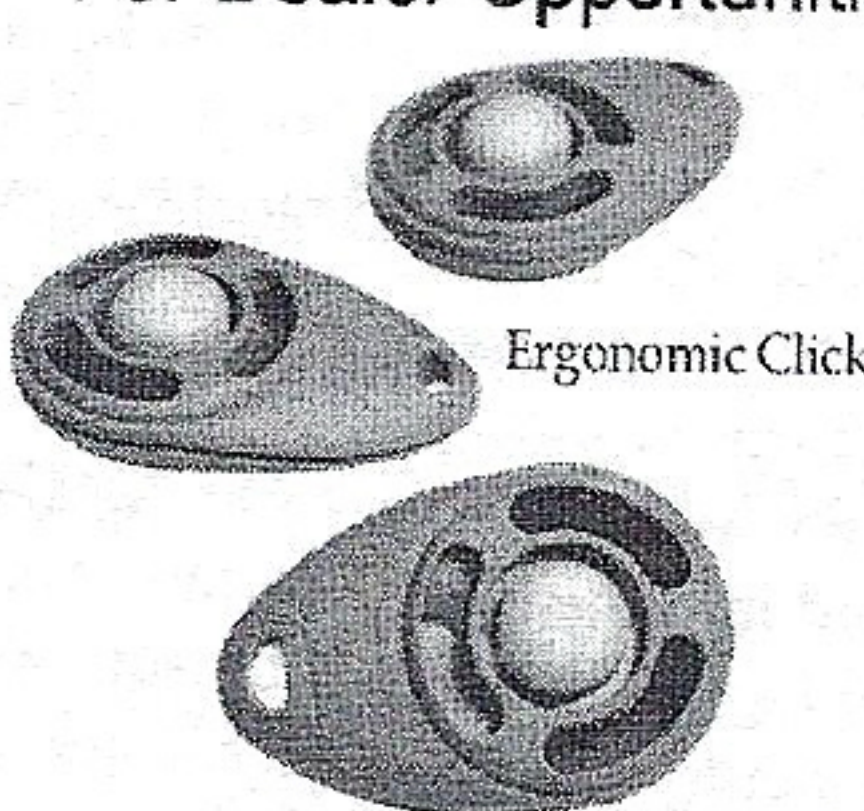
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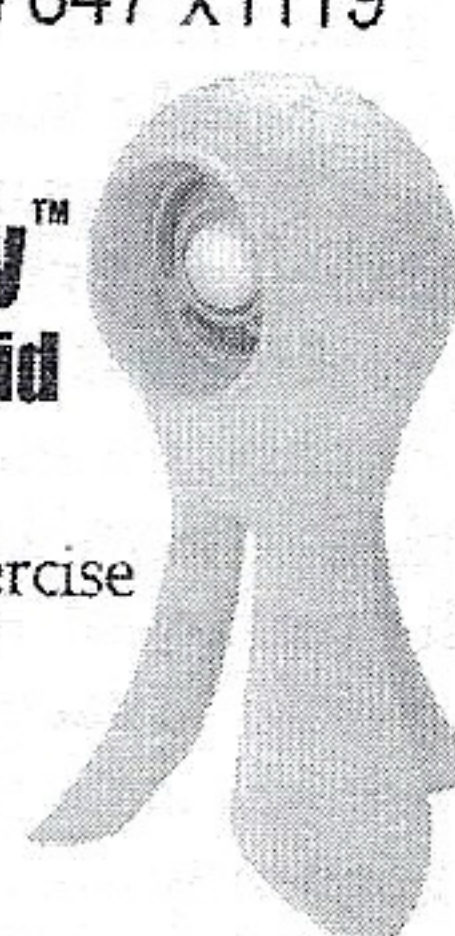


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LORENZ STORIES

by Dorothy C. Dunning

Konrad Lorenz was one of the founders of the science of animal behavior, a man who suggested that behavior was as characteristic of each animal species as the shape of the head or how it moved. Lorenz had an intuitive understanding of animals and was mainly interested in how behavior enabled animals to survive and reproduce in the particular worlds in which they live. He was not as interested as are American psychologists in explaining animal behavior in terms of stimulus and response; he wanted to know how and why it is adaptive. Ethologists have and will continue to test his ideas for many years to come. Together with Karl von Frisch and Nikolaas Tinbergen, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in 1973. I did a post-doc with him in 1967. Many members of the IACP have read and enjoyed his books, and they asked me to recount what he was like.

As a boy in an Austrian castle, Lorenz kept a variety of animals, wild and domestic, native and exotic, all of which he played with and observed carefully. These early experiences formed the basis of his lifelong interest in animal behavior and are summarized in his first book, *King Solomon's Ring*. He was educated as a physician and drafted into the German army after the Anschluss. He served there until his capture during the Russian campaign. Along with an untold number of other German prisoners, he was incarcerated in a Siberian prison camp where almost all of them died. Konrad was one of two survivors of this place, apparently because he was willing to eat just about anything in the animal kingdom. At the end of the war, the two walking skeletons were hauled across the steppes of central Asia in a straw-lined boxcar on the Trans-Siberian Railway. At a stop in the middle of nowhere, Konrad tells how he searched avidly in the tall grass for anything to eat. His burly Cossack guard watched with vague curiosity until he grabbed a large garden spider and bit off her egg-filled abdomen, whereupon the big guy fainted dead away.

After the war Konrad somehow fetched up at a psychiatric institute in Freiburg, West Germany. There he was allotted a room on the third floor, directly above the library, where he kept a variety of animals for study, including a large aquarium of tropical fishes and a monkey. Predictably, the monkey was always in trouble, but there was a major crisis one weekend when the monkey escaped from its cage, seized the manuscript Konrad was working on and his typewriter and stuffed both into the aquarium, which overflowed upon the floor and drained into the library below. That was too much for the management of the institute, and a meeting was called. As faculty meetings frequently do, this ran on and on, noontime came and went, and Konrad began to catch and eat the flies that buzzed in through the open window. After a while the

others stopped talking and simply watched in fascination, for he was very good at it. They decided to keep him, for, according to him, he was much too interesting a specimen to release.

