

IACP

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS



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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

The INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS' commitment is to develop professional recognition, communication, education, understanding and co-operation across the wide diversity of canine expertise and knowledge.

For Those Dedicated to the Well Being of Dogs

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

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AFFILIATE MEMBER - An active interest in a career as a canine professional but lacking the experience to be an Associate or Professional member, i.e., apprentices, student, trainees, part-time, and devotees of canine-related occupations.

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Annual Fees:

Professional \$ 75.00; Associate \$50.00; Affiliate \$35.00

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Benefits:

All IACP members receive our SafeHands Journal, have access to our email list, seminars, educational materials, business support materials, events and activity calendars, regional-group participation, and our Certification Programs. Discounts for sponsor services are available to members.

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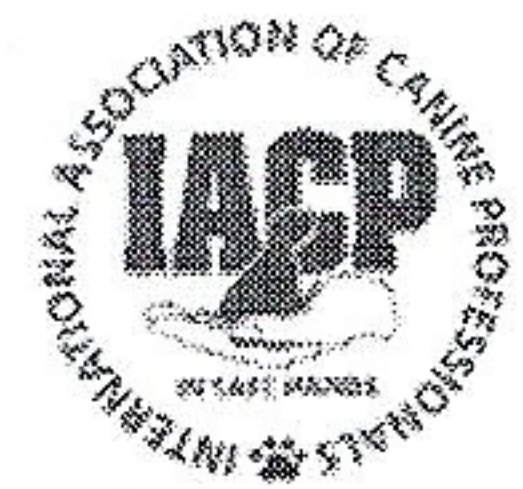
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SAFEHANDS JOURNAL NEWS AND INFORMATION



Welcoming New Appointment Gina Lyn Hayes-Resources Coordinator for IACP

Let us all take the time to welcome a new appointment to the IACP staff. Gina Lyn Hayes of Just Dogs Training Center and also a Board of Directors member with IACP, has recently accepted the position of Resource Coordinator for IACP. This position will consist of drawing out the incredible wealth of talent and knowledge among our IACP members, thus enabling IACP to grow as a highly recognized democratic Professional organization. Gina will be looking for talents or knowledge among our members and a willingness to share or assist IACP in various areas, such as public relations, fund raising, and others. Members who are interested in volunteering or sharing their talents with IACP can contact Gina at (508) 693-7299 or email her at heartnsoul7299@hotmail.com.

New Online Membership Participation Survey

An online survey has been created as a means of obtaining feedback and information from the membership of the IACP. Your participation in this survey will help shape the future growth and direction of the IACP. Now is your chance to voice your comments, complaints, criticisms, ideas, and feelings. What's more, all members choosing to participate in the survey will be entered for a chance to win free membership dues for one year. With your help, the IACP can continue to grow and still maintain the balanced, member oriented, values upon which it was conceived. You can find the survey at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=57900326194>

You will be asked your member number in order to proceed to the actual survey. Your member number will only be used to ensure that IACP members only are taking the survey and for the purposes of awarding the participation prize. Your member number is not linked to your answers and cannot be linked to your answers.

The survey will be open from DEC.1. '03 to FEB. 28.'04. The winner of the free membership dues will be announced at the end of the survey. The results of the survey will be announced and published in either SafeHands or the Member Bulletin after they have been presented to the Board of Directors.

If you have any questions or problems regarding the survey, please send an email to:
IACPSurveyMonkey@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your support.

NEW SERVICE FOR MEMBERS

The brain child of IACP Director George Cockrell, the IACP announces a new service for members. The SAT (Senior Advisory Team) is available for any IACP member who requests private, confidential aid and information on dog problems, training and business issues. The team is composed of ten top professionals from various areas of the canine world. These professionals have graciously volunteered their time and knowledge to aid all IACP members in both learning and growth.

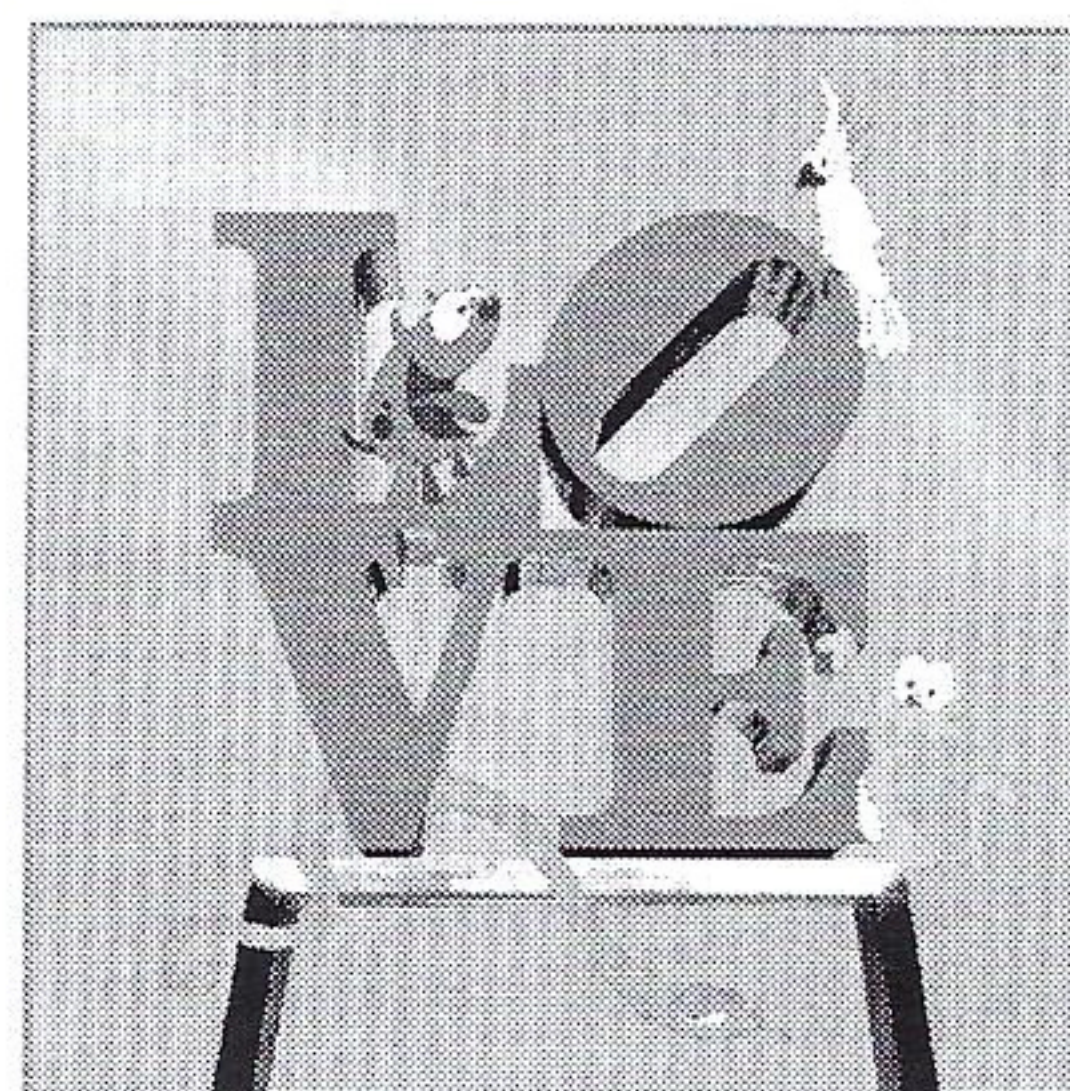
IACP members in good standing may send their requests to: IACPHelp@aol.com All requests for help will remain private and confidential between the member and the SAT. For further information, please email IACPHelp@aol.com

NAPPS Annual Convention

Radisson Plaza-Warwick Hotel Philadelphia

April 2-4, 2004

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Learn How To Enhance Your Business At This Pet Professional Industry Business Forum

Business Highlights

Rick Frishman, public relations guru and president of Planned Television Arts, presents *Understanding How Public Relations Can Help Your Business*

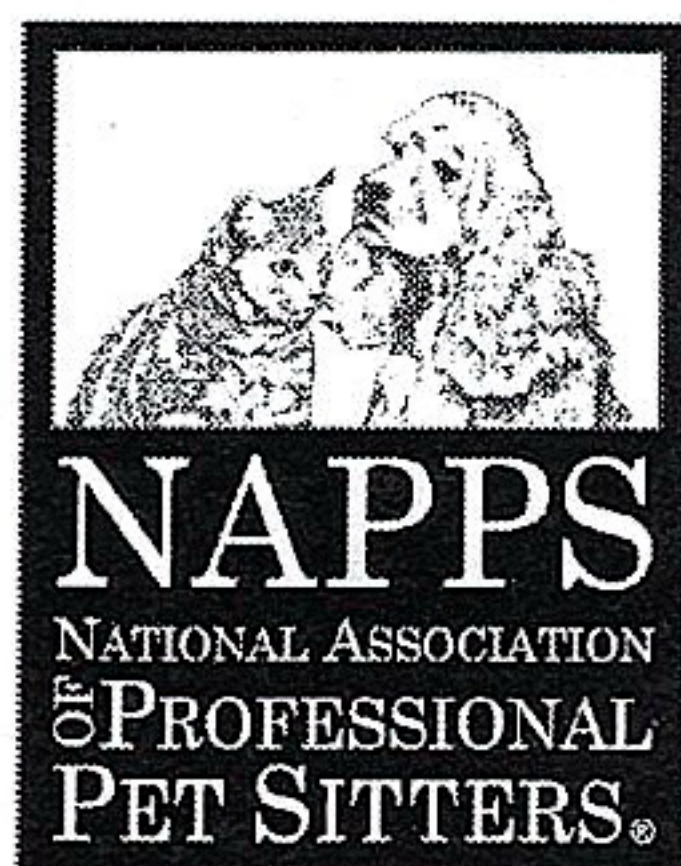
Fabienne Luzena in her Client Attraction System® teaches how to use PULL marketing techniques, as opposed to PUSHING hard to attract new clients during *How to Attract More Clients in Record Time*

Jo Ann Kirby, KRG Communications Group founder and communication and sales consultant, presents *How to Make a Distinctive and First Impression Over the Telephone*

Vicky Morgan, pet industry branding and marketing specialist and president of Animal Brands, presents *Develop a Marketing Plan and Understand Sales So You Can Improve Selling Your Services*

Bob Vetere, COO and Managing Director of the American Pet Products Manufacturer's Association (APPM), the leading not-for-profit trade association serving pet product manufacturers and importers presents *Pet Industry Trends and How They Affect Your Business*

Libby Mills, Lifestyle Coach, Presents *Organizing Your Life for Work and Enjoyment*



Don't Miss

- American Red Cross First Aid Training
- Brinks Home Security Presentation
- Avian Care Seminar
- Small Animal Seminar
- Panel Discussion with Pet Industry Professionals

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Pro - Files:

An Interview with Cathie Sabin

by Jeanneane Kutsukos

Cathie Sabin has a very full plate as a trainer and store proprietor but seems to handle it all and then some.

How did you get started in training?

I have always loved animals, even as a child I was attracted to anything with four feet! As I got older these four footed creatures also got larger in size: dogs, cats and horses to name a few.

The family pet dog became my outlet as I grew, I attended dog obedience classes and competed as a Jr.

Instructors started to pay more attention to me and helped me really expand my knowledge. College offered even more insight while attending behavioral and veterinarian classes. I was lucky to meet and start working with a couple of military k-9 officers while at college. Thus my mentoring started.

I worked for a couple of years in Corporate America ... the money was great but something was missing. Instructing part time was not what I wanted. My goal was to make enough to start teaching and working with dogs full time. Thus B. C. Dog Training, Grooming and Pet Supply came to be.

When did you start B.C. Dog Training?

B. C. Dog Training started in 1980 as a small training school, we had use of a building with an open area of approximately 1500 sq. ft. At first while the name was just being spread, our classes averaged about 5 or 6 students at a time, a couple of nights a week.

What was your goal?

I wanted a program that would provide flexibility for all breeds but at the same time make the learning experience fun and rewarding for both the human and the dog. My goal was to show people that obedience was not a spirit breaking procedure but an interactive relationship with their dog. I used my own dogs to sell my knowledge ... 3 UD titled dogs and 2 CDX titled dogs.

