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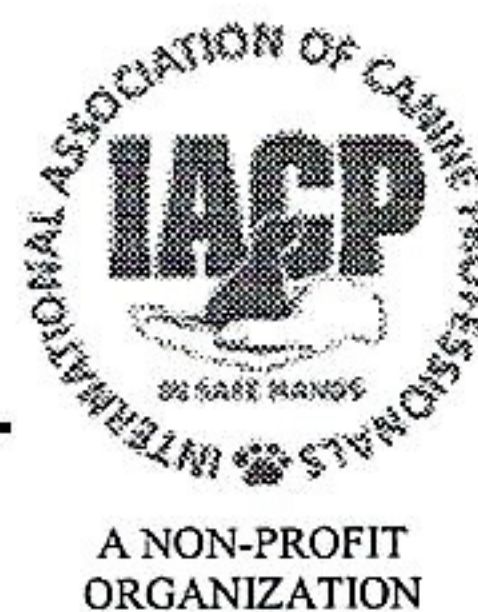
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Safe Hands Journal



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SAFEHANDS IS THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE



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.

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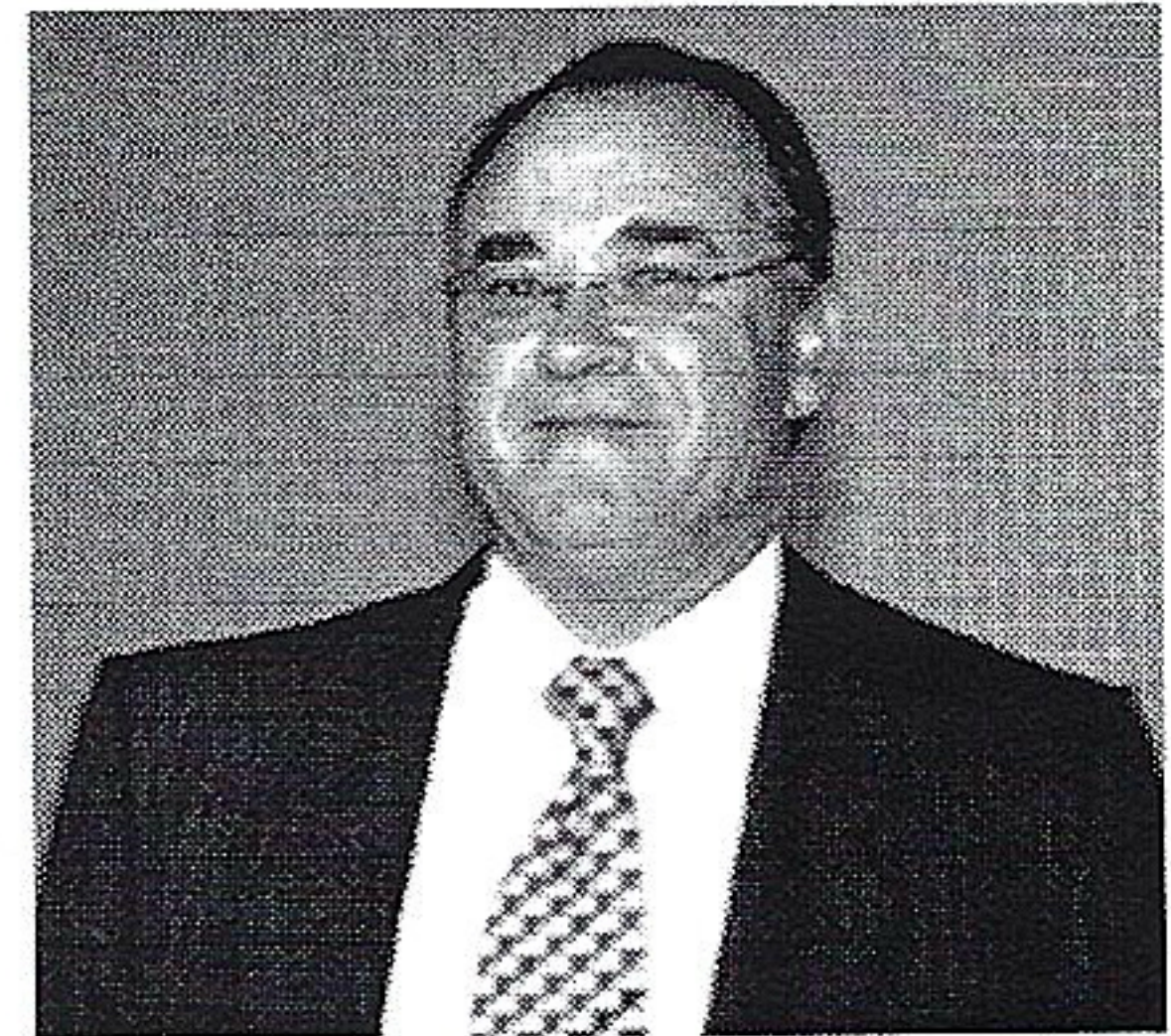
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Yes!" what a conference that was. "YES" is what Cesar Millan 'oomphed with his fist when presented with his 'Honorary Membership' to the International Association of Canine Professionals. This years Annual Educational Conference was electric, full of enthusiasm to learn, share, and plentiful with good willed friendship. "Wow!" as my friend Dick Russell would say, suffice it to say it was tremendous!

With success as the backdrop however I had two experiences that were to embarrass me & bring me back to earth. The first, my error. In the busy time just prior to the conference I did not double check my list of awards for our sponsor's and was unable to present PETCO with their Platinum Sponsor plaque at the Awards Banquet. What a muck up! Sponsors are the life blood of the IACP, we work hard to build our relationship. This unintentional error on my part, does not send the correct message. Outwardly appearing to show a lack of respect is utterly the last thing I would want from myself or the IACP.



Sponsors like PETCO are at the forefront with the dog owning public providing beneficial and much needed professional services to dogs and their owners, and to have this oversight occur was purely inexcusable. Shame, guilt, embarrassment. You name it, I felt it. Even more, my good friend Rocky Boatman, PETCO's National Canine Education Programs Manager and a past IACP President, had to be disappointed. My sincere apologies go out to PETCO and all their Training Team for I personally regard them with high respect and appreciate the support they've shown the IACP.

The second experience, also involves Sponsors, directly and indirectly. The IACP was created to develop and foster education, cooperation and especially understanding between the professions, across the wide diversity of methods & equipment applications. For all professions but in this instance, training in particular. Many of us have suffered and been victim's of discrimination through comments we've received regarding the tools we use. At the conference, I actually heard of discriminatory comments made (from a few and in 'public' places) about the tools others use. Not educational comments, not understanding comments but unpleasant and unprofessional comments. Statements which belittle other trainers and their methods is not only unprofessional but unprincipled. As members of an Association of Professionals, we should rise above this. The larger this Association grows the more difficult it is for all of us to avoid mistakes and achieve perfection in every realm, but we should take care and strive to. We as members should realize that the reflection is not only on the individual, but on every single one of us, our Association, and all the professions we represent.

As an organization we emphasize there are many ways and approaches to train a dog - assisting a dog and his owner's relationship should be our ultimate goal and end result. According to the IACP Code of Conduct, provided no injury is caused either mentally or physically to the dog(s), we should never condemn another professional's methodology. In fact we should learn how and if it may be possible to use it to assist us. That's what the Annual Educational Conference is all about. The IACP's success is due to people whose belief in this Association is paramount.

Despite my exceptions, the '06 Conference was a complete success and I would like to thank the Board of Directors who helped in this endeavor and Janeen McMurtrie and her Conference team in particular for a job well done! The doors have been opened to us once again - to enable us to grow further as an Association, and as individual members for years to come.

We will bring you all a report of the '06 Conference in a future issue of SafeHands.

Martin Deeley

President IACP

WHY TRAIN WITH TOYS

By Linda Martuch Pres. Genuine Dog Gear with Brenna Fender

Training with toys has become popular in most dog training circles lately. If you've used food successfully in your training program, you might wonder why you should move outside your comfort zone and start using a new type of reinforcement. Why should you train with toys?

Toys provide many advantages that treats do not. By using toys, trainers can turn practice sessions into fun and games. Linking work and play can create stronger drive, increased confidence, reduced stress, and a happier dog. Dogs that think of their obedience or agility performance as play are more likely to find the work reinforcing, even when the toy is not present.

Increased drive and decreased stress can lead to speedier performances. Dogs that are "thinkers" may get caught up in the game and allow themselves to react without over-analyzing their job. At any point during a training session, a handler who uses toys can stop training and start playing, which can defuse stress brought about by confusion or complex exercises. Learning can be difficult; a sudden game of fetch or tug can provide relief and an improved attitude. Toys also help the trainers to de-stress. It's not only the dogs that need to understand that training is play - sometimes the trainers need the reminder more than the dogs.

Playing with a variety of toys can help a dog have fun even when there are no actual toys available. For dogs that are accustomed to playing, a stick, an empty water bottle, a leaf, and even the handler herself can be part of a rousing game. This is ideal for times in which you cannot actually have toys or treats with you, like at the start line of an agility course or in between exercises in the obedience ring.

Toys can be easily used as targets when training the dog to work away from you. Placing toys where you want the dog to go (like on the table or to the ring gates) can help him understand what to do. Toys can also be used to help handlers reward dogs for working at a distance. Rewarding with treats often requires the dog to return to you or you to run to the dog. Both of these actions reinforce the idea that rewards occur in only in the handler's immediate presence. By using an easy-to-throw toy like a Frisbee or a ball, the dog can be rewarded at a distance.

Training with toys can help avoid some of the pitfalls of food-only training. Some dogs become so focused on the food that they are unable to pay attention to what they should be learning. A training session can be sidelined by a dog obsessed with finding a dropped treat, hunting for treats dropped by others, and picking up odd items that might be food. And while you may



use all your treats during a training session, toys never "run out." Sometimes dogs acclimate to their training treats, and you have to hunt for a new 'taste' to keep the dogs drive up. Toys seldom lose their appeal; in fact they're more likely to become more valuable over time.

Trainers who use a lot of treats may have to reduce the size of the dog's meals to keep him from getting fat. Excess weight is detrimental for performance dogs that need to be fit to do their best and to avoid injury. Cutting back on the dog's well-balanced regular diet and adding high calorie treats that lack adequate nutrition can raise other health concerns as well. Also, since treats are consumables, they have to constantly be replenished; a good quality toy can last for an extended period of time.

There are so many toys available now that there is bound to be something for every dog. Even very food motivated dogs can enjoy Tug N Treats and other toys with hidden pouches for tasty rewards. While training only with treats can be effective in some situations, any trainer that doesn't use toys as an important part of their training program is missing out on a useful tool.

Linda Martuch is President of IACP Sponsor

Genuine Dog Gear



Deference Training

By Chad Mackin

One of the most common requests I receive is "Can you stop my dog from jumping on me?" The real answer to this question is "No, I can stop the dog from jumping on me; you will need to teach him to stop jumping on you yourself. But I can show you how to do that." Most people end up with more than what they were looking for. For most dogs, the best solution to the jumping up problem also lays the groundwork for establishing leadership in everyday interaction.

I am talking about something veterinary behaviorists call "deference training". Some trainers call it "Nothing in life is free" (NILF) and others refer to it as "Learn to Earn", I prefer to call it what it is, "The sit for everything rule". Whatever we call it, the principles are essentially the same. The name "deference training" best describes these principles, but tells us nothing about practical application. The purpose is to teach the dog to defer to our authority in order to get the things he wants. Few people realize how much of their dog's lives they actually control. Think about it, everything the dog gets that's worth having comes from you. Food, affection, toys, shelter, they all come from your hands. Or to put it another way, you control the things your dog wants most. This gives you the tools to demonstrate, in a non-confrontational way, your role as pack leader. That is, of course, if you are willing to use them.

I have been recommending this system for some time now, and over the years I have adjusted the approach to make it more and more effective. The most significant change I have added to the system is that I introduce it in three phases rather than all at once. Dogs are creatures of habit and as such, sudden significant changes in their lives usually produce stress. By introducing these changes over time we reduce this stress.

Phase One: "Sit before I pet you" – With this exercise we introduce the dog to the essential element of deference training: You must work for me before I work for you. This may sound like a harsh statement, but as you will see, the practical application is not harsh at all.

As previously stated, one of the most common problems my clients face is that of their dog jumping up on them. Phase one of deference training usually solves this problem very easily. When our dog jumps up on us he is asking for something. Or more accurately, he is demanding something. He wants physical affection and he won't take "no" for an answer. Before discussing how to stop this problem, it will be valuable to look at how common responses contribute to it. Most of my clients react to this behavior in one of three ways. If the dog is large, they will pet the dog in hopes that he will be satisfied and leave them alone. Another, less common, response is to push the dog away, usually coupled with a verbal reprimand. With smaller dogs the most common response we see is that the owner will pick the dog

up. In all three instances the dog is either intentionally or unintentionally rewarded for his behavior. Obviously, petting the dog or picking him up is a reward, but what is not so obvious is that pushing the dog away is also a reward. Remember that the dog wants your physical affection. In other words he wants you to touch him. Pushing him away is not as rewarding as petting him (or picking him up) but it is still a reward. If we continually reward the dog for jumping up, it should be no surprise that he keeps doing it. If we want the dog to stop jumping up on us, at the very least, we must not reward him when he does. Unfortunately, for most of my clients the dog has already learned that jumping up is an effective way to get that affection. Because of this, simply withholding the reward will only produce more determined efforts. Once a behavior has been marked in the dog's mind as "effective" it is very difficult to convince the dog that it is ineffective. We must deal with this fact if we are to convince the dog to stop jumping on us. In addition to making the jumping up ineffective we must teach a more effective behavior. The behavior we use to replace the jumping up is "sit". We need to teach the dog two things: jumping up is never rewarded, sitting is always rewarded. If we do this, the dog will choose to sit rather than jump on us.

Now that we have developed a theoretical solution, let's examine the practical application. When the dog jumps up, step back quickly. This will serve two important functions. First it will get the dog back on all fours (and off of us) without our having to touch him. Secondly, it will communicate clearly through our body language that his behavior is putting his goal further away, not closer. This second benefit can be magnified if we lift our hands to shoulder height. Once the dog is on all fours, we redirect him by telling him exactly what we want him to do, which is "sit". There is a chance that the dog will sit before we can tell him to, that is fine. Whether he waits for us to tell him, or sits on his own, we must move to pet him the moment his butt hits the ground. It is very likely that as we reach for the dog he will try to jump up again. If he does, we just step back and start the process all over again. The dog must remain sitting until we start to pet him. Once we begin petting him, he will be allowed to stand up on four legs, but not on two.

Beyond teaching the dog not to jump up, this technique changes the way the dog approaches us for one of his basic emotional needs. By taking control over how and when physical affection is distributed we demonstrate, strong leadership skills and acquaint him with our authority. Few dogs resist this once they understand it. Even the most dominant dogs seem to be willing to concede this small thing in exchange for a good scratch behind the ears.