During the fifties the Konrad started the Max Planck Institut für Verhaltensphysiologie (Max Planck Institute for Behavior Physiology) at Seewiesen, a lake and surrounding bog in Bavaria south of Munich. There was some firm ground on one side of the lake, and several buildings were erected there for the staff, students, and the animals. The bog was mildly dangerous, with occasional holes in the overlying moss, which were sometimes hidden by the small spruce trees that peppered the surface. The black liquid beneath was deep and always cold. Larger holes were constructed in the bog, to provide isolated places for waterbirds to nest and for students to swim with their birds. Konrad told of one time he was out making such a pond by himself. He had pushed over one of the spruces and was working on the hole at its base, when the elastic recoil of the tree roots in the moss hauled it back upright, catching him in the butt and shoving him head-first into the hole. He clambered out with considerable difficulty and shivered back home, covered in mucky moss. When telling the story, he always regretted that he was working alone, because there was no one there to laugh at him.

Konrad was a most *gemütlich* man. There is no adequate translation for this word in English, but it connotes informality, friendliness and empathy. His birthday was a cause for major celebration at the institute. The students, staff and faculty worked for months making gifts for him, which were presented at a ceremony at the end of the work day. One of the faculty children, seeing all this activity, inquired, "Who's having a birthday, Konrad or Herr Jacob?" Herr Jacob was the head of the carpentry workshop, where many of the gifts were being constructed. This incident captures Konrad's *gemütlichkeit*, for the head of the institute was known to every child by his first name; while the chief carpenter was always referred to as Mister.

Konrad was a King Solomon without a ring, for he could "speak" to almost any animal and understand it as easily as he could cope with multiple human languages. Several of the 1500 or so geese on the lake had imprinted on him as goslings, and he maintained close relationships with them. As adults they would come to him when called, whereupon they'd speak with him a bit before returning to the flock.

He had discovered that many geese could be prevented from migrating if they were exercised enough during the autumn migration season. At that time of year, migratory birds get nervous and fly up short distances, circle around and return, many times before they finally take off for the long trip. It was during this pre-migratory restlessness period that he would exercise them. He'd walk a kilometer or so away, to the other side of the bog, then

Continued on Page 11

Lorenz Stories Continued

turn and began calling, "Kom, kom!" At the lake "his" geese became more and more nervous, honking in reply, churning around in circles, until they couldn't stand it any more and took off. The nervousness and churning were contagious, so when the few left, the whole flock took to the air, circled a few times and headed for Konrad, out in the meadow. There they landed near him, posturing wonderfully among themselves, speaking loudly with each other, with Konrad, and with anyone else who would converse with them. It was a tremendous ego-trip, to have 1500 geese land at your feet, and he enjoyed it enormously.

He demonstrated this for the press while I was there, giving each reporter an interview while simultaneously talking to the geese and anyone else who was handy. On this occasion he spoke French and Italian to the reporters, German to his assistant, English to me, and goose to the assembled multitudes. It was most impressive.

He had a couple of red chows, which seemed to be undistinguished animals. They were aloof and appeared to be utterly uninterested in anything much,

though they responded readily enough to his commands. Kids, geese, songbirds, students, ducks and other dogs received equal inattention. Even at that time it was clear that his ideas about the multiple origins of dogs were probably wrong, but he never corrected *Man Meets Dog*. Others had already done so, he said, so it was unnecessary. Actually I think it saddened him to think that chows were just dogs, descended from the wolves that produced other breeds as well. He might feel vindicated by the recent evidence suggesting that dogs were first domesticated in East Asia, where chows originated.

Dorothy C Dunning has been doing research with bats and other cave-dwelling animals for many years. She taught animal behavior and a variety of other courses in the Biology Dept at West Virginia University until her recent retirement. Beginning about 1973, she taught basic and puppy training classes at the local kennel club as a volunteer. Now, though she still teaches for the kennel club, she works mainly with shelter dogs at the Greene County (PA) Humane Society.

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CONTROLLED WALKING

By Vivian Bregman

One of the most important things for your dog to learn is to walk on a leash without pulling. This makes walking the dog much more enjoyable for both you and the dog. If the dog is pulling, walking is unpleasant and he gets walked far less often -- this makes him pull all the more because he needs the exercise even more. It's a vicious cycle.

Never wrap the leash around your hand: you can get dragged in front of a car. Instead, put your thumb through the loop of the lead and close your hand around it. Use both hands together when you jerk the leash.

With a six foot leash on the dog, start walking in a straight line towards a point about twenty feet away saying nothing when you start. Whenever the dog is at your side, reach down and pet him while praising him. Otherwise say nothing. If he heads off in another direction back away from him, at the same time jerking the leash sharply towards you and praising the dog. When you reach the point you were aiming for stop for a slow count of twenty, then head off at right angles for another twenty feet again saying nothing to the dog when you start moving. Continue this twice more until you have made one square about twenty feet on each side. (This has to be done away from trees and bushes that might tangle the leash.) This square should be repeated four times for one set. Do three sets a day, for a total of twelve squares a day. By the end of the week the dog should be walking without pulling. The reason for saying nothing to the dog when you start is so the dog learns to watch you. If you say something he won't have to pay attention.