Why did you move to the new facility?

As the class number increased, we realized that we were running out of room, so the start of building searches began. We finally found what we were looking for..... a 20,000 sq. ft building. Enough for training, daycare, retail and grooming.

How did you decide to open a store as well?

The store portion grew out of frustration looking for equipment that was well made but not too expensive, and to this day we do not carry everything like most retail stores. We are a specialty store with hard to find items along with foods.

How did grooming become part of your facilities?

Around 1998 I decided that grooming would fit into the mix pretty well and looked for over a year for a groomer. Happily, I still have the same groomer even though now she has a 3 hour drive home to work! I am trying to persuade her to join the IACP and hopefully she will see the light soon.

Do you do "Doggy Day Care"?

Almost before the buzz word "doggydaycare" became known, B. C. Dog Training had a program. We were the first in Illinois! The Dept. of Agriculture wasn't very happy ... it went against all their rules, but luckily, our inspector was very understanding! Today we average 35-40 dogs a day in daycare, our hours being 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday thru Friday. I currently have 6 employees working in daycare.

With all this activity going, do you still find time to train?

I do offer a training service to clients..... Daycare & Train, sorta like Board and Train, except they go home at night!

Do you have other trainers?

I have 7 instructors that work for BC. Each have come up through the programs and all have competed with their dogs in obedience/agility and/or conformation.

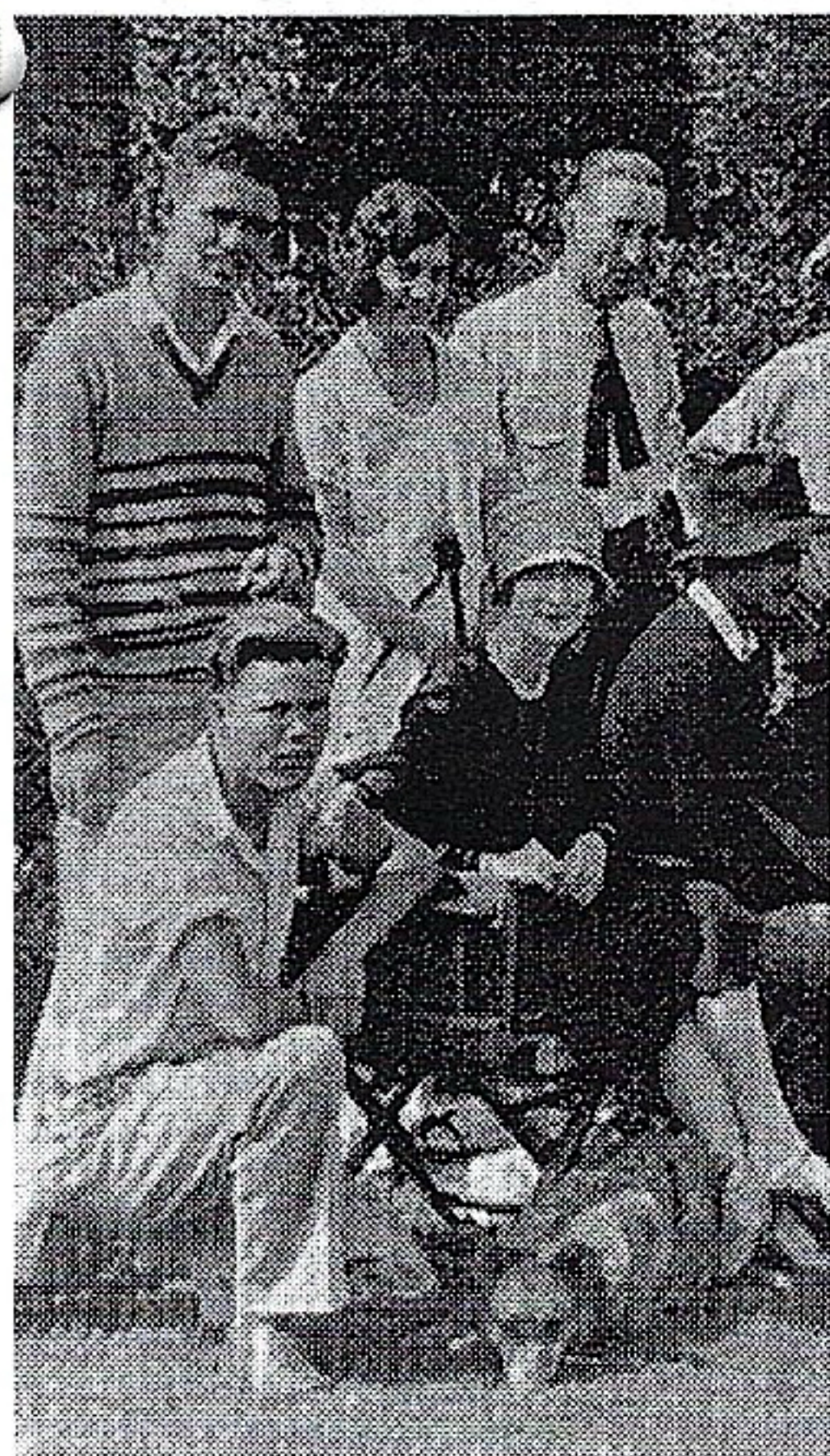
Does your facility offer other services?

B. C. offers obedience, flyball, agility, conformation, daycare, grooming, and the retail store, kinda, your one-stop-shop.

With all that going on, do you have time for anything else?

I am currently on call with the county animal control officer if they need an evaluation. Most of my referrals for aggressive dogs come through animal control or veterinarians.

2004 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Rudd rear left and Frank kneeling in front

The IACP will be inducting two new members into their **Hall of Fame**. The First is the **The Weatherwax Brothers**. Frank and Rudd Weatherwax were pioneers in the film industry with their training of such dogs as Lassie, Old Yeller, and Asta in the Thin Man. Their skill with dogs encouraged many dog owners to train their dogs and make them a part of their family.

www.weatherwax.home.att.net

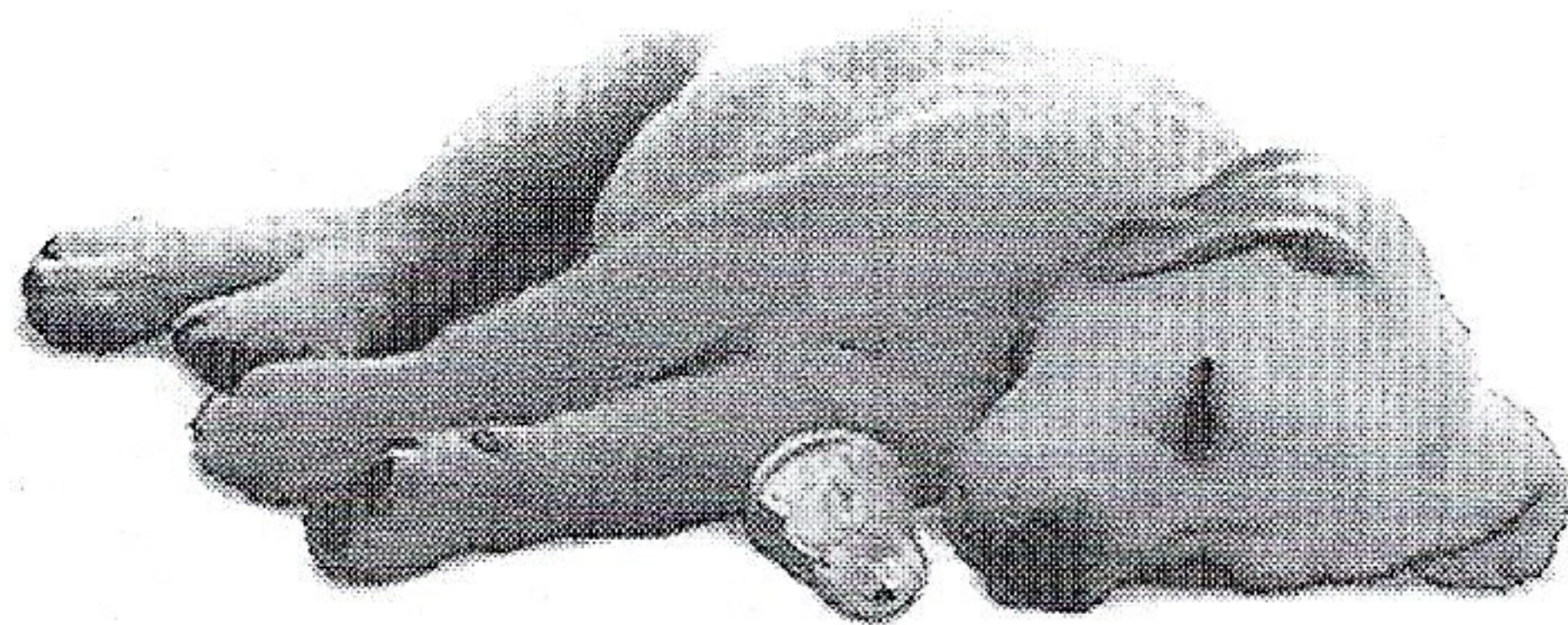
The second inductee will be **Dr Ian Dunbar**. Over the past 30 years Dr Dunbar has been a major force in the revolution that has brought about new dog training methods and understanding of behavior. His communication and motivation skills together with his theories and approaches to off leash training have created a new wave of professionals and brought dog training to the forefront in the eyes of the dog owning public. He has been a leader in championing better lives for dogs through his methods of training. The founder of the APDT and an accomplished writer and media presenter, Dr Dunbar's influence has affected all within the dog world. **More complete Bios will appear in the next Safehands**



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Get Smart Design has merged with Woodward Communications and has adopted a new name: **Mission Creative**.

