

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

How to Join IACP

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.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER - Less than 5 years experience as a canine professional but practicing as a professional. Can use the IACP name and logo on business materials. May not vote.

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, volunteers, part-time, and devotees of canine-related occupations. Cannot use the IACP name or logo for business purposes and may not vote.

Annual Fees:

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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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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am still reeling once again from four days of real togetherness at the IACP Annual Conference. The Conference Committee under Director Robin MacFarlane had put together a wide variety of speakers to bring new ideas, thoughts and opportunities to those attending. Everything from the importance of building an identity for your own business, to the fun of dancing with your dog. From how we can help and support society and dogs through their work as therapy dogs to rehabilitating those who have lost their way and in doing so give some dogs a chance for life through penitentiary dog training projects. From the magic touch of kinesthetics to the mind power of canine communication. This conference gave us so many aspects of dogs to think about, learn and enjoy.

Triple Crown Academy and Event Center provides the perfect setting for this annual event. Delegates and their dogs (over 50 dogs attended this year) are made to feel at home and part of the Triple Crown family. The Academy presentation showing how every tool and method can be used to bring on a great dog epitomized what IACP is all about.



Patriotic at the Conference

For me the presentation which really had my mind reeling was from Carol Gurney on Canine Communication. A gundog 'bubba' and very skeptical regarding such aspects of science fiction, my mind was well and truly broadened as there were far too many realities coming out of my telepathic conversations with a stranger and a dog.

We have always stated that we are not a one method, one approach group among the trainers within the Association. Pam Henry presented the results of her survey of members and proved this to be correct. It was a fascinating analysis of statistics and information showing how diverse we all are and how we as an Association can help members and companies within the dog world to identify strengths and weaknesses. A report of these findings will be published in a future Safehands Journal.

For the first time the conference was videoed and we will be bringing you information on the availability of the DVD's of the presentations and workshops in the near future.

First time attendees marveled at the atmosphere, the friendliness and the openness of the conference and fellow delegates. Even those who were expecting something slightly different were heard to comment how welcome they felt. And this is the way it should be. This is the way the IACP should be and this is the way we should make everyone who reaches out to us feel. The conference was attended by a large number of newcomers to the professions as well as the 'old dogs' like myself. These are our future and the future of the business. It really was an inspiration to watch as new and old got into deep discussions on differing aspects of the professions and how they debated and learned from each other. All attendees wanted to learn and all wanted to share and more than that, all showed they wanted to do so in the most professional way.

New friends were made, friendships that will last for a lifetime. Old friendships were strengthened but more than that the IACP showed once more that we can all meet and join together irrespective of philosophies, approaches, equipment and methods and share in an atmosphere of togetherness.

Martin Deeley—President and Executive Director



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

The Anxiety Wrap™

Development and Multiple Uses
by Shereen D. Farber, PhD, OTR, FAOTA

Susan Sharpe and Kimberly Ring, both Midwest Tellington Touch Practitioners, created this product based on the body wrapping method used by Linda Tellington Jones. Tellington-Jones employs elastic bandages wrapped in a crisscross pattern on the dog's trunk. The wrap can assist in calming distress, controlling hyperactivity, increasing attention and focus, improving body awareness, enhancing movement ability in arthritic dogs, and decreasing exaggerated responses to noise and motion sickness. I had been using elastic bandages and other equipment that produced maintained pressure over specific body surfaces for 35 years. Humans, canine and equine clients all demonstrated positive adaptive responses to this approach. I found elastic bandages effective but difficult to apply and fit quickly making them less practical for exhibitors with little time to prepare a dog for its performance. I discovered The Anxiety Wrap™ web site in August 2002, while surfing the net and wrote to Susan Sharpe. Susan and Kimberly Ring were in the process of writing an article on their wrap soon to be published in *The Whole Dog Journal*. They wanted to include a theoretical section that presents the putative mode of action for the wrap on the dog's nervous system. Within days of our initial communication, we met to exchange information and to share techniques.

The Neurophysiological Rational for The Anxiety Wrap™ and Tellington-Jones Body Wrap: The purpose of the sensory receptors located throughout the body is to report the status of the animal's world, both internal (organs, muscles, joints, connective tissue) and external (from the nose, eyes, ears, skin) to the brain. The brain integrates all incoming sensation, interprets its significance and then activates appropriate body systems. There is a constant feedback inter-

action between the brain and body to fine-tune responses. Touch is one of the earliest sensory inputs to develop and has a profound effect on the animal's development including awareness, consciousness and survival. Every effort must be made to nor-

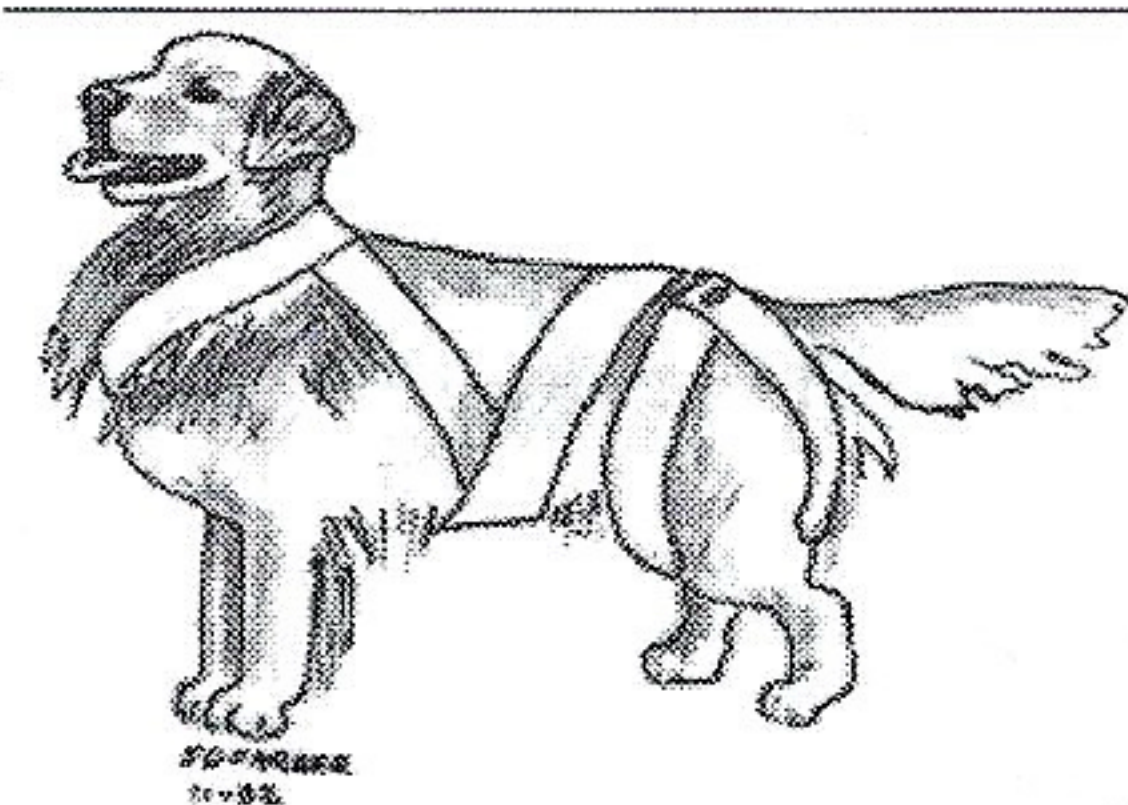


Figure 1

malize touch responses. Many factors can influence how easily sensory receptors fire sending their messages to the brain. The brain and spinal cord are called the Central Nervous System (CNS). In addition, there is an Autonomic Nervous System (ANS) that maintains all the body's vital functions. The ANS has two divisions, the sympathetic nervous system (the energy production and expenditure system) and the parasympathetic nervous system (the energy restoration system). When an animal is stressed, the sympathetic division takes over and sends neural messages to receptors to lower

the amount of sensation required to produce a response. This action helps ensure survival by reporting potential danger to the CNS. The CNS allows the animal to flee or fight as appropriate. Damage in the CNS, its communicating nerves, chronic pain or stress can all lower the threshold of sensation needed to fire the sensory receptors. This explains why some abused animals, or those experiencing pain, are aversive to being touched. In theory, maintained pressure acts to calm the sensory receptors by slowing their hypersensitivity. Remember that a chronically stressed dog also perceives potential injury when there may be none. As a result, his "guard is up," which is another way to say his sympathetic nervous system has taken over.

The elastic wrap or The Anxiety Wrap™ exert maintained pressure that causes a decline in the sensitivity at the receptors; however, the adaptation at each receptor may

vary with the intensity of the stimulus and the area of the body being stimulated. Some areas are far more sensitive than others. For example, the mouth area is highly sensitive with lots of receptors per unit space, while the animal's back is less sensitive.

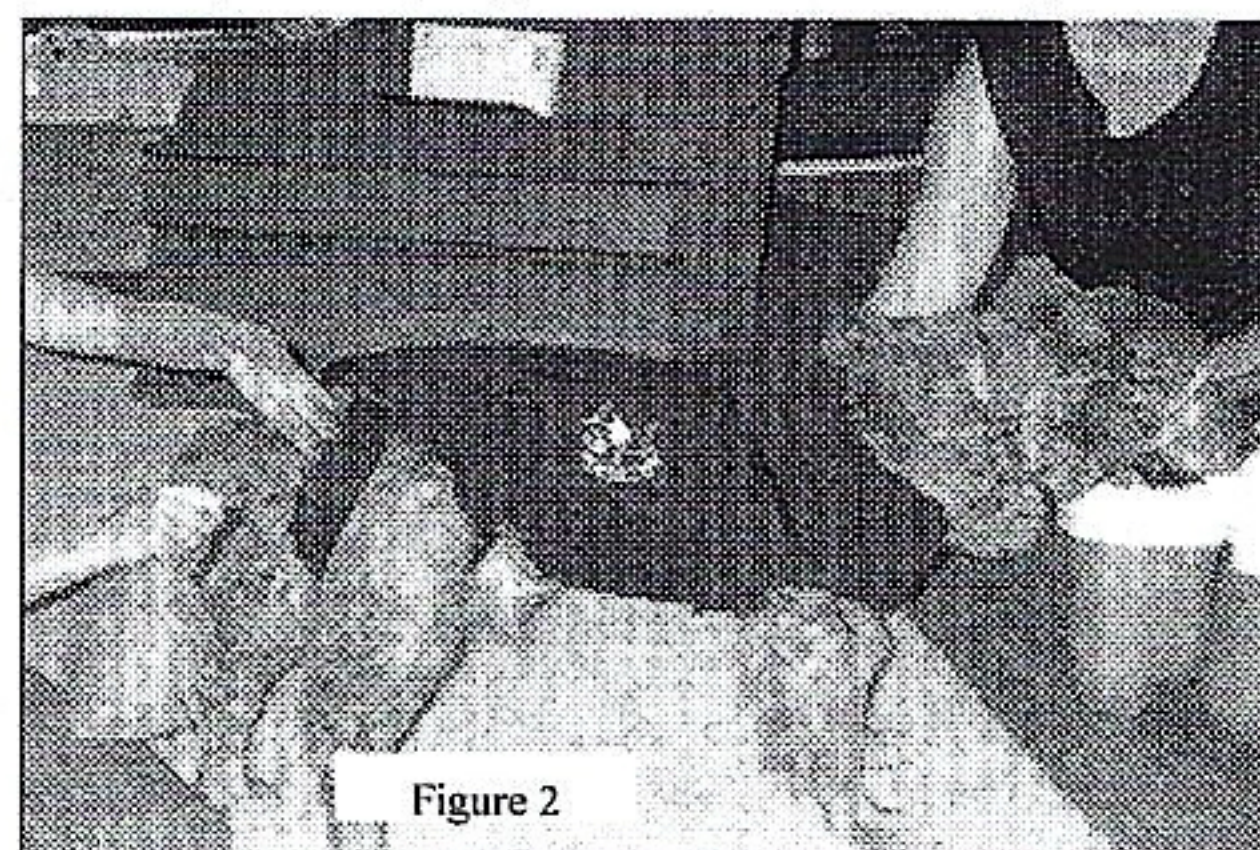


Figure 2

The Many Uses of The Anxiety Wrap™: My rescue dog, "Miles" was fitted with the wrap by Kimberly and Susan (Figure 2). Miles has a pathological fear of thunderstorms and having his nails cut. He has bilateral damage to his rear stifles, thoracic vertebrae problems, and a lack of awareness of where he is in space. While wearing the wrap, Miles can negotiate our stairs with increased coordination. So far, I have not seen carry-over to his coordi-

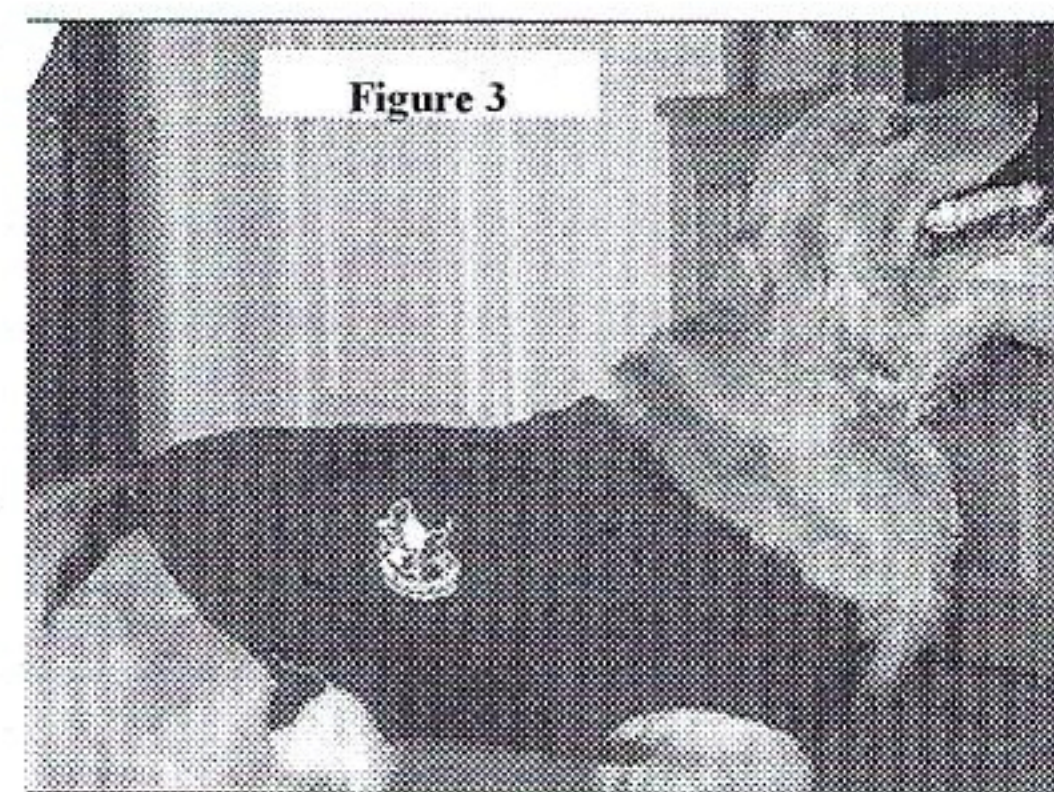


Figure 3

nation when he is not wearing the wrap. When I know that a storm is approaching, I place him in his wrap. Recently, he slept through a thunderstorm, something that has never happened before. Before trimming his toenails, I put him in his wrap for 30 minutes. Initially I would apply TTouch over his wrap for about 10 minutes and then trim one toenail, being sure to make it as



Figure 4

THE DOG IS FINE, BUT THE PEOPLE ARE CRAZY!

By Marc Goldberg

To be a good dog trainer, one not only has to intuitively understand dogs and all their complexities, but don't we have to have some similar ability with their people? Yes, we do.

How many times have you been called to work for people who literally CAUSED the unhealthiness within the family/dog relationship? You know, the one where the dog is just fine; when you get there. You "read" the dog, and she tells you, "You know I'm normal, but what is WRONG with these people?!"

What do you do then?

You don't have to fix the dog. You have to fix the people.

The caller was a young woman, about 25 years old. Her female Soft Coated Wheaten terrier was one and a half years old. The dog traveled with her constantly between her apartment, and the boyfriend's whom the Wheaten had known since puppyhood.

"If she doesn't stop peeing on my boyfriend's \$5,000.00 Chinese carpet he won't let me bring over the dog anymore. And he already wants me to get rid of her," she said.

I just listened as she continued.

"And my problem is that my boyfriend, well I'm pretty sure he's the ONE. I mean I really love him and I would hate to have to part with him."

"Her, you mean," I corrected, knowing she meant the dog.

"No, HIM," she repeated. "Of course I won't get rid of the dog. I would just hate to have to get rid of HIM."

"And oh," she added, "She also pees on his \$1200.00 duvet."

I'm thinking a couple of things. First, what man has a \$5000.00 Chinese carpet and a \$1200.00 duvet? In fact, what man even knows what the word "duvet" means? I quoted her \$100.00 to come give them a consultation, and insisted they both be present with the dog in the boyfriend's apartment.

When I got there, and don't ask me to explain this beyond the fact that I could see it in her eyes, this Wheaten told me her story.

"I'm fine," she said. "I'm a normal dog. I'm a little tender hearted soul though. And these people, well I love them beyond your human comprehension, but they are crazy. I'm

so confused. Do something with them, would you please?"

She told me all this within two minutes of entering the home. So I petted her by way of thank you, and sat down on the couch with the couple, ignoring the dog.

I began to talk.

The couple began to fight. I tried diplomatically to intervene in their conversation about who's fault what was, and what was wrong with this dog. They ignored me, fully engaged in the argument.

"People," I clapped my hands. "I charge \$100.00 an hour for dog training. But marriage counseling costs \$200.00 an hour and takes longer. What do you want me to do here?"

They fell silent. I asked a few questions and they answered. I made her go first to every question from her perspective. Then it was his turn. Neither was allowed to interrupt the other. When I finished with them I realized that this dog was trapped between an overly empathetic mother and an overly harsh father. Talk about living in an inconsistent situation.