Never permit the dog to pull on the leash. The only exception to this rule while walking the dog in the square is if the dog starts to relieve himself. In this case, let him finish. The only thing more important than walking without pulling is housebreaking. The best way to avoid this problem is to take the dog to his "relief spot" before training him. Once the dog is watching you whenever you walk, and you can no longer catch him being distracted, start inventing distractions. Walk towards an open gate, or another dog, or a child. As soon as the dog takes his eyes off you, back away from him, jerking and praising, until you can no longer catch him looking away from you. At this point, teaching him to heel will be relatively easy,

once he learns to sit.

If you have no place to do squares, do straight lines. Instead of going off at a right angle after twenty feet just turn around and head in another direction. The square is not magic, you just have to keep changing directions until the dog understands that he has to pay attention to you at all times.

If you have only sidewalk, then walk on the sidewalk. You may walk three feet, turn around, repeat, for half an hour. Your neighbors will think you're crazy. But --- your dog will learn in a few days not to pull on the leash.

Remember that the dog is never permitted to pull on the leash. Ever. For the rest of his life.

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



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Becoming a Better Canine Coach: the Canine Performance Medicine Seminar by Jill Morstad

As professional trainers, we're familiar with the challenges of maintaining healthy dogs, whether those dogs are our own canine athletes or clients' dogs engaged in a range of robust activities from backyard Frisbee-fetching to obedience, agility, herding or lure-coursing. Recent writings, including an article in the March, 2003, issue of the *AKC Gazette*, have reviewed canine sports medicine, performance evaluation and conditioning as critical to our dogs' well-being and longevity. Recently, I had the opportunity to attend a new seminar focused on optimal care for the canine athlete and how to minimize the risk of sports injury or metabolic damage, a seminar that also provided clear and generous advice on defining the best treatment and therapy protocols as they correspond to the special needs of performance dogs. Dr. Pat Perkins of **Canine Performance Medicine, LLC** presents a two-day, hands-on session dedicated to improving the health, well-being and functional longevity of the working canine. Perkins takes a 'wholistic' approach to the conditioning, exercise, training and exhibition of the canine athlete. Unlike canine rehabilitate medicine or canine sports medicine, both of which address the recovery of injured athletes, **Canine Performance Medicine**

strives to address the needs of the healthy canine athlete, to uncover weaknesses and deficiencies that could lead to sub-optimal performance, training problems and/or could pre-dispose the canine athlete for performance-threatening injury.

On Saturday morning, we learned that all athletes train with some degree of pain. According to Perkins, canine athletes are exceptional at compensating for, and hiding, their discomfort. Oftentimes this discomfort is not identified by the trainer, handler or coach until the dog sustains an injury which keeps him from competing. The goal of **Canine Performance Medicine** is to lessen the pain and discomfort of the canine athlete so that they may continue to compete with desire, happiness enthusiasm and health.

Saturday's session continued with the identification, assessment and treatment of subtle changes in performance, focusing primarily on the role of chiropractics. Using a canine skeleton and detailed handouts, Perkins identified conformation traits both good and bad, zeroing in on conformation 'problems' such as straight

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PRO-FILES

Speaking of Nutrition: AN INTERVIEW WITH DUANE OVERTURF

How did you get your start in the dog business?

When I was in the 10th grade in high school I took a job at a kennel that was close to school and worked there every morning and afternoon cleaning up and feeding the dogs. The kennel was both a boarding and breeding kennel raising Labrador Retrievers, Dalmations, Irish Water Spaniels, German Shorthair Pointers, German Wirehair Pointers, and Golden Retrievers. I also got my first experience training dogs for the kennel that they wanted to put titles on after they finished their championships in the show ring.

You've written some great articles on nutrition for the IACP SafeHands Journal. How did you become involved with dog nutrition?

I was offered a job by the company that delivered dog food to the kennel when I turned 18 and began delivering food to local kennels and pet stores. This eventually led to being offered a job working for the west coast distributor of Iams Pet Foods back when Iams had 3 products..... Iams Plus, Iams Chunks, and Eukanuba.

Have you worked for a variety of dog food companies?

Yes. I worked indirectly for Iams (that's all the west coast distributor sold until Iams bought out their contract and began selling direct to the local distributors, so it was like working for Iams directly), Cornucopia, and Lick Your Chops.

In what capacities?

Always in a sales capacity.

Can you share a bit about the education and training that dog food companies offer their employees?

Iams provided extensive training for their sales people. Cornucopia and Lick Your Chops however, offered very little training and I was hired primarily because of the experience I had already.

It is surprising the amount of research that goes into making and selling dog food. Is any of this research available to the general public?

Good question. I'm not really sure. When I was first visiting kennels working for Iams I came across kennels that were supplied free food from local dog food manufacturers that they called "test kennels" however, I don't believe they were very reliable for anything other than telling the company whether or not the dogs had good stools or not. Some of these "test kennels" were pretty horrific and would probably have said anything to keep free food coming. Iams was one

of the few companies that conducted their research in universities.

Based on what you know, if you had to rate dog foods, which would make your top 5 (or 10) list?

The products currently on the market that I think are great foods are..... Innova, Cannidae, Wysong, Wellness, and Precise not necessarily in that order. I also believe that Eukanuba is a good product but that it can be greatly improved by adding a good live probiotic supplement to it.

It seems that many veterinarians who feel very strongly about nutrition are recommending Science Diet to the exclusion of any other brand. Is there a reason for this?

Yes. The Mark Morris Foundation (Hills Prescription) provides most of the information that veterinarians are provided in school about dog and cat nutrition. They really don't get a lot of information on nutrition and my experience has been that they are hungry for good factual information from good reliable sources but there isn't a whole lot available. Also, there is a lot to say about being the first in an industry and Hills was the first premium pet food out there with Iams running a close second. Hills concentrated on veterinarians and Iams concentrated on retail stores.

How do you feel about the trend toward natural diets, home made diets, and raw food diets?