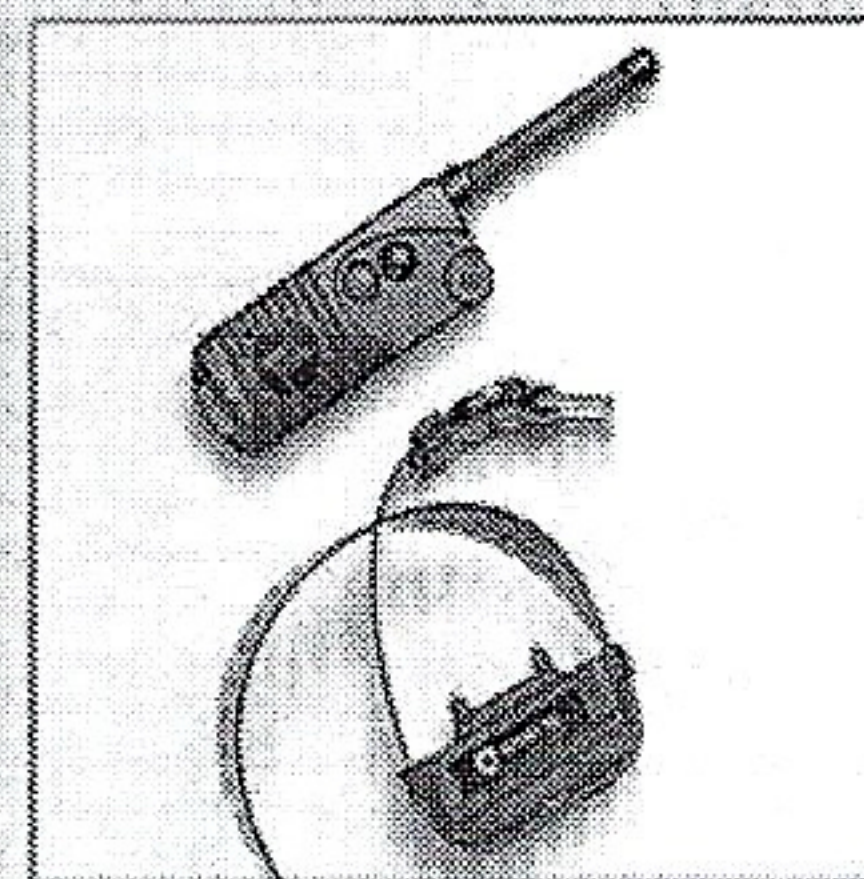
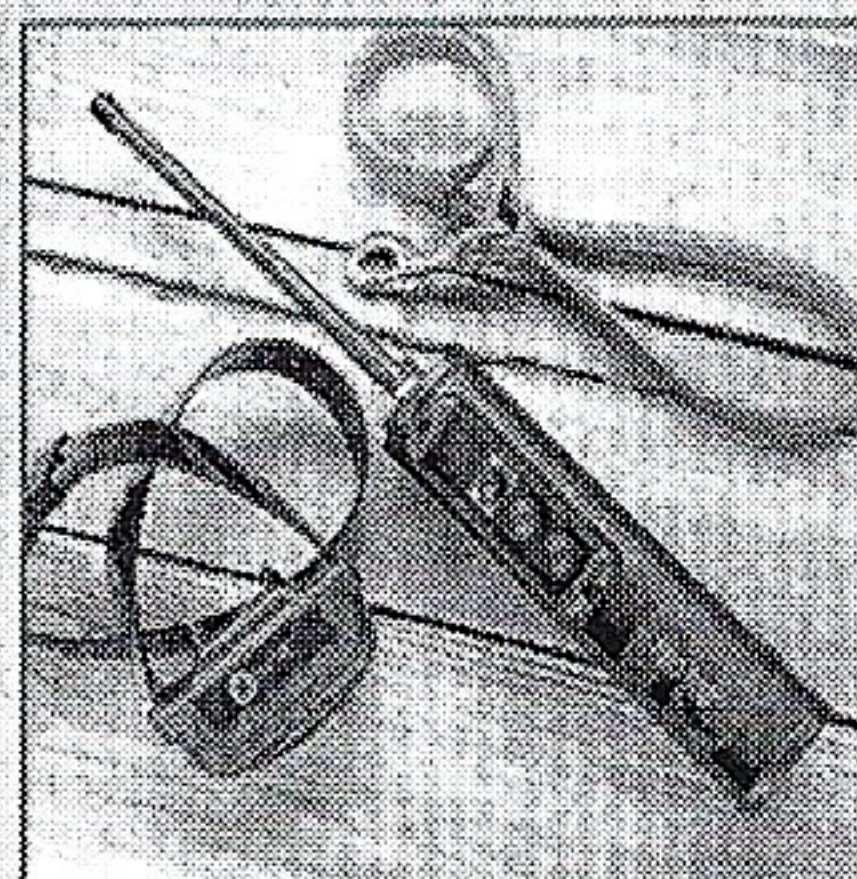
Mission Creative will continue with the development of the new IACP Web Site which is due for completion end of March. They provide a full range of creative, design and interactive services—from corporate identity and web site development to brochures and print advertising. www.missioncreative.biz



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When the Trainer Has to Make the Decision

by Marc Goldberg

I am sure there have been times when we have all turned down a client. Perhaps the expectations of the client exceed the reality of what we can accomplish. A good friend is a plastic surgeon. He tells me that he screens potential patients for realistic expectations. He does this with an eye on avoiding lawsuits. He does not care to disappoint patients.

Like my friend the plastic surgeon, I have learned to screen clients. I do not work cheap. In fact, the market niche I have selected consists of wealthy people with incredibly naughty dogs. Clients who own kitchen cabinets made out of solid cherry wood are more likely to pay my fees when the dog has eaten a \$5,000 custom made base cabinet. Even in this price bracket, not all training projects are going to turn out well. My criterion for screening canine and human clients is two-fold.

One, I do not care to work for people whose problems stem from an unhealthy relationship with their dog if they are unwilling to modify the nature of that relationship. And, two, I do not care to train dangerously aggressive dogs if I believe the best I can accomplish is to reduce the biting percentage.

Let me tell you of a recent consultation, and think about what you might have decided under similar circumstances.

Spike is a 5 year old neutered male English Bulldog. He has had over \$10,000.00 in surgery over the years for such problems as a chronic prolapsed urethra.

His owner, let's call her Karen, read an article about me in the local newspaper and called. Karen told me that Spike is a "vicious dog." This word "vicious" caught my attention because I so rarely hear an owner use it, even when the dog deserves the adjective. It is much more common for an owner to excuse her own dog's behavior rather than label it harshly.

Spike lives in the family home with Karen's husband Dave, and their 16 year old son Jeff. According to Karen, Spike has bitten every member of the family and several friends as well as attacking a neighbor's 12 year old child. Karen was able to stop the attack on the child before Spike had done anything other than rip her coat.

As Karen told me her story on the phone, she was weeping, unfocused, and constantly distracted into irrelevant stories concerning the dog's pedigree. Nevertheless, with great effort, I was able to conduct a reasonable case history by phone. I wanted to do so before entering the family home because I was very concerned to know what we were facing before putting myself at risk.

After 20 minutes on the phone with Karen, I was fairly certain I was dealing with either a slightly hysterical woman, or someone who was mentally unbalanced. I told her I was not available for two weeks and asked her to make an appointment with her vet to have any pain issues ruled out as an underlying cause of some of the aggression. I asked her to call me back when this was done.

She did call me back, having ruled out pain, and wept as she begged me to come. My earlier case history suggested that Spike was highly dominant and that his family unconsciously tried to work around his dominance rather than address it. He bit them when they bent over him, when they took him by the collar, and when they passed him in a narrow hallway; and he bit guests when they entered beyond the foyer.

I went to the appointment, leaving instructions that Spike was to be locked in the basement before I entered. Spike barked, growled and scratched at the basement door for 45 solid minutes while I conducted the rest of the case history with the entire family. He never stopped.

Here is what I found. Karen was indeed, in my opinion, not well. Her grasp of reality was altered in favor of the dog even though her hands were covered in scars, and even though she knew Spike was extremely aggressive. The husband, Dave, had a fresh wound on the back of his left thigh from a full contact bite with puncture and resultant tear. The son Jeff had his entire right arm bandaged from elbow to fingertips, due to the dog bites.

Karen wanted to save the dog even though private lessons in basic obedience with another trainer had yielded few results. Dave wanted his wife to be happy no matter what that took. And Jeff was, simply put, terrified of the dog. His mother wouldn't lock the dog up at night, he told me in private. And if he left his room to use the bath-

room, the dog would attack him.

After an hour with this family I still had not seen the dog. I knew they were traumatized not only by the dog, but also by the twisted family dynamics...a mother with limited sense of reality who wanted to buy a miracle from me; a weak willed father who told me that when a child is bad you don't kill the child; and a teenaged son who begged me in private to have the dog put down. The son's only worry was that his mother would blame him for the death of her beloved dog. To top it off, Karen had told me, untruthfully, on the phone that her son would never forgive her if she put the dog down. What a mess.

I left the house and closed the door behind me. As per instructions, the family leashed the dog firmly to the deck. Only then did I re-enter the house. In just moments I saw how Spike believed himself to be the total dictator of the home.

He was not a benign dictator. The dynamics between dog and family were among the worst I have ever seen. Stroking upon demand. Unceasing indignation for being tied. Unyielding alpha body language. It was all wrong.

Flashing through my mind was all of the above coupled with the fact that Karen had told me that cost was no object, and that she was willing to try even with no guarantees. I thought of all the ways I could really help this family to begin slowly to re-engineer the relationship even before formal training began. I thought of the behavior modification techniques I could use to change Spike's response to frustration. And I thought of the fees for this extensive job, knowing just how I would proceed with it.

Then I noticed son Jeff. He was standing far from Spike on the deck. I asked if he would walk by the dog so I could observe them. The color drained from his face. Quickly, I told him that it was ok, and to please stay where he was. His mother ordered him to move to the

dog. I insisted that he not, and that in fact the dog be returned to the basement.

I believe that with normal family dynamics I could have reduced this dog's biting pattern substantially. As it was, he would bite and bite severely 100% of the time under multiple circumstances. But if I could reduce that incidence by 90%, then he would still bite under those conditions one time out of ten. And with this family, I was certain that the best I'd be able to do was maybe a 50% reduction in biting.

I made my case for euthanasia, and refused Karen's tearful pleas for additional help. I collected my modest fee for the consultation, and Dave showed me out. As he did, he showed me deep marks in the oak molding by the bathroom door. The hair on the back of my neck stood up.

"These look like bite marks," I said.

"Yes," Dave told me, "when Spike attacked me yesterday I locked myself in the bathroom and when he couldn't get at me, he bit at the door instead."

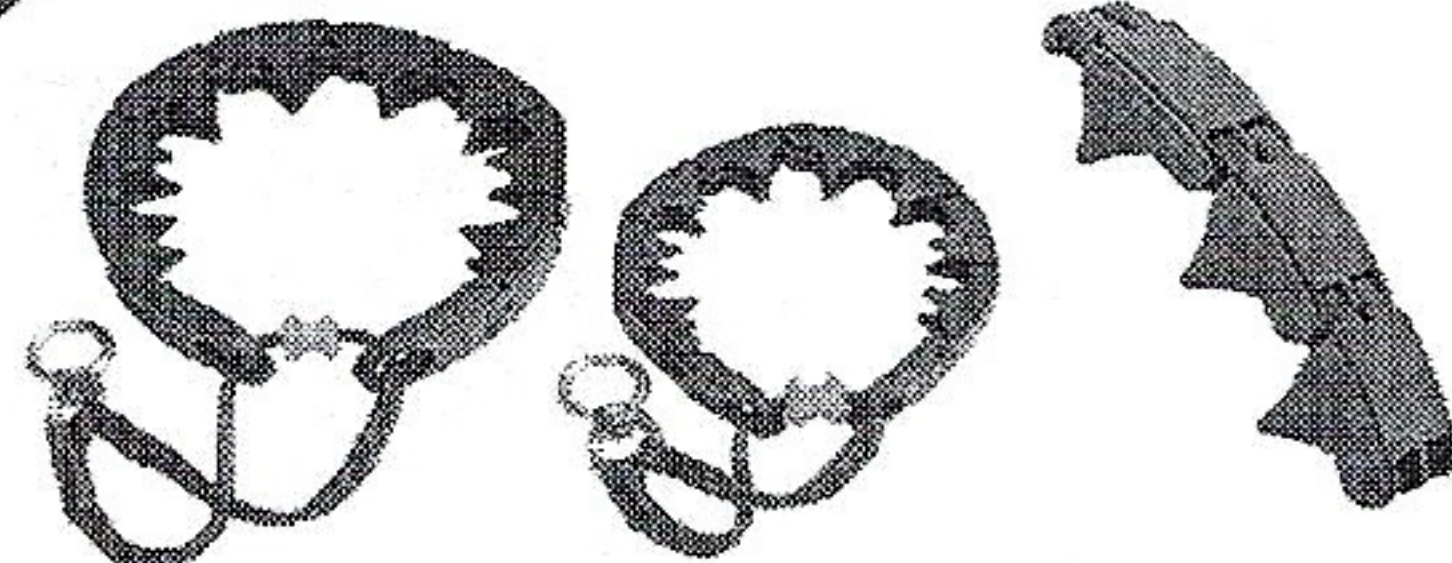
Sometimes you just don't want the money. They haven't printed enough money to make me want to risk a child. The trick is knowing when the owners aren't reasonable. That's when you have to be reasonable for them.