A stouter hearted dog would have laughed them off. But this Wheaten was a tender soul, and it would have eventually broken her down to live under such stress. It had already started.

"You," I said pointing at the young woman, "are no longer allowed to coddle this dog with constant unearned stroking, kissy face noises, and sympathy for bumps imagined or real."

The boyfriend looked triumphant. I knew he would. I built him up for it in fact.

"And you," I said, locking eyes with him, "are no longer allowed to even look at this dog."

He said nothing. Crestfallen. He waited for me to continue. I did not.

"Whaddya mean," he finally asked.

"Just what I said. You are no longer allowed to look at this dog. At least not directly in the eye. Not for at least a month. And after that month, if your anger level at your girlfriend has melted away, you may interact with the dog again. But if you resume that 'I'd Like To Strangle You Vibe' again, I'll be back and my fee will be the \$200.00 an hour I quoted you before.

Now they were both silent. And abashed.

"Finally," I said, "you are to keep the bedroom door closed for one

The Anxiety Wrap™ - Contd

positive an experience as possible. Now I can trim all his nails and he remains calm throughout the process. Figure 3 shows another of my Goldens modeling The Anxiety Wrap™. With this dog, I use the wrap for warm-up before field training. It seems to improve both his attention and focus. Several weeks ago, I had him in the wrap while sending him to retrieve a bumper. A man came up to the field with his lab and laughed at me. He asked if I had my "swamp collie" in a doggie coat to keep the burrs out of his hair? When he saw the logo on the dog's coat (Figure 4) he asked me why I was sending an anxious dog out after a bumper. I just laughed then explained about the wrap. Sharpe and Ring say that the wrap is helpful with: hyperactivity, destructive chewing, barking, fear biting, car sickness, sensitivity to touch, generalized calming, reducing jumping, leash pulling, and aggression. You may have other ideas for its use. Research is planned to test the effectiveness of this product in controlled studies.

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1. L. Tellington-Jones, *Getting in TTouch With Your Dog, A Gentle Approach to Influencing Behavior, Health, and Performance* (North Pomfret, VT: Trafalgar Square Publishing, 1999, pps. 82-85.
2. S.D. Farber, *Neurorehabilitation, A Multisensory Approach* (Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Co., 1982) pps. 126-128.

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The Dog is Fine - Contd.

month, blocking her access to that duvet. And use cardboard cartons for that month to block her access to this carpet." I pointed to the rug under my feet, undoubtedly woven for hundreds of hours by underfed children from some remote mountain village.

"Call me back in a month and let me know if I need to come back for any more of your money."

I pocketed the money I had been pre-paid, said goodbye to the dog. And left. In a month she called back.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you. The door is open, the cartons are gone, and Muffy is so much better now. And don't ask me why, but the boyfriend and I are getting along so much better too!"

Marc Goldberg is a proud professional member of IACP. He really does like people. Partly he trains dogs so the people can be happier. But mostly he trains so the dogs can live happier lives with more liberty and less conflict.

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CLIMATE CONTROL: TIPS ON HOW TO 'HEAT UP' YOUR BUSINESS

By Mary Mazzeri - Care Dog Training

It was 96 degrees outside but the hotel meeting room was cold enough to chill wine. Several of us attending the seminar decided to do something about it. We found the thermostat control and discovered that it was set several notches past 'high cool'. The trouble was, we could not do a thing about it because the control was locked behind a glass case. We finally called the hotel manager at the front desk. He located the maintenance man, who unlocked the box and set the temperature control to a reasonable level. It took awhile but eventually the room returned to a point where we could forget about the 'indoor weather' and focus on what we were supposed to be learning at the seminar.

What has this got to do with running a dog-related business? Well...

Have you ever found yourself in a 'too cold' or 'too hot' situation totally distracted by your physical or emotional discomfort? I'm sure most of us could answer affirmatively. What is your client's first impression of *your* business? Remember that it is the client who pays our salaries? When they come to visit your business are they comfortable in your facility? Not only in terms of the temperature but also the appearance. If indoor, is it clean, neat, well lit and safe? Are repairs in order? Maybe it's not in the budget to redecorate but we can all keep things neat and tidy. Are outdoor areas attractive, maintained and safe? Whether you run dog training group classes, private sessions, board and train- whether for obedience, field or other performance training, stand back and take a look at what you have from the eyes of a prospective client. Perhaps it would be better to ask a friend to do this for you more objectively. If you run a veterinary clinic, pet shop, grooming salon, or day care, what is your clients first impression? Is it sanitary? Organized? Conducive to healing? Does your set up and staff give your client the confidence to entrust their pet to you?

Because we are primarily in the service industry we will benefit by being like that maintenance man and controlling the 'climate' of our businesses. There is a need to interact respectfully and engagingly with our human client—the ones who pay our salaries and/or buys our goods. Zig Ziglar, a noted speaker and motivator says, "You can get what you want in life if you help enough other people get what they want." Is your business service-oriented? Do your clients go away satisfied enough to tell their friends and neighbors about how great their experience was at your place of business? Word of mouth referrals are the most powerful repeat and new business builders.

George walks into "Finishing School for Fido" with "Molly, the Springer Spaniel, and looks around a well-lit, clean smelling training hall. An attractive display holds neatly arranged leashes, collars and other dog training supplies. The flooring surface is covered with non-slip matting and training areas are clearly divided by expandable gates. Judy, dressed in khaki chino slacks and a navy blue polo shirt with the School logo. She walks up to acknowledge George's presence, put him at ease, and direct him to the proper training class area...

In the physical setting we can optimize our clients experience by presenting a visual picture that allows them to react positively to the environment. In a pet shop, rows of neatly organized goods are most appealing and bright lighting draws the eye to colorful displays. When the client walks into your veterinary office, kennel, grooming shop or training hall, does it smell fresh? Look clean?



Plan ahead and have protocols in place to train your staff to be helpful and courteous to purchasers/clients. Is the consumer quickly acknowledged when they enter by friendly staff and made to feel welcome? Is that staff member well groomed and dressed neatly? Have they been taught the essentials of their roles in your business? Are they well qualified for their jobs? It is your job as the business owner/manager to educate them to be knowledgeable in their area of responsibility. While employees basic personalities are usually 'as is' when you decide

Climate Control- Cont'd

to hire them, you can interview and pick the best. From there those selected can be exposed to such great people-skill building writings as "How to Win Friends and Influence People" by Dale Carnegie (the latest issue 1998 is available in paperback.) This is a great book to read for yourself if you've never done so. Developing effective 'people skills' does take ongoing effort.

Be aware that you 'set the temperature' for your business. You will be the primary model of the visual and verbal interaction expected between your employees and your clients. Your exemplary behavior will set the tone for your business. You can bless your customers with patience, encouragement and good humor or you can be short tempered, talk down and belittle them. The first pattern pays big dividends the latter will put your business on ice.

As an individual, you can be very skilled as a trainer, groomer, vet or kennel manager, but it is also knowing how to control the climate of your business environment that will ultimately determine the first impression and ongoing climate of your business.

Mary Mazzeri is an IACP Professional Founding Member. She is also a member of NADOI

Care Dog Training Carpentersville, IL.

IACP BOOK



Tales from the Archives

IACP is working together with our Professional and Associate members on a new book project. The contents of this book are to be the most fascinating, difficult, or just plain interesting dog experience each member has had in their career. This could run the spectrum from animal control, veterinarian, trainer, or whatever professional dog case study you may have. The aim of the book is to educate, inspire, and entertain.

The project will be a "labor of love" that will be created from contributions from many members, not just one person. Gina Hayes, Katie Tracanna, and Elizabeth Hayes of Just Dogs Training Center will be compiling various studies or stories that we want you to send to them. In the near future they will be sending each professional member a letter asking for submission of photos (good enough to print), stories and studies.

Want to write? Like to be published? This is your opportunity to put down on paper that fascinating experience, the learning event or just the fun you had on a specific occasion. For more information and guidance contact Gina at (508) 760-3377 or email her at heartnsoul7299@hotmail.com.

If you are interested in providing assistance with this project, Gina will be delighted to hear from you.

GINA HAYES (508) 760-3377

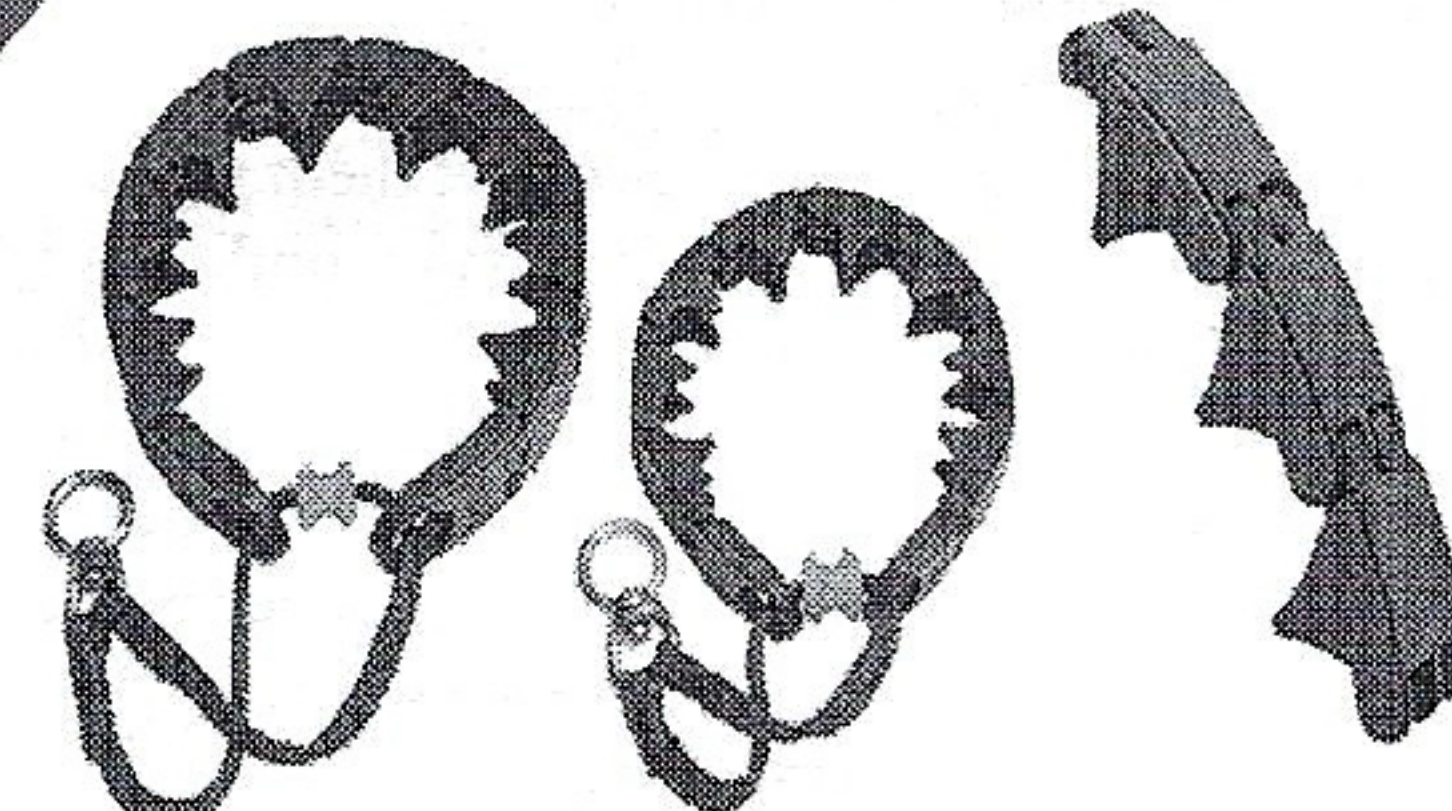
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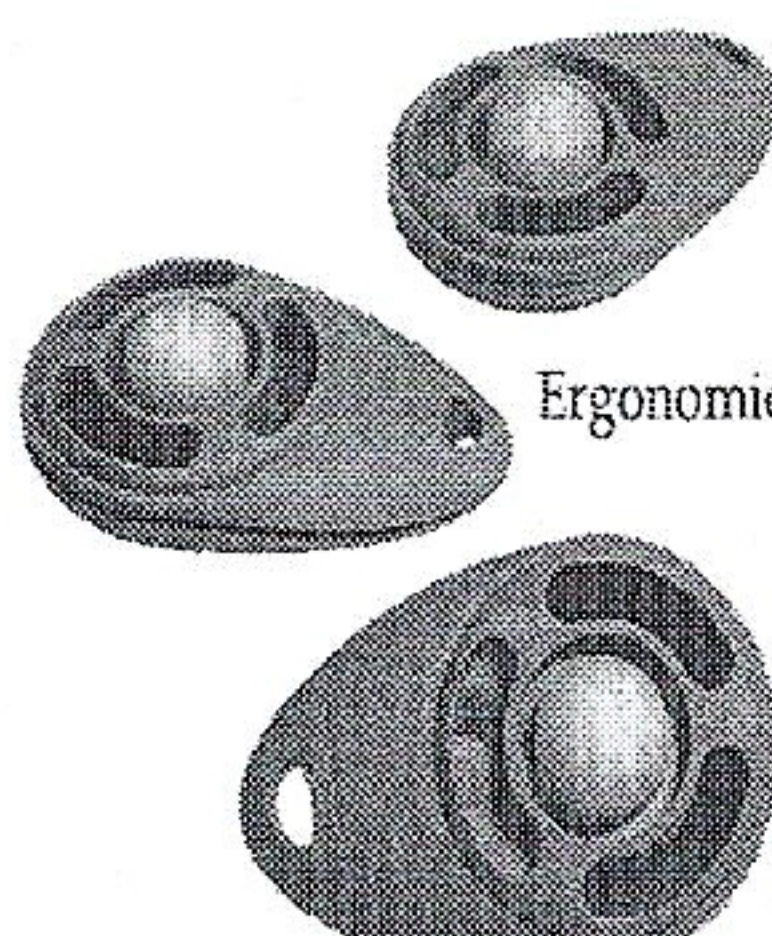
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MEMBER OF THE YEAR 2004



Pat Trichter-Deeley is presented with the International Association of Canine Professionals **Member of the Year 'WOW' Award** by a delighted Dick Russell who sponsors the award. This award is presented annually to the member who's hard work and dedication has been an inspiration and made a substantial contribution toward the success of the IACP. As a Founder Member and Honorary Treasurer of the IACP, Pat has been instrumental throughout in the growth and success of the Association. Pat claims to prefer to work in the background but as everyone knows that is where the real work is done. We are proud of you Pat.

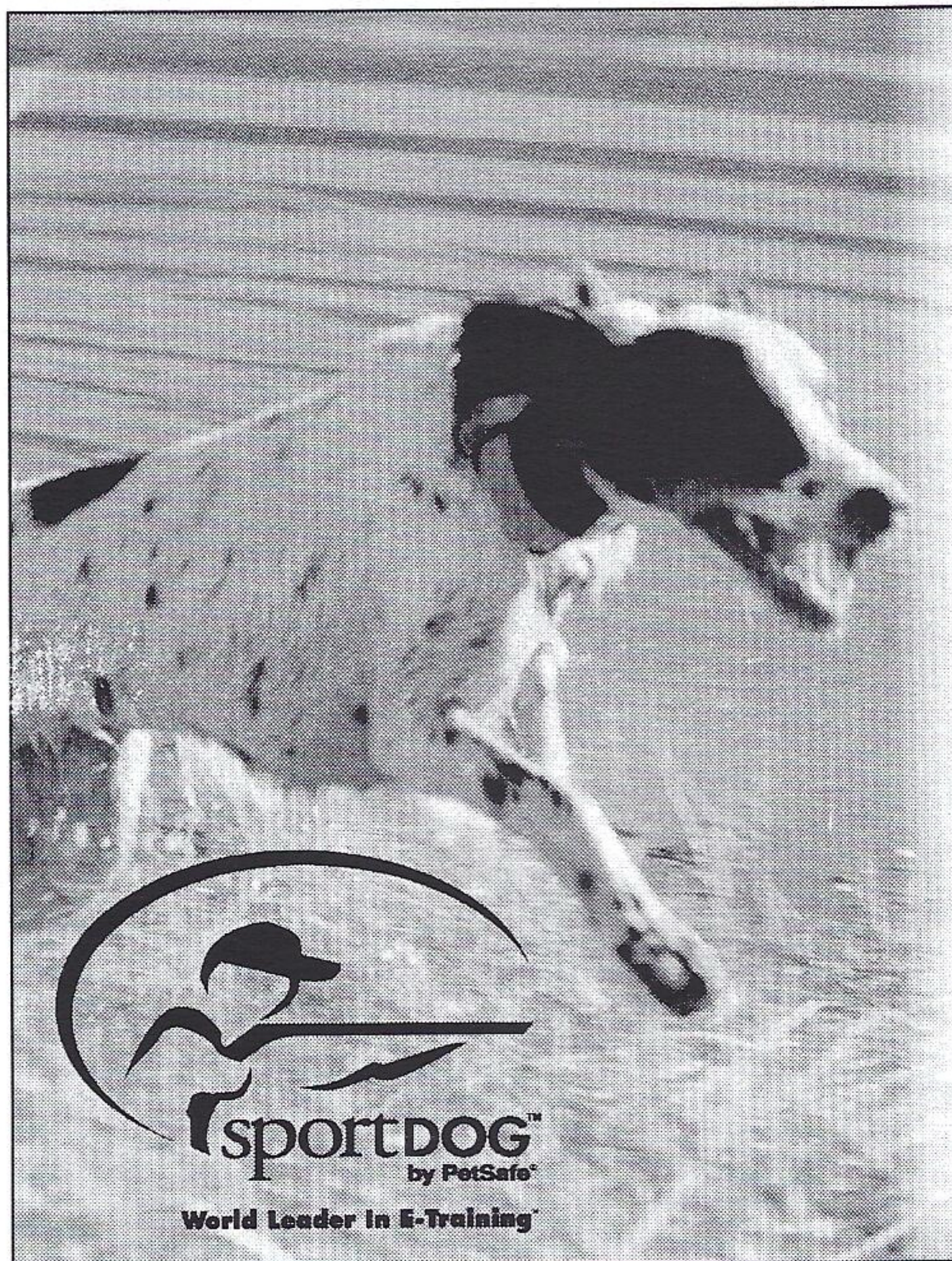
Paper Plate Recall- Contd

Send your dog, in no special order, to each of the plates. Call him to you after each plate. Praise him as he is coming to you. Pet and treat him as he arrives. Reposition him on the pitcher's mound after each recall.

