IACP

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS

Photo by Mary Maltbie

Safe Hands Journal

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In Memorium

Captain Arthur J. Haggerty

December 3, 1931- July 3, 2006

Coverage in the Fall issue on the passing of IACP Hall of Famer, Captain Haggerty.

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

The International Association of Canine Professionals' commitment is to develop professional recognition, communication, education, understanding and cooperation across the wide diversity of canine expertise and knowledge.

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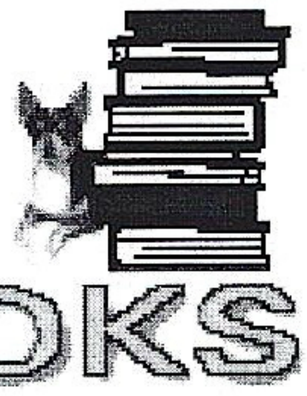

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From the President

IACP: Setting the Standard

by Martin Deeley

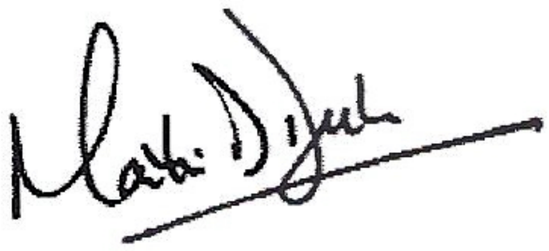
Recently the thought of IACP setting standards for performance of services created a lot of interest. Within any business and professional organization known standards are the foundation of that businesses success. I will state what I said when we started IACP - standards need to be set because if we do not do this as a professional group, then one day the government will do it for us. These standards should include professional, business operation, and quality standards that the public can expect from us as professionals. Licensing of Groomers and trainers has already been put forward for discussion by a government bodies. If the government does decide our professions need more control and we have acceptable standards then our members will have no fears. Quality of service standards do not have to be strict competition type standards but they can be acceptable and understandable standards of performance. For me it is not if licensing happens to our professions it is when. It may not happen in the near future but I am sure controls of some form will come. We can fight it, we can say it should never happen but one day someone will want to control our professions and I would rather it be the IACP and other professional Associations because we know and understand the professions. If we have shown a responsible attitude and controlled ourselves so that we achieve what we say we can achieve then we have a fighting chance of influencing the regulations. If we as an Association and individuals set guidelines that the public could and should expect then we are guiding the whole industry towards public recognition of a quality service that can be measured.

Recognition of the IACP would lead the governing bodies to discuss and work with us on all forms of guidelines. For me the best guideline a government body could write would be "Seek out your IACP member for canine services." An Association such as ours could offer a wealth of advice, support and information if consulted - but we have to be well known and respected to be consulted.

Now maybe I am dreaming but this for me was an aim of the IACP - to be able to say what happened within our professions and not let someone or some group outside our professions dictate how we work. Instead of being seen as a negative organization saying no to any canine legislation we should be approached by the governing bodies because we work with them and can help them solve their problems. How can we help raise standards of dog ownership together with the government so that people keep dogs in their families for their lifetime? How can we help so that that breed specific legislation need not be considered because people are not attacked with the frequency they state they are today .

We already have our Code, our Mission, our Certification and certainly our grading of members. By publicizing and promoting these more and especially to those entering the industry, not only will it help them in their business through guidance but also it will be accepted as a norm. It is a state of mind within each individual, and if we can accept that standards of performance and service are set to help and guide and build our success rather than dictate or find fault, then we can build them effectively for the benefit of all. And it all starts with each of us acting professional and providing a quality service.

You may have noticed that the Journal is in New SafeHands. I would like to thank Marc Goldberg for taking over the editing and production of the Safehands Journal. I am sure Marc will lead us forward to a new era of education Journal.



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Heat Injury and Your Pets!

by Thom Somes, "The Pet Safety Guy"™

Heat Injury, as taught in our Pet Tech First Aid courses, covers first, second, third-degree burns and hyperthermia. First, second and third-degree burns are usually located on the skin of your pets' bodies. There are three types or causes of burns: chemical, electrical and thermal (heat). What I want to focus on in this article is the systemic or overheating of your pets' bodies called hyperthermia. (hyper = high or above, thermia = temperature), commonly known as heat stroke.

Pets primarily cool themselves by panting. Panting works by moving warm moist air out of the body. This warm moist air is usually warmer than the surrounding (ambient) temperature. Panting is not very efficient and actually produces some heat from the effort it takes to pant. The higher the temperature and the higher the humidity, the less effective panting becomes for your pets. Brachycephalic (short-nosed) breeds are especially inefficient at cooling themselves

Heat is primarily hard on the cells and organs of the pet. Sustained temperatures 105° and above is the point where the cells begin to breakdown and loose functionality. Brain and organ cells are most sensitive to these higher temperatures. A few of the life threatening things that occur in your pets' bodies during Heat Stroke include: the blood can thicken and clot, the kidneys will fail, hemorrhaging (bleeding) in the intestines and the brain can swell. This is a horrible death of any living creature.