Marc Goldberg owns Chicagoland Boarding School for Dogs, and is proud to be an IACP professional member. His First client paid him \$5 an hour at the age of 11. Marc's first High In Trial came at age 13, when he and his Sheltie, "Gus" scored 199.5, their first time in the ring. Even more than his love for the ring, Marc enjoys training dogs for a happy home.

www.ChicagoDogTrainer.com

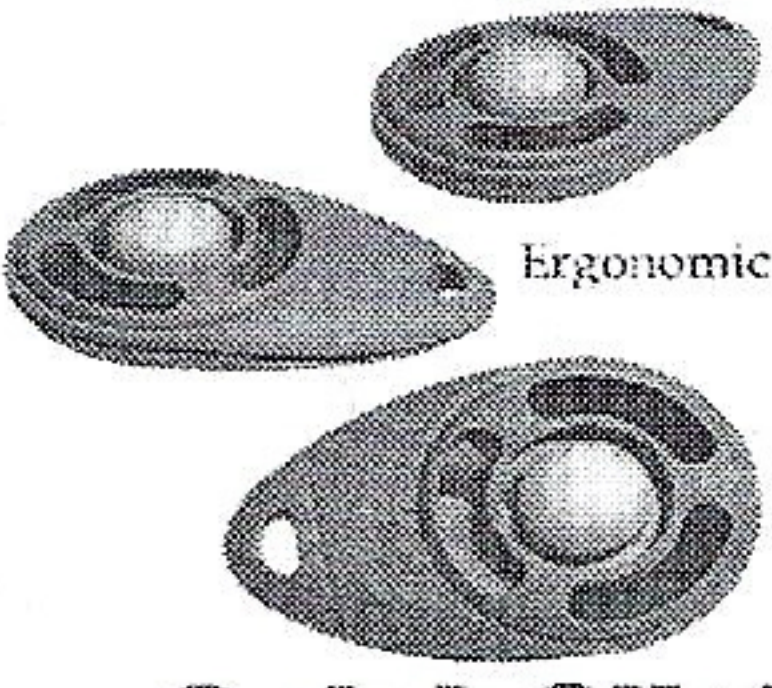
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The Influence of Personality on Behavior

By: Mary Mazzeri with Marc Goldberg

From the quiet comfort of my office, I paused from my work to watch the snow falling. "Beautiful, no two alike," I thought as my mind turned to client case histories...

Two clients each call with an identical problem. Their adult dog is highly leash-aggressive toward other dogs, going "ballistic" from a distance of fifty feet.

Should the training program be identical for both of these dogs? Perhaps, but not necessarily. How's that for a straight answer!

Still to be determined are the root causes of the behavior. And knowing how or when a behavior originates may well influence how you deal with these two different dogs. That's because some behaviors stem from an experience the dog has had, or from force of habit. Others come from deep-rooted personality traits.

Knowing precisely what you are dealing with may color how you deal with two different dogs, each exhibiting identical behavior, but coming from distinct causes. Some behaviors are a learned response to external stimuli and others begin with the dog's very personality.

You can change a dog's behavior. But you can't change his personality. At least you can't change it without breaking something essential to the dog's character. In fact, as human beings sensitized to behavioral issues, we sometimes can barely control our *own behaviors* let alone change our personalities.

"My dog is psychotic! I have just about given up. Can you help me? Is there hope?"

We receive several phone calls a week exactly like this one. The clients are in some stage of desperation, a percentage of them ready to give up the dog.

Before we proceed with the call we always ascertain the breed, sex, age and spay/neuter status of the dog. Next we simply ask what behavior problems the client is experiencing. Usually, the litany of complaints is very familiar. In fact, we can usually predict them based on the dog's breed/sex/age details. Through experience, we have learned to try and *not* speed the process along by blurting out the hit list of problems:

- 1 He won't come when called.
- 2 He jumps on people and/or knocks them down.
- 3 He charges through doors.
- 4 He eats off my tables and counters.
- 5 He barks and chews inappropriately.

Earlier, with less experience, we used to try and save time by interrupting the caller and finishing her list for her. We learned not to do that because a common human personality trait is the desire to complain when upset, coupled with a desire to receive sympathy for these complaints.

Thus, our desire to speed the initial telephone process along by "helping" the client with her list actually *slowed the conversation down* for most callers. Many dog trainers' personalities are highly solution-oriented when faced with a problem. We are not naturally called to dwell on the issue. Rather, we quickly veer toward devising a solution.

Yet many callers feel aggrieved, and although they are calling to seek a solution, a component of their personality requires them first to complain to us

and, in turn, receive sympathy for their suffering before discussing solutions. If we interrupt a caller and accurately list their problems, they still want to detail each one for us, and of course they have the need that we will listen, understand and sympathize.

So, knowing our own personalities, and how they influence our own behaviors, we curb our natural impatience, and let the callers talk. We express the fact that we comprehend them, offer sympathy and, only then, do we reassure them that we can offer a solution.

It is important that the caller feels that we have recognized their problems and concerns. Simply by summarizing their issues followed by asking "Is this correct?" you will know if they feel they have connected with you.

Frankly, we struggle with each and every call. Daily, we must restrain ourselves from presuming the caller's problems, and fight our natural inclination to skip the sympathy stage altogether. We so want to jump directly to the solution. In our heads we hear a voice screaming, "I can fix that!"

But we have motivation to inhibit our personalities in these instances. Simply stated, we sell more dog training when we let the caller do the talking at first.

So, remember those dog aggressive dogs we mentioned earlier? Both leash aggressive from a distance of fifty feet; both adult dogs? Heck let's make them both neutered males. But the similarity stops there.

Let's say that dog A is a Corgi/Terrier cross, a highly dominant and inquisitive dog who frustrates easily when restrained. When on leash, it certainly appeared that he would attack an approaching dog. His owners never let him near other dogs because the behavior started from a very young age. Yet when we met this dog we deduced that he actually liked dogs, but had an incredibly forceful, overly domineering personality. He was frustrated from first viewing another dog, both by the leash

restraint and his desire to greet other dogs on *his* terms.

Marc nearly gave this little dog's owners a heart attack by leashing him and walking him right up to his very tolerant Dobe. The client dog was making every sign that he would attack Marc's dog from a distance. Yet we were sure he wouldn't. And he didn't. As soon as he got within range to address the Dobe, he did so non-aggressively...dominantly mind you, but not in a threatening manner.

Dog B is a Standard Poodle. He is particularly mild mannered for his breed. Compared to most dogs, one might describe him as bouncy. But compared to most of his poodle brethren, we found him slightly flat in personality.

Unlike the Corgi/Terrier, the Poodle had not always been dog aggressive on leash. In fact the problem had developed only some months earlier, and the owner was very confused about why, and what to do. When the aggression first surfaced as growling, she naturally reacted by pulling her dog away from the other dogs. Rapidly, growling escalated to full-blown attempts to attack other dogs when the Poodle was on leash.

Marc met this dog with no other dogs in sight. He was a polite, middle of the pack animal, neither dominant nor overly submissive. Outside, he walked the Poodle toward his ever patient Dobe, who was being held for him by the Poodle's owner.

The reaction of this Poodle was an attempt to attack Marc's dog starting from fifty feet away, and he was serious. Marc did *not* walk this dog right up to his Dobe. He put the dogs away and sat down to talk.

Knowing that this dog's behavior had radically changed in the previous months, and knowing this dog ordinarily acceded to his owners wishes, Marc believed there was some particular cause for the problem. It did not seem to be personality driven.

In fact, it turned out that the Poodle had been going to doggy daycare for some time. While doggy

Influence of personality - continued.....

daycare is a tremendous advantage for most dogs, just like human daycare, much depends on the caregivers. In this case, rough playing dogs were turned out with mild playing dogs, and the ratio of caregivers to dogs was about one to twenty.

Our theory is that our Poodle had been attacked in daycare, and felt more vulnerable around other dogs when restrained on a leash. His owner's first reaction was to pull him away from dogs when he growled. Poodles being intelligent, he applied this knowledge and learned to become truly aggressive in order to be removed from other dogs earlier and earlier.

This was a learned behavior, one not stemming directly from a personality characteristic. The Poodle's personality was sweet and even, completely in contrast to his behavior.

So Dog A and Dog B each show the same behavior. A, however, performs the behavior as an expression of his personality. B does the behavior as a learned response to fear.

Just as our personalities influence our behavior on the telephone, so does a dog's affect his when approaching other dogs. Clients want sympathy. They *need* it. Only after they receive it can they being to process the solution-oriented information we present to them. Taking the dog's personality and behavior into account, and weighing them one against the other can only help you as a trainer.

Both of these dogs were trained to approach other dogs nicely on leash.

The Poodle, who truly would have attacked other dogs given the chance, learned very quickly to approach other dog's nicely. Marc simply treated other dogs as distractions and used attention-getting techniques to heel the Poodle past them.

Once he could do this, and it was fast, he rapidly gave up his fear that every dog represented an imminent threat. That's because he now took the time to read other dogs' body language, and thus, their intentions. When the Poodle gave up the "learned behavior," he was over it and didn't require much management thereafter.



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The Corgi/Terrier also learned to approach dogs more politely. However, it took a great deal more work and time. Knowing that the dog was frustrated about not being able to approach other dogs, Marc taught him that the quicker he settled, the quicker he'd be permitted to approach another dog. Yet just as we struggle with those phone calls, to inhibit the urge to skip the complaining and sympathy stages, the Corgi/Terrier also struggles to inhibit his frustration each time he approaches. We have learned that if we do not inhibit our impatience on the telephone, we will likely receive a negative response. Yet due to personality traits of being both impatient and solution-oriented, we struggle to inhibit. The dog knows that if he does not inhibit he will receive a correction, and his approach to the other dog will be further delayed.

Why pay so much attention to whether behavior is a learned response or merely a habit, versus an expression of personality? First, understanding the source allows you to customize the solution. While the broad brush strokes may be the same either way, the details will vary. And Mother Nature is in

the details.

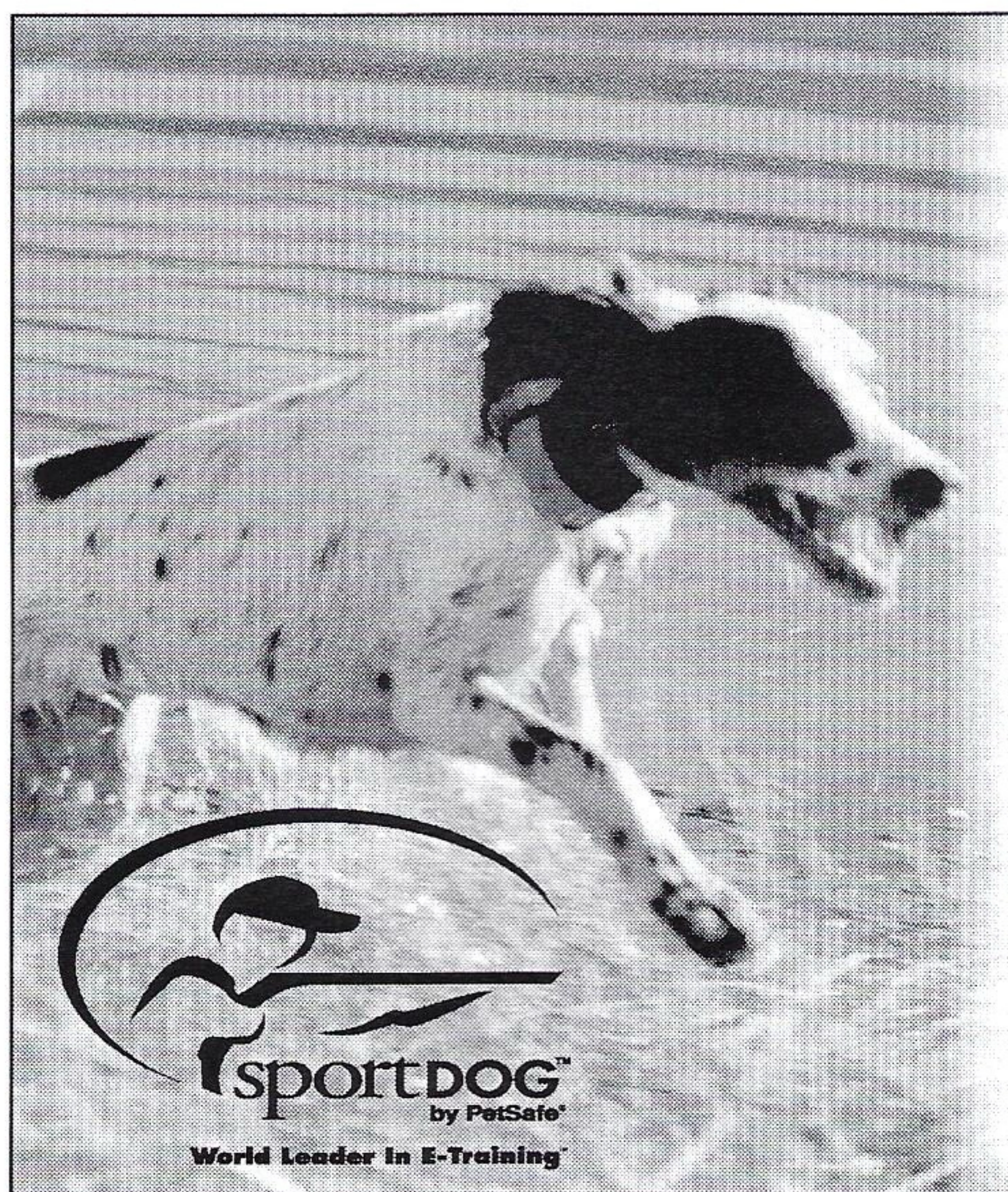
Second, behaviors that come from personality require much more management on the part of the client. While the dog can learn to inhibit, you will have a much happier client when she understands *why* she must be prepared to react when encountering dogs, when another client can now forget she ever had a problem.