There are as many variations on Paper Plate Recalls, when you and your dog have reached this level, as you can dream up. All of them improve your dog's recall. Each of them helps to keep him training in a upbeat mood.

Using various combinations of the three plate drill keeps him attuned to you and obedient to your directions. When you think about it, that's all in the world that off lead control consists of.

Dick Russell is one of IACP's most respected and loved trainers. Willing to share his knowledge and experience with everyone, Dick is a role model for all. This paper plate recall method has been reproduced because of the many requests from members.



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- Simple operation
- Continuous and momentary stimulation
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We are proud to introduce our new Professional Liability Policy, which provides coverage on a claims-made basis with limit options of \$250,000, \$500,000, or \$1,000,000. This coverage is designed to protect you, the professional dog trainer, against alleged negligence in performing or failing to perform the applicable training you agree to with your client. It provides defense costs for allegations of intentional, dishonest, and fraudulent acts, as well as you gaining personal profit not legally entitled to, unless proven by judgement.

Call today for more information!
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<http://www.dogtrainerins.com>

HALL OF FAME 2004

The Hall of Fame was developed to recognize those within the dog industry who have made an impact on the world of dogs. It is not limited to any profession or any specific approach or technology but awarded to a person or group based on their work and dedication to the improvement of dogs and the profession.

Weatherwax Brothers

The Weatherwax family have an interesting background that dates back to the mid-1800's but their notoriety starts in 1911 when the family moved to Los Angeles, California. Two of the boys, *Frank and Rudd*, were allowed to raise some pups on the condition that they trained them and their training tricks proved quite imaginative. One pup would pick up any money he found lying on the floor and deposit it in a drawer, another would fetch an apple out of a stand that the boys had touched earlier as they walked past it...two blocks away.

In the early 1920's *Frank and Rudd's* movie careers started by hanging around outside studio gates hoping to be hired as an extra. To pass time, the boys would bring their dogs and cleverly attracted attention to themselves by having the dogs walk on their hind legs or perform tricks when studio personal appeared. The boys, and their dogs, got parts in quite a few movies. A wire haired terrier named "Asta" appeared in 'The Thin Man', and a dog named "Daisy" played in the 'Blondie' movies with Penny Singleton.

Jack Weatherwax became a trainer for Carl Spitz, who owned the cairn terrier everyone knows as 'Toto', helping to work "Terry" during the filming of the 'Wizard of Oz', and *Bill Weatherwax* trained dogs for the army during World War II.

In 1940 they formed a partnership business known



Rudd rear left and Frank kneeling
in front

as "The Studio Dog Training School", and from the partnership came the dog stars known as "Lassie" and "Old Yeller".

We are proud to honor the Weatherwax Family in our Hall of Fame.

Dr. Ian Dunbar

Ian Dunbar PhD, BVetMed, MRCVS, CPDT is a veterinarian, animal behaviorist, dog trainer, and writer. He received his veterinary degree and a Special Honours degree in Physiology & Biochemistry from the Royal Veterinary College (London University), and a Doctorate in animal behavior from the Psychology Department at the University of California in Berkeley, where he spent ten years researching the development of hierarchical social behavior and aggression in domestic dogs. For seven years Dr. Dunbar ran a behavior clinic specifically for biting dogs. Dr. Dunbar is a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the California Veterinary Medical Association, the Sierra Veterinary Medical Association, the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior, and the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (which he founded).

Over the past 30 years, Dr. Dunbar has given over 750 one-day seminars and workshops for dog trainers and veterinarians in an effort to popularize puppy training classes, temperament modification, and owner-friendly and dog-friendly dog training. Dr. Dunbar's books, videos, and AKC Gazette "Behavior" column (which he created), have won numerous awards and as the founder of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers he gave trainers a place to meet, network and learn.

There is no doubt that over these years Dr Dunbar has been a force that has influenced and touched many of today's trainers. His ability to communicate on training and behavior has been a prime mover in bringing dog training and its need in today's society to the forefront.



Dr. Ian Dunbar and Friend

He has motivated many to make dog training a profession and through his marketing ability and charisma created a profession when much was done on an amateur basis. There is no doubt that he has been a strong catalyst in the growth of the profession throughout the world. and equally in the growth of dog related products we find on the market.

Dr. Dunbar is currently Director of the Center for Applied Animal Behavior in Berkeley, California, where he lives with Kelly, plus Claude, Ollie, Ugly, Mayhem and Dune.

We are proud to honor and welcome Dr. Ian Dunbar to our Hall of Fame.

AGGRESSION? CALL IT LIKE IT IS.

By Melanie Schlaginhaufen

Before attempting to develop a training or behavior modification program, it is helpful to determine exactly what type of problem behavior is being presented. Many times, trainers who are not specialists in solving behavior problems are attempting to diagnose and make suggestions before they have a comprehensive understanding of aggressive behavior. All people who work with dogs are going to encounter aggressive behavior, but not everyone is going to understand what they are seeing.

Looking back at my own personal experience, I realize that I did not begin to understand aggressive behavior until I started working extensively with dogs who exhibited it. Trainers tend to be proficient in their own field of expertise and frankly, with my start being in competition obedience, and then moving on to conformation handling, in the first part of my training career I worked with very few dogs with aggression issues other than dog-to-dog aggression. In the 70s and 80s, my clients were primarily show dog breeders, most of whom believed that dogs which exhibited aggressive behavior towards people should be put down. When I opened a pet care facility and my clientele changed from working with competition dogs to working with companion dogs, things were quite different. Instead of clients who owned multiple dogs that come and go, I had clients who owned one or two companion dogs, whom they hoped would stay with their family for life. Suddenly I became called upon to "fix" problems that before were simply culled from the gene pool.

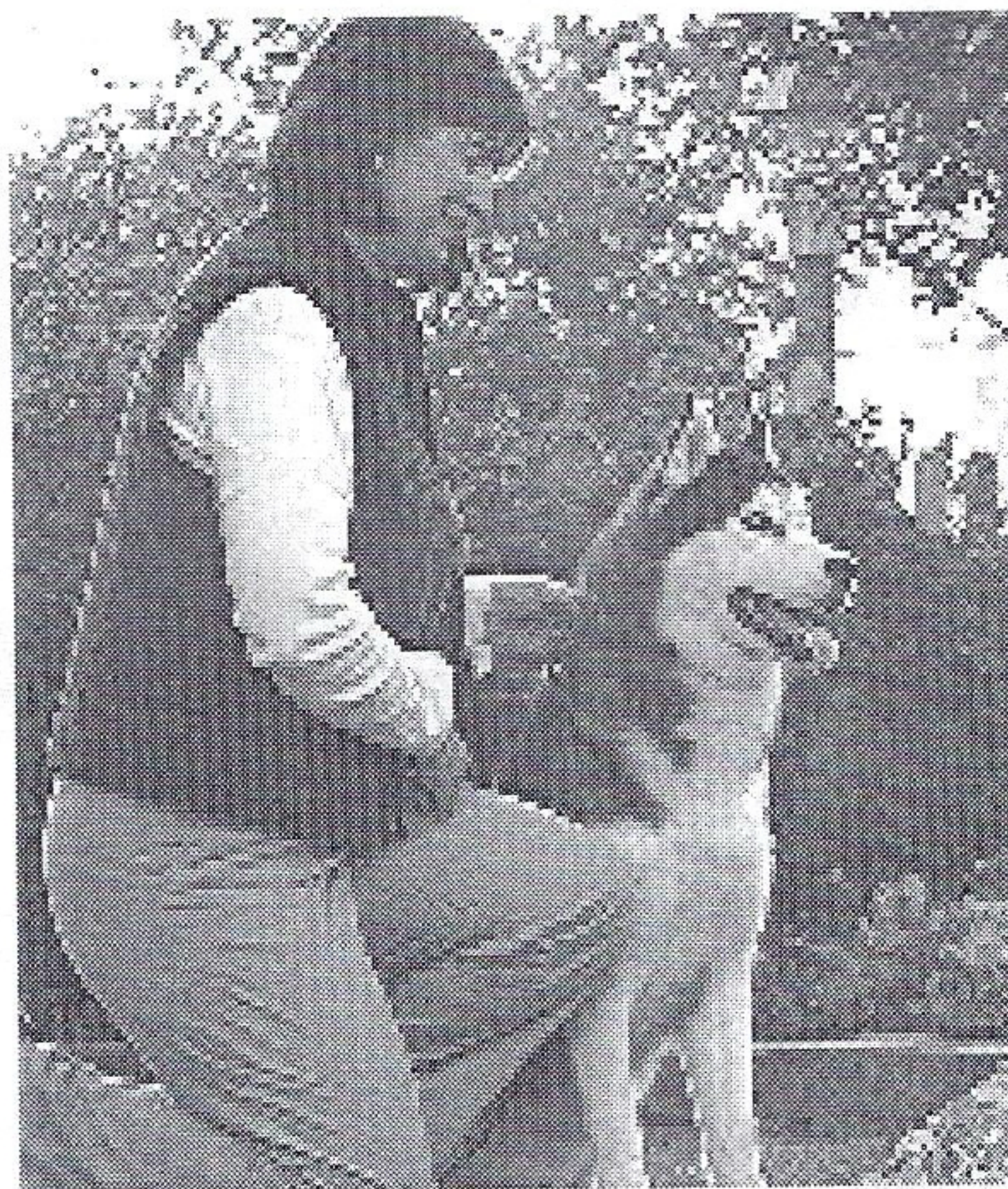
Companion dog owners actually have very high expectations of their dogs, in comparison to owners of competition dogs. For example, training for a conformation dog requires teaching the dog to gait properly on the leash without galloping, to look at the handler with an attentive expression and to tolerate handling by the judge. Some of the softer dogs require extensive socialization, but it is primarily socialization at fun matches and handling classes—teaching the dog to accept the type of circumstance that surrounds a dog show.

Pet dogs, on the other hand, are expected to be well behaved family members in a myriad of different circumstances. They must tolerate handling from all types of strangers, and be under control at home, at grandma's house, on vacation at the lake and the beach, at soccer games surrounded by dozens of screaming children, at the park, you name it. Many of these dogs were adopted from a rescue organization or a shelter, and received very little handling or exposure to novel situations at the critical age for socialization. Even adult dogs purchased from competition dog breeders may not have had the type of early training that will prepare them to be a "family dog", because they may have been kept in a kennel situation as opposed to an inside environment. Owners of companion dogs are not good at "culling" nor are they particularly good at lowering expectations. So....what they do is pick up the phone and call the local dog trainer, who must somehow help the dog conform to the owner's expectations.

After we opened our facility, even though I had already been training dogs for almost two decades, I had to educate myself more thoroughly on canine behavior, so that I could help these clients. I began attending seminars, workshops, reading books, even traveling up to Cornell for a couple of years for their courses on solving canine behavioral problems. I also evaluated and fostered dogs for rescue organizations, volunteered at the local shelter and began to develop a network of acquaintances who were more experienced than myself at evaluating and solving aggression issues. The explanations and definitions of behavior expressed in this article are based on my own 30 years of

training dogs, but just as important, they are also derived from the experience of other trainers and behaviorists who have worked with thousands of dogs.

That said, let's take a look at varying types of aggressive behaviors. Keep in mind that aggression is simply that - a *behavior*, not a personality type. Yes, some dogs have an overall low threshold for aggression—these dogs are what trainer George Cockrell calls "Mad Dog Mean". But these dogs are few and far between. Most dogs are like people - they will exhibit aggressive behavior if put in a certain circumstance, but 99% of the time, they do not behave in an aggressive fashion. When a dog attempts to bite someone, there are normally many factors involved. The following quote from Chad



Mackin helps lend understanding to this concept:

"I have rarely seen a case of aggression that fits entirely into a single classification. Nearly always it is a combination of aggression types.

This makes sense since human behavior is rarely straightforward, and I see no reason to conclude that dog behavior is any more straightforward than ours. I guarantee you, if I were to haul off and hit someone, it would be the result of many factors coming together at one point in time. I am convinced that, for the most part, this is true when dogs become aggressive as well. It is usually not just a single thing, but a series of stresses that converge to adversely affect the dog's behavior.

But by attempting to identify the types of aggression involved, we can propose a plan of action that deals specifically with the types of stressors that trigger the aggression, and more importantly, the underlying contributing factors (lower the stress related to these factors). As with any behavior model, the key to effectively applying it is to remember that it is a "model" and is imperfect."

So if we accept that aggression is a "behavior", not necessarily a personality type, how do we begin to look at the root causes behind the behavior? We have already briefly mentioned the fact that most

AGGRESSION - CALL IT LIKE IT IS. CONT'D

dogs who are adopted as older pups or adults have not had the necessary socialization. When we place these dogs with a normal pet dog owner (by this I mean, an individual or family who has typical expectations of what a companion dog should be able to do) then the dogs are put under a great deal of stress, and this stress can manifest itself in aggressive displays, even truly dangerous behavior like biting or attacking.

When we are dealing with dogs who are handling stress inappropriately due to lack of early socialization, we could say we are looking at behavior that falls into the category of "social aggression." We also see inappropriate social behavior towards people exhibited in dogs purchased as a pup, not just in rescued dogs who did not receive appropriate socialization. Often these dogs have inherited a tendency towards being either fearful or strong-willed, and even though well-socialized, they be owned by someone who has not taught the dog his proper place in the social hierarchy. The majority of aggressive behavior falls into the "social" category.

Dorothy Dunning, an ethologist by education who volunteers as a trainer and evaluator at a small shelter, states:

"Aggression is a social behavior, usually and most effectively exhibited between members of the same species. Insofar as dogs regard us as members of their own species, dog nastiness to people, especially towards adult human beings, may be true social aggression.

Predatory behavior, on the other hand, is normally directed at animals regarded as food, not as members of the dog's own species. Canines may be predatory toward babies or incapacitated adults, which are the two classes of humans most likely to be killed by dogs."

In correspondence with Dorothy, we have discussed that canine aggressive behaviors fall into either "social" (similar to behaviors they would exhibit towards their own species) or "predatory" (behavior they would exhibit towards an outside species whom they perceived as prey). Terms like territorial aggression, dominance displays and resource-guarding (biting if someone attempts to go towards the dog's food, toys or even their owner) fall into the broader category of social aggression, because these are behaviors dogs exhibit with other dogs. Even fear-biting and defensive behaviors, where the dog is overreacting to something he perceives as a threat, are in the social category. Aggressive displays that involve things such as nipping at the heels or biting the calf of a jogger, or even more dangerous behavior such as attacking a running child or a screaming infant, are predatory behaviors. When looking back over my own experiences and personal research, the only type of biting that I do not see as falling into either social or predatory responses is that of true pain-elicited aggression - the dog who exhibit's a type of panicked response when their foot is stuck under a fence, and they bite the hand that is trying to free them, not even seeming to realize they have bitten anyone (dogs in this type of circumstance will even inflict bodily harm upon themselves, biting off their own foot, for example, in an attempt to free themselves).

What about treatment programs for social and predatory aggressive behavior? To lessen aggressive responses that fall into the "social" category, we concentrate heavily on the relationship between the dog and his owner. Dogs who are social-climbers, preferring to be in charge, need a firm leadership program. Dogs who perceive their owners as competent, trustworthy leaders will have less need to challenge their owners, and will also be more likely to look to their owners when they are unsure about strangers, as opposed to trying to deal with them in an aggressive fashion. Problematic dogs that exhibit defensive social behaviors require a confidence building program, which

teaches steadiness on the part of the owner and the dog. Timid dogs will feel safer in the presence of a confident leader, just as a child feels safer in the presence of a confident parent.

Problem behaviors that involve predatory responses require implementing a training program that concentrates on impulse control and perfect compliance to obedience commands around distractions. Predatory behavior varies from the merely annoying herding behaviors to the extremely dangerous behavior of perceiving children as prey. Dogs with high prey drive require responsible management for their entire lifetimes---for example, they should never be allowed off-leash around children, small animals or anything that they may view as intended prey. The owner of any dog who has exhibited aggressive behavior, whether social or predatory, must be committed to the type training program that instills instant compliance to commands---Dunning states that trainers like Cockrell can achieve what she calls a "bomb-proof recall", a "drop anywhere/always" and a "stay-forever". This type of work requires dedication on the part of the owner, and is different from the type of training for come, down and stay that is taught in 99% of obedience classes around the country today. Not every owner, not even every dog trainer, is capable of achieving this with difficult dogs. Remote collar training can be very effective, but keep in mind it is remote collar training - the training is the key; the remote collar alone is not a magic panacea for problem solving. Anyone who owns a dog must be responsible for insuring that their dog is never put into a situation where he could harm someone.

Before closing, I would like to reiterate that aggression is a behavior that an individual exhibits, it is rarely an across-the-board "personality type". I'd like to end with a quote from George Cockrell, who gives a very clear explanation of aggression definitions:

"Aggression is an act, not necessarily a trait. It is a response to a particular stimuli in almost every case. If one must put labels on things, then we should get things right. For example, 'fear aggression' is really an act of defense; the dog is 'defensive'. When the dog does not feel threatened, it would not be seen as aggressive.

'Territorial aggression' is really a warning, so that dog is 'territorial'. Without an interloper, the dog would not be seen as aggressive.

'Predatory aggression' is the act of predation, so that dog is acting as a predator. Without prey, there is no aggression.