I believe this is a step in the right direction in general. There is one problem though with this trend. Raw diets have a very high possibility of being contaminated with harmful bacteria. Many of the companies making these diets downplay this threat but some veterinarians in my area are recommending against these diets because they have already begun to see dogs that are sick from infections with these bacteria. I prefer to pick one of the foods above or mix several of them together and add a live probiotic supplement such as Greens Plus (a human product found in almost every health food store) to the food. Of course, there are exceptions where a dog with a particular problem may be better off on a raw diet.

Probiotics and live supplements. Can you explain a little about what these are and why they are helpful?

Probiotics or live supplements as they are sometimes called are live enzymes that aid digestion and help keep the intestines healthy. They help fight off bad

Duane Overturf Contd.

bacteria as well. You may have been told by your doctor to supplement with lactobacillus supplements after taking antibiotics for something. We get these live enzymes in the raw food we eat. Since dog foods are 100% dead in general these supplements add back some of what is lost in the cooking process.

Having heard the term "human food" many times from my clients, I am curious to know from an expert on nutrition..... what is the difference between "human food" and "dog food"? And is it true that "human food" is harmful to dogs?

I don't know if I would call myself an expert, but to answer your question there is no difference except that human food has been deemed to be fit for human consumption and dog food, unless the company states otherwise, may use ingredients not fit for human consumption. Human food is not harmful to dogs unless the dog is fed something that is known to be harmful such as chocolate or raw onions. The only real difference is that dogs require a different mix of essential nutrients than people do and if they are fed an all "human food" diet they may not be getting everything they need, but then, how many people truly get everything they need in their diet for optimal nutrition? I think the average dog that eats one of the foods I listed above is getting better nutrition than the average human and with the addition of a good live supplement like the one I mentioned those dogs are getting better nutrition than most humans. One other thing, I believe that adding a little variety to your dog's diet daily will help with keeping their digestive healthier and less prone to upset when their diet is

changed and/or the dog is stressed out for some reason.

How would adding variety to a dog's diet help the dog in this "preventive" way? What foods, other than chocolate and raw onions of course, would you suggest one might feed their dog to give daily variety in the diet?

As with adding probiotics, supplementing with some raw foods will add back some of the live enzymes they miss in most processed foods. As for what to add, I recommend adding raw vegetables of all colors and very high quality raw red meats in small quantities to good well rounded dog food.

What resources would you recommend to those who want to learn more about canine nutrition?

I would recommend the internet as a primary tool and recommend doing a lot of research before accepting something as the gospel truth when dealing with dietary problems. Just as we are constantly learning new information about dog behavior we are also learning new information about dog nutrition as well.

Duane Overturf started training dogs at the age of 15 working for a local dog kennel before and after high school. Since then, Duane has trained close to 6,000 dogs and their owners. He specializes in family dog obedience training and behavioral problems. Duane offers private lessons and a home-board training program where the dog lives with Duane for 3 to 6 weeks and then returns home with follow up lessons for the family.

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DOG TRAINING AND THE UGLY AMERICAN

By John Van Olden

I served two tours in Germany when I was in the Army. I considered it a privilege to be able to learn about and experience first hand a culture different than ours here in the United States. It took some effort on my part to be able to do this. One of the best things was learning a new language and using it to interact with others.

For those who haven't been to a military base overseas, it's an interesting experience. The bases are little slices of America right in the middle of a foreign country. Usually, there are one or two familiar fast food restaurants, a movie theater that shows the latest films from the US, an American grocery store where you can buy the food you're used to eating, and even a department store (the "PX") where you can buy the clothing and appliances you have been accustomed to using. In fact, for many of the soldiers I was stationed with, there was never a reason to venture off the "comfort zone" of the base to experience the vastly different world outside the gate.

During my time overseas, I took every opportunity to travel to the other countries in Europe. In my travels I noticed that many Americans, in the town I was living in, and in Paris, Amsterdam, or the other places, would display an amazingly arrogant attitude to their local hosts, by expecting them to speak English and adapt themselves to American customs. I've seen some of these Americans become downright rude to people, insisting that they must actually know English but are only pretending not to speak it for whatever reason. I've heard this behavior described as the "Ugly American" syndrome.

What does this have to do with dog training?

Dogs have their own culture including a language (including sounds, smells, body movements and postures) and behaviors that are unique to them and much different than ours. I assume, since I'm writing this for an organization of canine professionals, most readers would agree with me. I wonder then why so many dog trainers today seem to want to force these animals to adapt to our way of thinking instead, of adapting themselves to the dog's way of thinking? It's like the "ugly American" tourist who refuses to try to order a meal in Paris in French.

About 6 months ago (and I'm not proud to admit this) I allowed myself to be drawn into a training methods debate with a "colleague" of mine that had an existing dog training business in the city where I had relocated my offices. As has typically been the case with the other times I've taken this bait, (someday, I'll learn) the debate took place via email, and happened over the course of several days, before my opponent finally conceded (and later sent an apology and a box of chocolates) saying, "I know training dogs *that way* works

better, I just choose not to train like that". (Another conversation with a different trainer once ended with, "I'm too busy to train aggressive dogs")

That statement floored me, though I've heard a variation of it over and over again for years. This time, I haven't been able to get it out of my mind, and it has been reminding me of the "ugly American" syndrome that I'm talking about. If this dog trainer knew a better way to train dogs, why wouldn't she use it? Was she uncomfortable? Did the better way not make *her* feel good?

For some reason dog training has experienced a movement towards a more "politically correct" stance, where it has become unacceptable to use any kind of aversive, yet humane technique to achieve results. This is in spite of the fact that this is the primary way dogs "train" each other, be it in the wild, at the dog park or in the family room. An example that comes to mind is a family that had to call my company for help to stop their two dogs from fighting with each other. The family was first directed to another trainer who used techniques that could be described as "politically correct" and would certainly be considered fundamentally different than the way dogs are used to communicating. (We were able to work with this family, teaching them how to understand their dog's communication signals, and how to communicate to them what behavior is and isn't acceptable in the house.)