Deference Training Cont'd

One thing that must be stressed is that there is no correction connected with this technique besides withholding the reward. Some people are tempted to "make the dog sit". After all, he was given a command right? No, he was not given a command; he was presented with a choice. He has been granted a nearly unprecedented degree of self-determination. He will decide whether we pet him or not. We don't punish him for choosing not to ask for affection. However, there is a catch, and I guarantee it's subtly will not be lost on the dog. If he wants us to pet him, he has to let us know in the manner we decide. We don't want to inadvertently give the dog the message that we want to pet him more than he wants us to pet him. We want to tell him the exact opposite: we couldn't care less whether we get to give him a scratch or not, it makes no difference to us.

This does more than just teach him not to jump up on us, it begins to re-frame the entire relationship, and that is precisely our goal.

Phase one will continue until the dog has been sitting for affection for at least two days. This does not mean that he must be perfect, that will take time, but he must at least show an understanding of the terms and a willingness to comply with them. When the time has come we will move on to....

Phase Two: Sit for Everything Else (except food) – In phase two we build on the success that we created in phase one. We simply apply the same principle in other situations. From this point forward, we will require the dog to sit before we grant any request with the exception of his regular meals. Some examples would be: make him sit before he goes outside, make him sit before he comes inside, make him sit before he gets in the car, make him sit before he gets out of the car, make him sit before you throw his favorite toy, make him sit before he gets on the furniture (if you intend to allow him on the furniture at all). Use your imagination and be creative. You can find many, many opportunities each day to remind him of your authority and your competence as a leader.

Phase two will continue until the dog is past the point of contention in all the situations we require the dog to sit. Once this has been accomplished, we are ready for....

Phase Three: Sit Before I Feed You – In a sense, phases one and two can be viewed as preparation for phase three. It is in phase three that we clearly demonstrate our control over the dog's food supply and, in so doing, demonstrate our control of the pack. The process is simple, but the effect can be tremendous.

We simply prepare the dog's food on a counter or table (rather than simply pouring food into a bowl on the ground). Once the food is prepared, we hold the bowl about waist-high and say, "Spot, sit." That is all we say, we don't shake the dish to indicate what it contains, nor do we encourage the dog with platitudes; we wait to see what the dog will do. There are only three choices he can make. He can sit, not sit, or simply turn and walk away. If he walks away we simply put the food away without any further comment. If he doesn't sit, pick a number between five and ten and begin silently counting to it. If the



dog has not sat by the time we reach that number, we simply put the food away without further comment. If the dog sits, whether this is right when we give the command or while we are counting, we want to reward him immediately by putting the food down. However, he is still under command and we must maintain some control. Many dogs will jump up to meet the dish as soon as it starts moving towards the ground, this is unacceptable. Likewise most dogs will try to stand up as the dish reaches their nose level, this too is unacceptable. If the dog stands up before we tell him, "OK," we are going to pull the dish back, all the way to shoulder height and say "No, sit." Once he sits, and only once he sits, we will offer the food again. The same rules still apply; he must remain sitting until we release him.

The dog will be required to remain sitting while we put the food on the ground, take our hand off the dish, stand up, and give the OK command. We will give the dog plenty of chances to meet these last requirements because they can be very difficult for many dogs. After a while, it may become clear that the dog simply is not willing to remain sitting during all this. If this happens we will put the food away without further comment.

Most people will be tempted to come back in an hour or so and try again if their dog misses a meal; don't do it. The dog must understand that food is available at scheduled times for a limited time. If he chooses not to eat when food is offered, he must live with that choice (and its consequences) until his next scheduled feeding. By taking a firm stance we will greatly accelerate the dog's acceptance of our conditions, and, by extension, the leadership that our conditions imply.

Client after client has found this program to be very effective for re-structuring their relationship with their dog. The only clients of mine who have not benefited from this program in a substantial way are those who didn't implement it, or didn't implement as instructed.

So be bold enough to clearly define your leadership to your dog, follow the program and you will see that your dog will not only respect you more, he will develop a stronger bond in the process.

Chad Mackin is a Director of IACP and lives in Texas

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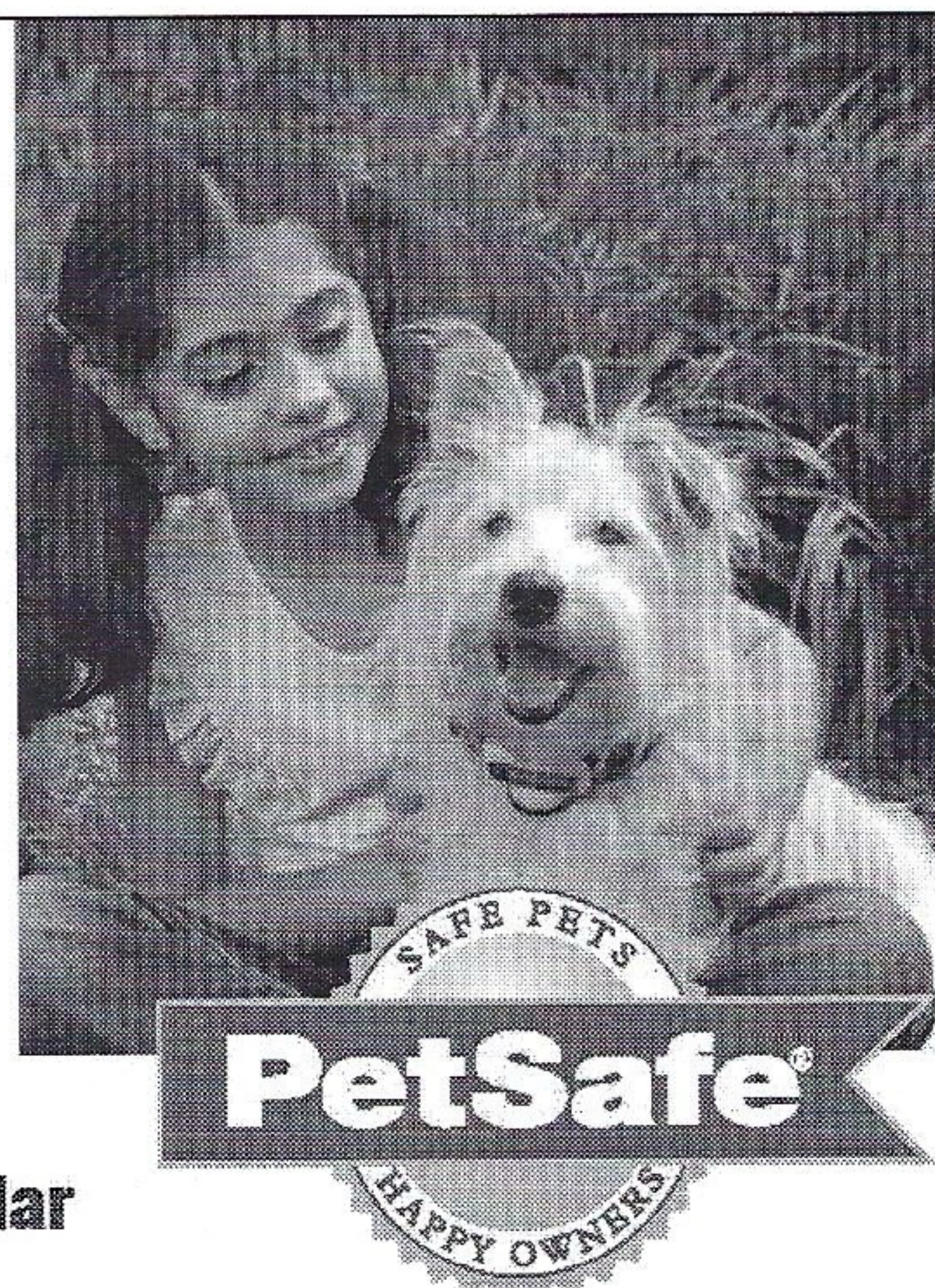
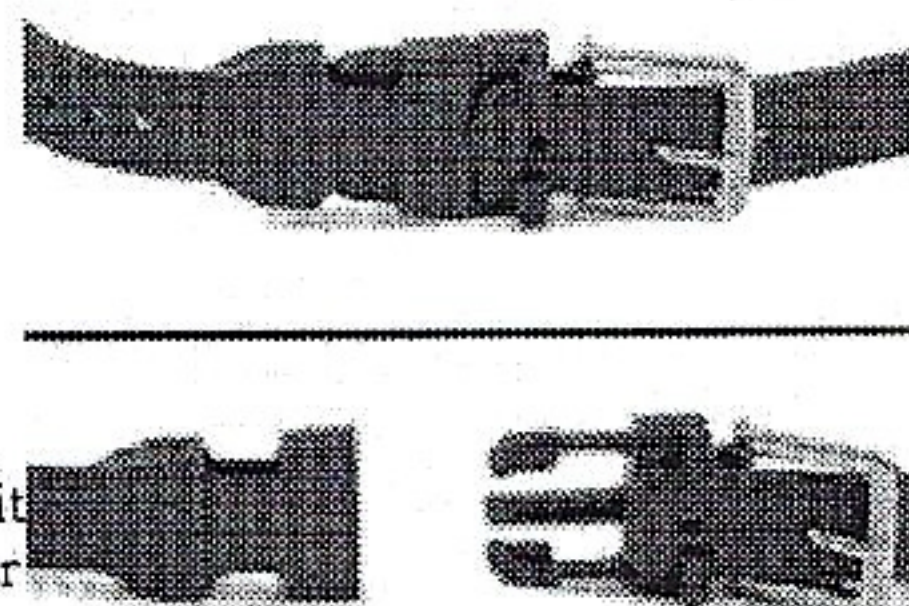
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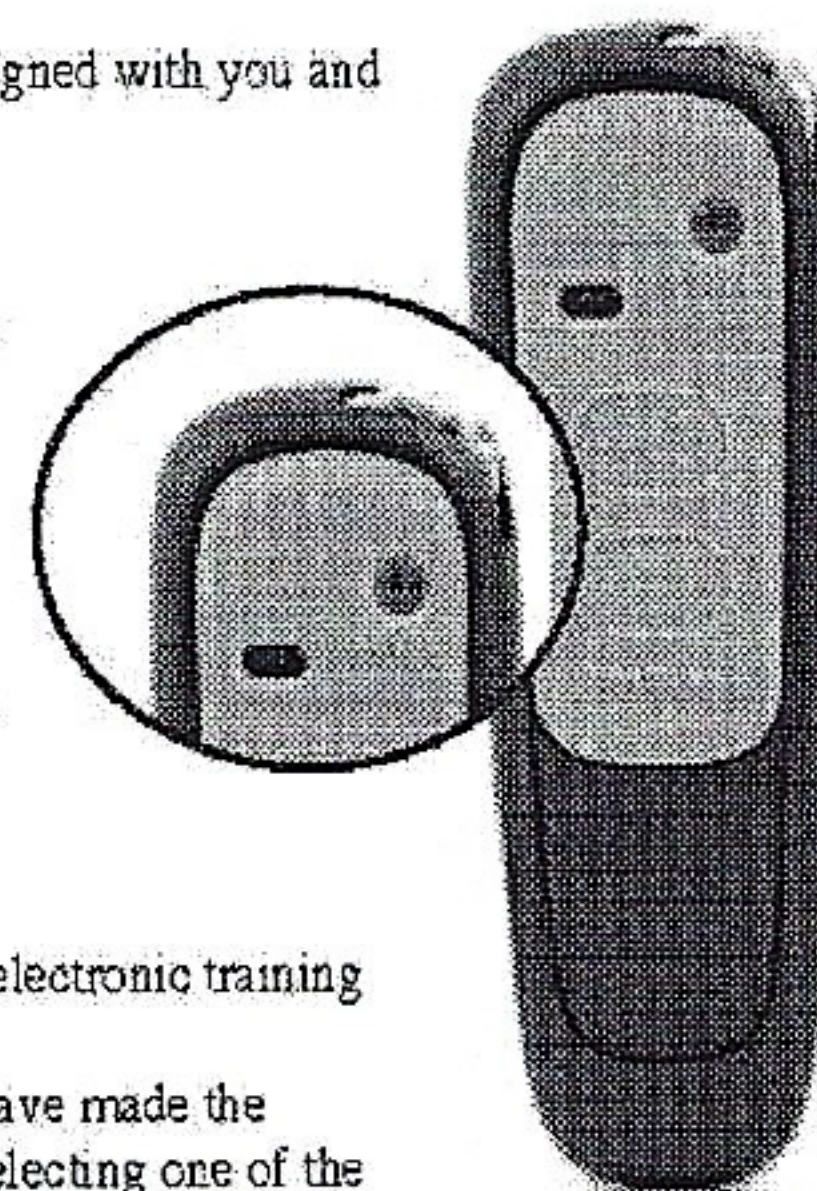
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Dogs and Kids: An Ethological Perspective

Dorothy C Dunning

Probably one reason dogs were domesticated is because we're so similar to dogs, socially. Like dogs, humans were primitively social hunters, and like dogs, our fundamental social group is the extended family. Social hunters, unlike solitary ones, typically hunt prey larger than themselves, in groups. Dogs and wolves are members of the same species, because they can interbreed and produce grandpuppies. A family of wolves is a pack, a group that includes a single reproductive pair and a few generations of their offspring. Adult offspring hunt with the pack and help raise their younger brothers and sisters. Both dog and human societies maintain order with social status. By convention, the leader of an animal society is the alpha. In a wolf pack, there are two alphas, the reproductive pair. The alpha male keeps his sons in line but usually doesn't boss any of the girls; the alpha female cheerfully tolerates her sons while exerting iron control over her daughters. Dogs, as domesticated wolves, are good pets because they easily become members of our human families, our packs. Young dogs need alphas to tell them how to behave, to set limits to their behavior, to teach them how to get along in the world. If a young dog does not encounter an adult it can respect as an alpha, it will take that position itself.

The subordinate adult and late adolescent wolves in a pack are expected to tolerate a lot of flak from puppies, who are outside of the pack hierarchy. Puppies are allowed to leap upon them and bite, to chew ears and tails, to nip legs. The older animals don't have to endure serious bites but they must not retaliate with equally serious ones, that would kill or seriously maim a pup. This rule is enforced by the pups' parents, the alphas. Within the litter the puppies may establish their own hierarchy. The way they do this can be pretty rough, and the alphas may interfere if it gets too bad. They seldom

do, however.

When the pack leaves the den area, the pups are expected to take more responsibility for their behavior. They are no longer allowed to mistreat their older brothers and sisters, who thereupon begin to enforce the new rules. They still can't be too rough with them, but more restraint is expected of the young 'uns. When the pups are around 6 mos old and learning to

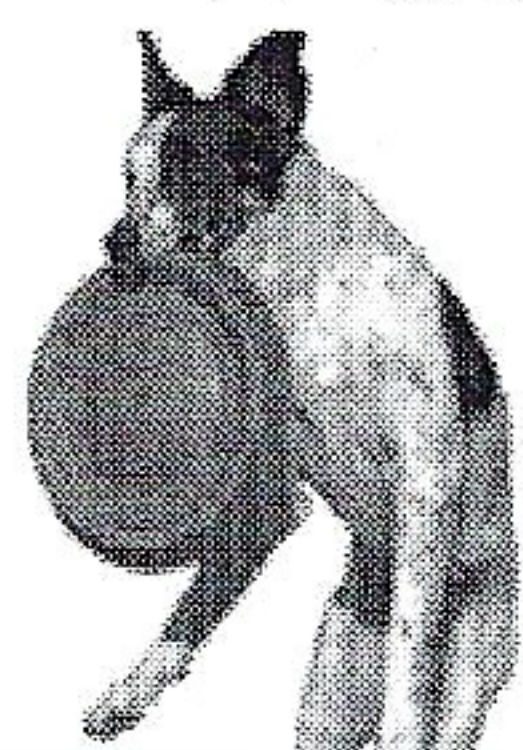


hunt, most special treatment is at an end. They enter the pack hierarchy at the bottom and must prove themselves as individuals. Most of those that survived puppyhood die then.