'Dominance aggression' is usually disciplinary, so that dog is only 'dominant'. Without conflict, the dog is not aggressive.

Many trainers I've met do not understand that an aggressive act does not make a bad dog. The most dangerous dogs I have met have been Mad Dog Mean. They are aggressive in both act and attitude. This type of dog is extremely rare, and once one works with this type of dog, all the different labels tend to fly right out the window."

The author, Melanie Schlaginhaufen, trained her first dog in an obedience class in 1968, when she was only in the sixth grade. Melanie began training professionally in 1976, opening Best Friends Bed & Biscuit, a boarding/training/grooming facility in Greensboro, NC in 1990. She can be reached through her website, www.bedandbiscuit.com. Professional Member IACP

BOOK REVIEW

Letters to a Young Therapist by Mary Pipher, PhD

review submitted by Jill Morstad

"Writers and therapists live twice," according to Mary Pipher. "first when they experience events and a second time when they use them in their work." Pipher might also have been speaking of dog trainers, who live once, twice and many more times according to this formula.

Pipher continues: "...there is a sense in which all writers and therapists, no matter where they study, are self-taught. We learn by making and then correcting mistakes. Nobody is good in the beginning...."

Is any of this starting to sound familiar?

Therapist and best-selling author Mary Pipher's newest book, Letters to a Young Therapist, wasn't written specifically to dog trainers or writers, but there are dogs, and poetry, here. Letters to a Young Therapist is subtitled 'the art of mentoring' and via Pipher's year-long correspondence with a favorite doctoral student 'Laura', we learn much about the difference between listening to problems and listening for solutions. Pipher's letters to Laura are an open form, full of candor and self-disclosure, and her arguments depend less on air-tight reasoning than on friendship – that is, identification, understanding, vulnerability and dialog.

Throughout this book, Pipher weaves in detailed stories from 25 years in private practice, forming a tapestry that blends practical strategy and practical metaphor. Here, the figure in the carpet is a code of ethics -- therapeutic ethics, ethics of intervention -- where 'helping' is not just a matter of power and self or class interest; it is also a matter of personal values and ideals.

While I don't think that dog trainers do (or should try to do) family therapy, it nevertheless remains that when we go to where the dogs are, and discover what we can about the dogs in the human family, we sometimes find ourselves in uncharted territory. As a result, it might be that what dog trainers and therapists have in common is a preoccupation with the modification of human behavior, and you'll find yourself in Pipher's book if you've ever considered what dog trainers do to communities in light of what communities do to dogs, and how the interactions of dog-and-community define the trainer's role.

Make note of how Pipher catalogs the habits of mind and body that connect good therapy to useful dog training: understanding the family environment; educating about developmental

issues; being flexible; supporting parental authority; exuding calmness; modeling emotional control; and making sure positive change is recognized. When Pipher takes us into families, neighborhoods and communities, she also takes us into the social settings in which dog training transactions are performed – not just what was said or made or done, but also the circumstances that generate therapeutic performances and the participants' responses to them.

"Motivating others," writes Pipher, "involves an almost mystical state of being 'in tune' with them.... Scientists have a term, limbic resonance, that refers to the innate ability of mammals to sense each other's emotional states", and her wisdom resonates with dog trainers' as she considers how acquiring expert knowledge and skill entails working at least part of the time at the edge of one's competence. We accept the strains and the risks that go with doing so, but gain in return progressively higher levels of competence and insight. When it comes to working with dogs in the multiple and varied settings of the human family, efforts at understanding take place against a constant background of awareness of the complexities that one is not yet dealing with.

Jean Lave has written that most people don't have problems, they have predicaments. If you have a predicament and have to look for help from someone – be it a courthouse clerk, an airline ticket agent, a therapist or a dog trainer – you dearly hope that you will encounter an expert. For an expert will turn your predicament into a problem and then help you solve it.

And "timing is everything," writes Pipher, "if a suggestion is timed properly, it can be very small and still change a life." For expert dog trainers with exquisite skill, who share their knowledge, support one another as professionals and seek to develop a kind of collective expertise that is distinguishable and distinct, "Letters to a Young Therapist" comes at exactly the right time.

Pipher, Mary. *Letters to a Young Therapist*. (New York: Basic Books, 2003) 181 pp.

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AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR – AN EMPIRICAL VIEW

By Stephen Robinson

Aggressive behavior toward humans is without question the most serious of all behavior problems faced by dog owners. While other unwanted behaviors are often tolerated or ignored, a dog that displays aggression toward family members, friends, or visitors usually sends owners running for help. The origins and causes of dog aggression have been a controversial topic of great importance for behaviorists, scholars, and trainers, resulting in a wide variety of theories.

As a practicing animal behaviorist, I encounter the problem of dog aggression on an almost daily basis. Of all problem behaviors

for which clients seek help, people directed aggression accounts for approximately 75% of my consultations.

In some cases, the analysis is fairly simple, while in others, the complexity of the issues requires the assembly of a puzzle piece by piece. However, through the maze of a multitude of dogs and clients seen over the years, a common thread has emerged which has given rise to a theory and methodology which withstands the test of practical application. This does not mean that our paradigm can be used to explain every aspect of aggressive behavior, but we are comfortable that we

which are downright bad. The second reason is the vast amount of literature, written primarily from a scholarly perspective, which tries to classify the majority of cases involving people – directed aggression as a “dominance” issue. This perspective often suggests that the offending dog is attempting to be the “alpha” of the family, and that “putting him in his place” with tough love and discipline is an appropriate solution.

In our experience, both the analysis and the suggested treatment are fallacious. The words “dominance” and “aggression” are clearly not synonymous, but they are often confused. Dominance does not necessarily lead to aggression, and not all displays of aggression – in our view, very few – have their roots in dominance. People come to us because their dogs are aggressive, whatever the causative factor. However, sorting out the root cause of the problem is a necessary step in developing an effective strategy for treatment.

Dog to dog aggression, which makes up the bulk of the remaining consults, often exists without aggression toward human beings. The next two most frequently seen problems are separation anxiety and house soiling.



can use our theory to explain over 95% of the situations we encounter, and we think that's pretty good.

There are two reasons which prompted us to put our theories and views into writing. The first is the frustration we encounter from consultation with clients who are not only confused, but have greatly exacerbated their problems by reading and following a vast array of advice and suggestions, many of

The analysis of dog behavior is both science and art. To those who believe that only quantifiable hypotheses are worthy of consideration, I will yield that what we espouse is not “science”. But it is also purely not “art”. It is empiricism based on a rather large sample size which we believe will withstand a test of time. The most important objective in the presentation of this material is to stimulate the thinking of other behaviorists, consultants, and trainers whose life work is helping people and their pets with problem behaviors which interfere with the truly wonderful phenomenon we call the dog-human bond.

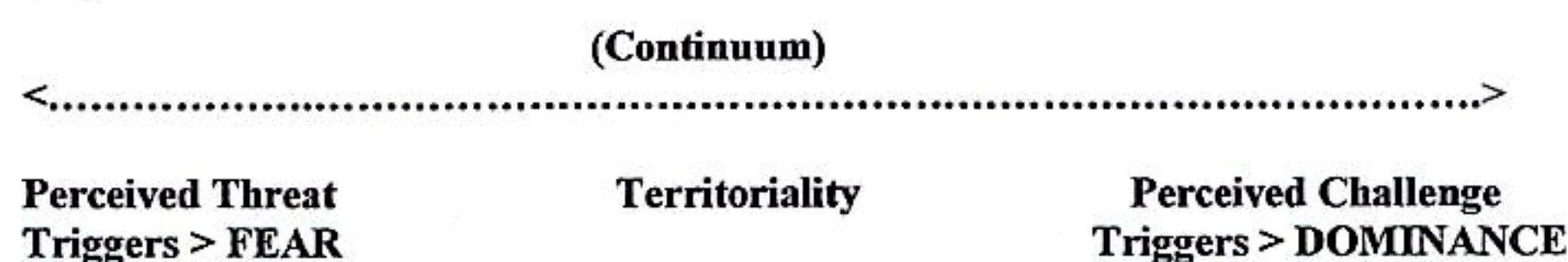
AGGRESSION – WHAT IS IT?

Aggression, in the context of our discussion, is an agonistic response to a threatening or challenging stimulus which is designed to neutralize or defeat the stimulus in question. The action on the part of the dog is a combination of physical and psychological responses which transmit the animal's intention to actively engage a competitor or offending stimulus. In dog terms, this means a bite.

Dogs do not “think”. They react to a stimulus. In the case of aggression, the stimulus – actually stimuli – are two triggers which lie at opposite ends of a continuum: challenge, and threat. The truly dominant dog – of which there are few – will react to an aversive stimulus as a “challenge” to his

DOG AGGRESSION -Contd

sovereignty. On the other end of the spectrum, the fearful dog will react to an aversive stimuli as a "threat" to his safety. In reality, all aggressive reactions will be a combination of dominance- and fear-based aggression. There is no truly "fearless" dog that reacts totally without concern for his safety, and even the most fearful dog learns that an aggressive response helps to gain control over the offending stimulus. Utilizing an intruder entering into a dog's territorial domain, we may show an aggressive response in the following way:



Territorial aggression may be analyzed as follows: the dog reacts to the intrusion into its domain as a challenge to its sovereignty (dominance). On the other hand, the intruder also represents a threat to the dog's self-preservation, so it reacts in an aggressive manner to make the threat go away. Herein lies the basis for many behaviorists to confuse dominance-based and fear-based aggression. Because the dog gains an advantage by acting aggressive, there are those who would classify most aggressive behaviors as "dominant" when in fact, the reaction may – and most often is – based primarily in fear.

The balance between dominance and fear in any aggressive response depends on many factors. It can and does move back and forth on this line. Fear is a natural state in nature. It is the foundation for the self-preservation instinct. Self-preservation is the number one priority for all living creatures. The dog's basic temperament is the most critical factor in determining where on the continuum the reaction will take place. The differences between individuals are a matter of the degree of fear, and how it is manifested.

Dogs have four options for dealing with an aversive stimulus: flight > move away; avoidance > eliminate interaction; submission > an appeasement gesture; and aggression > an action designed to make the aversive stimulus stop coming or to make it leave. Not all dogs react with aggression; this is highly specific to temperament (genetics). Other factors include learned behavior, and the degree of stress internalized by the dog upon presentation of the stimulus (situation). However, in our experience, most dogs, if pressed to a point where, in their perception, their own mortality is in question, will bite. It is nature's design, and nature's intent.

At the other end of the paradigm is the dog that is truly self confident and sovereign. He owns the world around him. His threshold is fairly high. Many elements which would serve as triggers for fear-based aggression are ignored. However, if he feels challenged, either in terms of his status or over competition for a resource, he will react forcefully to repel the challenge. These animals are the true "alphas" of the dog world. In

our experience, they are rather rare. However, the belief in them is fed by a strong motivation: the perception of a dog as our protector is an extension of our internal desire for power and control.

What we are left with then, are dogs who react primarily with fear-based aggression to an aversive stimulus that they perceive is a threat to their self-preservation. This, in our opinion, includes the vast majority of dogs.

What are the implications of this premise to the canine behaviorist and trainer? They are vast, and for many, would mean a total change in approach to a solution. The truly dominant dog is in a struggle with the owner for position. The solution is to get the dog to assume a subordinate rank. This necessitates the owner taking a very assertive approach with the dog, allowing only a narrow latitude of behaviors, and demanding compliance at all times. Punishment, in the form of strong aversives, should be avoided, as this will tend to trigger the dog's defensive instinct to mount an aggressive response in return.

On the other hand, a strong, assertive approach with a fearful dog may backfire. Fearful dogs by nature have a lower threshold to stressful stimuli, and can react to even mild aversives with a strong or even panicked reaction. The dog will now have two elements of stress to deal with: the stimulus which evoked the fearful response, and the owner who comes down hard on him for trying to protect himself.

The resolution of fear-based aggression requires a structured approach which utilizes the tools of behavior modification: desensitization, habituation, and counter-conditioning. We must learn to both manage the dog's environment, reducing or eliminating the stimulus that provokes aggression, and, at the same time, raise the dog's threshold of fear with the tools available. While prevention is always the goal, aggressive responses can be controlled by putting the dog under pre-emptive command prior to or as soon as an aggressive reaction is present or appears imminent. This must be done in a take-charge manner which conveys authority without anger, threat, or intimidation. These emotional responses will only serve to exacerbate the reaction.

In conclusion, what we are recommending is a program which takes time and patience, guidance and perseverance, but has a much higher probability of success than punishment. In both behavior modification and training, we believe the tortoise beats the hare every time.

Stephen Robinson is a Professional Member of the IACP and runs the Common Scents Canine Center in Ortonville, Michigan. He can be contacted through his web site www.commonscentscanine.com



International Association of Canine Professionals Conference 2004

Every Year we receive rave reviews about our Annual Conference. The friendship, the sharing, the great talks and demonstrations. Every year we think it the best there has been and this year was no exception. The Conference Committee work hard to bring new topics, ideas and information that will help those fortunate to attend. More volunteers to help as the Conference expands—150 people each day this year—and for the first time the talks and demonstrations plus workshops were videoed. The success of this conference is the fruit of their dedication. It came as a real delight therefore to receive many letters and comments praising the conference, but nothing summed up the atmosphere as much as this letter from Chad Macklin which we want to share with you all. This summed it all up in words that came from the heart

Martin Deeley President IACP

From Chad Mackin—First time attendee

In central Texas, there is a two lane country road that you would likely not notice if you weren't looking for it. As you travel down this road, you are greeted with gentle curves and dips. If you look to the left as you go, you may notice the trestles of a derelict railway bridge as it crosses a small creek, a testament to the changing shape of our society. If one turns right, adjacent to these trestles, if it is the right time of year, and if they have their eyes open, they will discover something wonderful, and magical. Something that, I think, exists no where else on earth.

The location itself is something impressive, but that is not what I am talking about. This magic could have existed anywhere, the location, as idyllic as it is, is incidental. It is not the source of the magic, only the nexus.

Of what magic am I speaking? I will try to explain.

Imagine if you will, the sensation of seeing very old friends for the first time. Imagine being able shake hands with, or hug, people who have challenged your mind, helped you through difficult times, and helped you professionally though you have never met. Imagine for a moment, the sensation of seeing people you have never seen before introducing themselves and saying how glad they are to finally meet you. Imagine that, in truth, you are more excited to meet them than they are to meet you.

Imagine being able to talk, in depth, with people who have written the books that line your book shelves.

Imagine finding a family you never knew you had: a family that welcomes you as if you have always been there. Imagine that you welcome this family as readily as they welcome you.

Imagine being in a room filled a hundred or more people and none of them (including yourself) being a stranger.

Imagine being among the top professionals in your profession and feeling like you belong.

Imagine that every single person you spoke with taught you something that you really needed to know.

Imagine that every moment of everyday you were being humbled while your confidence was being built.

I know it sounds unbelievable. There is a good reason for that: it IS unbelievable. Yet it is true. Even more incredibly, in this small central Texas town, it happens every year. For those who attend the IACP conference, during those four days, the world is suddenly smaller, and the possibilities are endless. It is magic. Magic like none other. It is the sort of magic that can only happen as the result of the hard work of dedicated persons: dedicated persons with huge hearts.

A special thanks to Martin, the board, the conference committee, the speakers and everyone else who put this thing together. Also special thanks to those who attended and opened their hearts to others, sharing camaraderie, insights, or just a friendly critical ear.

I cannot find the words to express the way this conference made me feel. I can't tell you what I took home from it, the words don't exist in this language (nor, I suspect, in any other). It is beyond description.

Sunday afternoon, found me sitting on the floor petting Mary Mazzeri's dog while she was helping at the registration desk. I said hello to Cap as he passed and asked how he was doing. He said he was doing well and asked the same of me. I told him that I was sitting on the floor petting a dog, nothing could be better than that. I must confess that I failed to give Cap the full story. I was sitting on THAT floor petting a dog, surrounded by THOSE people. Truly, there is very little in this world better than that!

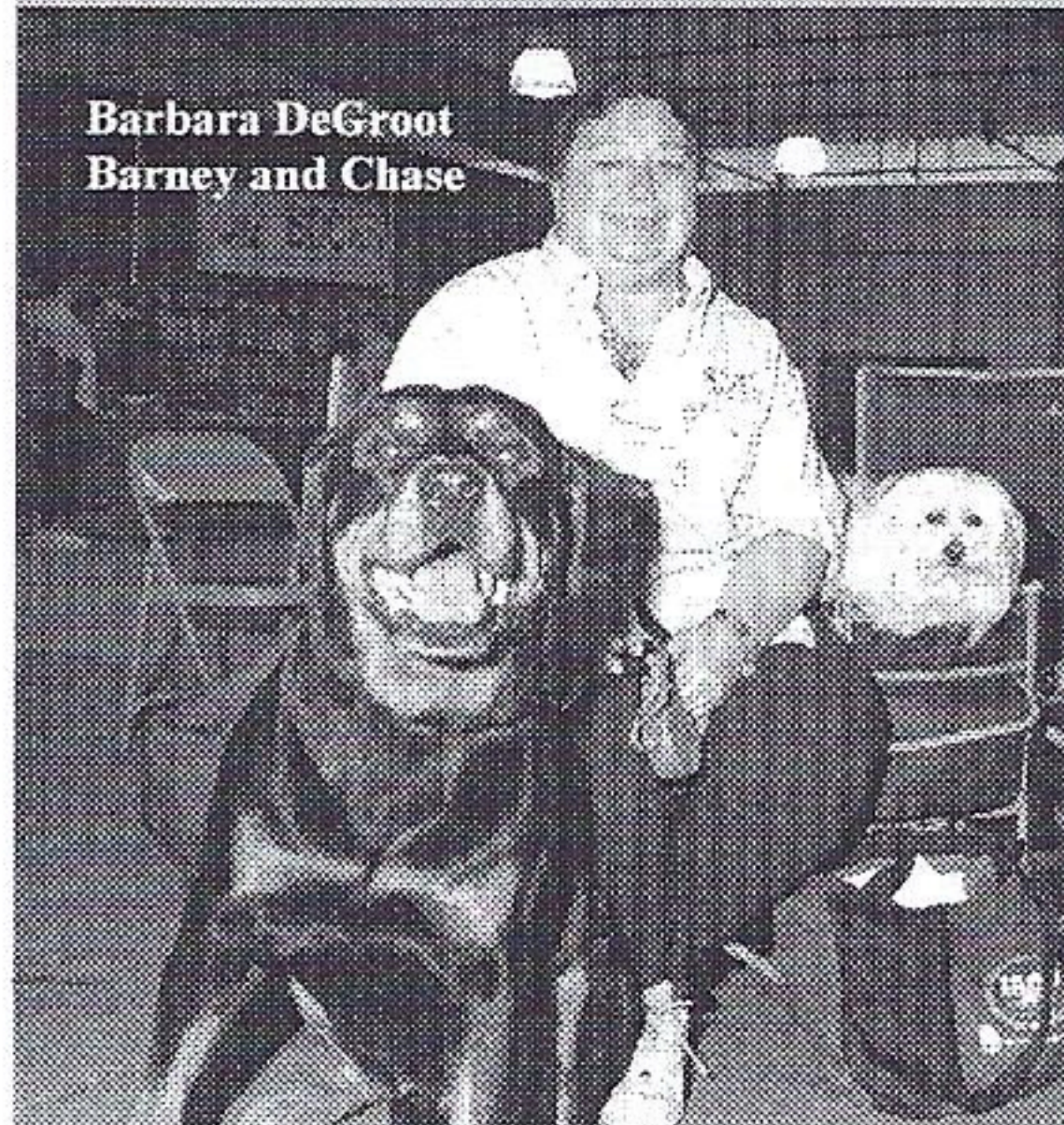
That was a moment (and the whole conference was made of such moments) that I would not have missed for the world.