As a Pet Care Professional, you should know and take the necessary steps to prevent any of your pets from becoming dangerously overheated. However, accidents and oversights do occur. Therefore, as a professional pet care-giver, you must know the Signs, Actions for Survival and possible Veterinarian Care that may be required for your pets to survive Heat Stroke. Anyone who has ever taken a human first aid training may remember they were taught that Heat Exhaustion precedes Heat Stroke. This is true for our pets too. However, outward signs of Heat Exhaustion may not be presented or recognized. Pet owners may also misinterpret the signs.

Prevention Tips: Heat Stroke

1. Once a pet has survived heat stroke, they have a predisposition to more easily succumb to heat stroke again. Therefore, asking your client if their pets have ever suffered from heat stroke or exhibited any of the following signs could prevent a potentially life-threatening situation.

2. Pets need a constant supply of fresh cool clean water available 7/24.

3. Exposing your pets to stresses like traveling; strange sights, sounds and smells; and excitement can be a very important factor in causing your pets to overheat.

4. If left alone at home or in the yard, make sure they have a cool shady place they can go to with access to plenty of cool fresh water.

5. Older pets and very young pets are especially susceptible to heat stroke.

6. Never leave your pets in a car or back of a truck.

Signs: Heat Stoke

Please note that the first five signs of heat stroke listed below are included in the "Assessing Your Pet's Vitals" section we teach in our classes. They can also be found in our "Knowing Your Pet's Health" guide on pages 7 & 8.

1. Breathing: Uncontrollable Panting: your pets' primary method of cooling themselves off is through panting. The pets' mouth (gums, tongue and nasal passages) act like a radiator to move heat (via warm moist) outside of the body.

2. Rapid Heart Rate: this makes sense, since the blood moves through the mouth and gums to cool. The heart then beats faster to move the blood more quickly through the radiator (mouth).

3. Temperature: Normal temperature for dogs and cats ranges from 101.5° to 102.4° F. For very short periods of time, pets (mammals) can handle higher body temperatures. As a general rule, any

body temperature 105° and above is considered, "DANGER! DANGER! WILL ROBINSON!"

4. Mucous Membrane: Tongue, gums and lips will initially be bright red as the pets try to move as much hot blood to the mouth as possible to be cooled. As the pets' condition gets worse, the tongue, gums and lips will progressively move to blue/gray and the pets' mouth will be dry.