In a human family, the children are the puppies. From the

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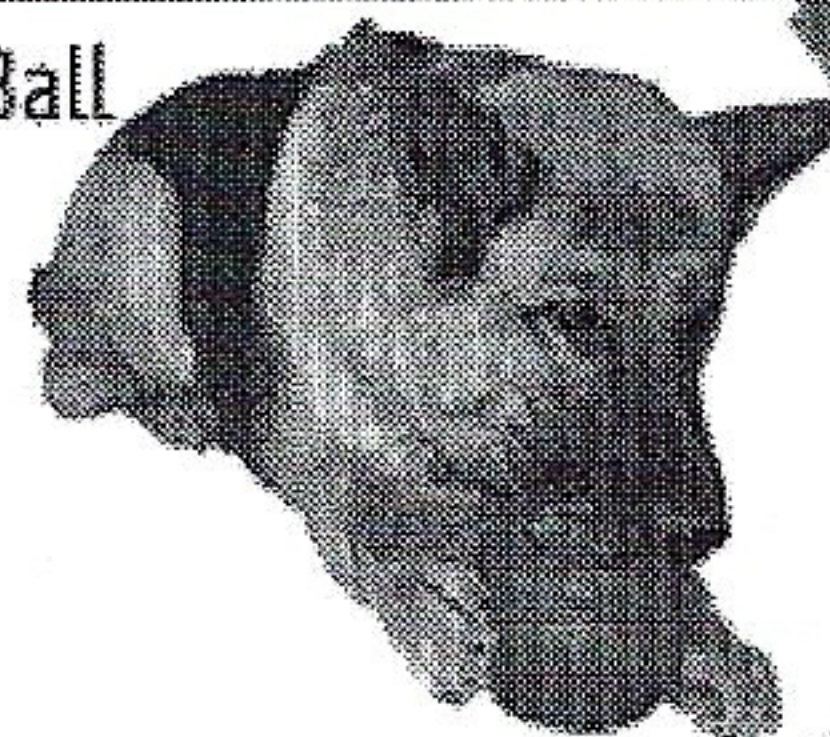
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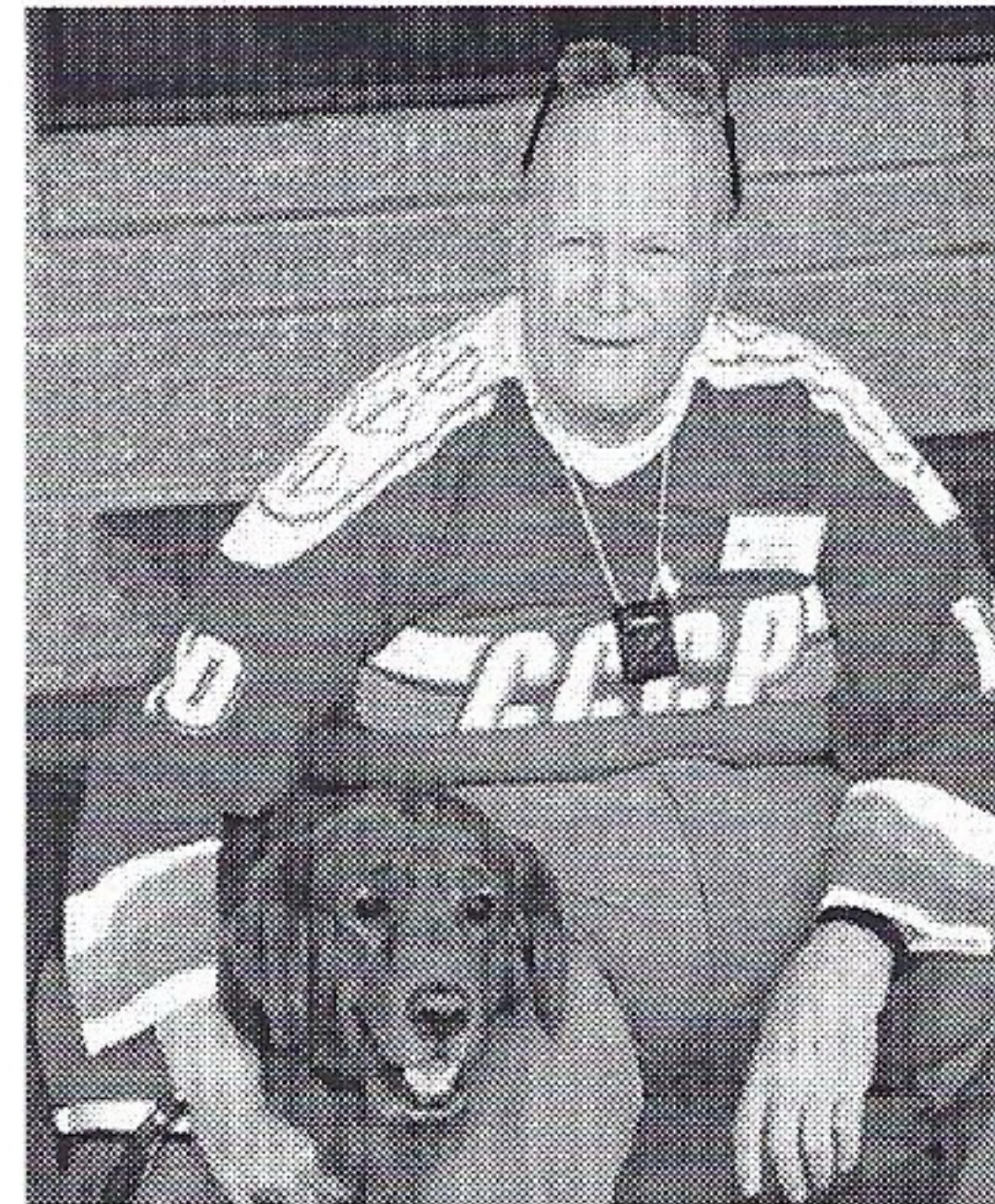
2006 Hall of Fame Inductees

The International Association of Canine Professionals is proud to announce the following inductees to the IACP Hall of Fame for 2006



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Pioneers in Motivational training and authors of best selling books on dogs, nutrition and training.



Arthur "Captain" Haggerty

Considered the "Grandfather" of American dog trainers and dog training. He has trained the country's most prominent trainers. An actor and author, Captain has also trained many dogs for films and stage.

Max Emil Fredrick v. Stephanitz

The Father of today's German Shepherd Dog. 1864-1936

William "Bill" Koehler

Synonymous with dog training, Bill Koehler set the stage for dog training. An author, trainer and dedicated dog man, the Koehler Method of Dog Training still remains the foundation today for many trainers. 1914-1993

Dogs and Kids Contd

dog's viewpoint, very young ones must be indulged; older ones may be trained; adolescents need not be tolerated. Human rules are likely to be different, but whatever the rules are, the alphas must enforce them. The family dog is not so stupid as to consider the human puppies as superior members of the hierarchy. That's ridiculous, but the alphas (parents) can make it clear to the dog that the children are to be treated with restraint: a LOT of restraint with babies, progressively less as the kids get older. The alphas must make and enforce the rules, whatever they are.

If the dog is itself a young puppy, it treats the children as litter-mates. That's why families with young children should not get a puppy, for the pup and the baby routinely mistreat one another and may learn to hate/fear each other. The canine baby is as incapable of taking responsibility for its own behavior as are human babies, but the puppy has much sharper teeth, at a much younger age. The baby has inquiring fingers that poke and prod

and hurt. The alphas must never allow the baby and the puppy alone together, for they can hurt each other, sometimes seriously. Merely watching them is not enough. Adult hands must be within 6 inches of the two, at all times.

The adolescent pup establishing its position in the family hierarchy will not consider younger kids as social superiors (dominants) either. It may lose dominance hassles to older kids and take out its social frustrations on the youngest available. Children need protection from adolescent dogs. That's what parents are for. A pup who may be almost letter perfect in obedience skills may seem to lose all of them in an instant when it hits sexual maturity. Human alphas must realize that training is not a suite of skills learned in 6-10 weeks but a process that continues for the life of the dog.

Dody Dunning is a PhD and Professional Member of IACP

IACP Member of the Year & Presidents Awards



Member of the Year
Janeen McMurtrie,
Conference Organizer with husband Mark
and IACP President Martin Deeley



President's Award
George Cockrell
with IACP President Martin Deeley

President's Award
Sharon Larson

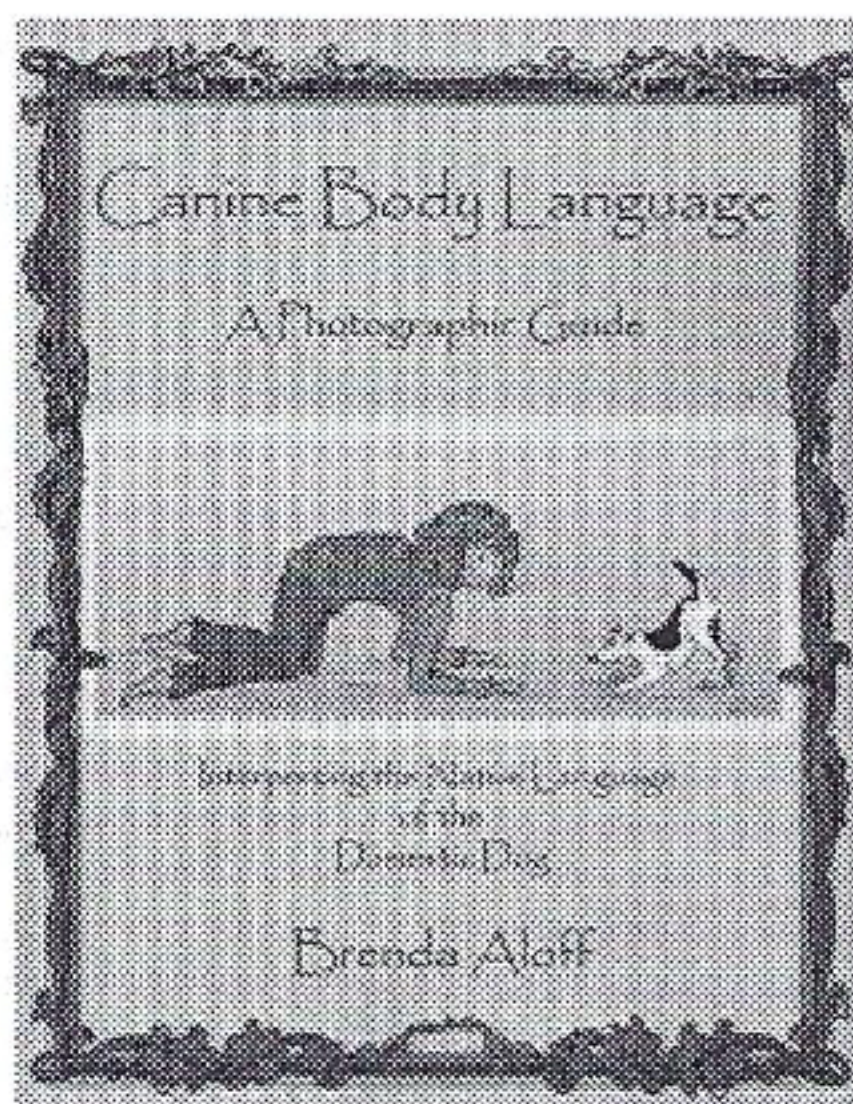


Book Review

Canine Body Language: A Photographic Guide

By Brenda Aloff

Brenda Aloff has done a bang-up job on this large oversized paperback which interprets dog body language and what dogs are saying! When the book first arrived, I was skeptical. But as I thumbed through the photos and realized the great amount of research that had gone into this subject-I was amazed! To the best of my knowledge there is no other educational resource that is so comprehensive on this subject. There are over 400 pages with multiple photos on most pages. Brenda describes each photo clearly as to what the dog is doing and what it is really saying.



7) Quiz. The answers to the Quiz are followed in a later section of the book.

The book is so extremely comprehensive. In particular, one photo showed dogs walking together as a group. The reader could look at the dogs and study their body language, and then read the follow up description: Dogs Comfortable In A Group. (Lack of eye contact, eyes blinking and soft, tails and ears relaxed). There was another group photo with a heading of Dogs Not Comfortable In A Group. Once again, there was a follow up description of why and how to tell if they are not

comfortable.

There is a photo of a 5 week old puppy that exhibits a Defensive Display. The photo is clear and easy to read. The follow up description states Body Orientation Backward, Eyes Wide, Staring, Pupils Dilated, Lips Long, Teeth Bared, Braced Legs and Paw Lift).

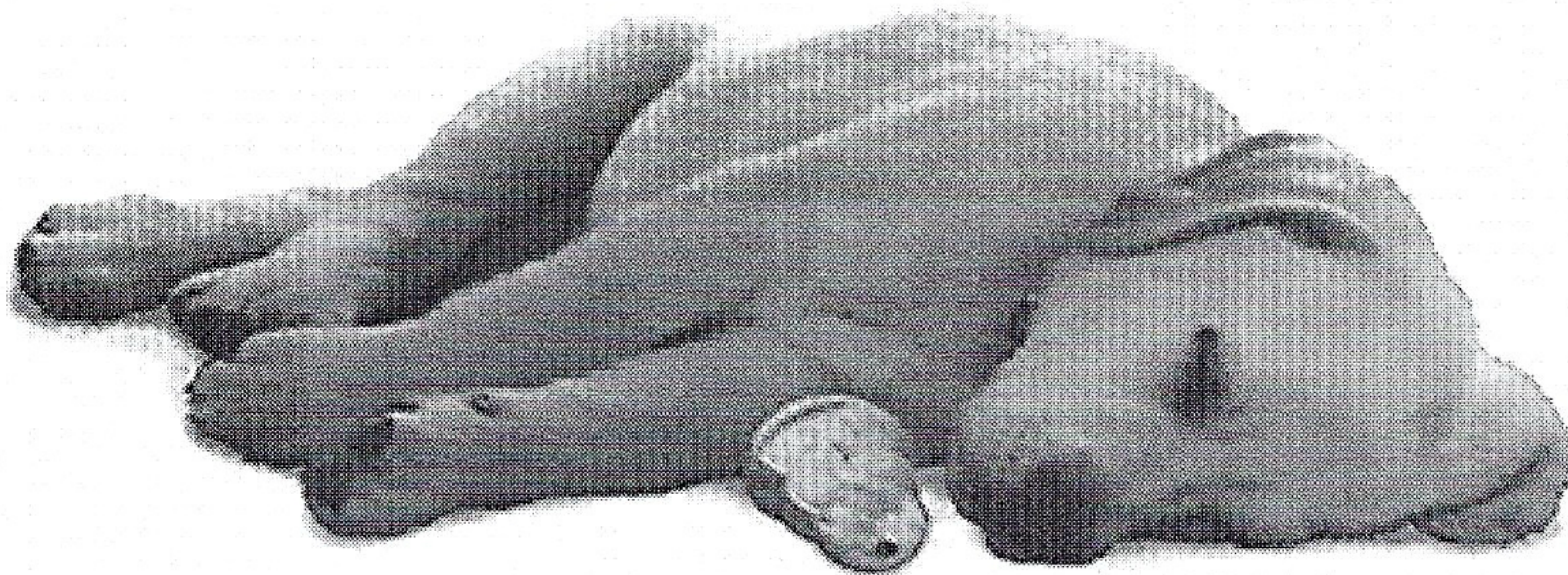
Brenda has done a wonderful job with this book and I recommend it to any Canine Professional. Since reviewing this book, I have already shown it to clients who needed to understand easily what their dog was communicating.