Thanks once again for all the magic. You have enriched me tremendously.

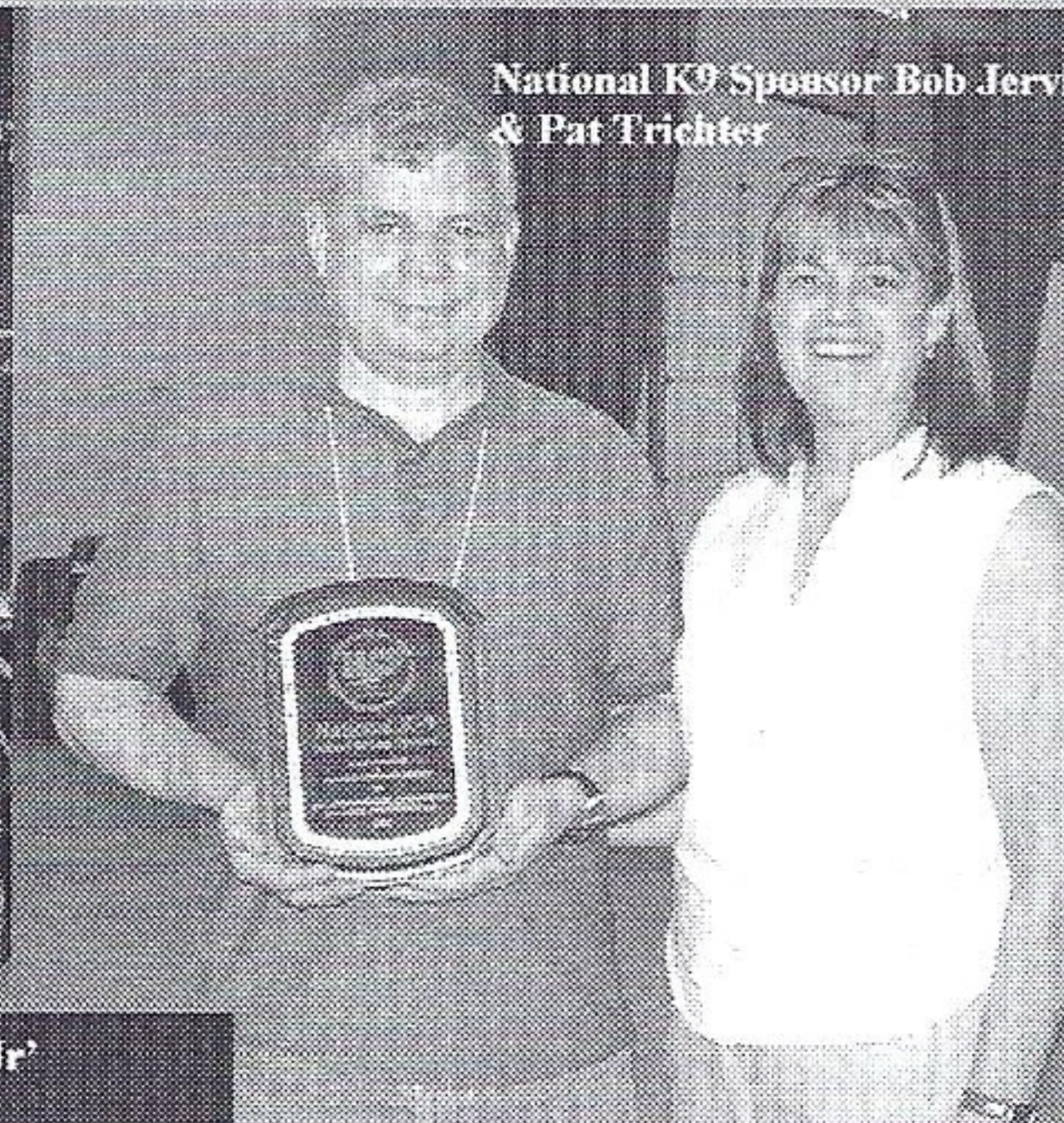
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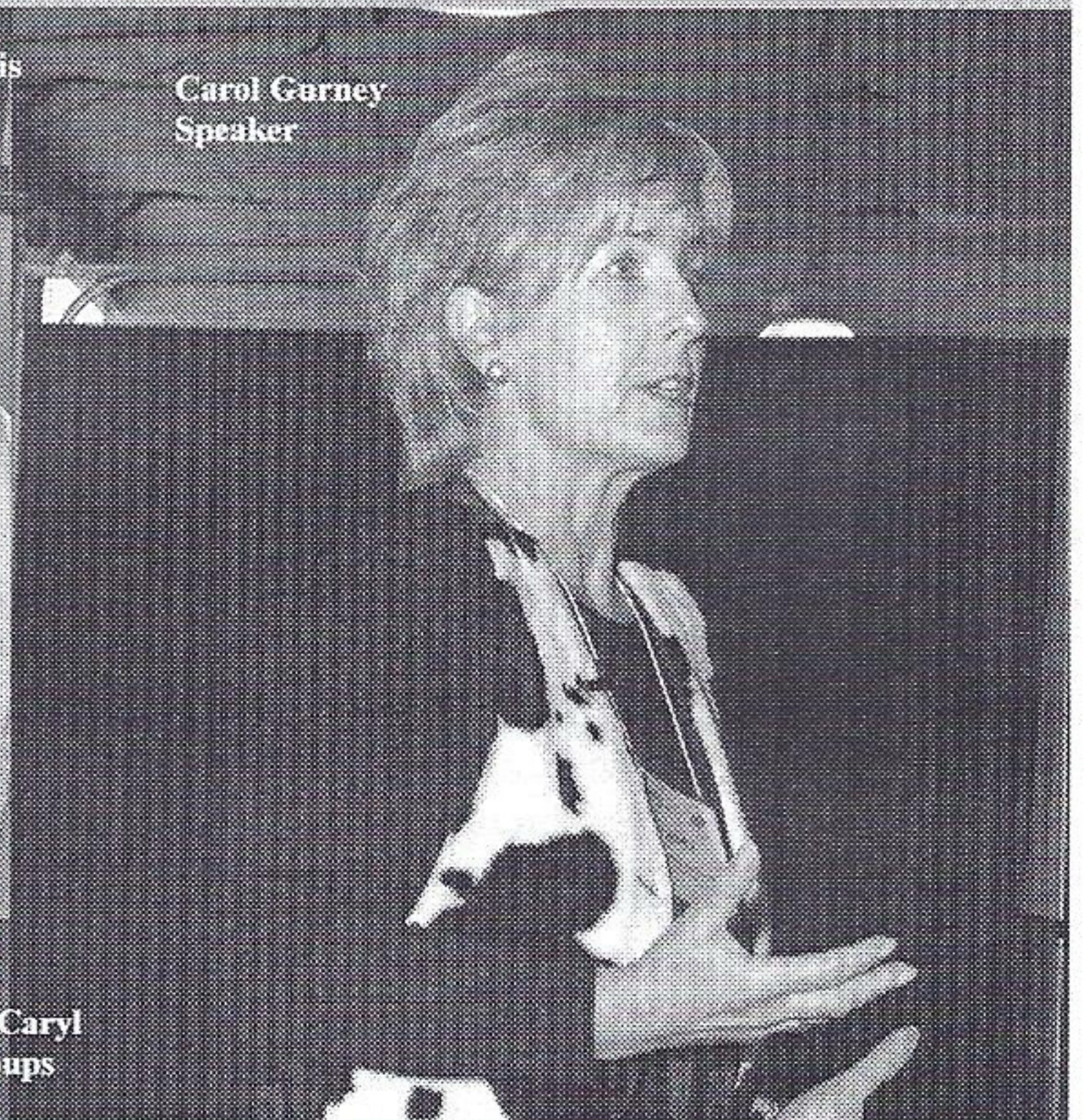
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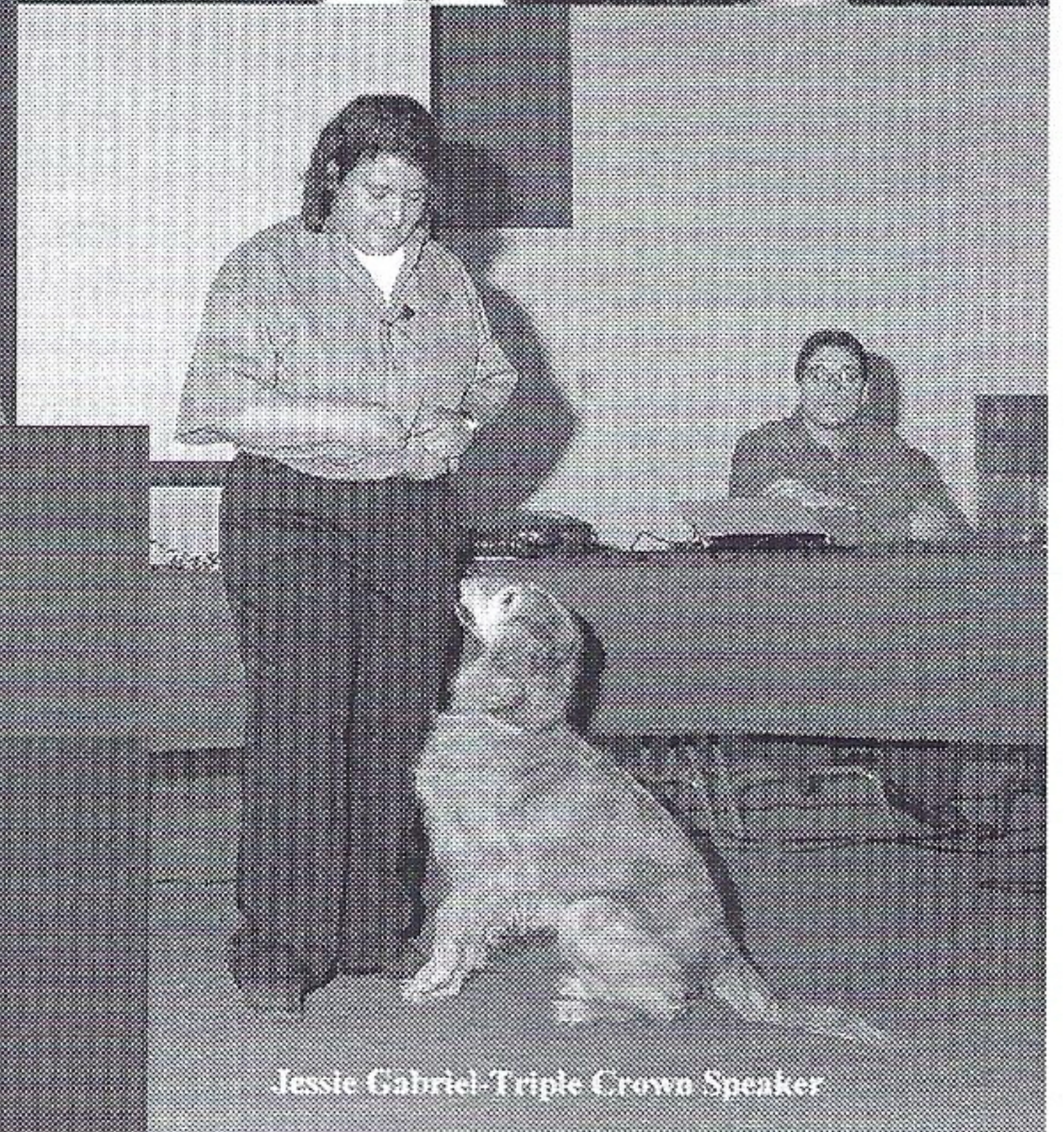