Personality makes every trainer, client and dog distinct. While every snowflake may show the same "behavior" of falling from the sky, they are all wonderfully unique.

Marc Goldberg and Mary Mazzeri have corroborated on a number of writing and training ventures.

See Marc Goldberg's Bio Pg 9.

Mary Mazzeri has been the Director of Care Dog Training since 1970. She has personally owned, trained, and competed in various sports with many breeds of dogs from the sporting, working, herding, hound and terrier groups. Visit Care Dog Training on the web at: www.caredogtraining.com



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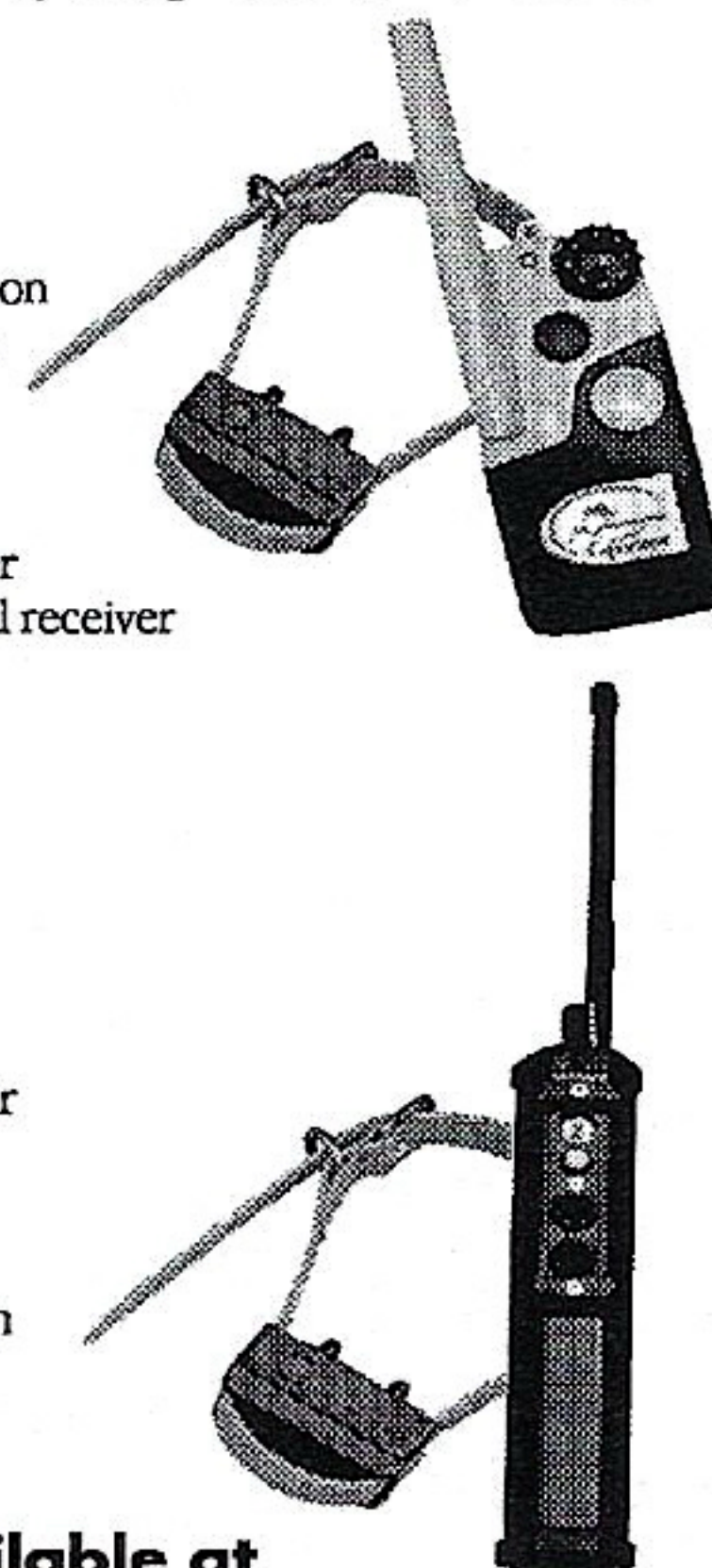
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Canine of Tubes and Textures

By: Maryna Ozuna

Remember those balloon animals from the country fair? A tube and a twist, a tube and a twist, and voila – a dog. In fact, that balloon dog is a useful image to hold onto as we take a closer look at the basic functional units of the dog. Since most of us learn our anatomy from two dimensional plates in books as opposed to three dimensional dissection, it is often confusing when we go to translate the flat of the page onto a wiggling, squirming, kissing canine companion. When evaluating the musculoskeletal integrity of a dog, it is useful to think of them as being composed of eight cylindrical balloon tubes: head, neck, body, tail, and four legs. The zone where the tubes connect (the twist in the balloon) is a complex area of critical information for canine movement. While this may sound incredibly simplistic when compared to the elaborateness of a canine muscle diagram, in fact, the relationship between the adjoining tubes and how they move in relation to one another will provide you with an enormous amount of information about the well being of your dog. In addition, thinking of the dog (or us!) as composed of a series of tubes will help your hands explore (palpate) the dog in three dimensional circles rather than just on the sides, a common practice which only gives you a quarter to a half of the picture of what is actually going on at a juncture zone.

In order to examine these regions where the tubes connect, you can use the basic pulsing touch shown on the Kinaesthetics™ website. Use your fingers softly cupped together in piano playing position. Gently apply inward pressure as shown with about two lbs. of pressure or less, hold, then release. For purposes of this discussion, we are checking for the overall profile of a region. Start at the top of each zone of connection, each ring and let your fingers travel all the way around on both sides of the juncture until they meet in the middle on the far side. You want to evaluate a number of basic characteristics. First, what does the region feel like? Is it hard, bony? Is it a place of muscle tissue? What does the tissue feel like? Think plain old

words from cooking or gardening. Is it smooth and elastic, or knotted and lumpy? Does it feel stringy or mushy? When you release the tissue does anything happen or is it immobile under your fingers. Does it go in and then not out? When you press in do other muscles jump and twitch, what we call a spasm? Does it release with a nice elastic feel? Is there heat in the region? Cold? What behaviors does your dog exhibit when you check a particular area? What behaviors does your dog exhibit when you leave a particular area and move to another part of their body? Gather as complete information as possible to use for problem solving later. I always diagram my findings on a xerox of a dog skeleton using a red marker to make an easily visible, permanent record.

Head/neck: The junction of the head and neck is anatomically referred to as the atlas joint, what Dr. Kamen, the infamous animal chiropractor refers to as the “yes joint” in the body as it controls the up/down hinge of the cranium and the cervical vertebrae. ¹ On the sides of this circle if you come slightly forward of the ear you can feel the back of the jaw or mandible. On the bottom we can feel the throat. Moving back to the top of the head/neck junction, and sliding down to the back of the ear one can feel a muscle that runs up behind the jaw, in front of the atlas bone, also called C1, the first cervical vertebrae. There should be a palpable space between the ear and the corners of the atlas bone where the muscle runs. Often there is not, or one side is substantially less than the other. The muscle(s) which run through this space can get so tight that dogs lose substantial range of motion not only in the head/neck, but in the forelimb/scapula complex as well. Slightly down and behind the ear you can feel the prominent corners of the atlas bone which is shaped like a half moon. If you trace the corner of this bone around and back in towards the center of the neck you will feel the outlines of the second cervical vertebrae (C2) or the axis bone. The junction between C1 and C2 is known as the atlas/axis joint and forms what Dr. Kamen refers to

as the “no joint” as it controls the hinge of side to side motion of the head and neck. Cradling the dog’s muzzle with one hand and setting your fingers at the atlas/axis joint with the other gently flex the head side to side to check range of motion.

What you would like to feel in all of these structures in the head/neck junction is first and foremost parity – that the spaces or knobs or bumps on one side are the same as the spaces, knobs, or bumps on the other, that the curve of muscle is the same, that the ears lay the same, that the space between the ear and atlas bone on both sides, the space between C1/C2, and the space between C2/C3 etc. is the same, that the texture is the same, that the elasticity is the same, the curve of the muscles over bone on both sides is the same. Very, very often there is not parity from side to side, with vast differences in the spaces and shapes between bones on one side as opposed to the other. For now, just pay attention and write down your findings.

Neck/body: Oh boy can this be a zone fraught with peril, a very common area for bad muscle knots. Not surprising, as regardless of apparatus, this is the area which as a result of a leash connection is a physical link between us as an upright bipedal creature, and our dogs as a moving quadruped. In the best of all possible worlds, there is still physics and geometry behind this equation. If you look at anatomical charts of the muscles in this area of the body, you will see that there is an incredibly elaborate structure of overlapping muscles. For now though, we will just worry about the feel of the ring of the neck/body junction. Start at the top of the base of the neck and check for texture. Now slide your fingers out slightly (just the distance of your fingers) and check. Continue going around the ring until your hands meet at the bottom. Note texture, parity, and particular zones of tightness.

Body/tail: Slide your hand down your dog’s body from the withers to the tail, and out to the tip of the tail. Pay careful attention to any and all behavioral responses from slight twitching to sitting to pulling away to a change in breathing to stages of

menace. Because of the large number of canine hip/pelvis problems dogs will often exhibit marked behavioral changes as you move from front to back. If you observe a response, slow your hand down and continue on, or start again from the front and slide your hand slower and lighter from front to back and observe behavioral responses. If your dog has a tail, gently flex it up and down, side to side, and then circle it lightly both directions, holding on to the dock of the tail and lifting it slightly. Again, the number of dogs who cannot freely flex at the tail is legion, not correct or true normal, but legion.

Foreleg/trunk: This is one of my favorite areas to create simple, yet profound changes in the comfort level of a dog (or other quadruped!). For whatever reason, it is not common practice for most of us to explore all the way under and around our dog’s armpits. We pet them on the outside, but not on the inside. For any dog who is at all active, and in dogs in sports, it is a given that as they condition, the muscles and tendons on the inside of the leg will strengthen. Unfortunately, because our dogs haven’t been trained to do toe touches yet, the muscles and tendons on the inside of the leg will have a tendency to contract and restrict movement at certain stages of conditioning. Regardless of the breed of the dog you should be able to get your hands up inside the front leg between the inside of the front leg and the curve of the sternum. **BUT DON’T FORCE THIS.** Because the shoulder is not a fixed joint, but a structure bound to the body by ligamentous slings, as it conditions (if not mobilized) it will have the tendency to pull the leg in closer to the body, thereby restricting movement on the inside of the foreleg. Full release involves releasing the muscles around the scapula as well as those on the inside of the front leg. For now, just feel what it feels like on the inside of the foreleg. Is it hard and ropy, or soft and elastic? Don’t worry about, “Well, I don’t know, I don’t have a standard by which to compare this.” If it feels pulled hard and tight like a banjo string, it is. Hard and tight in any athlete is a muscle that can not be used to its full potential. That is why Olympic level athletes spend so much more time now stretching as part of their conditioning program than ever before. Check

Canine of Tubes and Textures-continued.....

for space and freedom of movement. Is there space at the upper part of the inside of the leg to slip your fingers between the leg and the sternum or do you hit a square corner? Again, watch the behavioral responses as you GENTLY explore this area. If you try and softly swing the leg forward and back, how does it move...smoothly, or like a rusty ratchet that moves and catches, moves and catches? Remember, we are gathering information. Go slow, and carefully. Pay attention to your dog's feedback, don't quit, but let your hands stop and quiet for a second if you hit an area that is particularly uncomfortable for the dog.