Two Thumbs Up!

Gina Hayes Just Dogs Training Center Cape Cod, Ma.
heartnsoul7299@hotmail.com

The 6 Chapters in this book are:

- 1) Expressions of an Emotional State (such as Curiosity, Stress, Caution)
- 2) Calming and Negotiation Signals (such as Blinking, Yawning, Looking Away)
- 3) Neutral and Friendly (such as Butt Sniff, Greeting "I Love You" Stretch, Group Look Away)
- 4) Space Invaders (such as Aggression, Alerting, Warning, Guarding)
- 5) Predation (such as Excitement, Stalking, Pursuit and Prey Bow)
- 6) Play (such as Play Biting, Role Changes, Conflict and Break)



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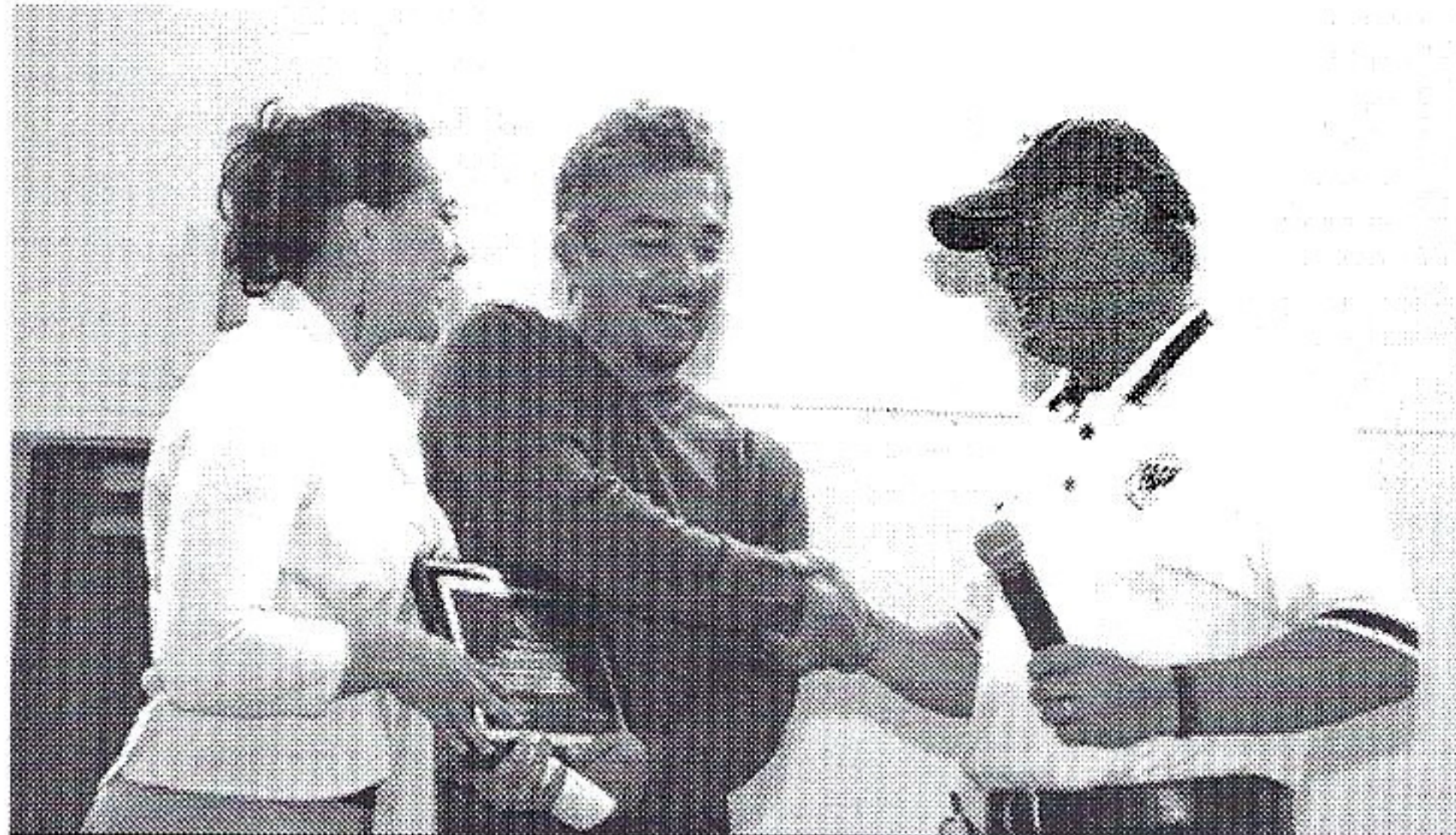
IACP has partnered with Business Insurers of the Carolinas to offer a group liability protection policy to IACP members. In addition to the advantage of affordable group rates, this policy includes a special care, custody, and control endorsement which provides you up to \$10,000 coverage per occurrence for the property and pets in your care. This policy also includes a \$1,000,000 per occurrence liability limit. It covers you, the professional dog trainer, when your negligence causes bodily injury to a third party.

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Cesar and Ilusion Millan accept IACP Honorary Membership



Cesar and Ilusion are presented with their Honorary Membership by IACP President Martin Deeley

Cesar Millan of National Geographic's hit program "The Dog Whisperer" and his wife Ilusion were this week presented with Honorary Membership at the International Association of Canine Professionals at their Annual Conference in Hutto, Texas.

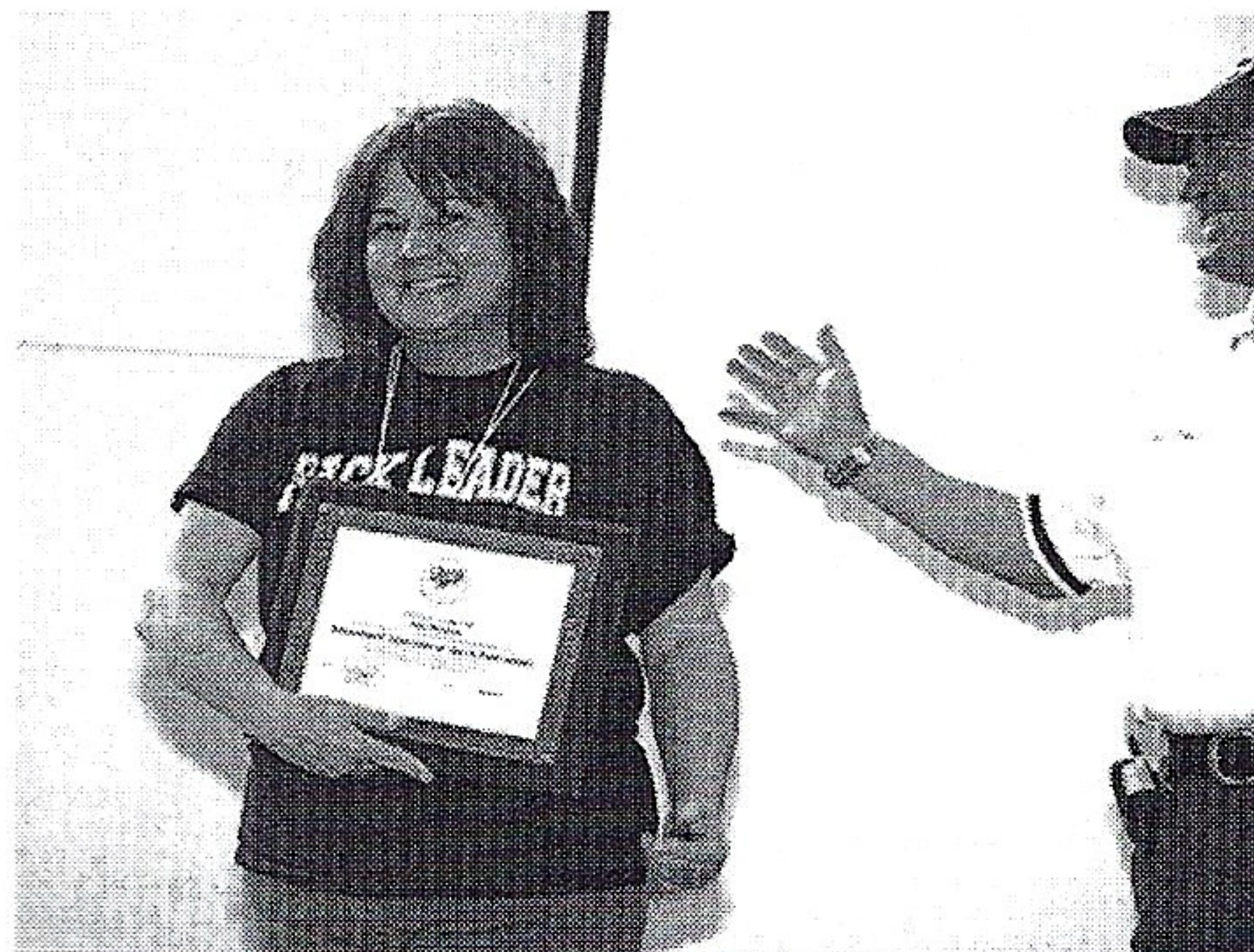


YES! Cesar proudly holds his Honorary award aloft

President of the IACP Martin Deeley stated "Cesar and his wife Ilusion have made a tremendous impact on the dog owning public by encouraging them train their dogs and make them into good citizens." He added "We really do believe that this National Geographic program shows dog owners that behavior problems can be resolved through the expertise of good trainers and behavior consultants and in doing so keep them in the home and out of shelters."

On being presented with the award Cesar threw his hands in the air and shouted "Yes!" This was well deserved recognition from the premier dog professionals Association for a man who is changing the face of dog ownership.

Since IACP and members first gave National Geographic a big thumbs up on the program previews, the relationship with The Dog Whisperer and the LA Dog Psychology Center has grown through respect for each others abilities. There is no doubt that the IACP assisted in National Geographic making the decision to screen this now highly successful program. The DPC has in return recognized the skills and abilities of members of IACP as



Gayle Thompson of DPC receives her Lifetime Membership

being in tune with their own philosophies and the Executive Assistant to Cesar Millan has provided many referrals from viewers to IACP Head Office and individual Members. In recognition of this relationship Gayle was awarded a Lifetime membership of IACP. This is the beginning of a long and growing relationship.



IACP Board with the Cesar Millan 'Team'

Training Dogs Using Electronics

Thomas A. Beitz

Why would anyone want to shock his dog? Some people think of "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest" with Jack Nicholson and "Electro Shock Therapy," when they think of shock. Others think about an electric chair which is designed to end life. However, not all shock is created equal.

The TENS machine administers shock to the body in order to mitigate and manage pain. Shock in itself is not good or bad. It is how it is used that makes all the difference.

The remote training collar, the e-collar or what is commonly referred to as the shock collar is one of the most misunderstood training tools on the market today. As a result, it may be one of the most misused training tools. It is understandable that some people are suspicious of things that they don't understand. The purpose of this article is to explain at least in part, how a shock collar can actually be used to train a dog safely and humanely.

Over the past 10 to 15 years, the e-collar has significantly improved in many ways. First, the quality of these collars has improved in terms of eliminating false signals from other electronic devices. Secondly and more importantly, the newer collars use much lower stimulation levels, which is extremely helpful in communicating to your dog. The training strategies which have evolved over the past 10 years have proven to be more pet-friendly and easier for the pet owner to learn. In the past, people thought that they needed to be a professional dog trainer in order to teach their dog to "come off leash" in a park with distractions.

Now that e-collars have caused technology and training to merge; off-leash reliability is now a reality for the companion dog, trained by the average pet owner. Any training device is a tool which can be used to effectively communicate to your dog. The momentary, low level of stimulation used properly, can effectively communicate volumes to your dog even from a couple of hundred yards away. Let me give you an example that most people will be familiar with: Have you ever gone horseback riding? If you haven't, have you ever watched a western movie? Just imagine yourself riding in the saddle along a country road enjoying the beautiful scenery. Let's say that you want your horse to turn to the right. To the experienced horseman, the following explanation may seem like an oversimplification, however, it

does help to illustrate my point. To turn to the right, you would pull on the right rein which would in turn put pressure on the bit in the horse's mouth. The horse has learned from repetition and conditioning that if he turns to the right the pressure (something a little unpleasant) on the bit goes away.

The horse has learned a training strategy (yielding to the pressure) that makes the pressure go away. This is known as escape training which becomes self-rewarding to the animal because it builds its confidence when they learn how to make the pressure go away. When the horse feels the slight pressure on the bit in his mouth, he has learned when he turns to the right he can escape that unpleasantness and is rewarded by complying with the request.

By using a low level shock and a momentary stimulation (1/100th of a second) you can teach your dog the same self-rewarding training strategy. This newer, pet friendly training strategy will yield 100 % reliability and consistency with your dog in an "off leash" situation where there may be any number of distractions. The beauty of such a training strategy is that it communicates effectively to the sensitive dog all the way up to a highly excitable dog with "Attention Deficit Disorder," (A.D.D.) You know the type. When he gets off the leash, he's on his own and anything you tell him goes in one ear and out the other until he's ready to come home or get hit by a car, whichever comes first.

With nearly 80 % of the dogs being surrendered to shelters and rescue groups (due to unresolved obedience and behavior problems,) perhaps some e-collar shock therapy applied in a humane way is just what the doctor is ordering.

Tom Beitz is the owner of the Academy for Puppies and Dogs and is an Authorized Dealer of the PetSafe Professional Underground Hidden Dog Fence System. Tom conducts private lessons in the home and installs the best containment system on the planet. He can be reached at (716) 664-4844. He can also be found on the web at www.smartdogtrainer.com



Is Political Correctness Pervading Professional Dog Training?

JoAnn Bluth and Andy Luper

Things seem to be changing all around us, elevating our level of sensitivity to a wide arena, from taking the "Christmas" out of Merry Christmas, to removing previously accepted references to God or the Ten Commandments. There are movements to abolish certain holidays, change holidays, and acknowledge a wide array of holidays lest we offend someone. We tiptoe through social issues and religious differences.