Captain Haggerty

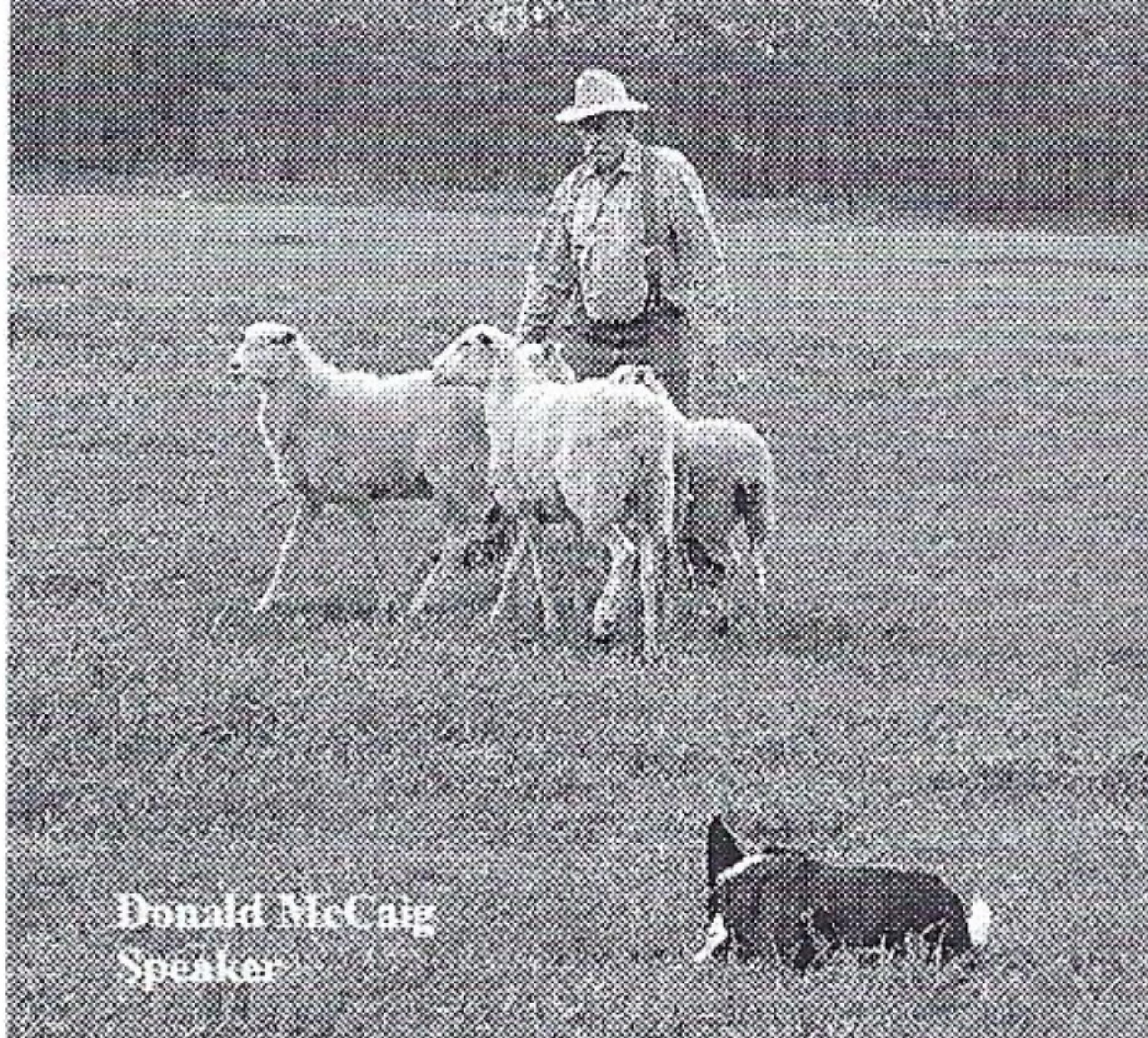
Rob 'Captain Jr'
Dunn



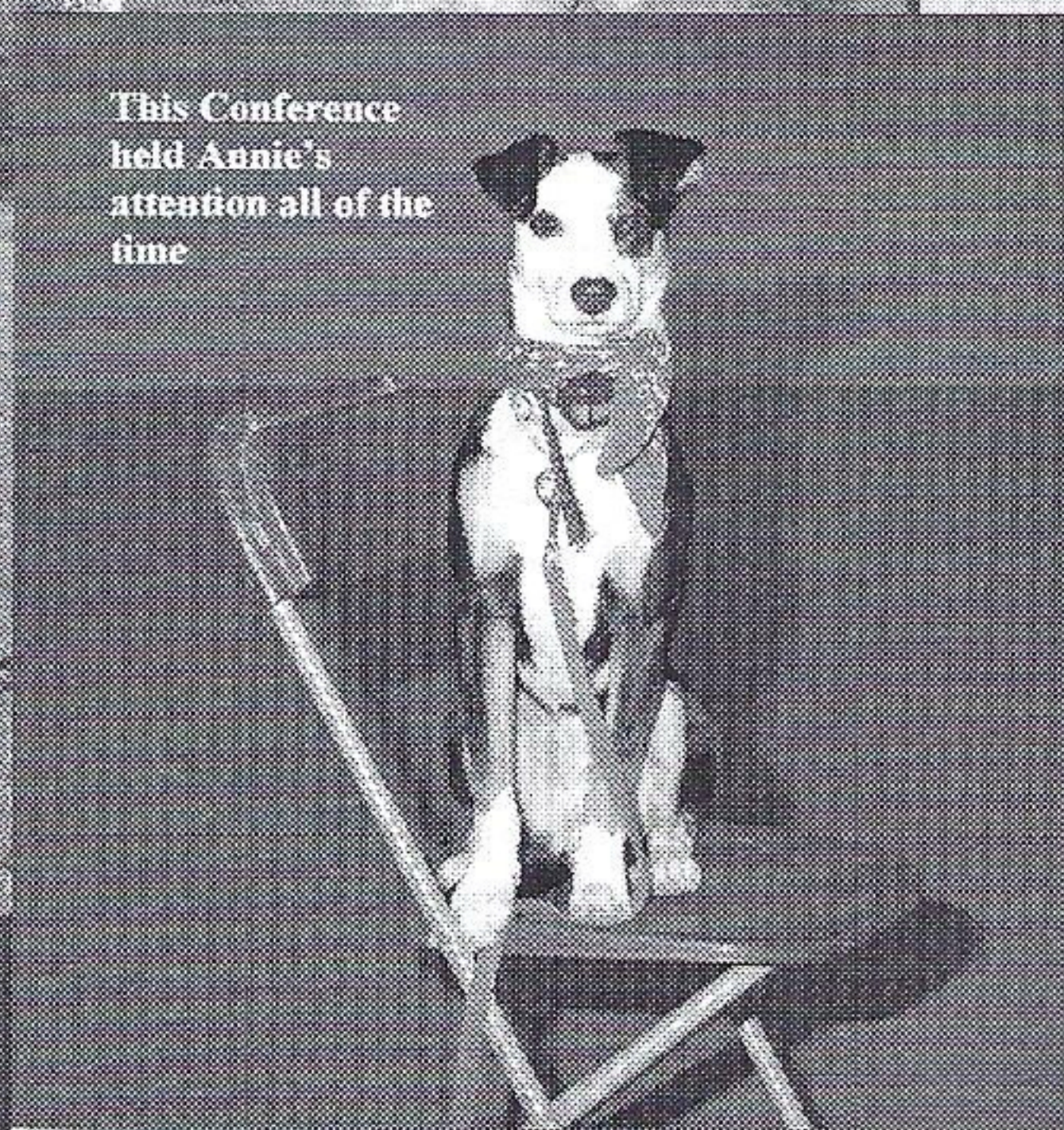
Gina Hayes & Caryl
Scrimpsheer's pups



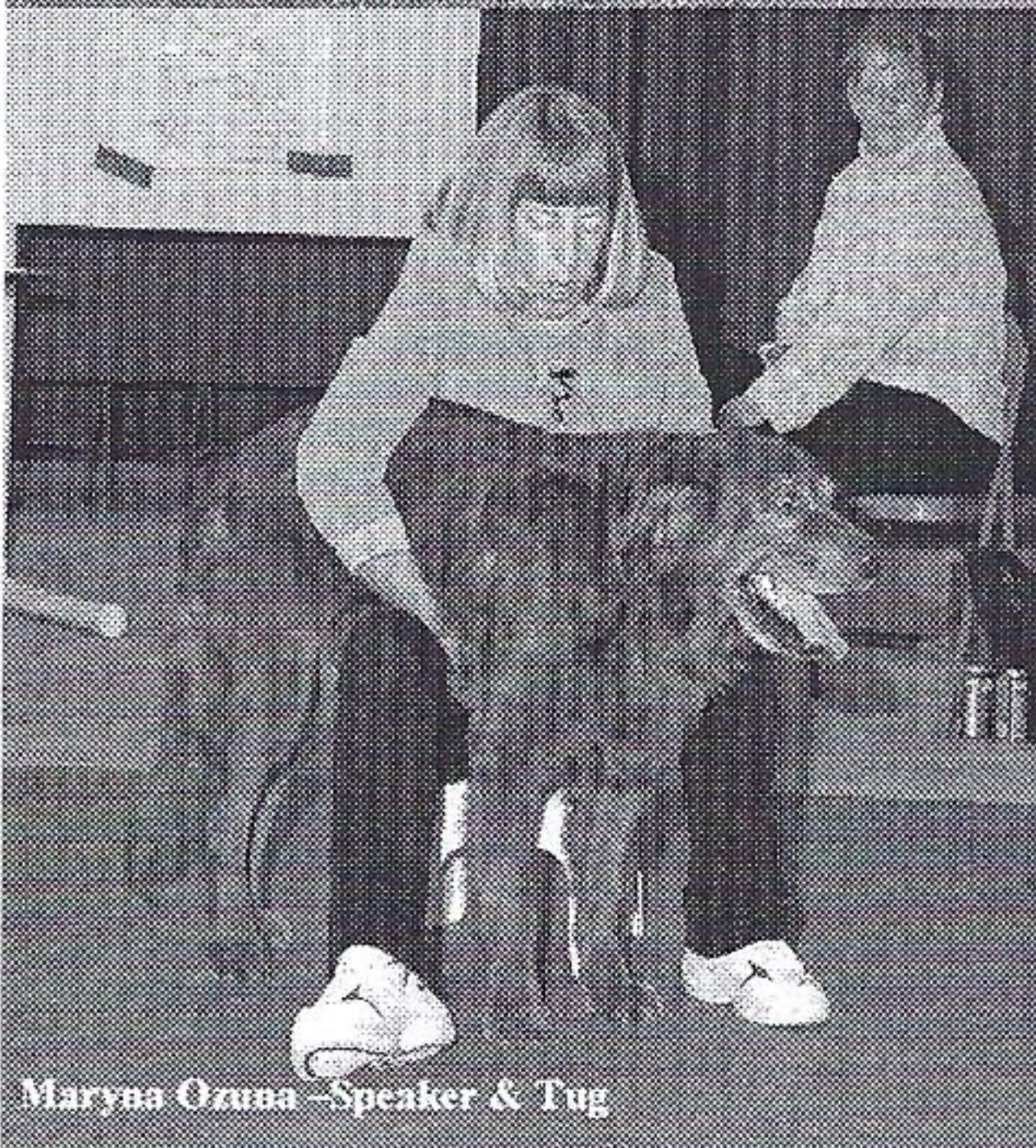
Jessie Gabriel Triple Crown Speaker



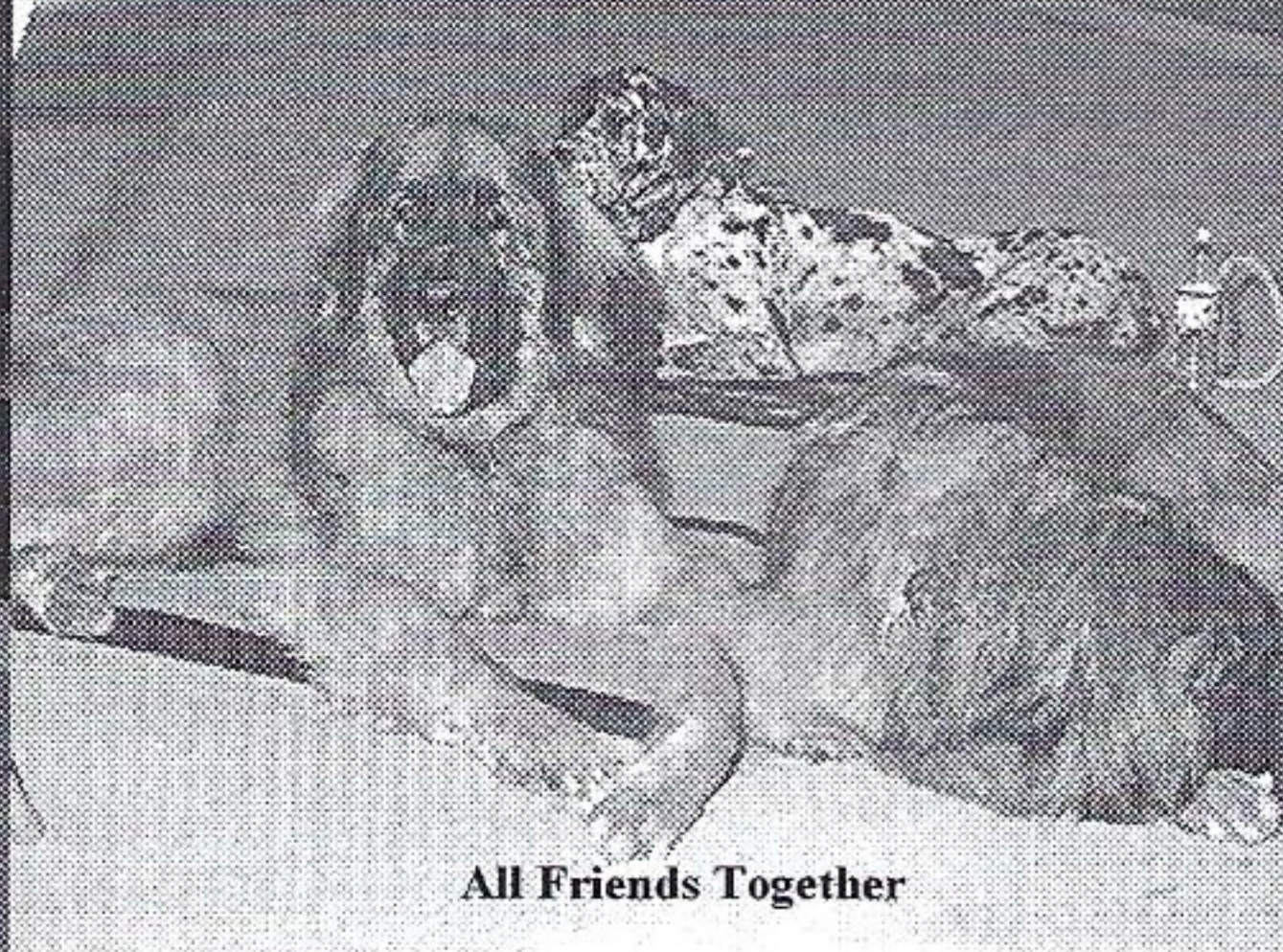
Donald McCaig
Speaker



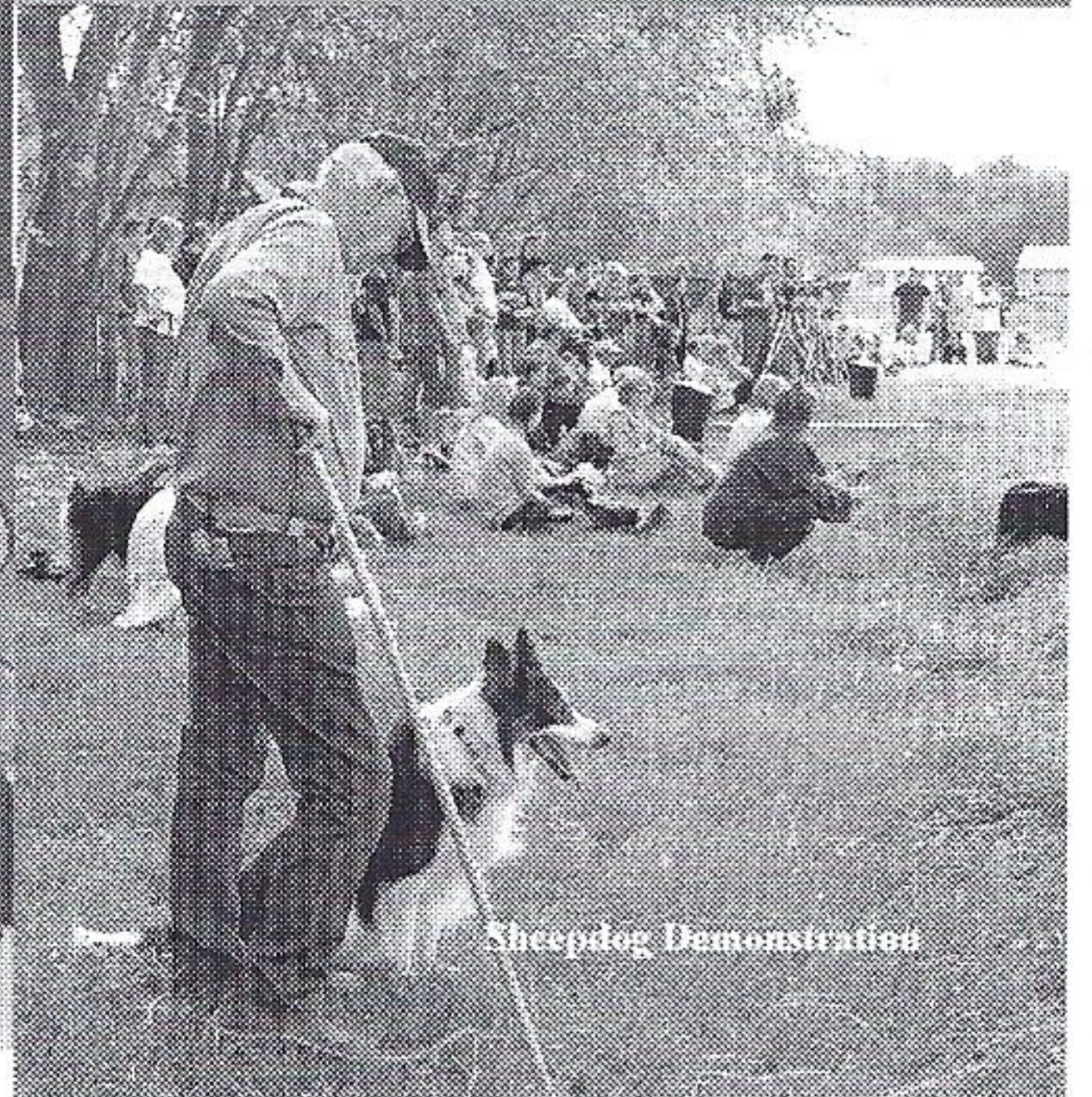
This Conference
held Annie's
attention all of the
time