5. Capillary Refill: Normal Capillary Refill

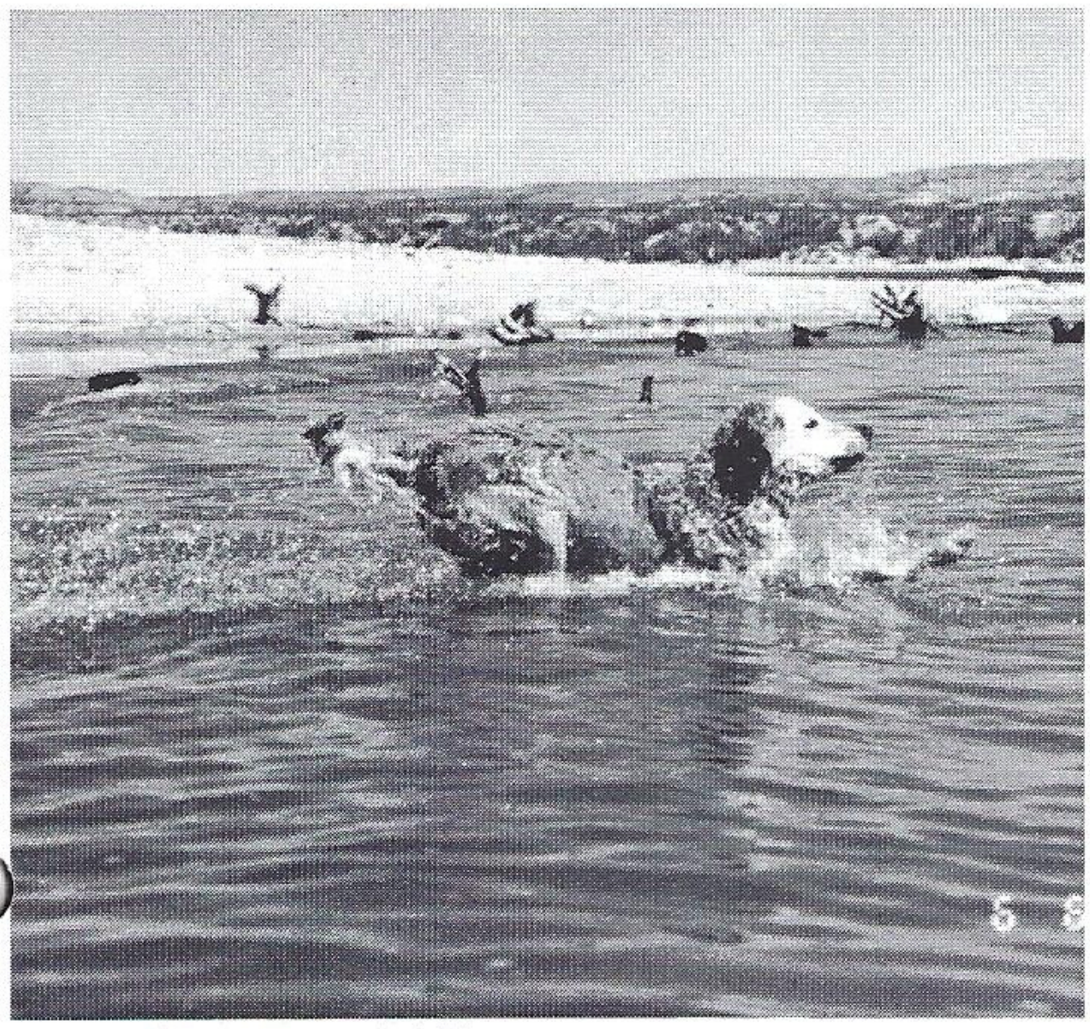

Photo by Mary Maltbie

time is 1-2 seconds. During Heat Stroke Capillary Refill time can take over 2 seconds and when it approaches 5 seconds is a late sign of Heat Stroke and requires immediate actions for survival on your part.

6. Foaming/Salivating: this is not your dog becoming Cujo. The foaming is caused by the mechanical action of the tongue going back and forth so rapidly.

7. Lethargy: your pets may become sluggish, uncoordinated, and may even go into convulsions. This is caused by the dual effect of the brain being overheated, and the cells of the pets' bodies being starved for oxygen.

8. Vomiting: this can be a late sign of Heat Stroke. This is a very important self-protective mechanism that can add valuable minutes of survival for your pets. If you have ever picked up dog vomit (I know, a lovely memory), you recall how hot it was. This is important because what actually occurred when your pet vomited is they moved this mass of heat out of its body and away from its vital organs. Very cool, literally! Be sure to bring a sample to the veterinarian if they do vomit.

Actions For Survival: Heat Stroke

1. Make a mental or written note what time you began assisting your pets.

2. Restrain and muzzle the pets if necessary. However, if you must muzzle you are now responsible for cooling your pets' bodies down. This needs to be done immediately before transporting to the Veterinarian or Emergency Animal Hospital.

3. Bathe or hose your pets' bodies with copious amounts of cool water. Warning: DO NOT use ice or very cold water. Using very cold water can actually make the situation worse by causing the capillary blood vessels at the surface of the skin to constrict. This constriction can reduce or prevent the cooling of the body by creating a thermal barrier that prevents the cooler blood from returning to the organs and brain. An ice pack can be used, if wrapped in a towel and placed along the inside of the abdominal area and under the arms and legs.

4. Monitor the temperature every few minutes. Stop cooling them when the temperature reaches 102°. Your pets will continue to cool down and you do not want to overcool them.

5. Monitor mucous membrane color every few minutes. Pink is normal (unless they normally have black gums).

6. Prepare to treat for shock. Shock by definition is the lack of adequate oxygen to the cells of the body.

7. Do not give them anything to eat or drink unless advised by your Veterinarian or Emergency Animal Hospital to do so. In general, giving your pets something to eat or drink will not get into the system fast enough to help them. Actually it may make the situation worse by causing vomiting. Food and water in the stomach can also increase the risks of surgery, if needed.