It seems that being politically correct has also pervaded the profession of pet training. We never thought we would see the day when trainers would proclaim things like "Never use the word NO - It's a negative word- negativity damages self esteem!"

We've observed that it's the tone of voice that conveys negativity - since our canine friends do not speak our language. Sure, they will learn words - some of us even spell in front of our dogs - but isn't this going a little overboard? You could say "bad dog" in a praising voice and the dog would happily wag his/her tail. Or, say "gobbly gook" in a happy voice with the same results. Couldn't it be necessary to have a command that means "stop what you

are doing" when a dog is about to run into the street, or bite a person? We've always found a negative tone of voice accompanied by a stern "NO" works for lots of bad behaviors.



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Book Review

Therapy dogs; Compassionate Modalities

Kris Butler



This is Kris Butler's second book on the rewarding world of Therapy Dogs. While I enjoyed her first book, *Therapy Dogs Today*, I admit I was unprepared for this amazing DVD/Workbook set. To the best of my knowledge, there is no other educational tool for Therapy Dog Handlers that provides the instructional ease of this set. Without being overwhelming for new handlers, the 46 minute DVD provides the

instruction necessary to make Therapy Dog visits with confidence and knowledge. Kris tries to provide for as many animal enhanced interventions as a handler might meet during their duties. By watching the DVD and following along with the workbook, a handler can prepare themselves for successful visits.

Kris shows the beauty of dogs who understand their work, the bond/teamwork between handler and dog, the very wide variety of functional therapeutic goals that can be addressed through simple exercises, the primary roles of staff, handler and dog to create the environment of success for the client, the secondary role of training, and the patient/client motivation to participate actively in difficult therapy. The workbook also provides "Sidebars" or "Points to Ponder" as you follow along with the DVD, along with bulleted comments or clarifications relating to each of the therapeutic exercises. For any new Therapy Dog team, or experienced teams moving into different areas of visitations, or anyone involved in Therapy Dog work - this set should be a required educational venue.

Two Thumbs Up Review

Gina Hayes *Just Dogs Training Center Cape Cod, Ma.*
heartnsoul7299@hotmail.com

SafeHands Letter of the Quarter

Each Quarter a letter which impressed the participants of the SafeHands List is presented here for all members to read.

QUESTION

I need ideas on how to get a client to understand that she has to control her dog at all times. I can tell her to sit the dog next to her and use the leash to make sure it stays next to her, and not in front of her, but even then five seconds later the dog is at the end of the leash again.

How do you communicate with someone that doesn't seem to process verbal information? If I thought I could get the point across in private lessons, I'd give her the lessons. I spent 15-20 minutes with her privately after the last class, and based on that, I don't see how I'll be any more effective one on one unless I find another approach that makes sense to her.

ANSWER

This communicative challenge (how to get an owner to understand that she has to control this dog at all times/not allow the dog to lunge at the end of the leash) is one that preoccupies me as well, particularly in the "civilize your teenage canine" classes.

Brian Kilcommons puts his finger on part of the problem when he talks (I can't recall which book) about the habits that owners acquire while their dogs are still puppies: hovering, constant chatter, spending more time looking at the pup than the pup spends looking at you, and allowing the pup to lunge at other dogs and people in the name of socialization.

By the time the dog hits adolescence, or adulthood, BOTH dog and owner have acquired habits of mind and body -- an owner like the one Jan describes, who doesn't seem to be learning what the teacher is teaching, is often someone who has practiced something so long and so well that she's no longer aware of when she's doing it and when she's not, or how her 'decisions' (in this case, to let the dog lunge) are being made.

It's like driving. New drivers are exquisitely, sometimes painfully aware of every nuance, every combination of fine and gross motor skills/cognitions required to navigate the road. But after you've been at it for a while, you sometimes find yourself wondering 'what color WAS the light in the intersection I just drove through' (don't you? Please tell me I'm not the only one) and later, how to explain or account for that 'decision' to the nice young fellow right behind you in the car with the flashing lights.

When I've got a classroom full of lunging adolescent or adult dogs and owners who lack a physical or mental awareness (or

both) of what they're doing by way of allowing the dog to be doing what he's doing, then out comes the clicker, or a shaker can, or anything else noisy that I can use as a MARKER for owner behavior.

If it's just one person, or two, then they come out into the middle of the room for demonstration purposes. In fact, in the materials that I send out before class begins there is a paragraph that informs people that I will occasionally stop the class to work with one dog/owner on a particular behavior, when I think such a thing would be useful to the class as a whole.

It's easy enough to set the dog up to lunge -- provide some instruction on the front end for how the owner is to prevent, and react to, the dog's exercising of his impulse -- and then CLICK the owner to raise awareness and to demonstrate for the whole class the difference between her timing (generally poor) and mine.



Figure out how you'll reinforce the owner for adjusting their response to the dog successfully in relation to the marker (click, or whatever). Practice with them for five minutes or so, and then ask if anyone else would like to try. Watch the

hands go up. Most folks don't resent a little class time devoted to one-on-one, so long as you're willing to be equal opportunity about it.

I'm probably not explaining this very well -- but offer it as one possibility for communicating (on multiple levels) with an owner whose bad habit, poor timing, general inattention to what the instructor deems important. It should help with the problem dog in the class, but will also provide collateral learning opportunities for other owners who need practice learning to read their dog, and timing their responses.

Jill Morstad
IACP #1167
Lincoln, Nebraska

Conference Scholarship

This year is the first year of the IACP Scholarship Program which has been sponsored by IACP Member Dawn Geramia.

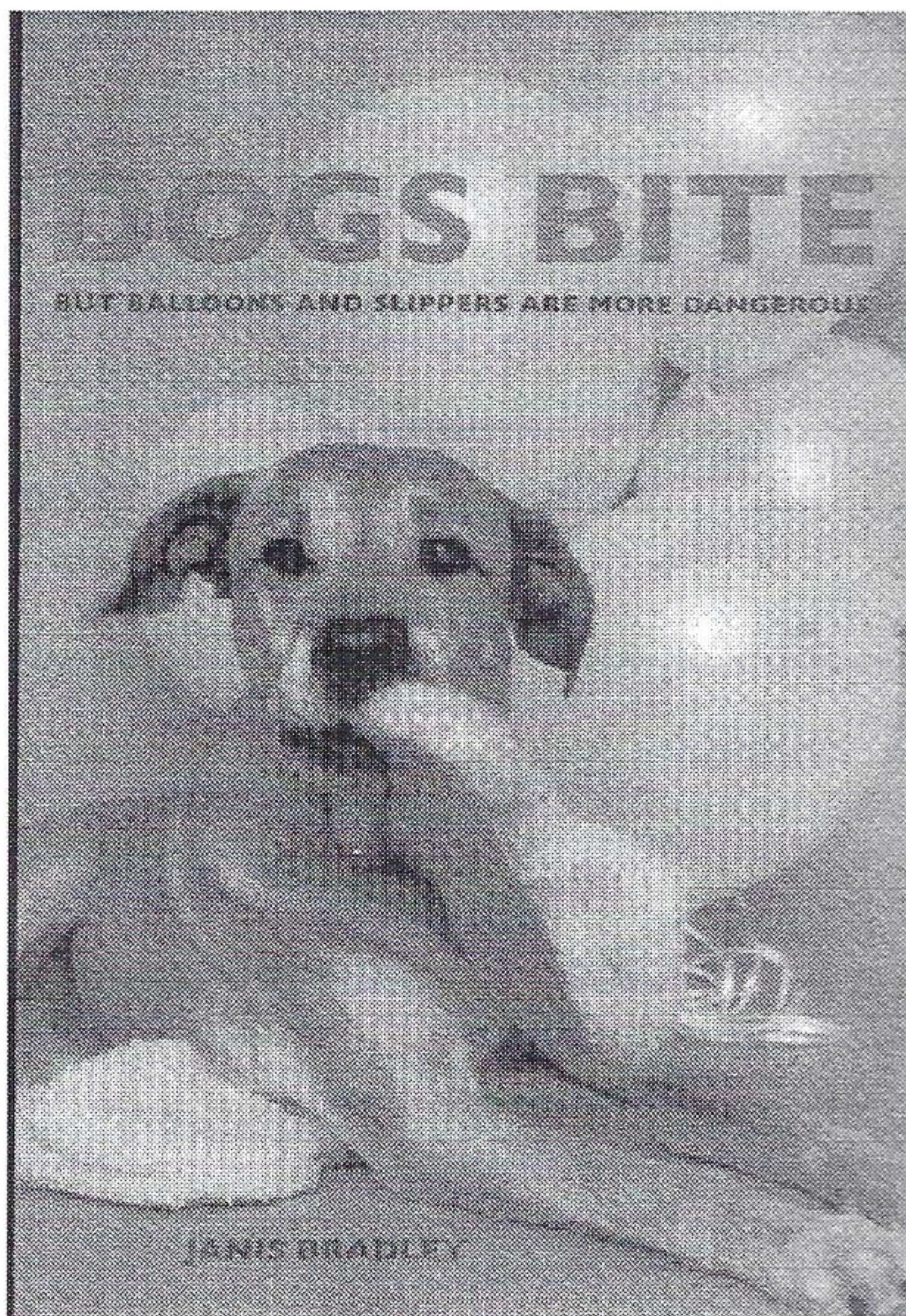
The Board want to take this opportunity to congratulate this year's recipient of the 2006 IACP Conference Scholarship Program, Katie Hamlin of Castalian Springs, TN.

As the winner of our essay contest, Katie attended the 2006 conference with all conference fees waived and received up to a \$500.00 stipend to cover travel expenses. We would also like to thank the entrants who sent essays and participated in this program. Everyone did a fine job and it made our task of choosing difficult. The scholarship will be offered again in 2007 and we hope many young intending or practicing canine professionals will submit essays. The call for essays will begin in September 2006. Watch SafeHands, the web and e-mail lists for rules. The scholarship program is open to any person between the age of 16 to 25 years who has an interest in any of the dog professions. Thank you to everyone for participating.



We enjoyed welcoming and meeting Katie in March at the conference and hope to see many of you entering the scholarship competition in 2006.

Congratulations Katie!



DOGS BITE

BUT BALLOONS & SLIPPERS ARE MORE DANGEROUS

Each year, more children die from choking on balloons than in dog attacks and more adults die from bedroom slipper related accidents. People are even five times more likely to be killed by a bolt of lightning than by a dog.

In the face of these indisputable statistics, why do dogs and dog bites cause so much hysteria? Janis Bradley explains all the potential reasons for our society's over-exaggerated fear and panic about dog attacks.

Yes, dogs bite. And yes, occasionally someone is seriously injured or dies. However, the supposed dog-threat is so tiny compared with other health hazards, such as kitchen utensils, five-gallon water buckets, cows, horses, playground equipment, swimming pools, disease, bad nutrition, cars, guns, friends, and sadly but especially, close family members.

Dogs enhance the lives of millions more people than even the most inflated estimates of dog-bite victims. When evaluating the relative pros and cons of dogs in the community, perspective and rationality are essential. Janis Bradley's book is our best defense against the anti-dog legislation which is insidiously, yet rapidly, metastasizing across the nation.

www.jamesandkenneth.com

Bridging the Gap

Miriam Fields Babineau

There are many ways to train dogs. Each professional trainer has perfected methods that work best for them and their clients. However, not every dog can be trained with the same approach that trainer might prefer.

Most dogs respond well to positive reinforcement (adding something to reward the dog) and negative punishment (something removed to punish the dog), while others will inadvertently have bad behaviors reinforced. When using positive punishment (something added that is aversive in order to extinguish a behavior), such as an electronic collar, prong collar or choke chain, many dogs will quickly respond, while others will totally shut down. In my opinion these tools should not be the first items that a trainer reaches for when starting out a dog.

Begin the training using as positive a method as possible and observe the results. If the dog responds quickly and eagerly, than that particular method is working well. Should the dog continue to challenge the handler, more use of positive punishment may need to be applied, such as the use of a head halter. A properly used head halter precludes the necessity of a choke chain, martingale collar, prong collar and, in most cases, the electronic collar.

In my opinion, positive punishment should not be the first method used when starting a dog. The use of positive reinforcement, such as the use of lure and reward, bridging signal and praise should be the initial introduction to training all animals. Most will quickly respond to this as most animals have motivations. The incentive can be food, toys or touch. It is the trainer's job to discover the best motivator and utilize it to teach the dog.

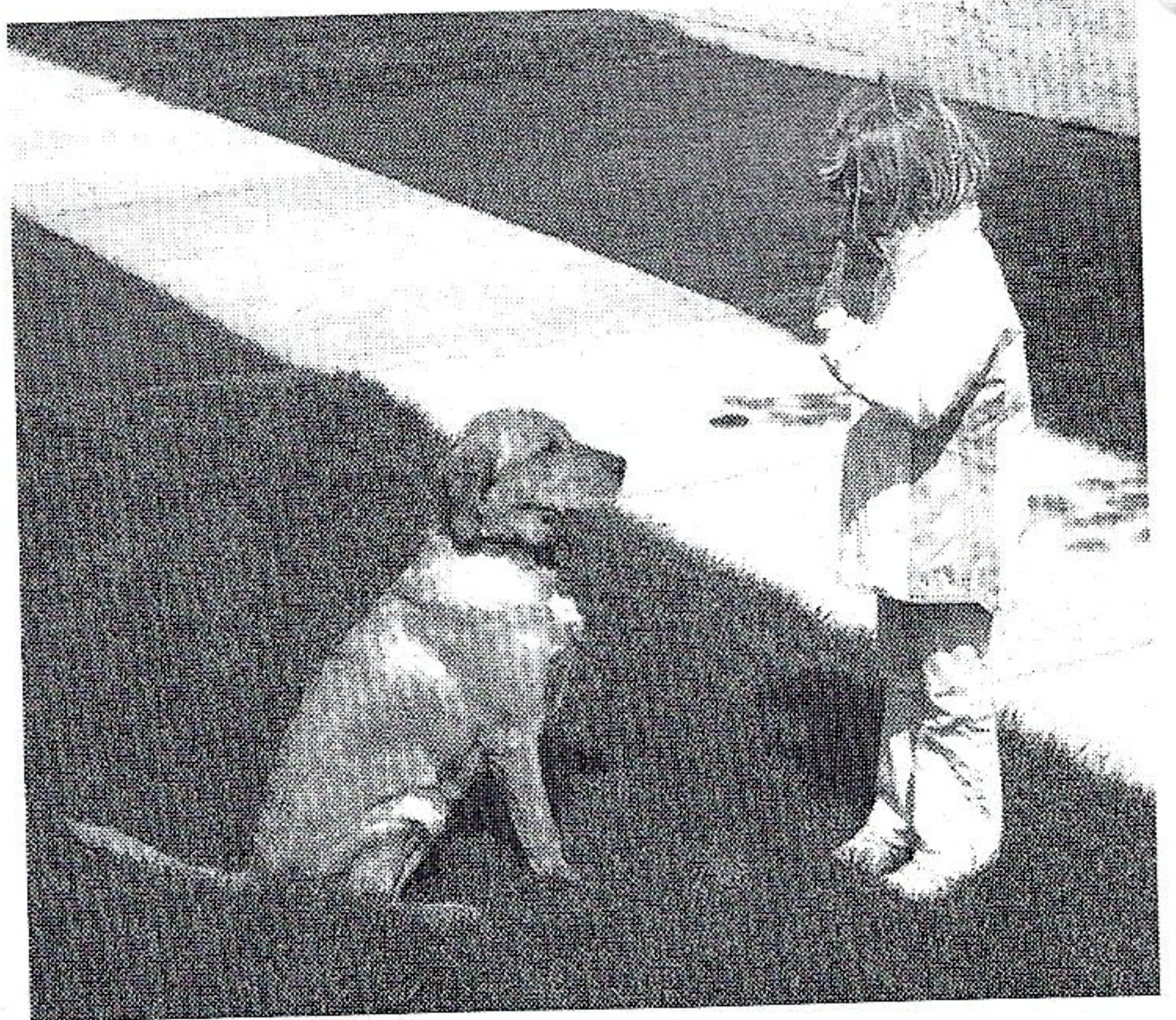
Trying to force an individual into learning will always cause distress. Granted, dogs are very forgiving and desirous of pleasing people. They will eventually respond, but their overall attitude will be one of fear and broken spirit. Hence, the working dog who responds to commands with its tail and head held low, droopy or frightened eyes, and often tries to avoid working entirely. This is a clear sign of an incorrect training approach. This is often the result of using aversive training methods on a dog who didn't require them.