Maryna Ozuna -Speaker & Tug



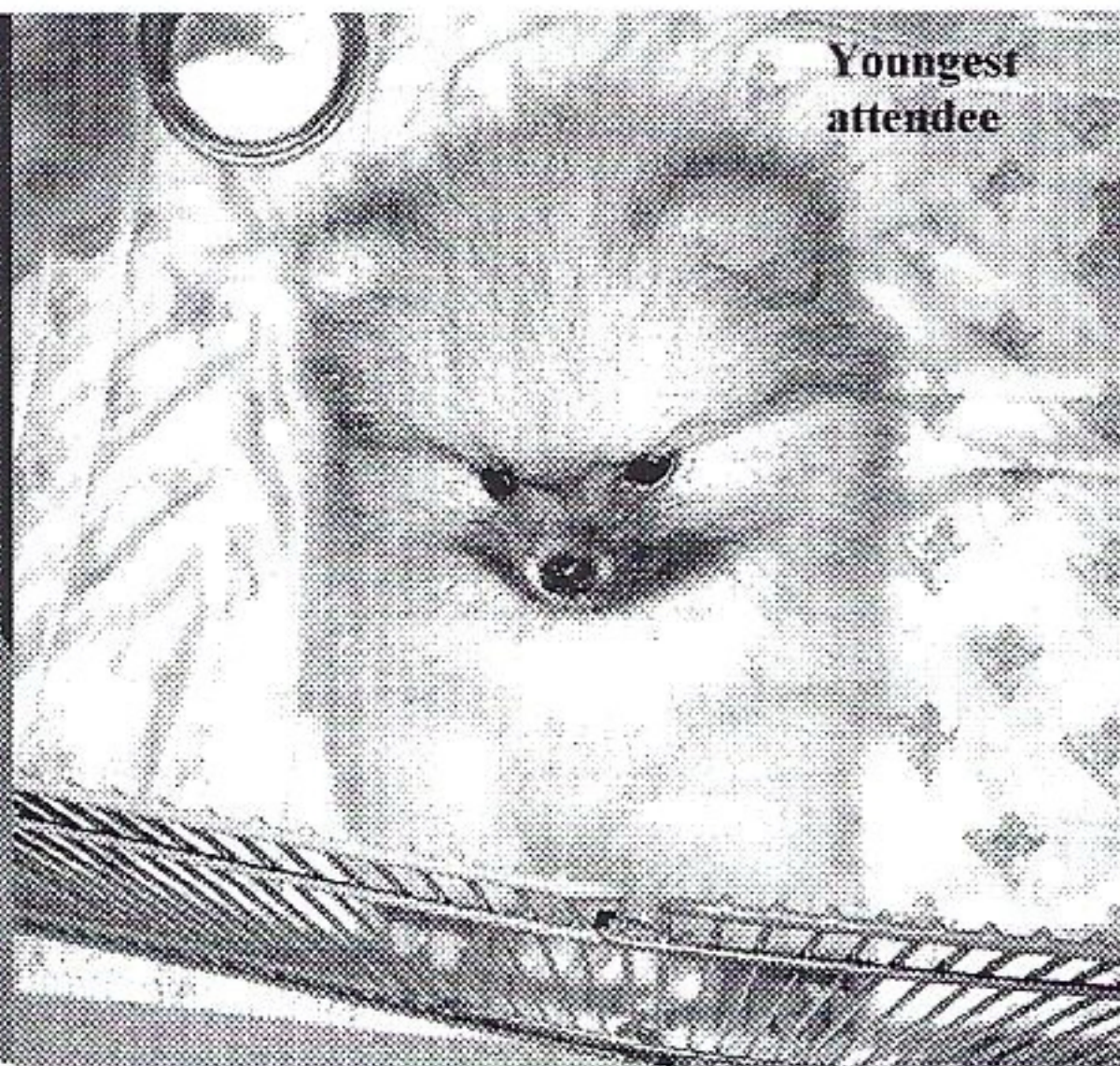
All Friends Together



Sheepdog Demonstration



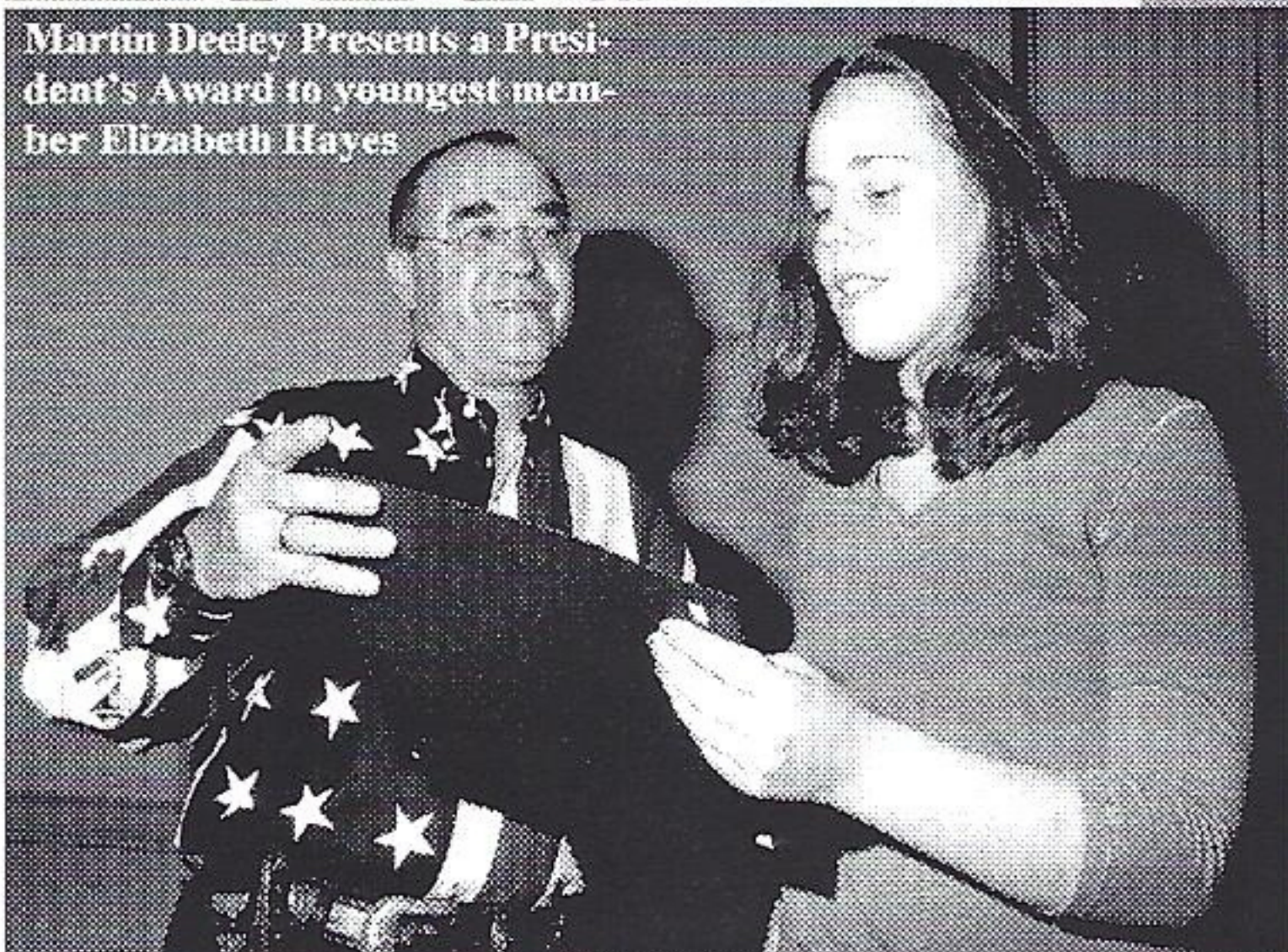
Amerapets Sponsors Chris & Vicki



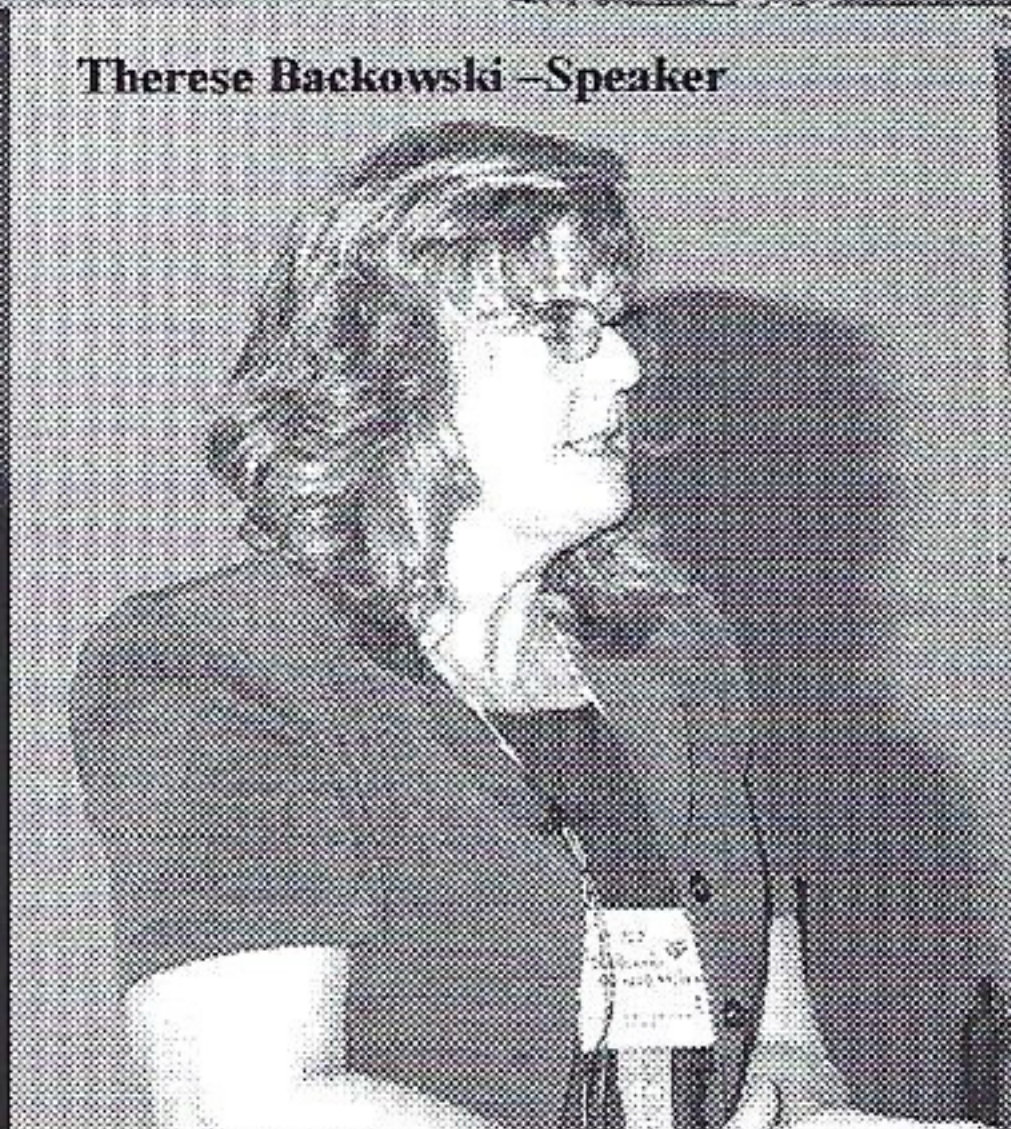
Youngest attendee



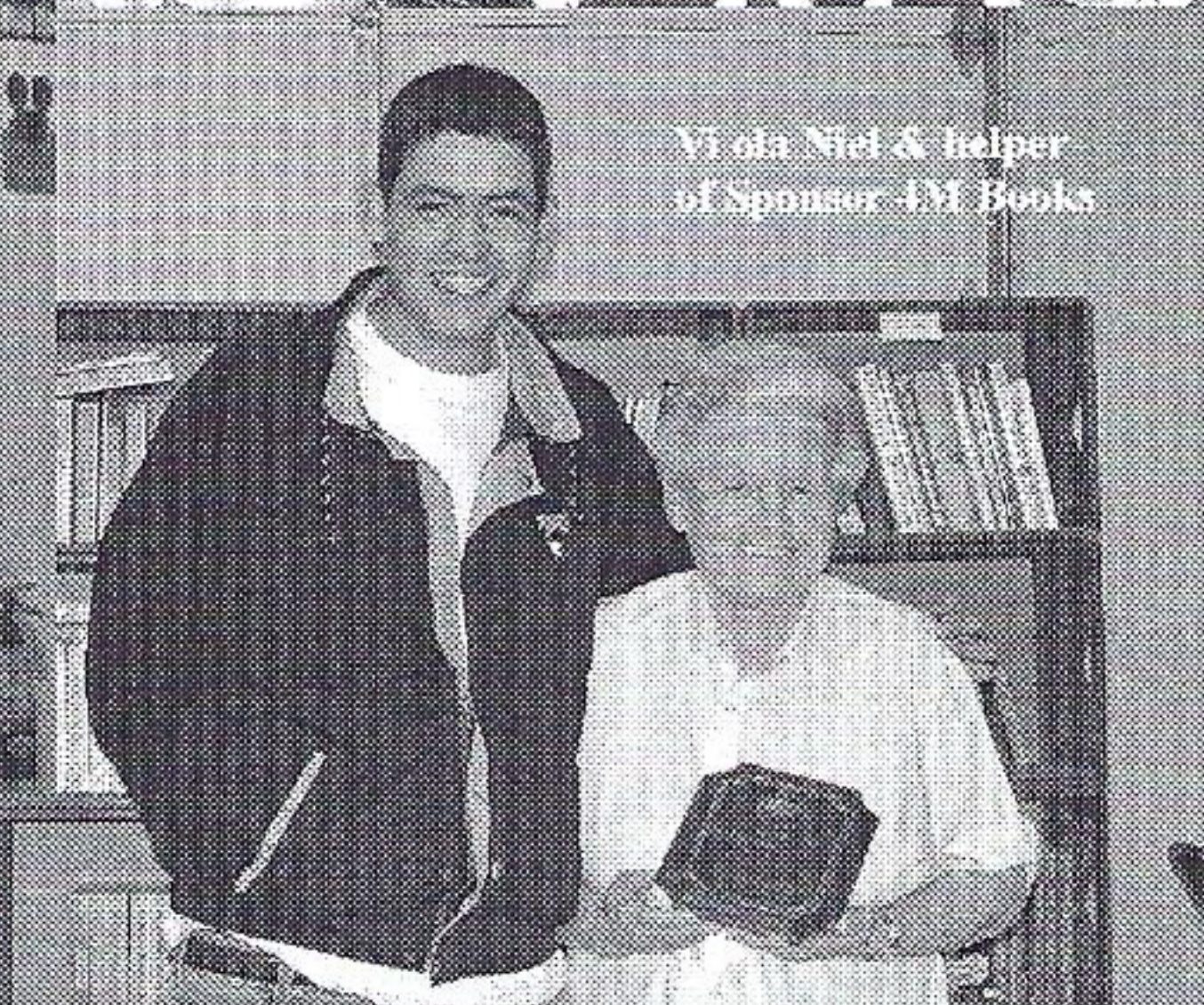
Triple Crown's Patriot & Fans



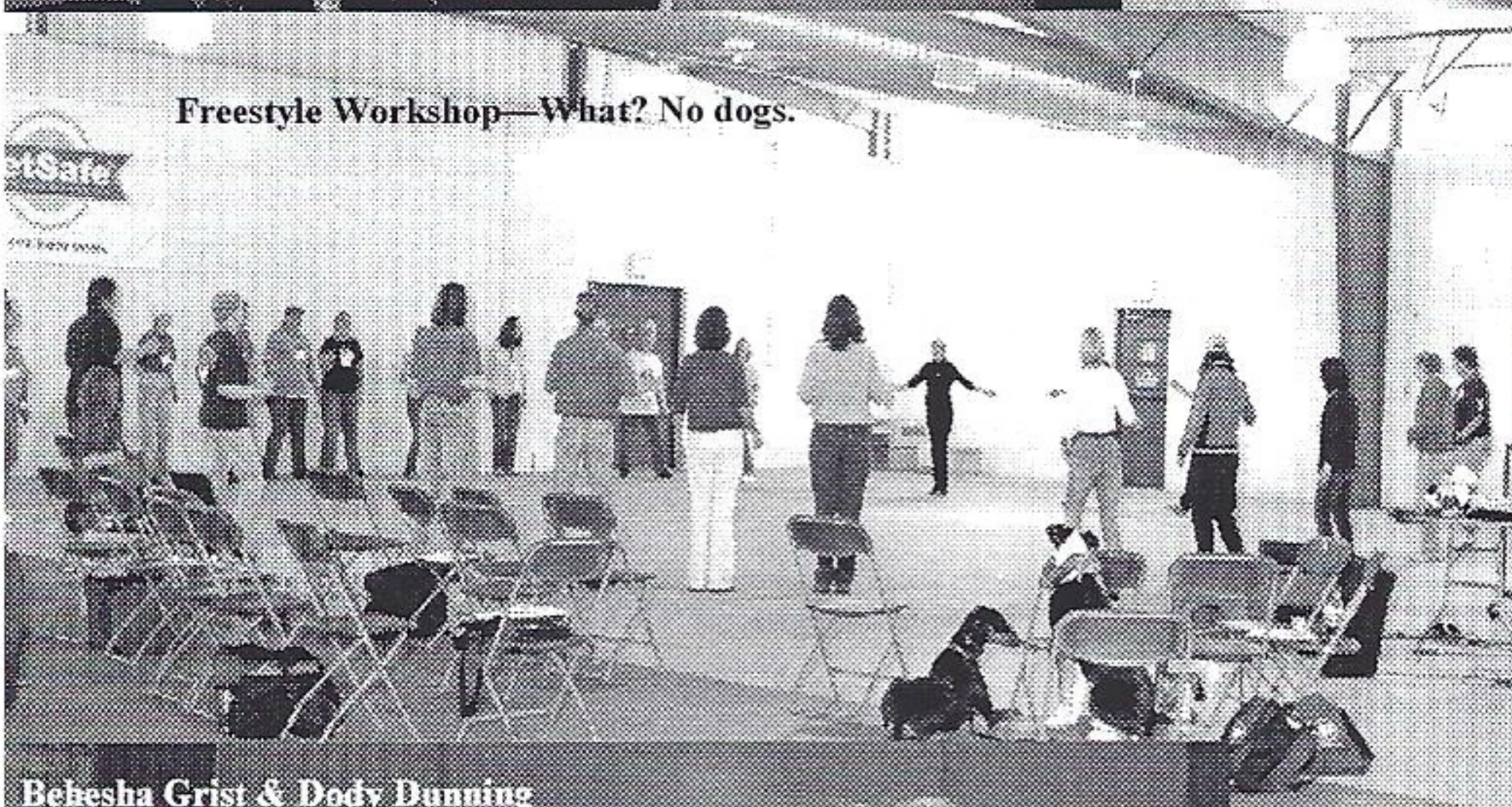
Martin Deeley Presents a President's Award to youngest member Elizabeth Hayes