Hind leg/trunk: Last, but not least, the juncture between hind leg and trunk. Again, it is not so much what is on the outside of this circle that is the most problematic although the thigh and hamstrings need attention as well, but the hidden areas up inside the face of the thigh; the attachment of the tendons and ligaments into the crease where the leg meets the body, the inguinal groove; and the muscles at the base of the abdominal cavity at the base of the groin that can profoundly affect movement and well being of the dog. Start your exploration on the outside of the leg. Grasp the hind leg firmly but gently with your hands and using your thumbs begin in the middle of the outside (same for the foreleg). Your thumbs will move from the center of the thigh towards the outside of the leg. Then use your fingers to explore the inner face of the leg. Go all the way up the inside of the leg to where it meets the wall of the abdominal cavity. You will feel a bunch of ropy tendons and ligaments at the top of the inner face of the thigh. The question is how ropy? How stiff or flexible are they? Is there any soft, rounded muscle development on the inside of the thigh or are the sheaf of muscles on the inside pulled hard to the bone? Even on super fit sled dogs I want to feel a distinct belly to the muscles and that the tendons and ligaments are not so tight that they are pulling the femur in too close to the body and thus creating more strain on hip joints. Now turn your fingers around and let them explore the soft (or what should be soft) curve of the back of the abdomen (behind

the penile shaft in a male dog) from the center of the groin to where it meets the wall of the inner thigh. A fit dog will have fit belly muscles, but again, we don't want them hard and striated, which I often find to be the case.

After checking all of these connections, it is my hope that you will have more information about your dogs then you ever dreamt was possible. If you get lost, or lose your landmarks, refer to the Canine Palpation Protocol at www.kubabi.com. This is just the beginning. Next issue, we will take a look at a number of techniques for softening and enhancing elasticity in all these areas.

¹. For an excellent discussion of palpation of the cranial/cervical anatomy please see Dr. Daniel Kamen's *The Well Adjusted Dog*, ISBN #1-57129-030-3. This book is a must have for your library.

Maryna Ozuna is a nationally recognized Kinaesthetics practitioner with horses and dogs. She is a Professional Member of the IACP and she will be presenting a workshop on Kinaesthetics at the 2004 IACP Conference.



Member Book Review

**“Woman’s Best Friend” written by
Babette Haggerty-Brennan**

Our very own Babette Haggerty-Brennan has just successfully written and published her first book. Well-written, easy to read and on a topic too long ignored, I just wish it had been published in a hardback version. Never let the cover spoil the contents, I say to myself, as I get comfortable in my green chair, and start my reading. It is a pleasure to find not just an author, but also a first-time author, who found a tasteful way of talking about formerly taboo topics. My hat is off to her for the writing, for braving the publishing jungle and finding a publisher willing to see her work to the print and market stage.

This book is a big deal. It covers all the topics avoided by other authors on just living with a dog if you are a woman. What do you do if you are generously endowed with a large bosom and you still want to own and train a dog? What do you do with the dog when you are pregnant, nursing, or during that time of the month? These are real questions in need of real answers. Babette Haggerty-Brennan has managed to answer them all. She has covered these issues plus an entire book full of other useful topics. For any woman considering owning a dog for the first time, this book is a must. For any woman already owning a dog, this book is still a must, if for no other reason than for its ability to confirm and validate the problems you face as a woman dog owner. For any woman who already has a long dog training history, this is still a book you want in your library.

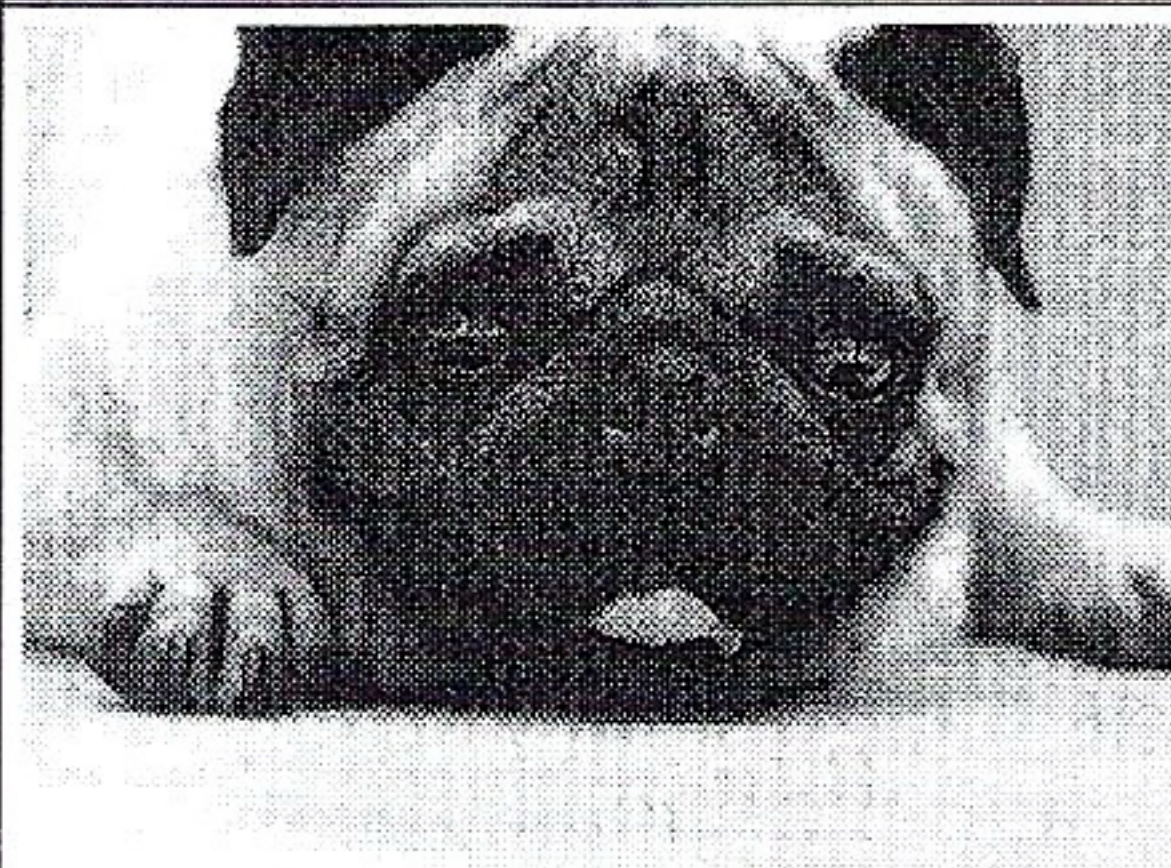
I give this book 5 stars and say to Babette, “Well done, oh yes, so very well done.”

Just heard a rumor that the first printing has already sold out. If that is true, how wonderful and I hope the second edition is on its way to the market. Readers, if you missed out on the first edition don’t be foolish enough to miss out on the second edition.

Margot Woods, Dog Trainer

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INSIDE ISABEL

By: Margot Woods

Here I sit, with the morning sun streaming over my right shoulder, thankful to have survived Isabel. Not just survived, but survived with very little damage. Isabel - the experts in such matters say she was the worst storm, hurricane actually, to hit this area in years. We are starting day three without power, I have had to postpone all lessons and training sessions until power is restored. With most of my students and clients in the same powerless boat, dog training has taken a very back seat to the business of getting through each day. Just getting from place to place has become a major chore, and traffic is snarled with not a single traffic light working for miles in all directions.

The dogs. How did the dog handle the entire storm scene? Isabel rolled in here on a Thursday and in retrospect I have to say though Wednesday was a beautiful, cool, sunny day the dogs were either very quite or very nervous. By afternoon we were seeing and feeling the leading edge of the storm in the form of high wispy clouds with gusting wind. The day care dogs were more anxious than normal to go home, while the boarders didn't wait to be called in the house. Choosing instead to wait at the door and then, rush straight to their kennels when the door was opened for them.

Overnight the wind continued to blow steadily. By morning it was fully overcast. Most surprising was that not a single dog asked to go out. Definitely not normal, early morning behavior. They did go out when I sent them and during the short time available for working dogs, those that did get worked, worked. While it is true they worked and there was no real reluctance to follow commands they were quite obviously distracted by the gusting wind and the strange, heavy feel to the air. Why work them at all, considering the circumstances?

For starters, because obedience is a habit and habits must be learned. To build a habit and then keep it strong takes much practice. The dogs here boarding are very weak in their obedience habits, which for

the most part is the real reason they are here. They need all the practice we can give them and we need to give them practice in as many different settings as possible. Granted the pending arrival of a major hurricane isn't our everyday sort of distraction but it was available so why not make use of the opportunity? Every thing that could be tied down or brought inside had been taken care of earlier in the week.

So a few dogs got worked before the rains reached us. As a matter of fact, it was the wind that put a stop to all thoughts of anything other than getting inside and making sure the last door to close was closed firmly against both wind and rain. It was barely noon when we had to head indoors. Once inside the dogs were all restless; none seemed to be able to find a comfortable spot or position. The wind blew harder. We moved from steady downpour to pounding rain. Every so often a dog or two would bark once, really more of a soft woof rather than an all out bark. We lost power about 5:30 p.m. and the decision was made to go ahead and feed everyone a little early. At the time I sort of wondered if they would eat, but elected to offer the food anyway. Sure enough every dog dove into his or her food bowl as if it was a last meal or something similar.

Eight p.m. and still no power. The rain had been pounding us for almost six hours. At this point the lack of electricity was no longer a minor, troublesome thing. Our basement leaks. So whose doesn't? However, ours leaks to the point where it needs not one but two sump pumps and three sumps. Those two sump pumps end up running about every fifteen minutes until hours after a storm in a effort to keep things dry. No electricity means no sump pumps. No sump pumps means basement swimming pool. Not acceptable, not acceptable at all. With water pouring in under the basement door and from the pipes of the French drain system, we bailed. All night long, with the wind howling and the rain pounding, we bailed.

I sat on an upturned bucket, using an old folded towel as a cushion and with a plastic beaker in hand, dipped water from the sump to a bucket. Fill two buckets and then my son, Jesse, would carry the full buckets up a short flight of stairs to the outside. Sometimes it would take him so long to dump those two buckets and get back inside that I would have another bucket almost full. We did all of this bailing and carrying by the light of a couple of flashlights and one oil lantern.

What about the dogs during all this most unusual nighttime activity? Each and every single one of them remained quiet, and curled up in a tight ball at the back of their individual kennels. Walking passed, you could pick up the flash of an eye or two in the beam of the flashlight, other than that it was almost as if there were no dogs there at all. Finally along about two a.m. the eye of the storm reached us. The rain stopped. Then wind stopped. We stopped bailing and took a rest break. We, also, let all the dogs out. The behavior was very interesting. Keep in mind; these were dogs that had been inside for more than 14 hours. They had been fed 8 hours earlier and not let out. Once they understood they were to go out, they all did the same thing. They quickly found a spot, relieved themselves, headed for the nearest puddle, lapped up a small amount of rainwater and returned to their kennels.