Whatever has motivated this movement, be it financial or otherwise, is beside the point and could be the subject for a whole other article. The fact is that many trainers are ignoring the language that dogs speak and approaching their training cases from a human standpoint, expecting the dogs to immediately learn their language.

Returning to my earlier analogy, why does the military create these little slices of America in foreign countries? They do this for the people that don't want to step outside of their comfort zone and experience the country they are living in. But what's the worst thing that can happen if they do? Maybe they will feel a bit uncomfortable? Maybe their hosts might even laugh at their attempts to pronounce a difficult word. Perhaps they will even feel that the locals *won't like them* if they can't speak their language perfectly.

What if the same people arrogantly leave the base and expects the locals to conform to their American customs and language because they want to avoid feeling bad or uncomfortable? At worst, they might be perceived as bad ambassadors, "Ugly Americans." Sadly, they would go away from their experience feeling a sense of resentment towards their hosts and would never really get the opportunity to get to truly experience a different culture.

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Dog Training and ... Continued

What happens though when a dog trainer insists on training dogs in a way that makes him feel good instead of respecting the animal and teaching it what it needs to know using the same "language" its peers would in a pack situation? What if this trainer, for example, felt opposed, for whatever reason, to the idea of humane punishment, and chose "not to train that way"? (I think those who have been to an animal shelter lately will know the answer to this question.) It's like the "Ugly American" in Europe.

I've attended many conferences and meetings for dog trainers in this country and others, and a consistent theme for all of these, regardless of training philosophy,

is "do no harm." This is an ideal I believe in wholeheartedly. Dog trainers today are enjoying increasing respect in the animal industry, thanks to organizations like the IACP. We have tremendous influence with dog owners and other animal care professionals. If dog trainers refuse to step outside of their comfort zone and train dogs the best way possible, we have to ask "Are they really applying that rule?"

John Van Olden is owner of Pawsitive Solutions in California and a new member of the Board of Directors of IACP

Becoming a Better Coach Continued

roached or weak toelines, and structural features of the dog that affect canine performance. At the Saturday afternoon workshop, we saw 'obedience' problems: dogs refusing jumps, crooked sits, 'puppy sits', a notable change in head carriage, and unwillingness or inability to perform tight turns. Perkins carefully and thoughtfully connected changes in attitude to performance medicine. In one instance, Perkins worked with a dog whose mild, intermittent lameness had no discernable or identifiable cause but was interfering with his owners' goals for him in the competition ring. Careful evaluation, and chiropractic adjustment, made a visible difference for that dog, and educated his owners' eye. Also addressed on Saturday was the significance of trauma: slips, falls and household missteps can lead to injury. Likewise, the stress of traveling. Extended crate time, poor bedding, and sudden stops are physical phenomenon our dogs must accommodate, ideally with no deterioration of athletic ability or performance. The significance of age, we learned, is of paramount consideration when conditioning and maintaining the performance canine. As dogs age, they accumulate multiple large and small injuries and compensations. In the meantime, their bodies are less able to deal with new injuries and to compensate for old ones.

Sunday provided a review of Saturday's lessons, along with an introduction to Traditional Chinese

Medicine and an afternoon hands-on session on stretching and warming-up the canine athlete, as well as an identification of acupressure points and how to use them effectively.

Dr. Perkins is well-qualified to present on these topics. She is a 20-year veteran of the AMBOR and AKC obedience rings, having earned titles on a variety of breeds. She has also earned titles in lure coursing, put breed championships on her dogs, and trained in Schutzhund. A graduate of the University of Missouri's college of Veterinary Medicine, she completed additional training in Veterinary Acupuncture at Colorado State University's College of Veterinary Medicine and in Veterinary Chiropractic at the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association's Options for Animals. Additionally, she has pursued advanced education in veterinary rehabilitative medicine and in canine sports medicine. Dr. Perkins works at Blue Springs Animal Hospital in suburban Kansas City, Missouri. Her presentation style is humorous and personal, punctuated with amusing and illustrative anecdotes and cartoons. It is also rigorous and well-researched. **Canine Performance Medicine** would be a valuable seminar for trainers and exhibitors, for dog clubs, agility groups, and all canine sports organizations.

Jill is an IACP Member and Dog Trainer from Nebraska

DOG PARKS : A Politically Incorrect View

By Shirley Greene

Previously Published: GSDCA Review, Dallas Morning News, K9Coach.com

Introduction

I love dogs. Big dogs, small dogs, compliant dogs and dogs that don't give a hoot about pleasing anyone but themselves all share a place in my heart.

I love parks. Whether the majestic Tetons in Wyoming or the rugged beauty of the Grand Canyon, parks are special. I even like the corner tot lot - it is a great place for puppy socialization.

I love walking dogs in parks. Whether hiking a wilderness area in the high Sonoran Desert or enjoying an impromptu conversation with a child, going with a canine simply makes the trip better.

Yet, I am against Dog Parks <GASP>. I am not in favor of fenced urban grasslands where numbers of strange dogs are brought to frolic in unleashed bliss. This is especially true when people are oblivious to their dogs' actions, in particular, and totally clueless about canine behavior, in general. With few exceptions, owners of both pet and working dogs should avoid Dog Parks like the plague.

Manure doesn't move out of your way; you must step over or around it. There are enough problems with training and socializing dogs. Without looking for them, some are bound to find their way to your door. No need to invite them in. When you come upon a situation that may land you in deep doo-doo, like a Dog Park, use common sense - avoid it.