On the other hand, there are many very dominant animals who do require a more aversive approach in order to learn that their handler is the boss and the dog is to follow commands regardless of what it might rather be doing. As a professional trainer for over thirty years, I have learned that these are few and far between. They are most often seen in spoiled older dogs of working or terrier breeds. However, once the "point" is made, they can often be switched over to positive reinforcement methods.

There are many training tools available and all are effective pro-

vided they are used properly. Unfortunately, many of these tools are readily available to the dog-owning public who are not taught how to use them correctly and, therefore, inadvertently use them abusively.

It is our job, as professionals, to make certain that actions are taken to prevent abusive training approaches and to instruct



dog owners how to communicate with their pets by using a positive approach.

The easiest means of doing this is through lure and reward, bridging signals, and utilizing canine communication techniques. Once the dog owner begins bridging the gap, all the light bulbs turn on and communication opens up.

Bridging is an art, learned through observation and experience. Timing is everything.

When deciding to use a specific tool for bridging, such as a clicker, squeaker, or specific vocal tone with a vocal or visual cue, it must be something that is efficient for both the trainer and dog owner. Clickers have grown in popularity for this very reason. It is a simple tool with a simple distinct sound. It is something that even a child can operate and offers the same bridging signal regardless of who uses it, thus making it consistent.

Consistency is the key to reliability.

The only drawback with using a clicker is having to hold onto it in a manner that allows one to utilize it efficiently. This means holding it in the same hand as the leash leaving the other hand free to use for targeting and reward delivery. Most

Cont'd page 19

Bridging the Gap Cont'd.

dog owners can't handle all this. They have enough issues just holding a leash properly.

I have found that the most efficient means of bridging is one's voice. This can be anything from an in-the-cheek click, to the words "Good" or "Yes" in a high, happy tone. It is something you always have. Best of all it's not something else to coordinate with the leash and target tools (hand, stick, ball, etc.).

Even dogs who have to be trained using aversive, positive punishment techniques should always receive a bridging signal when they have performed correctly. This will allow the trainer to phase out positive punishment and rely solely upon the positive reinforcement as the dog seeks to perform rewarding behavior.

Training any behavior can be broken down into three basic steps:

1. Lure/Facilitate
2. Bridge
3. Reward

For example, you are teaching a dog to lay down. You first obtain his attention with your target hand, holding the treat or toy. Lower the target between his front feet. His head will follow. Each increment accomplished is bridged followed by a reward.

Increments are divided according to the complication of the behavior and the personality of the dog. While most dogs will quickly follow the target into a down position, others won't. They'll have to be rewarded for smaller increments, such as first just lowering the head, then bending the front knees, then lowering the front end, then touching the ground with the chest, and so on until the complete behavior has been accomplished. Each time an increment is accomplished the dog is bridged and rewarded. He will then seek to repeat this rewarding behavior. The down position will be attained faster and faster with fewer steps between.

Dogs will always tend to repeat something that is rewarding in some way. If a trainer takes the time to analyze why the dog is behaving in a specific manner, it can ultimately be redirected through the three basic steps. Therefore, it is rare that positive punishment needs to be utilized during the training process when one can begin by opening up communication, letting the dog know the second it has performed well, thus teaching how much fun it is to learn new behaviors and respond quickly to commands.

Miriam Fields-Babineau is a Professional Member of the IACP. She is a dog trainer with her own company Training Unlimited. Miriam has authored 30 books about dogs and training. Her latest is Click & Easy: Clicker Training for Dogs. Published by Wiley.

Political Correctness cont'd.

Is this current trend just slick marketing, or are some of our colleagues seeking "unique & dog friendly methods" going to an extreme?

A "time out" for dogs? What does a dog learn from "a time out"?

Sadly to say, we deal with lots of aggression. One of the first things we explain to the owner of an aggressive dog, who happens to be looking for a trainer who uses positive reinforcement, is: "Positive reinforcement is our first choice too, but if your dog tries to bite, we can't give him a cookie". We usually get a good laugh at that.

On a serious note – the public has demanded kinder, gentler dog training – methods today are far removed from the quick acting, instant gratification of aversion training and inappropriate applications of the Koehler methods. All that is fine and good and great for our canine friends, but there just might be a time and place to simply say "NO" to bad behavior! Maybe that "NO" is verbal, maybe it's communicated through a leash.

In a never ending quest to improve methods, learn more, and try different approaches, we purchased a copy of a lecture given by a featured guest at a National conference. The topic was aggression. After 40 minutes or so of theory about dog/man relationships and early canine development we were anxious to hear what this trainer had to say about dealing with the aggressive dog.

The only specific recommendation at the very end of this long lecture, in true keeping with politically correct pet training, we hear: "In extreme cases of aggression, I suggest you call a professional."

This politically correct trainer would not go on record prescribing anything specific, lest it be unpopular. So, a professional hired to lecture, inform and teach fellow canine professionals, tells them to call a professional!

The trickle-down effect being; many trainers simply will not deal with problem dogs, or aggressive dogs. Rather, they dispense the cruelest advice - telling owners to "put their dog to sleep" or "find *It* another home". We've had owners call us in tears. While it may not be politically correct, we'd rather "correct" than euthanize! Think about it....

Is being politically correct pervading dog training?

JoAnn Bluth and Andy Luper of A Canine Academy Int'l Phoenix, AZ are both Professional Members of IACP.

Thom Somes, "The Pet Safety Guy"™ & Pet Tech

Some of you know me from the recent IACP Convention in Hutto, Texas where I spoke about "Know Your Dogs, A Proactive Approach To Canine Health." As I was the last speaker of the event, some attendees had to leave, so next issue I will recap my experience and lecture topic. Since I will be doing a regular column for "Safe Hands", a speaker at convention and Pet Tech is now the designated Pet First Aid, CPR & Care training for IACP, I thought it would be wise to tell all 900+ members a little bit about "The Pet Safety Guy™", Pet Tech and how we came to be.

I have always had a love for pets. As a child growing up in Michigan, our home had everything from sea horses, ghost shrimp, hamsters, snakes, spiders, parakeets, parrots to of course dogs and cats. I also have always had a passion for the medical world and all those medical TV dramas of the 60's and 70's! When I was 6, my initial first aid kit was a toy black, plastic medical doctor's bag filled with real band-aids, tape and Mercurochrome.

Fast forward a few years, at age 11, I was an active member of the Michigan State Police Training Academy Explorer's Post 100. I trained in underwater recovery and earned a Junior Diver's permit. For several years, I assisted with rescues and recoveries in gravel pits, rivers and frozen lakes in Michigan.

During my first year of college, I became an EMT and worked for several ambulance services to help pay for college. After which, I moved to San Diego. In the late 90's I started teaching human first aid & CPR for a nearby hospital and quickly became a Regional Faculty for the American Heart Association. During this time, I also studied Neruo-Linguistic Programming (NLP) and became a NLP Master Trainer. I applied the NLP skills to teaching, learning, retaining and applying these important life-saving skills. Over the next couple of years, my trainings became quite popular and I had clients in the Fortune 200, the City of San Diego, and the Wild Animal Park & Zoo, just to name a few that you might recognize.

In 1994, during one of the trainings for the City of San Diego, one of the students said, "Thom, this is a really good class, but how would I do this on my dog?" Me being the clever person that I am, I quickly realized an awesome business opportunity!

To learn more about the pet medical field (versus the human), I went back to school and received my Veterinary Assistant's I & II. This is about the equivalent of an EMT in the human world. I also volunteered several hundred hours for an Animal Hospital and an Emergency Animal Hospital. All of this training assisted me in creating a link in the chain of care from pet owner to Veterinarian, supporting increased survivability for pets. All of our skills and techniques in our trainings are based on real-life experiences, reviewed by our Advisory Board Veterinarian and the book "Handbook of Veterinary Procedures & Emergency Treatment," by Kirk & Bistner (ISBN 0-7216-4972-6).

This book is the bible for every Veterinarian in every Emergency Animal Hospital and Clinic. This book is over 1000 pages long and the first 240-pages are devoted to emergency treatment with drug dosages, medical protocols and laboratory testing by a veterinarian and their staff. Our skills, techniques and protocols dovetail and support what the veterinarian will do with all their medical technology.

Ideally, it would be great to have a fully supplied animal hospital at hand in the event of a medical emergency. Most



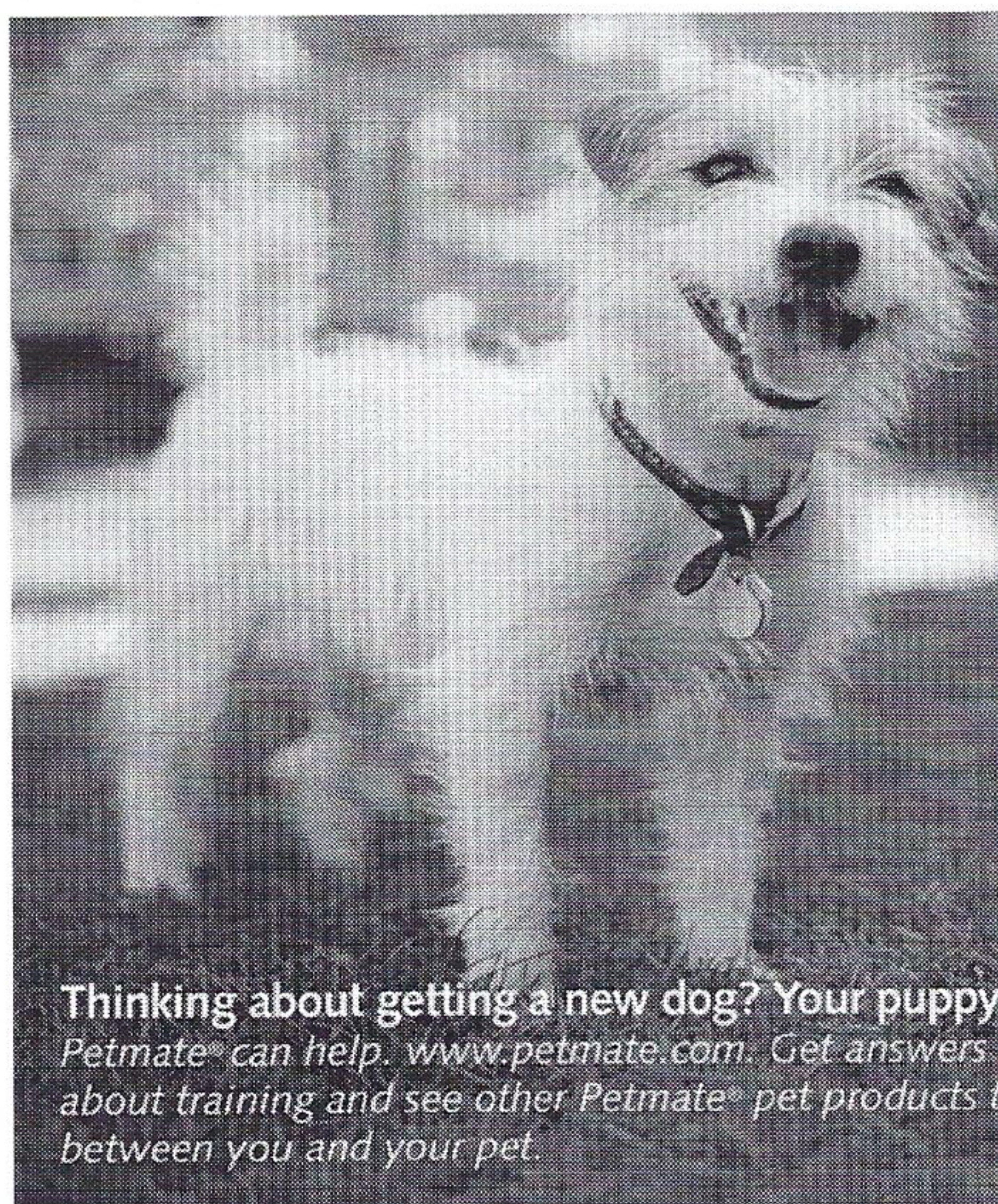
Thom Soames and Friends

times, you don't even have a fully stocked (human or pet) first aid kit around. That's why we developed the Pet Tech Programs because all you ever really have is your head, your hands and your heart. This is one of Pet Tech's favorite mantras "Use your head, be careful with your hands because you have a heart." We have structured our trainings for you to use your head and hands during the skills practice. This is called experiential learning, studies have shown, increase retention and application of the skills.

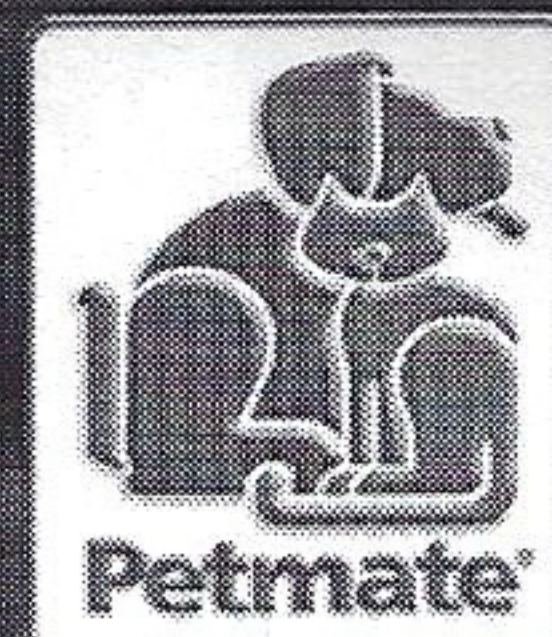
We recently updated and reformatted our training materials, which now include over 125 pictures and graphics assisting in communicating the skills and proper techniques to enhance our trainings. Our PetSaver training has over 50 actions for survival.