Point of interest, not a single dog drank from the water bucket we made available for them. Not a single dog wasted any time prior to relieving him or herself and none had to be called to come back in. Once inside not a single dog was interested in anything other than going back to their kennel

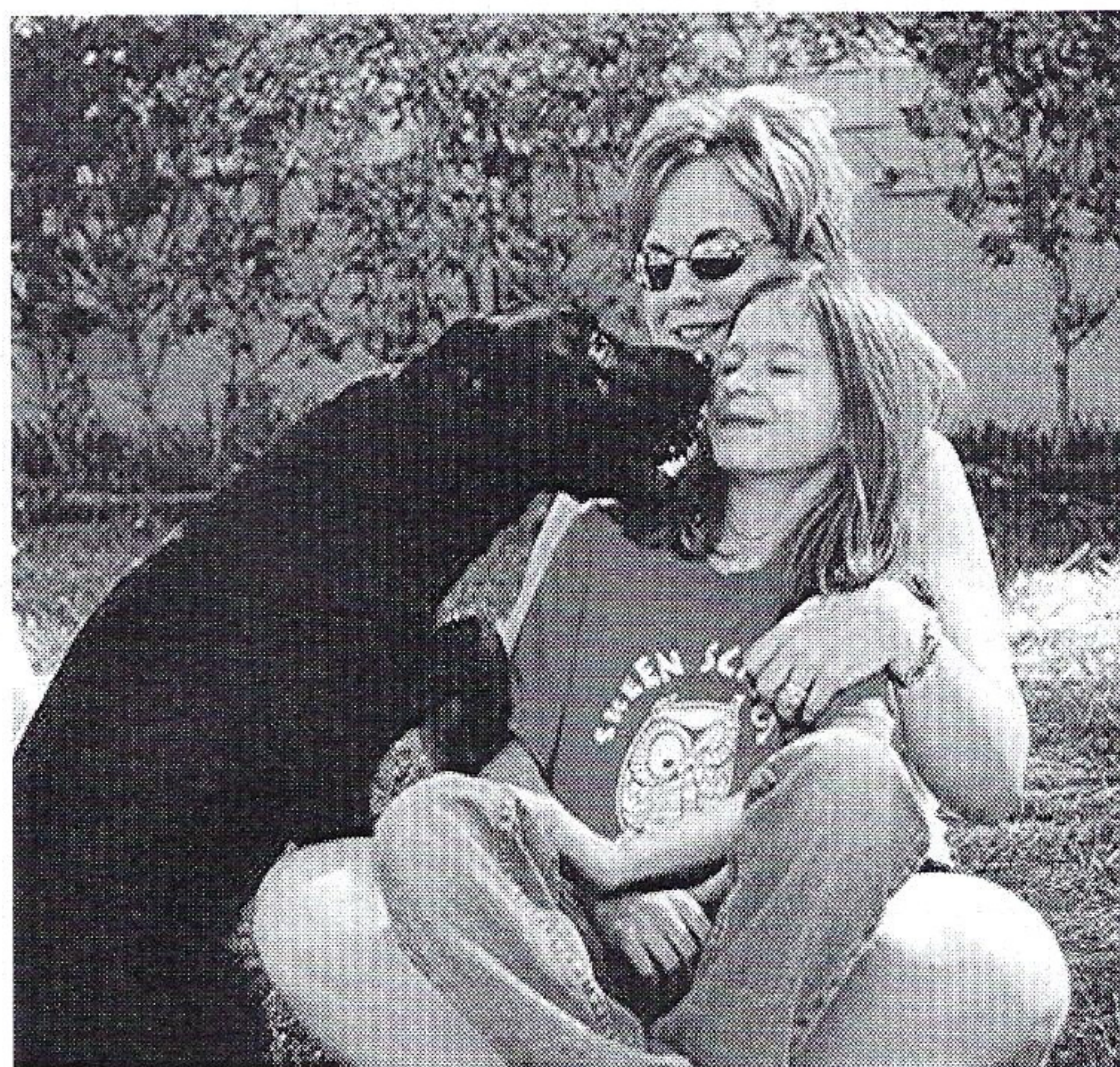
By the time the eye of the storm had passed us, the storm itself had lost most of its power. The second stage was no longer hurricane force. Mind you, severe tropical storms are not fun; it's just that after the hurricane force of the first half the second seemed calm. Finally, the rain slowed, we got way ahead of the water. By about five a.m. we were able to quit, go upstairs and fall into bed.

Eight a.m. and the ringing of the phone woke me to

sunshine and wind, wind plus no electricity. All day long people called or stopped by to check on us. The dogs? They were willing to be out for a short time and then the clouds and rain came back. All the dogs wanted to do was to go back inside in a hurry. More rain, not so much wind, but still there were some very strong gusts. The dogs pretty much spend another day curled up in the backs of their kennels.

This morning the sun shines. The air is still and calm. When I let the dogs out they went through the door with great suspicion. Once outside, joy claimed them and I think to myself what good weather forecasters they are when we but stop to watch and listen. Together we survived the storm, and though we still have no power, life is good.

Margot Woods is a trainer and writer from Maryland and a regular contributor to SafeHands Journal. Margot is always accompanied by her Doberman Service Dog lovingly referred to by all as 'Alien'.



The Importance of Breed Subjectivity When Assessing Temperament

By: Julia V. McDonough (Director Doberman Rescue Unlimited)

Cancelled insurance policies, Breed Specific Legislation, negative public sentiment about certain types of dogs, dog sports and training methods, there seems to be an ideological war on common sense regarding canine issues these days. But while it is easy to point the finger at the usual suspects of the media, politicians and John Q. Public, we must also be aware of a more insidious element in the formation of public opinion about dogs. This element is the influence of the widely accepted belief that all dogs are basically the same and should be held to exactly the same standards when it comes to issues of temperament and behavior. This homogenizing effort is best exemplified in the popular temperament tests designed for dogs in shelters and pounds which are now used by some groups and individuals who deal with the rescue of working breeds.

Rescued or Railroaded?

For practically every recognized pure breed of dog there is a "rescue" organization. Whether it is a single person taking in one or two dogs at a time or a large scale shelter facility with paid staff and officers, a rescue group exists to help the dogs which fall through the cracks. Among the services it provides to its breed of choice are veterinary care, temporary or "foster" housing, and quite often, some sort of obedience or manners training. Because the majority of rescue efforts are charitable organizations which rely on memberships and donations to support themselves, they are by necessity limited in the number of dogs which they can accommodate. Deciding which dogs are good candidates for adoption by the general public and which dogs should be euthanized can be an arbitrary and emotional decision without some sort of guideline. The temperament tests so widely embraced today were designed to alleviate the haphazard nature of that process. This in itself is commendable in theory. In practice, however, it has caused much confusion, and in my opinion, some



harm.

Those of us involved in a breed with negative publicity are quite often on the defense about our dogs' undeserved reputation. In our zeal to answer the old wives' tales we can sometimes err too far in the other direction. Many owners of Doberman Pinschers are quick to point out that their breed is comprised of lovable couch potatoes who are afraid to get their feet wet, family dogs who welcome the relentless attention of a toddler, etc. I have actually heard a person involved in Doberman rescue agree that the ideal Dobe is a "Lab with a stub tail". While realists and those with some respect for our dogs' working heritage will always speak out for common sense, the "couch potato" folks are now being encouraged in their "one size fits all" mentality about temperament via the evaluation process which is being used in some form by many rescue groups today. There are many variations of the temperament evaluation ranging from an extremely structured and well-thought out booklet to the rather arbitrary "in-house" forms which ask the evaluator

questions such as "Is this a dog you'd like to own?". Even within our own close-knit group of rescuers where I train, there are many dogs I wouldn't choose as pets but which are perfect companions for some of my colleagues, who have different standards than my own. Likewise, my favorite dogs tend to wear out the patience of many of my friends at our shelter. Should any of these dogs be passed over because one man's "hyper" is another man's "drive"?

Based on the belief that the average person who adopts a dog from a shelter is not a dog trainer, and is, in fact, the "lowest common denominator" of potential dog owner, these evaluations are meant to weed out all but the least complicated dogs. They are also used to reliably predict behavior in the adoptive home. In a general shelter and with the most popular "family pet" breeds it is an excellent tool and has helped many adopters end up with a good, sociable, easy-going dog. Also, included in the most popular booklet for shelter professionals are many of the accompanying ideas about behaviorally maintaining the dogs in the stressful shelter atmosphere are outstanding and should be followed by anyone directing a rescue organization which kennels its dogs. However, breed subjectivity is hardly given a nod, and what might pass for unusual "aggression" in a Golden Retriever seems also to be considered a capital offense in a Doberman or Chow. The test is generally administered in a single sitting, and in the tests I've examined, any failure of a particular exercise is cause to stop the test in its tracks. The term "aggression" is bandied about very freely, with all of its trendy prefixes: "barrier aggression", "fear aggression", "gender-specific aggression", "wheel aggression", and "toy aggression", to name a few. Among various instructions to the evaluator is the administration of a 15-second "hug test", to stroke the dog while he is eating and to attempt to remove a high value object such as a pig ear or rawhide bone from the dog. Responses to various scenarios in the tests are meant to be predictions of future problems, although some of the connections are tenuous at best. For example, one popular variation on the evaluation process instructs the tester to note how much time the dog spends with or apart from him as an indicator of potentially aggressive behavior. In an article about temperament testing in

the Winter 2001 issue of *Protecting Animals*, Emily Weiss, PhD states "There is no data to support that a dog who spends more time away from a tester is not an appropriate pet. In fact my research found no correlation with such a test and future behavior." Indeed, when the breed in question is either aloof or slightly suspicious of strangers, it seems given that a dog with correct temperament for its breed may pay for it with its life.

Likewise, the current requirement of heavy "socialization" with other dogs neglects to address the inherent intolerance of many adult male Dobs for others. "Dog aggression" is a common label bestowed on Dobermans in shelters and even more disturbingly, by the rescue groups which purport to understand them best. Rather than learning how to differentiate between frustration, obnoxiousness and true aggression, the shelter evaluator is to simply interpret any forward moving behavior as unaddressable, unacceptable dog aggression. Perhaps those who wish to better understand Doberman temperament should turn to the AKC breed standard, which has an instruction to the judge which reads: "An aggressive or belligerent attitude toward other dogs shall not be deemed viciousness". Of course, we should not be placing stone-cold dog fighters in the hands of novice pet owners. Nor should the owner of a belligerent Doberman simply throw his hands up in helplessness if his dog is a miserable bully to inoffensive dogs passing by. We must promote control and sound management of any dog we place or teach. But we should also recognize and respect the limitations an adult male dog of a working/guarding breed may have when presented with a similar neighbor. And above all we should educate the adopter of such a dog as to these limitations. Many adopters are relieved to hear that they really *don't* have to allow their new companion to suffer the attentions of every loose dog in the park, or to feel guilty when he responds to those attentions according to his heritage!

Based on the invasiveness of the evaluation techniques, one would assume that dogs which pass the interrogation would be complete shoe-ins; totally uncomplicated, high threshold dogs. Indeed, in her experiments with a variety of shelter dogs, Dr. Weiss was able to prove that big issues like food

The Importance of Breed Subjectivity - cont'd.

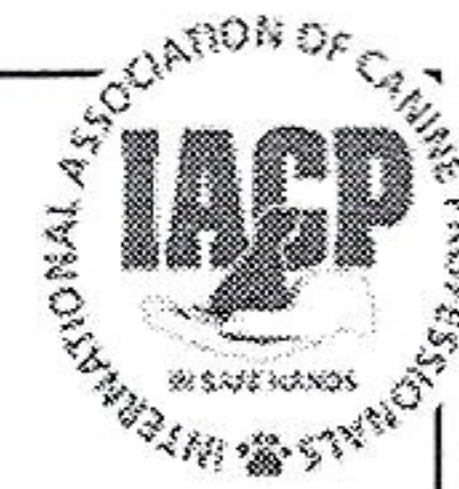
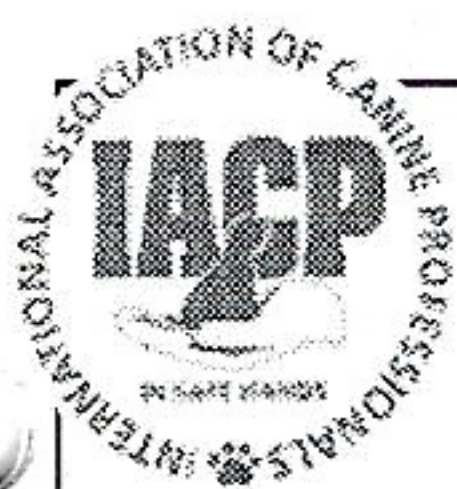
and toy guarding were reliably predicted via a standard evaluation. However, in my own work I have encountered many working breed dogs which pass the initial evaluation only to fail in the new home once they are settled and comfortable enough to assert themselves more confidently. The Dobe which tests out poorly for a total stranger in a shelter is quite often behaving as a person with working dog experience would expect: disoriented, defensive and responding to invasive handling by a stranger. However, the dog which is more accepting of its interaction with a tester may wait until it has settled into its adoptive family to throw its weight around in a meaningful way. Rather than a simple reaction to sensory overload and a natural amount of defense, the negative behavior that erupts in the permanent home speaks more of a deeply rooted pushy and possibly aggressive disposition. The family, assured at adoption that the dog is "easy-going", "kid friendly", "dog social" or what have you, is totally unprepared for this development. The placement organization, restricted by time, lack of funds and inexperience, is unable to offer any meaningful help and is usually quick to advise returning the dog. And who could blame them? After all, they can't afford to have an "aggressive" dog out there with their name on it. One may assume that the dog is euthanized. The rescue group assures itself that they must have "missed something" and adds another few tests to its evaluation process. Meanwhile, the family is emotionally trashed and can now offer empirical evidence in support of the "they turn on their masters" mentality. And more proof has been provided for the shelter professionals who are warned that adopters are not able to problem solve.