Disease

I have yet to see a Dog Park that posts a sign: "No one under 21 weeks admitted." No puppy belongs at a Dog Park. A pup's immune system is immature and cannot physiologically be expected to repel a full frontal assault. Bringing a pup into a Dog Park is playing Russian roulette with its life. Yes, socialization is important. But, you can't train a dog that is either severely brain damaged or dead.

Even when your pup is older, or if you have a dog that is fully immunized, going to a Dog Park is very risky business. Who in the park is shedding Parvo virus or leaving giardia infested stools? Which dog was just exposed to kennel cough? Want to share fleas or ear mites? Is that a hot spot or ringworm on the pooch walking by?

Dog Parks actively facilitate the exchange of contagious diseases and parasites.

Socialization

The People

- ✓ Macho Man - "My dog could take yours, if I told him to."
- ✓ Little Person - Mastiff accompanied by pre-teen and his friend.
- ✓ Clueless - Drinking latte, dog's hackles up: "uh, duh... like, you know...?"
- ✓ Show Off - "I can do anything to any dog and it won't bite...watch me."
- ✓ Know It All - "You can cure allergies by feeding your dog Vicks Salve."

The Dogs

- ✓ Hackles up, teeth showing, growling at each new dog that enters.
- ✓ Ears back, tail tucked, shaking like a leaf, spending lots of time on its back.
- ✓ Dig, dig, dig - - China here I come.
- ✓ Jump, jump, jump - - on people, on other dogs.
- ✓ Climb the fence, get pulled off; climb the fence, get pulled off...
- ✓ Mark the gate, mark a tree...oh, no...he just marked ME!

Dogs learn from other dogs. Are you willing to have your dog mimic these behaviors? In an ideal world, only highly social dogs with stable temperaments that are under voice control of their handlers would be found at Dog Parks. The world is not ideal.

To me, utilizing a Dog Park for socialization makes as much sense as using a stick of dynamite to light a cigar. Not only will you not get what you want, you may get results you couldn't imagine - even in your worst nightmare. And, you may have a big cleanup after the smoke clears, plus a scar or two.

If any trainer advises you to take a shy dog to the Dog Park and let it learn to play - get another trainer. If any trainer tells you to take an aggressive dog to the Dog Park where it will meet dogs that are even more aggressive to put it in its place - stop payment on your check. If any trainer suggests you take a fearful dog to a Dog Park for total immersion with strange dogs, new people and a variety of situations - cover your ears. And, should a trainer say that you have a

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Dog Parks Contd.

really nice dog with good temperament and balanced drives – keep it that way. Don't risk training or socializing at the local Dog Park.

A Dog Park is not the appropriate venue for your canine companion to either learn obedience commands or practice socialization skills. That must take place under controlled conditions.

Control

Many **control** issues come into play the minute you open the Dog Park gate. Even if your dog is Lassie and fully obedient at all times, things inside a Dog Park are not under your control.

People

You cannot control who comes through the gate. Despite posted rules and regulations, you cannot direct the behavior of other dog owners. You may ask others to watch their dog more closely, but what if they don't? And, what if they take offense at your request?

Size of Dogs

Many Dog Parks are divided into two specific areas: one for dogs over 50 pounds and one for smaller pets. Ever seen a forty-nine pound dog shake a MinPin? When there is one owner for both a toy poodle and a Great Dane, which area will they use? Will you be happy with that owner's choice?

Physical Environment

You enter the Dog Park with an aging pet and find several mud slicks. Will your dog be able to maintain adequate footing with puppies jumping up or other dogs playing chase? Slick footing is dangerous for pups' joint development, as well as for senior dogs.

Is there a gap in the fencing? Are there holes beneath it where another dog tried to escape? Is poison oak growing up a tree? Why did the groundskeeper leave a length of barbed wire inside the fence and how many dogs will try to chew or fetch it?

NOTHING is under your control at a Dog Park – not the people, their dogs or the physical environment.

If you believe your pup has issues socializing with other animals or people, ask a competent trainer for help.

To Treat or Not To Treat

I watched a man bring packages of "mystery" meat into a local Dog Park, offering hunks the size of my fist to any dog close enough to take them. There were eight dogs present and only one pet owner succeeded in getting to their dog before it ate at least some of the meat. I prayed the man was a generous butcher and not mentally unbal-



Let me just check your teeth

anced or cruel.

A friend watched a woman place the contents of two bags of dog bones into a huge pile and then call ALL the dogs in the Dog Park to come for "treat time." Isn't that a new and interesting way to test dominance, aggression and food guarding?

One man's meat is another man's poison. Some dogs share food; other's fight for possession. What risks are you willing to take?

Authority

Who has authority at the Dog Park?

- ✓ Owners who succeed at intimidation?
- ✓ Aggressive dogs that snarl or bite?
- ✓ Dogs that have formed a *park pack*?
- ✓ Gang members looking for fun?
- ✓ Regulars – who ask you to wait until they're finished?
- ✓ Park Rangers who may patrol weekly?
- ✓ Animal Control personnel who are a 30-minute-drive away?

The only **authority** you have is the ability to take your dog and leave the Dog Park. But what happens if your exit is blocked by any of the first four on my list?

Continued on page 22

Dog Parks contd.

Setting the Stage

Each outing with your pet should be pre-planned. Not only does this mean taking the necessities, such as fresh water and a leash, it also means having a training plan and setting goals. Perhaps your visit to the park will be aimed at walking on a different surface. Maybe a trip to the tennis court is really a better opportunity to try off-leash obedience in a fenced area.

Setting the stage means deciding what steps you will take to make certain you and your dog reach a specific training goal. The more controlled your environment and the better prepared you are, the less likely you are to need remediation. It is much easier to set your dog up for training success than it is to try and fix a problem that you never saw coming.

A Dog Park cannot meet my criteria as a safe place for dogs to play or learn. There are too many risk factors working against a good training or socialization plan.