Whether you take the class from one of our Instructors or "The Pet Safety Guy"™, fun and humor is utilized in learning these life-saving skills. Again, studies have shown, the more fun you have learning something, the more you will retain and then potentially apply. We also give you a tip at the end

Cont'd Page 21



Sit.
Stay.
Kennel...
Fetch?
Roll over, please?
Okay, now what?



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Thom Somes Cont'd

of the training to increase your retention even more with a simple consistently applied technique. Even though you are a Pet Care Professional, statistically, you are more likely to have to apply these skills to your own pets. Therefore, you will want to be prepared and ready to use your skills competently.

Pet Tech's PetSaver™ Training is considered the premier pet first aid, CPR and care training in North America. Make it a personal and professional goal to attend our PetSaver™ Training. Even better, become a Pet Tech Instructor and assist us in our mission to "Improve the Quality of Pets' Lives, One Pet Owner at a Time."™

Pet Tech is the first national training center dedicated to pet first aid & care. Located in Carlsbad, California, Pet Tech and their International network of Instructors have trained thousands of pet owners and Pet Care Professionals the skills and techniques of CPR and first aid for pets. Pet Tech's "PetSaver" program includes, "First Aid & Care For Your Pets", "Caring For Your Senior Pet-izen", and "Dental Care For Your Pets". Pet Tech also offers an Instructor Training Program. Teaching pet CPR, first aid & care is a great way to increase your bottom line, attract new clients and service your existing clients with information they want and need to know! For more information about a training near you or to become an Instructor, please contact us AT (760) 930-0309 IACP@PetTech.net or find us on the web at www.PetTech.net.

Thom Somes will be providing regular columns for *Safe-Hands on Pet First Aid*.



PetSaver Program: 8-hour program every Pet Care Professional should complete. Includes Pet CPR, Rescue Breathing, Choking Management, Bleeding, Shock Management, "Caring for Your Senior Pet-izen", Dental Care for Your Pets, and Much Much More!

Lansing, Michigan, July 16, 2006

San Diego, CA, October 22, 2006

Houston, Texas, November 4, 2006

Pet Tech Instructors: Become part of the Pet Tech Family of Instructors and teach the PetSaver Program for fun and profit!