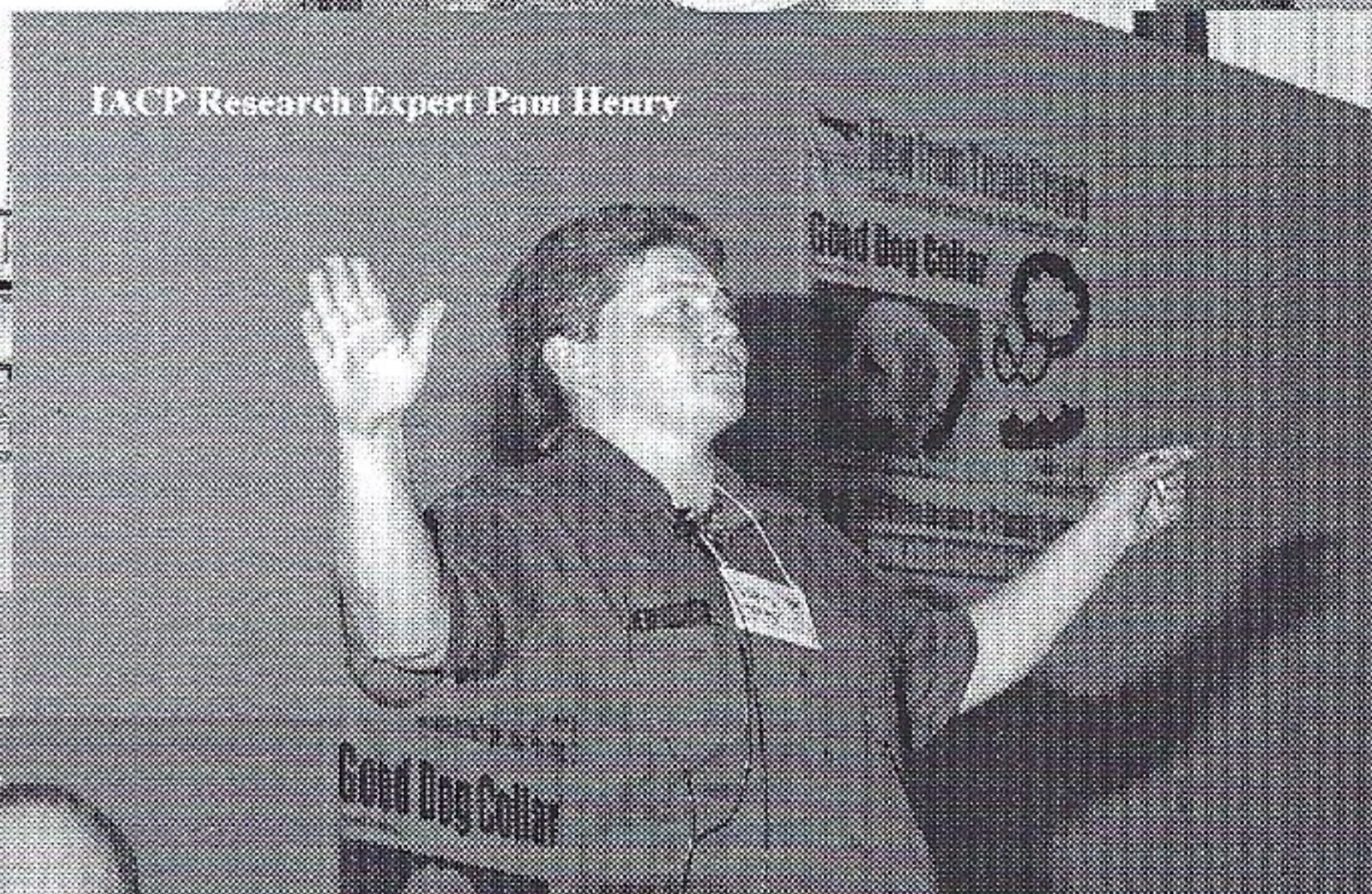
Therese Backowski - Speaker



Viola Niel & helper of Sponsor IM Books



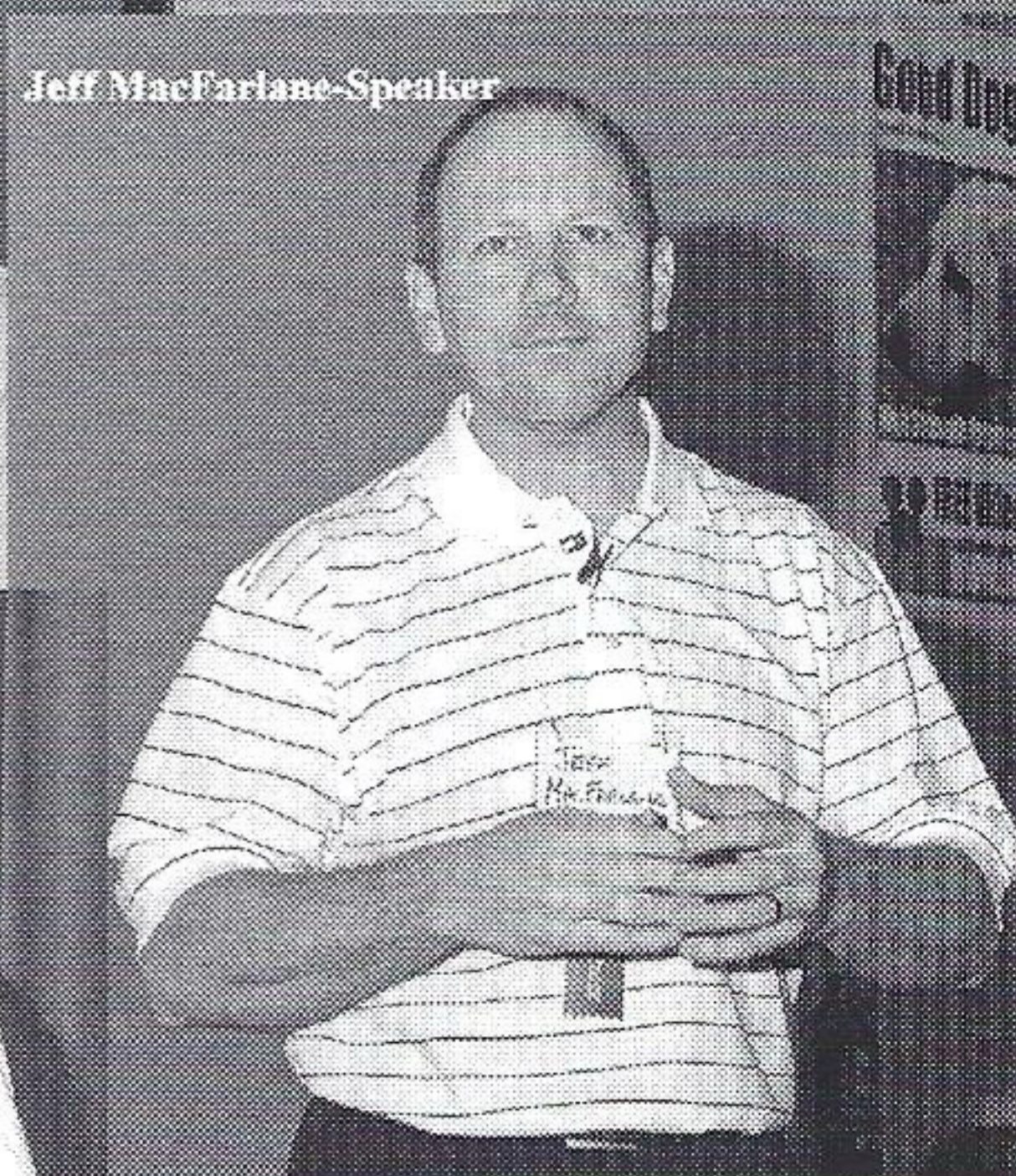
Freestyle Workshop—What? No dogs.



IACP Research Expert Pam Henry



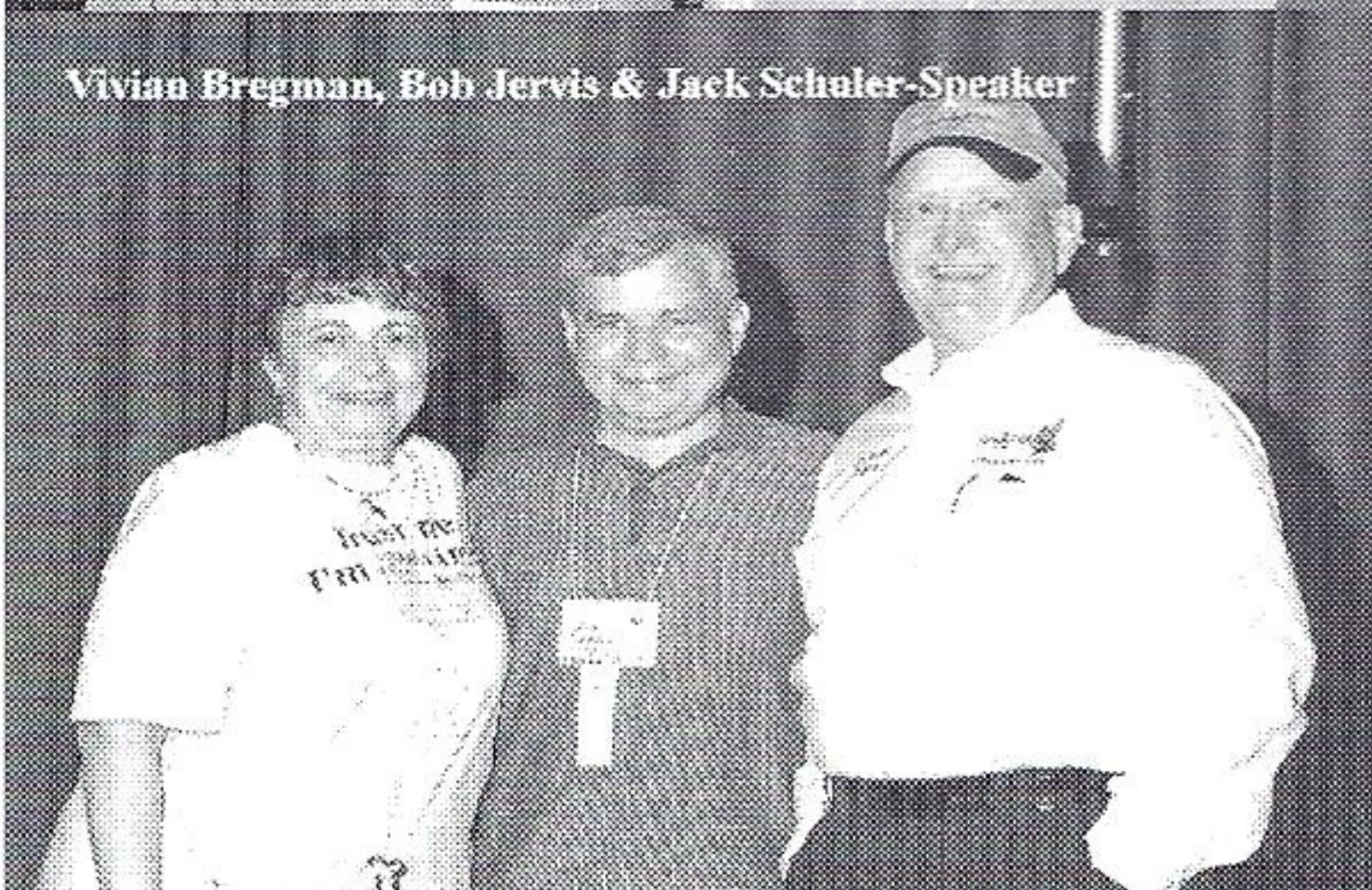
Behesha Grist & Dody Dunning



Jeff MacFarlane-Speaker



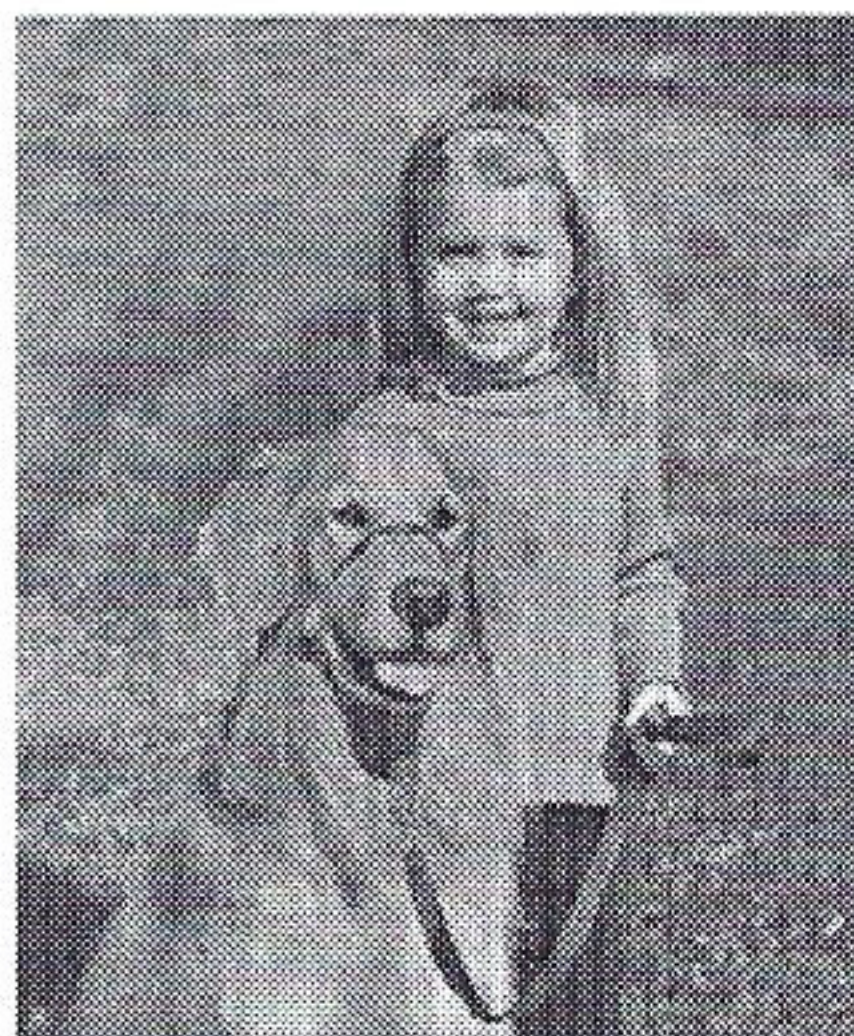
Kris Butler-Speaker



Vivian Bregman, Bob Jervis & Jack Schuler-Speaker

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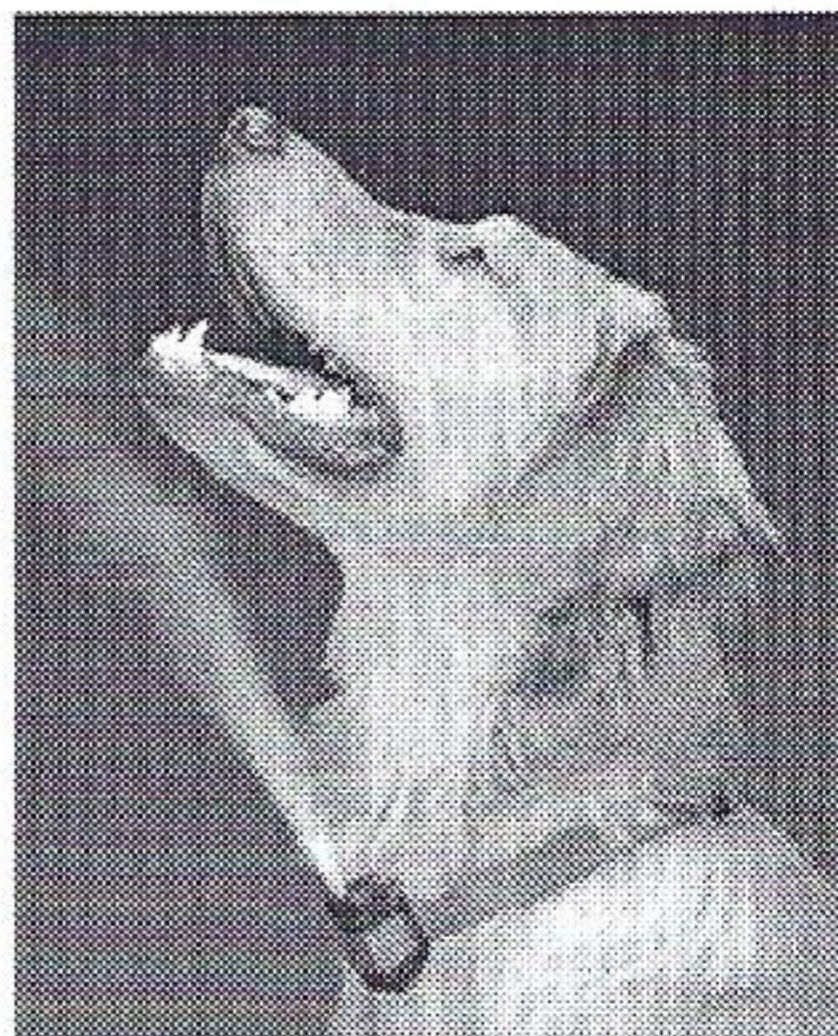
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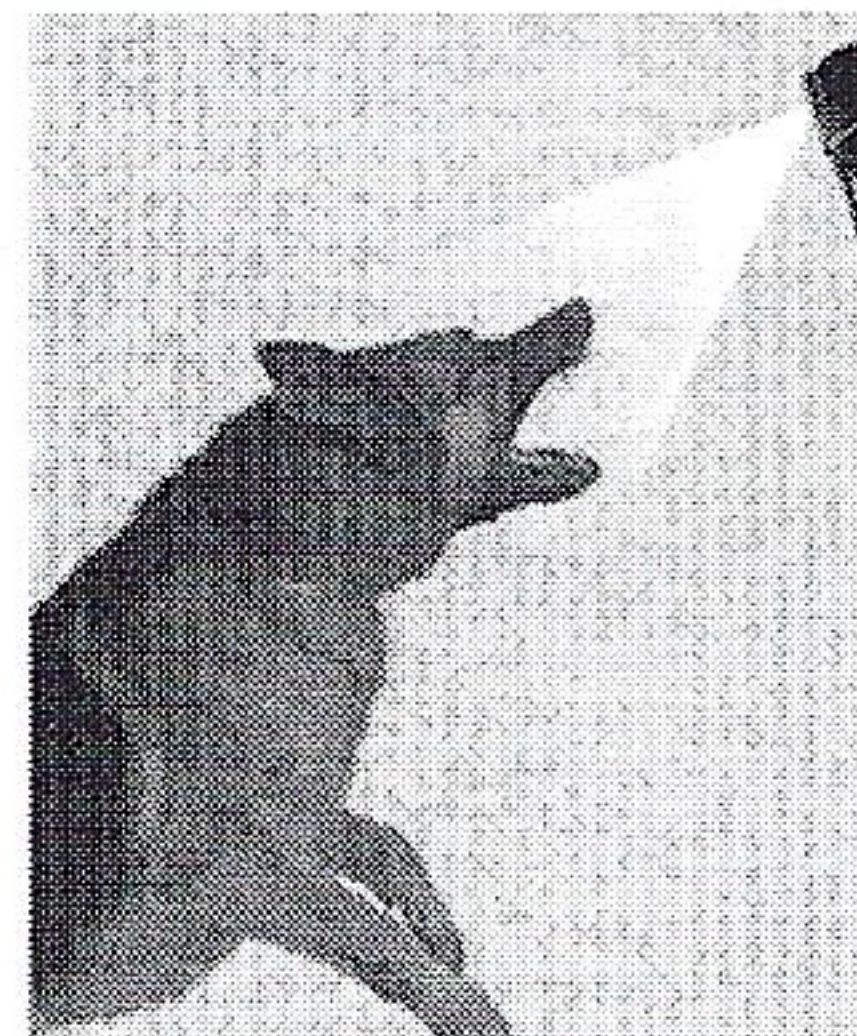
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