To set your dog up for success, you must have control of the training stage. This can't happen at a Dog Park.

True Stories

Can you dig it?

A neighbor takes her high-energy miniature poodle to the Dog Park so that it may use those facilities, rather than her yard, for digging. As the dog dug its umpteenth hole, a woman approached my neighbor and politely asked her to remove the dog and replace the dirt. My neighbor said: "I won't leave and you can't make me." As the woman turned to avoid escalating the confrontation, she fell - in one of the freshly dug holes - and broke her ankle. My neighbor paid her medical bills and sent flowers, too.

Who let the dogs out? Who? Who?

A good friend took her Shiloh Shepherd to the local Dog Park early on a Monday morning. The usual weekend

crowd was absent and several senior citizens were visiting with their pets. My friend took her dog off leash and slowly walked to the back of the park where she'd spotted an empty bench. As she sat down, she noticed her dog - - OUTSIDE the fence and immediately commanded DOWN-STAY. Then, my gal-pal proceeded to climb the fence and help others call their dogs. Someone failed to secure the gate and it was the owners who were securely INSIDE the Dog Park, while their pets were running free.

Truth is stranger than fiction

I haven't told you about the 160-pound Mastiff rescue brought to the Dog Park by new owner on his way home from the shelter. What about the 3 Dobermans that were dropped off at the Dog Park while their owner drove down the block to pick up his girlfriend after work?

Exceptions to the Rule

Friends would accuse me of undue prejudice if I failed to mention times when a Dog Park may work:

- You live in an access-controlled, gated community that has a Dog Park for residents, only. Your HOA Rules and Regulations or CC&Rs specifically require that a current shot record be kept on file prior to issuing you a pass for the Dog Park. There is individual accountability and responsibility with sanctions or fines for those who do not follow the posted rules.
- Your town allows private groups to reserve the Dog Park and during those times access is by invitation only, checked by a city employee. (This will not lessen health risks, of course.)

**Set you and your dog up for training success,
not failure.**

Be smart. Be safe. Be in control.

Shirley Greene is an IACP Member in Arizona
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For Further Information contact Cyndy Douan Director of Education & visit www.dogpro.org

TIPS ON BABYSITTING IN THE HOME WITH A DOG

It is important for all visitors of any home to remember that a dog feels very connected to their family. Their family is their Pack. Some dogs may act differently when the adults from their pack are not present. The safest thing to do is have the dog secured in an area where you do not need to worry about them. This will allow you to focus on the children in your care.

I especially suggest this if you have any uncomfortable feelings about dogs in general. Dogs sense fear and this can cause stress for both of you.

If there is a dog in the home that you are comfortable with and it is free about the house please keep the following in mind.

1. Some dogs guard items such as food, toys, **raw-hides and pigs ears especially.**
2. It is **NEVER** ok to leave a child and dog together alone!
3. Dogs must be on a leash or fenced in.
4. Some dogs are afraid of thunder. They may act differently during a storm.
5. Chasing games with a dog are NOT safe.
6. Dogs get excited by lots of noise and activity. Some may become stressed.
7. Dogs sometimes allergies. It is best not to feed a dog unless you have permission.
8. Hugs can make dogs uncomfortable.

Dogs show stress many ways:

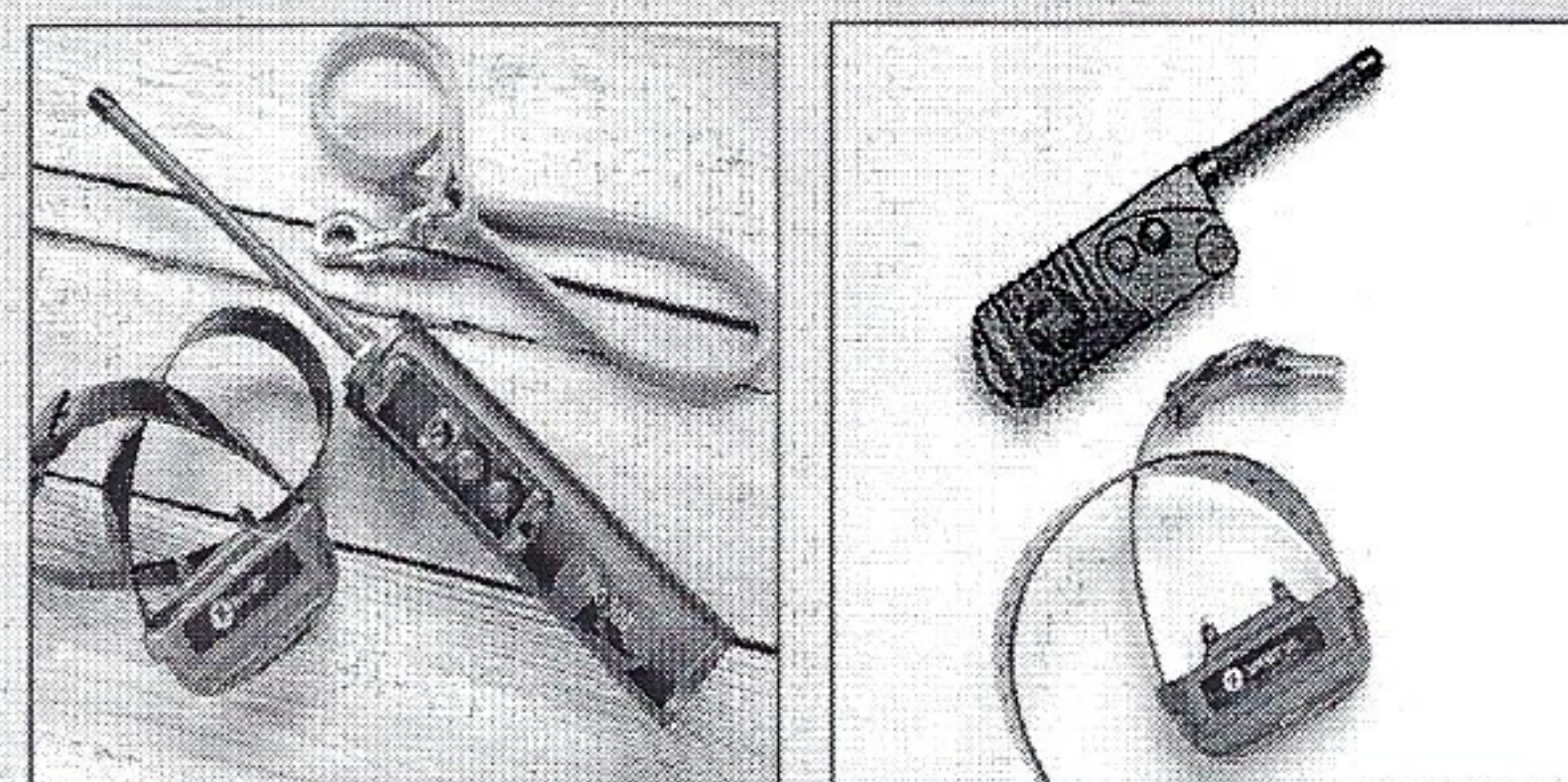
1. pacing
2. cowering
3. licking their lips
4. tail tucked between their legs
5. growling