Lansing, Michigan, July 16 - 18, 2006

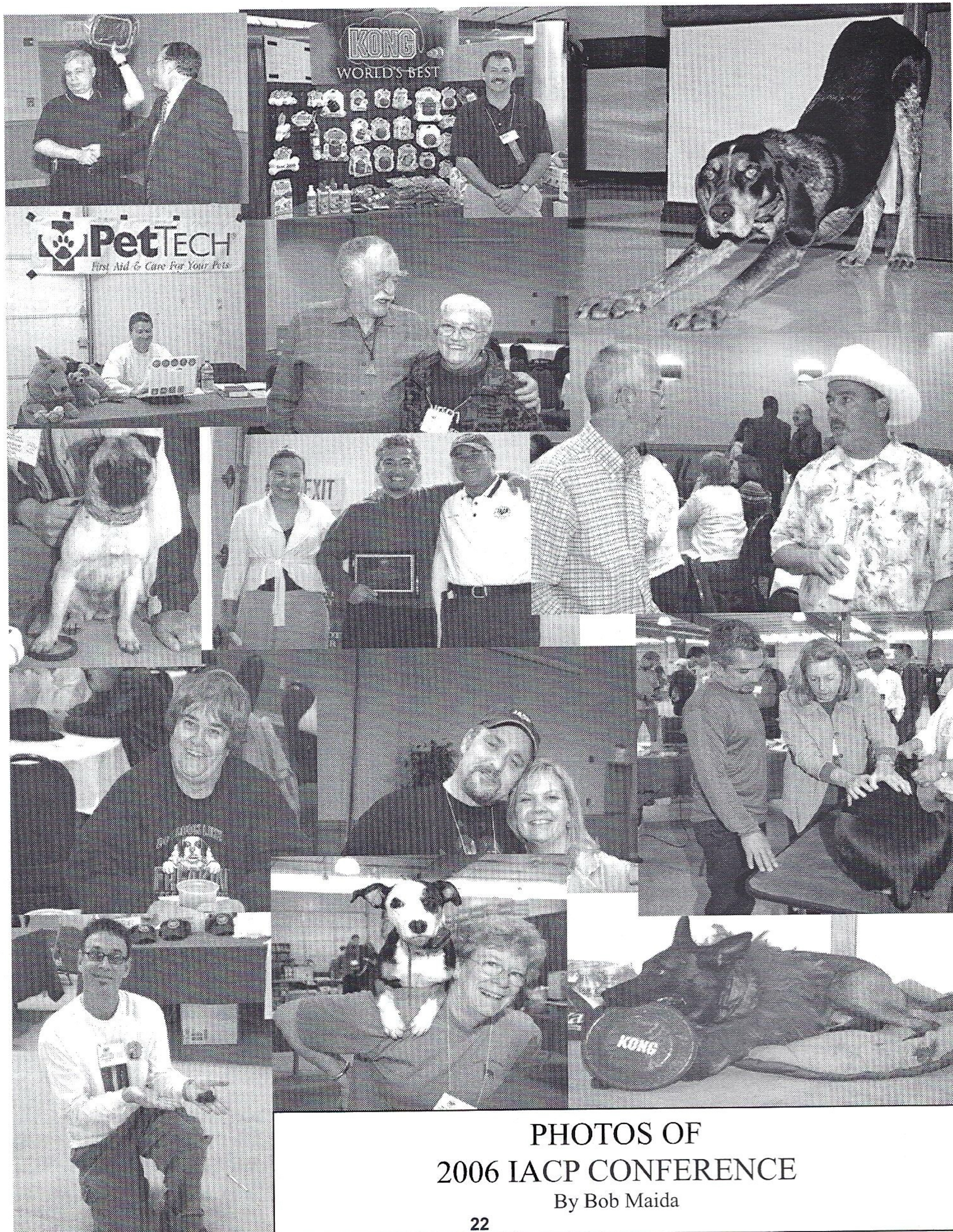
Minneapolis, Minnesota July 29-31, 2006

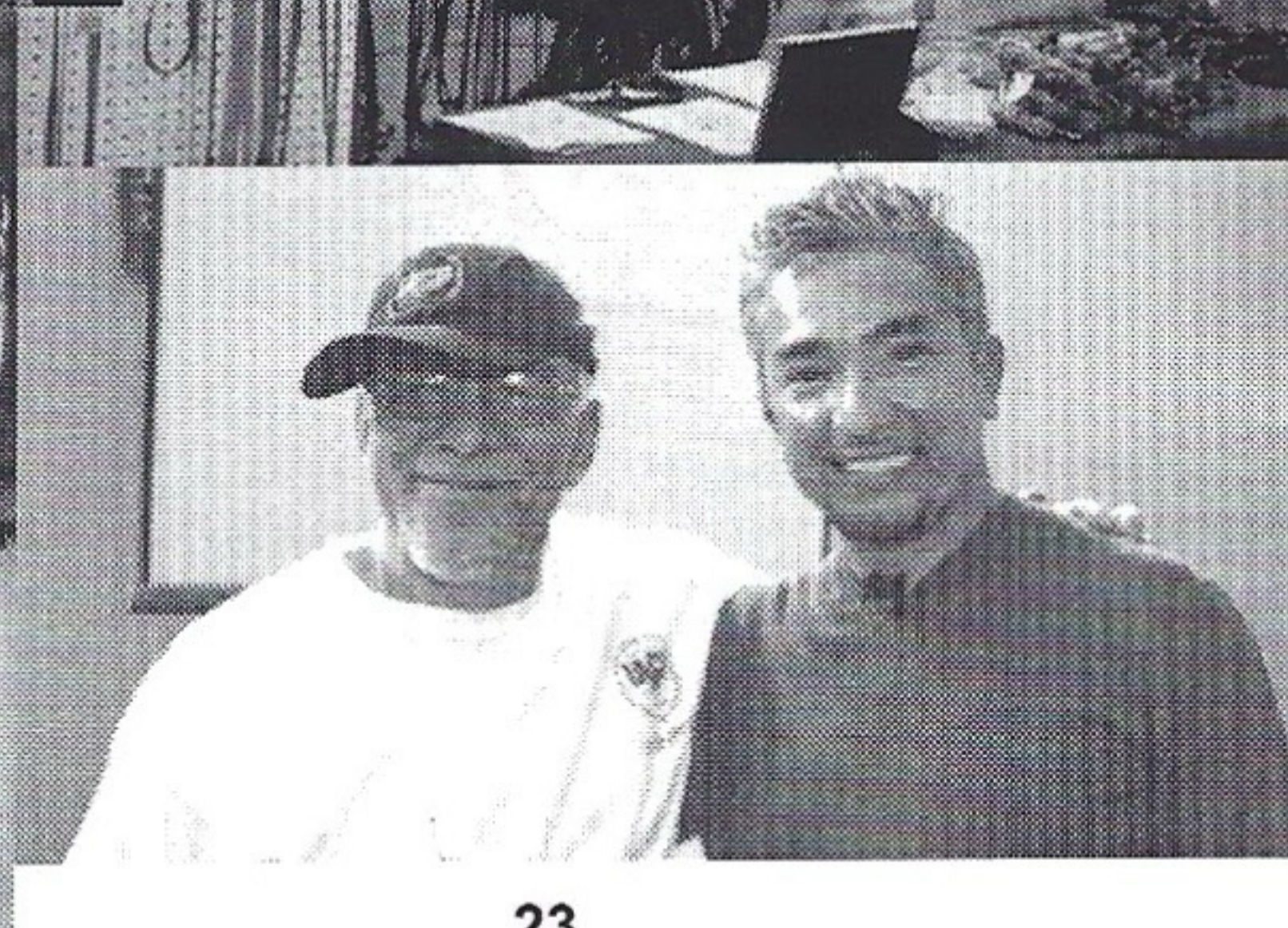
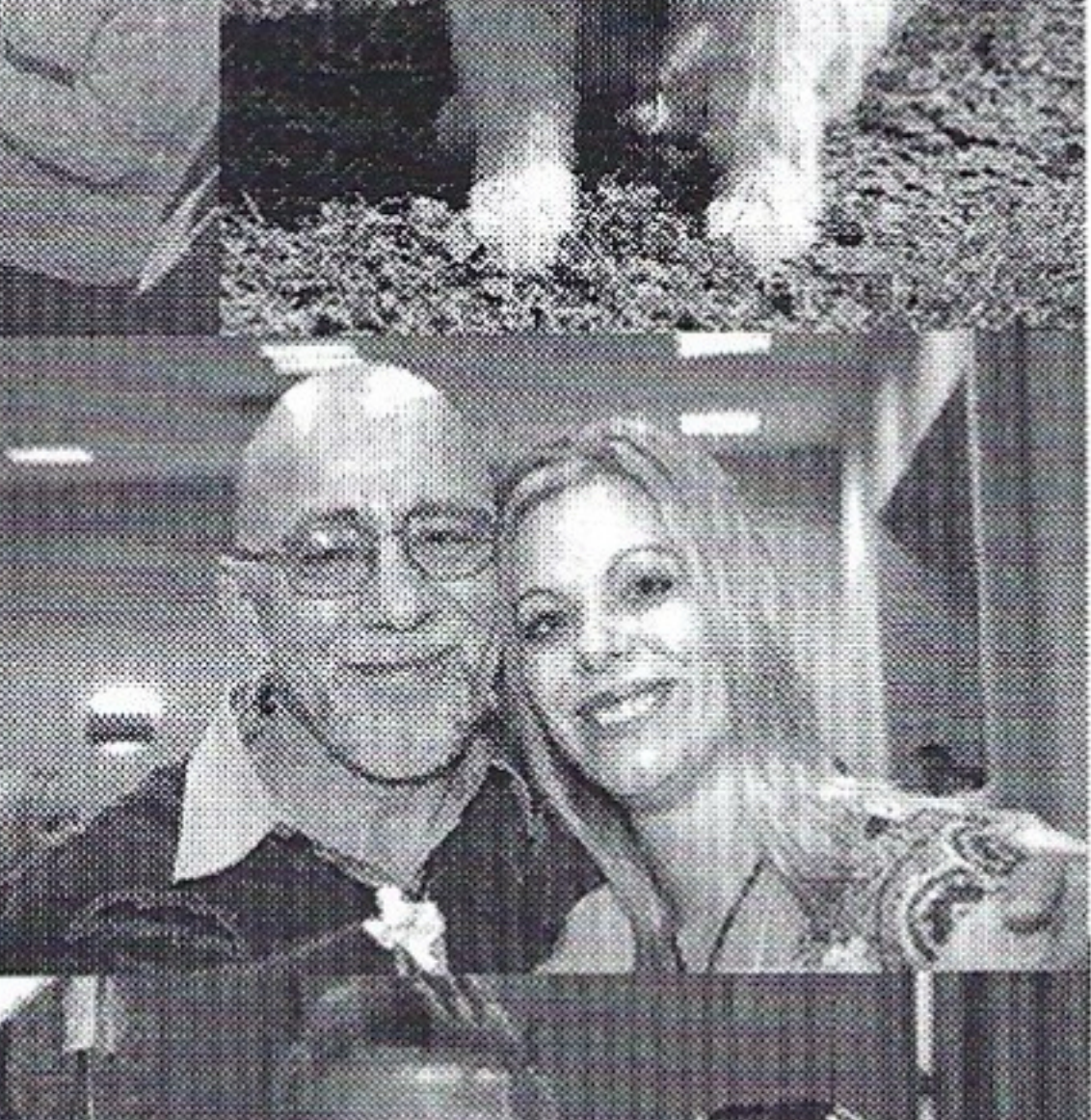
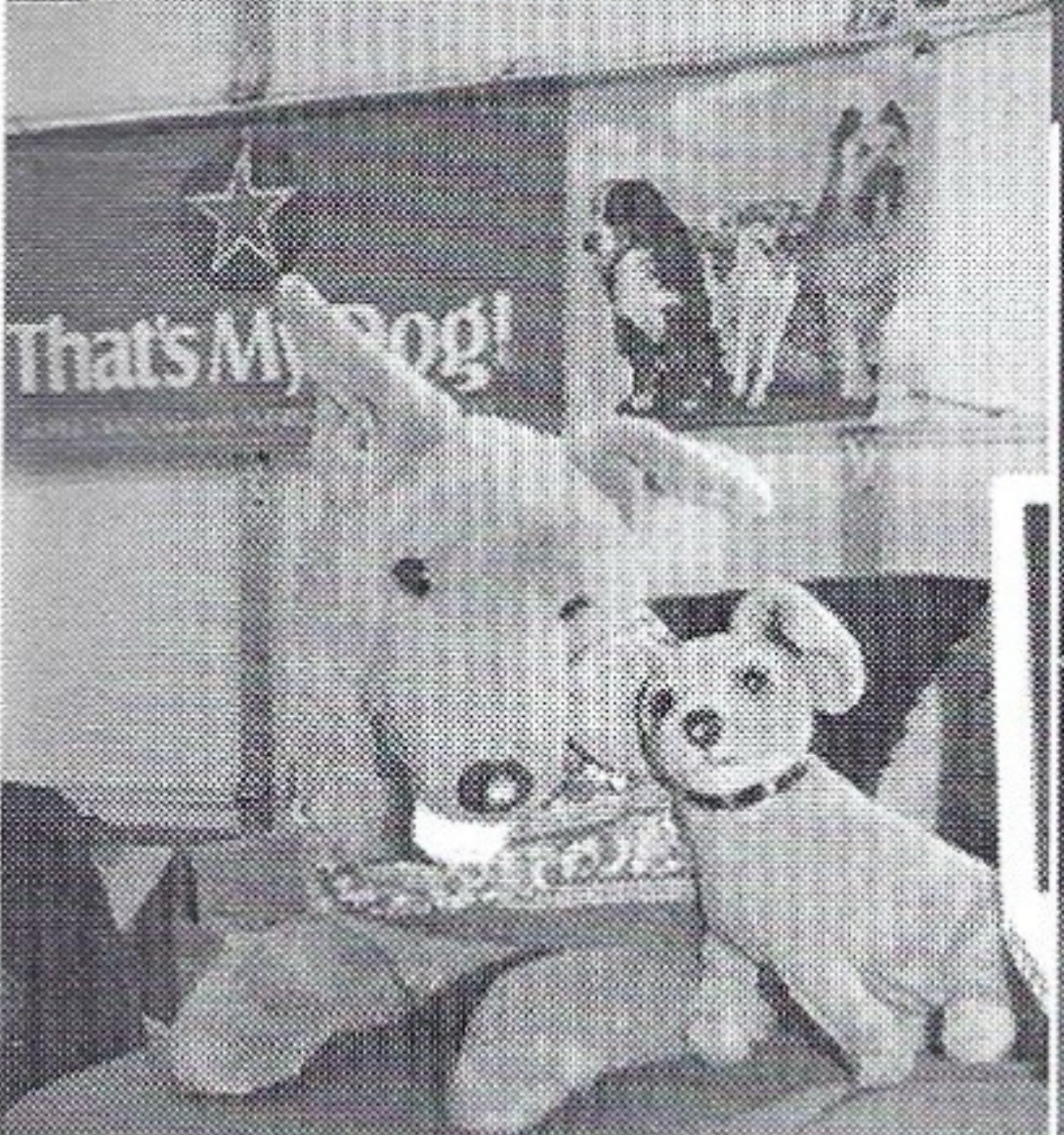
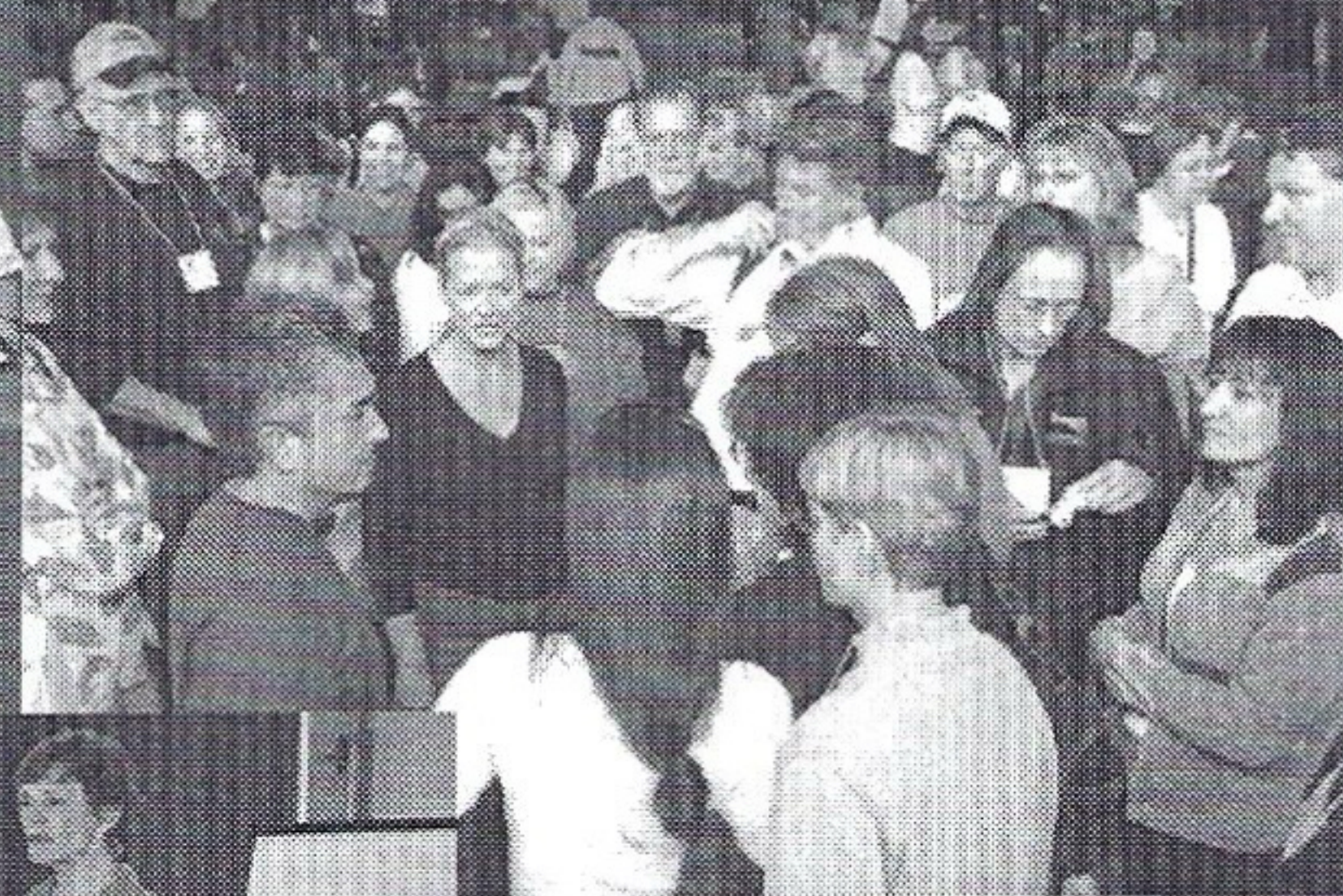
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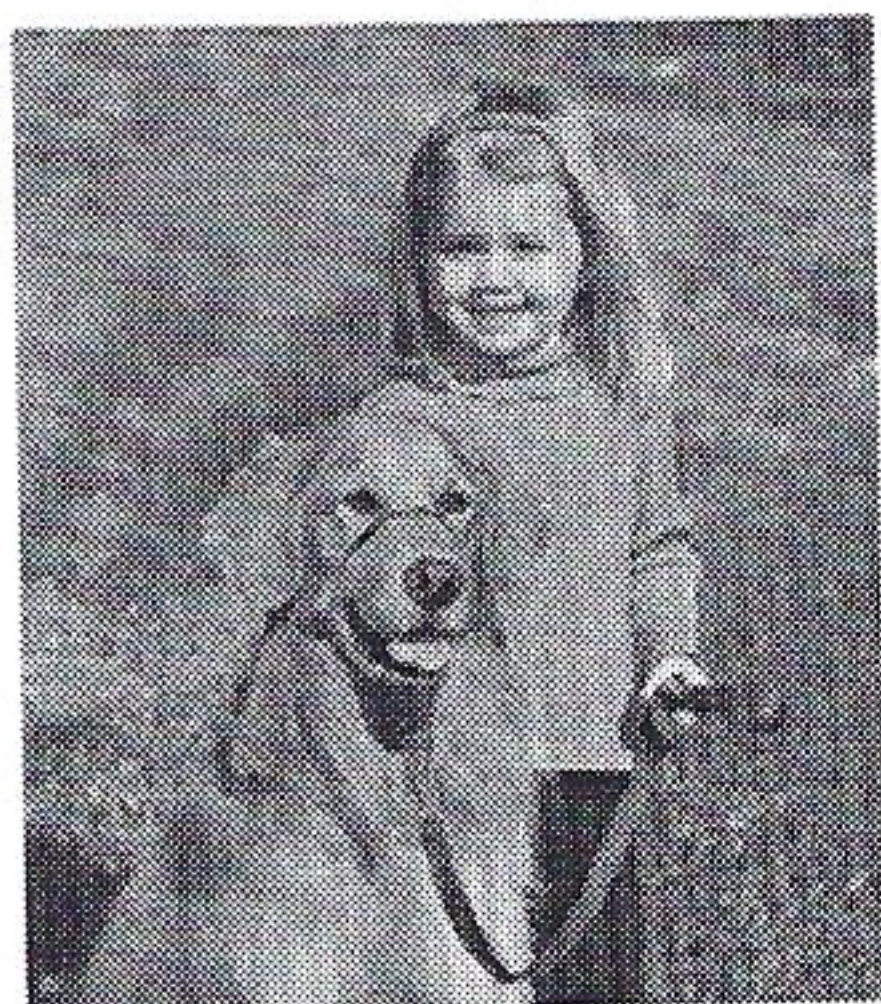
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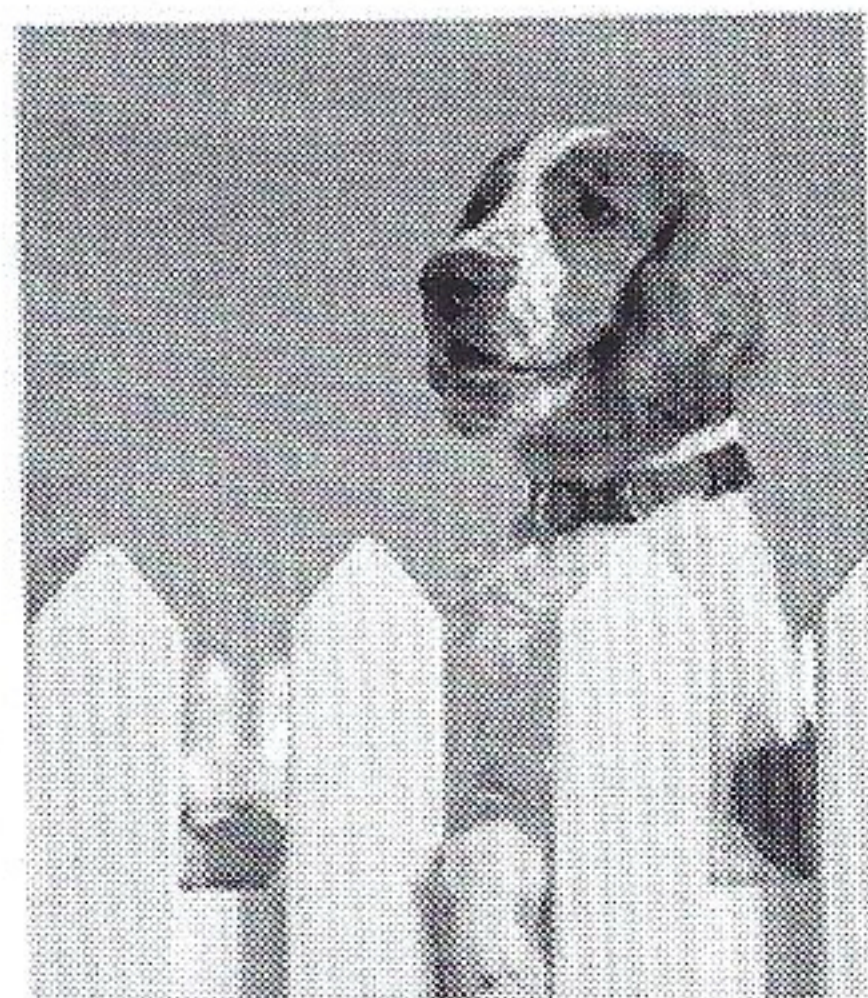
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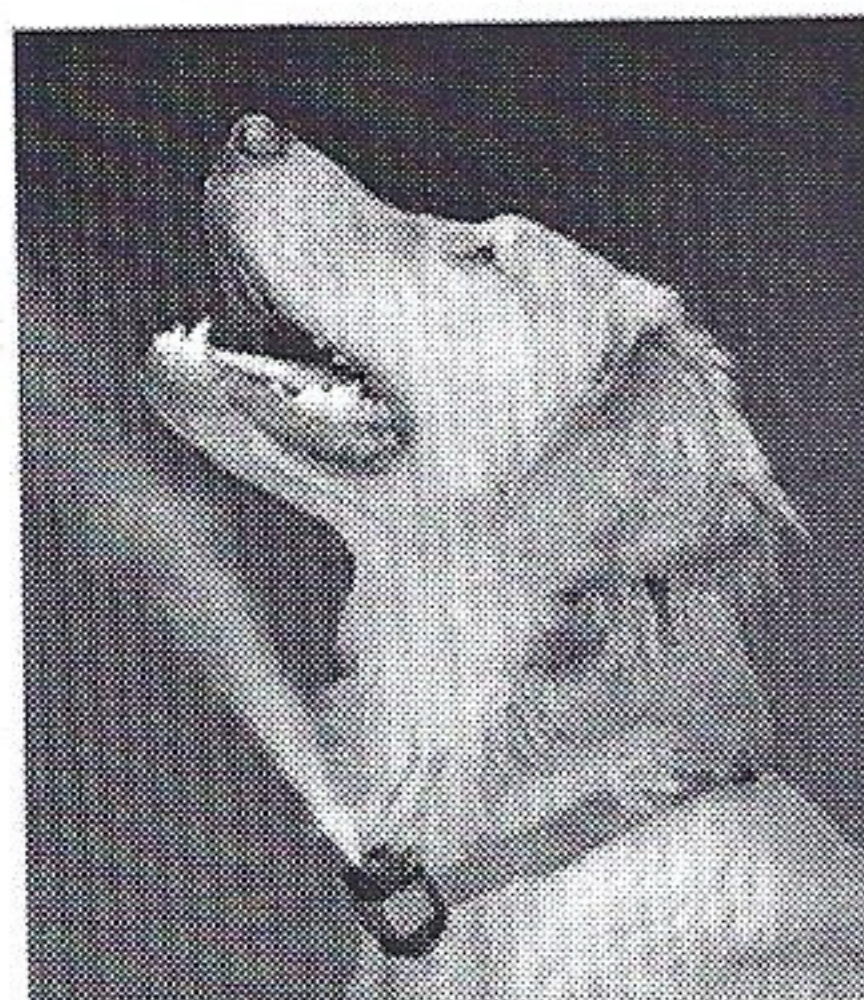
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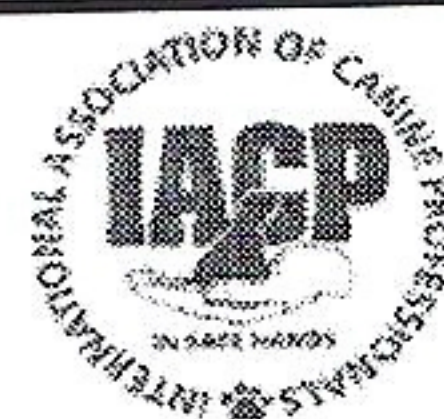
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