Even when the adoption works out beautifully there may be a potential bit of damage to the big picture. The adopters of a laid-back "goofasaurus" Doberman which suffers the attentions of all comers, human, canine and feline, are now "experienced" Doberman owners. If the next dog they adopt is a bit more limited in his ability to accept anything that happens to him, they may be in for quite a surprise. Because it is outside their realm of experience and is straying from the definition of acceptable temperament learned from

the experts at the shelter, the dog is given an armchair diagnosis of "hyper" or "dominant" and is deemed a defective animal not suitable for pethood. One of the most frequently voiced comments we hear when we get a dog turned in by owners who are overwhelmed with its behavior is along the lines of "Our last Dobie was nothing like this one!" Again, the popular mentality which paints all Dobs with a brushstroke of instability and handler aggression is simply being replaced by the one which assures us of the Dobe's inherent softness and tolerance for careless handling and little training. That it is being supported institutionally by rescue and humane groups should cause anyone involved with this brilliant and multi-faceted breed to step up to the plate. Check into your local breed rescues and find out what they are representing as acceptable temperament, and how they have come to their standards. Ask about the screening process for adopters and foster homes. Many applicants to Doberman rescue groups have expectations which would be better met by Beagle, Golden Retriever or Greyhound rescue! If you can, offer to help develop more meaningful, breed-subjective evaluation techniques and to assist in the follow up training of adopted dogs. The vast majority of rescue groups truly have the best interests of the dogs in their care at heart. While some groups or individuals will resist hearing anything outside of their accepted belief system, most will welcome the experience and educational opportunity a "real world" trainer brings to the table.

In his article "America vs. Europe" (*The Doberman Quarterly*, 1998), the internationally respected breeder and judge Ray Carlisle advises Doberman breeders on the issue of correct Doberman temperament: "Rather than run away from our responsibilities because we might not understand them fully, we should embrace them by educating ourselves. If you love the breed, preserve and protect it." Those of us involved in the rescue and rehabilitation of these special dogs would do well to heed that advice, also.

Julia McDonough is a Director of Doberman Rescue Unlimited in New Hampshire and a Professional IACP Member.



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(Pre-Conference Workshops - March 25)

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SPEAKERS & TOPICS

Thursday March 25th:

Maryna Ozuna

Getting In Touch: Kinaesthetics canine therapy

Carolyn Scott

Partners in Rhythm: Canine freestyle workshop

Friday March 26th:

Pia Silvani

Feisty Fido's: Reintegrating them into canine society

Tom Pirnie

Huh? What Did He Say?: Neuro-linguistic programming and increasing your businesses success

Carol Gurney

7-Step Heart Talk Program: Introduction to animal communication

Barbara De Groodt

And the survey says...A look at what our humane societies and rescue organizations really want from us.

Saturday March 27th:

Donald McCaig

Starting Right with Sheepdogs (includes a live herding demonstration)

Jeff MacFarlane

Proven Identity: Branding your business in today's visual society

Aggression Round Table

Round table participants to be announced

Therese Backowski-Dawson

Death Row Dogs

Sunday March 28th

Triple Crown Academy and Event Center

Training with Balance: A common sense approach to training pet dogs and their owners

Jack Shuler

Think You Can Run From the Law?: Mantrailing and its practical application for today's society

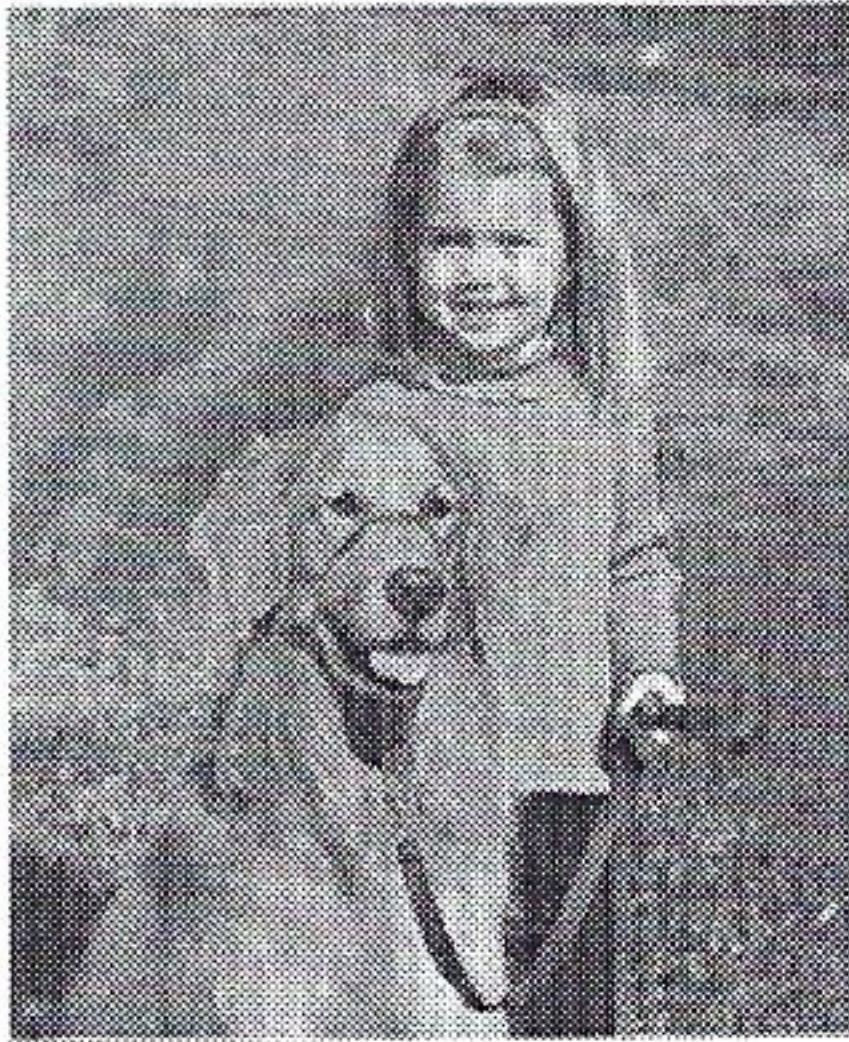
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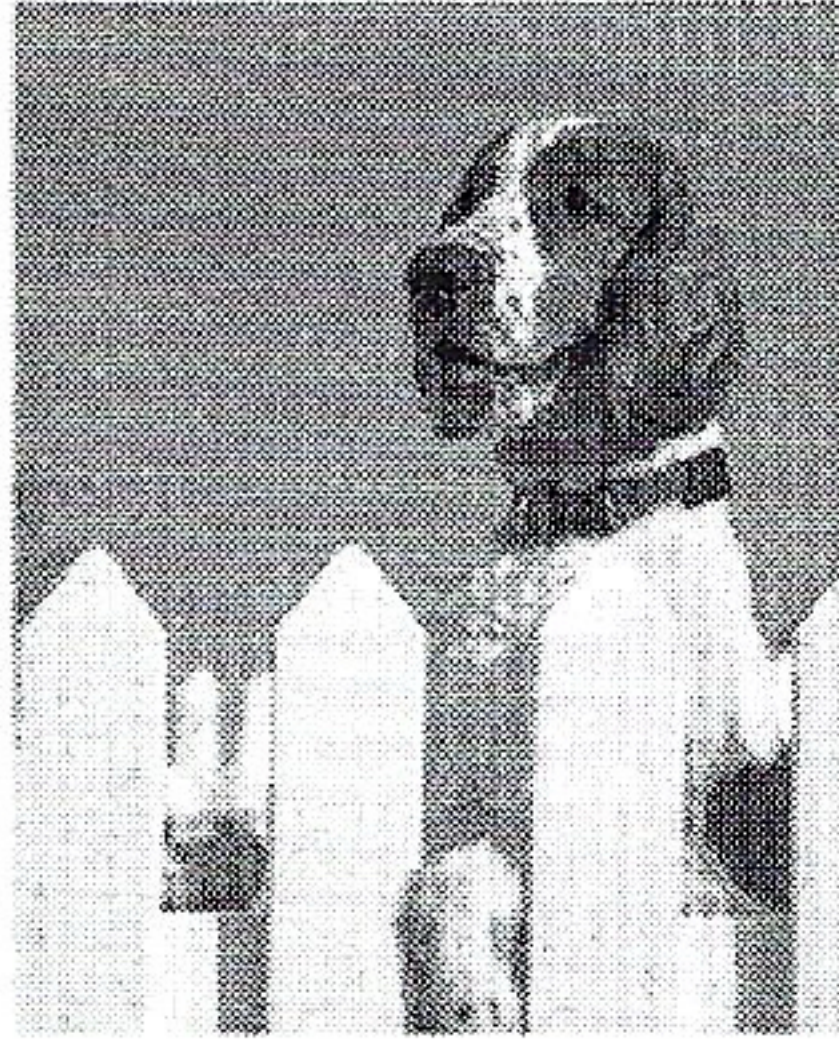
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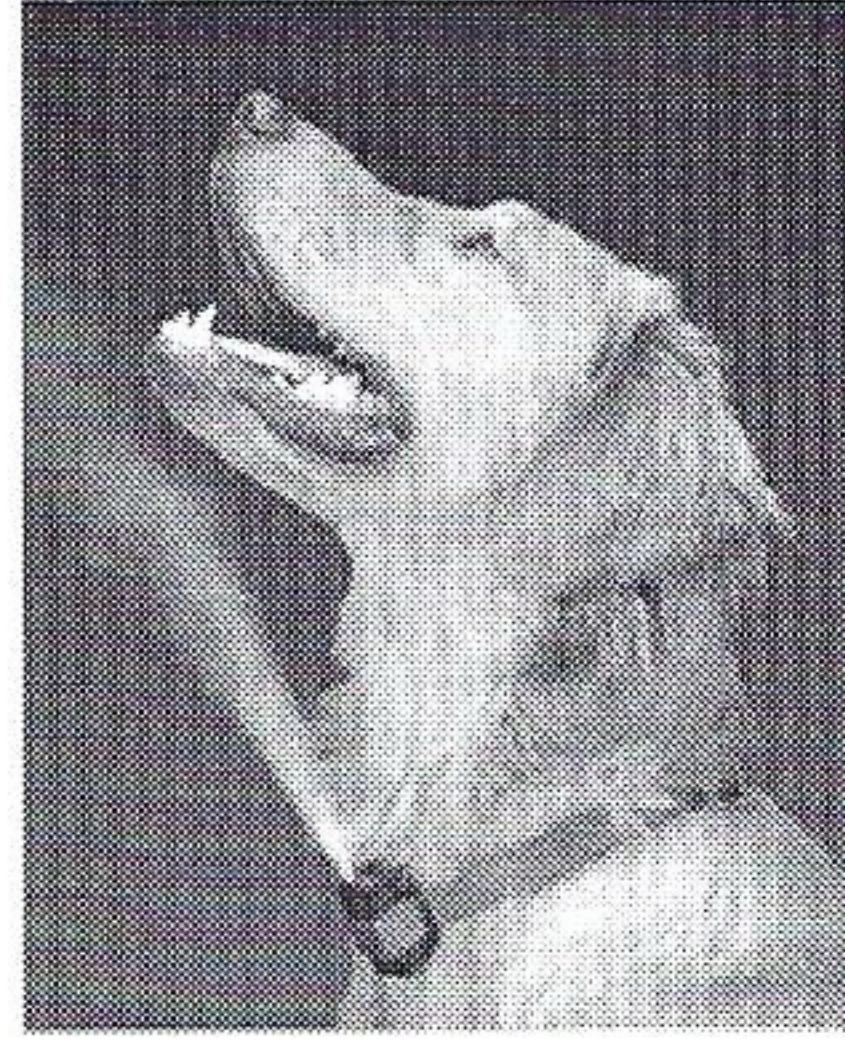
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