It is ALWAYS a good thing to know where the dog can be put in case you or he becomes uncomfortable.

Most dogs are wonderful and very friendly. It is great to be aware of some things and behaviors that can make them uncomfortable. This awareness will help you and other kids stay safe!

It is best to talk this over with your parents and those of the children in your care. It is always best to prevent any potentially dangerous situation from happening.

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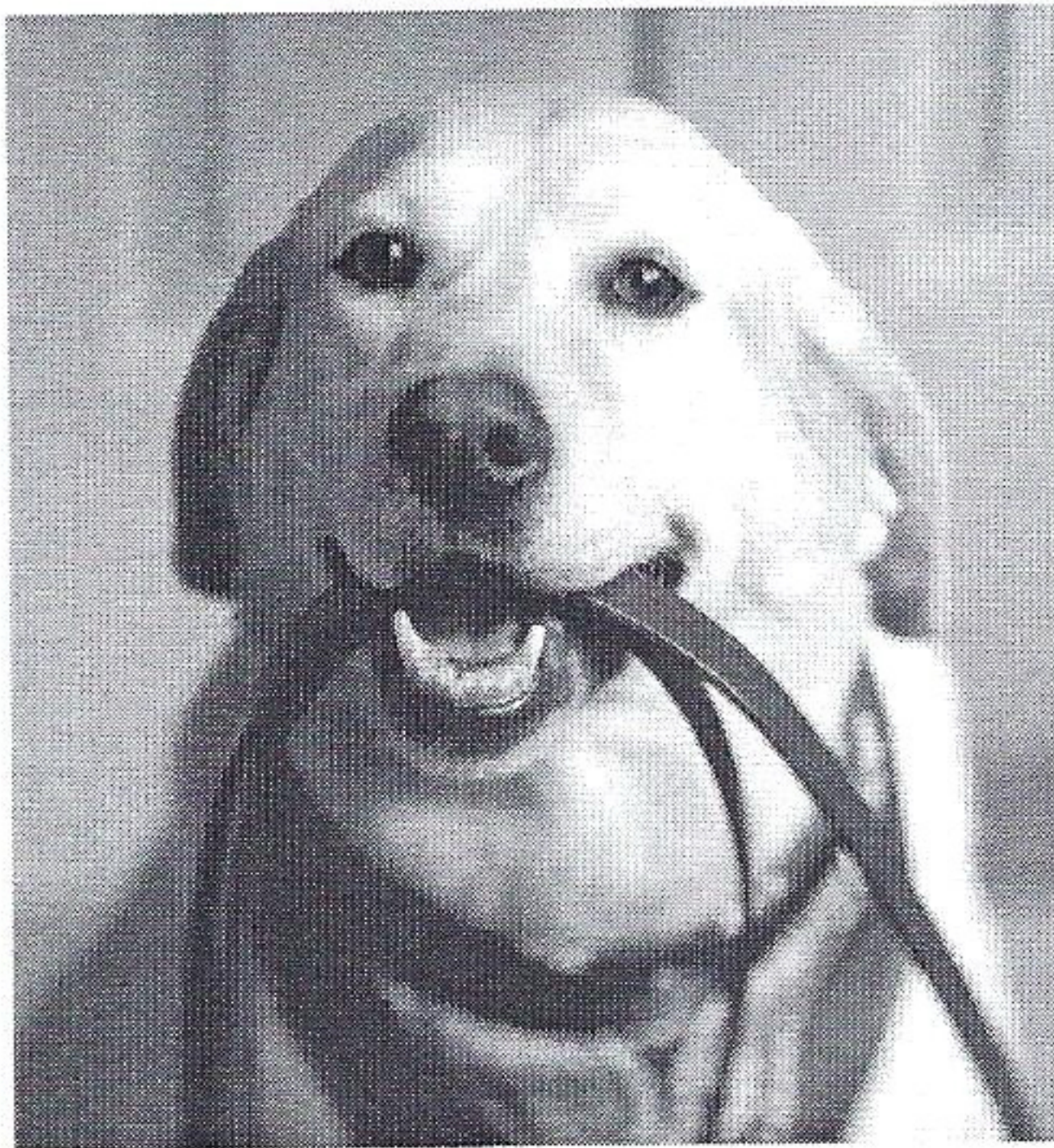
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The INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS is an organization established to maintain the highest standards of professional and business practice among canine professionals. Its aim is to provide support and representation for all professional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

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