8. Contact your Veterinarian or nearest Animal Hospital for further assistance.

Veterinarian Care: Heat Stroke

1. Veterinary care, support and treatment of Heat Stroke for both dogs and cats may include oxy-

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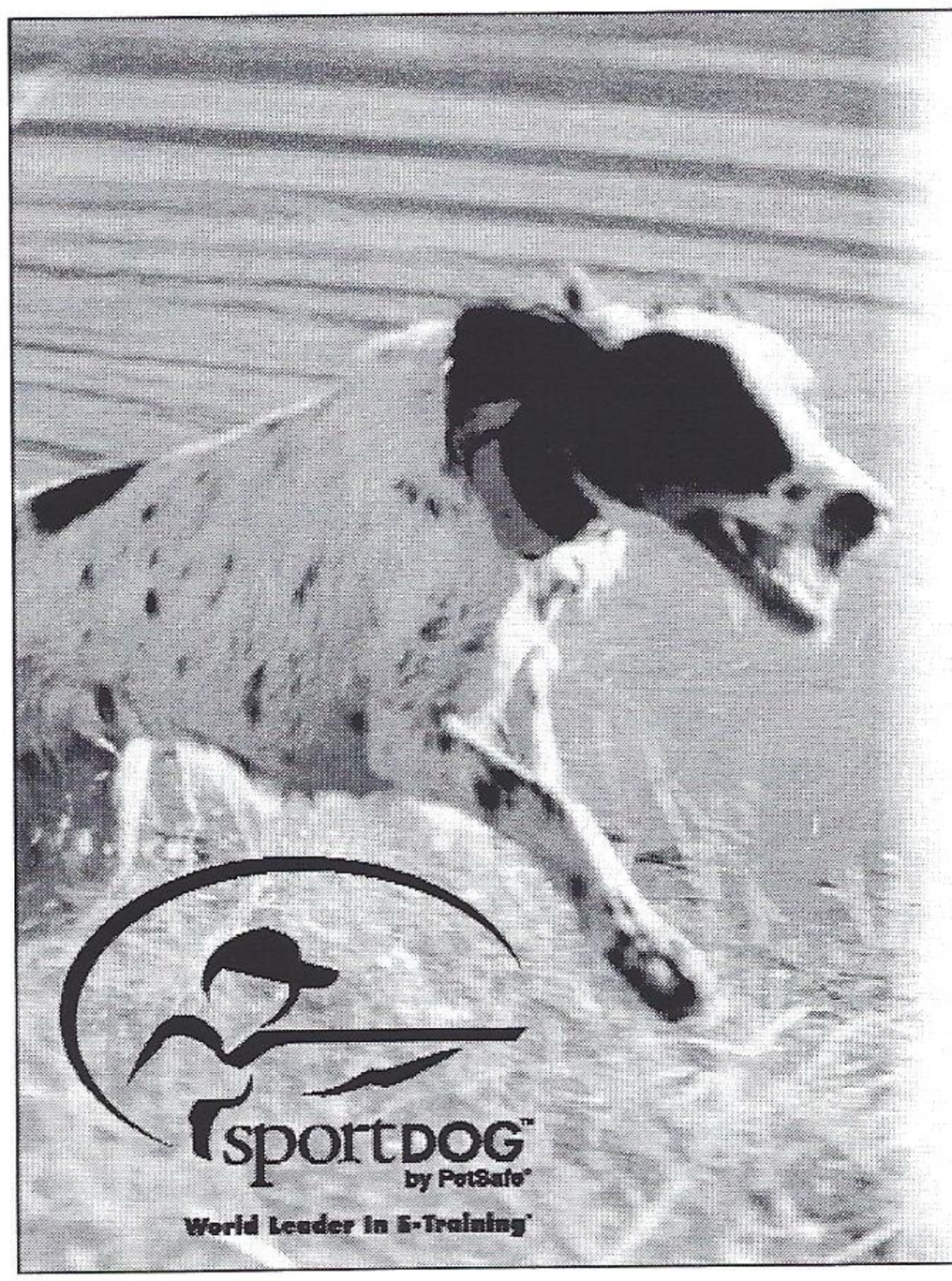

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gen administration, body cooling, drug administration and fluid replacement (IV's).

2. Immediate care will be to assess your pets' vitals. I cannot stress how important it is for you to pass on the vitals you assessed on your pets to the veterinarian and what time you took them. This builds a window or timeline, for the Veterinarian, that the pets have been affected and will factor in to how aggressive they treat your pets.

3. Temperature will be the first thing for your veterinarian to get under control. They will cool in a bath or with a hose. They may even give cool water enemas and cool fluid IV's.

4. Immediate laboratory tests can include: blood count, urine, creatinine, liver, glucose and coagulation profile. This will assist in determing the extent the organs functionality has been affected.

5. Ongoing monitoring over the next couple of days may be indicated, depending on the severity of exposure.

In addition to the actions you can take, remember, heat stroke is the number one preventable summer accident. In any emergency situation, do the best you can, "use your head, and be careful with your hands." You and all your pets (clients) have an awesome and "cool" summer.

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Sympathy and condolences for the family and friends of Captain Arthur J. Haggerty, IACP Member, and Member of the IACP Hall of Fame. "Cap" was truly one of the greats. We will miss him. More information on his life in the next issue.

The Contrary Dog Trainer

As the Twig is Bent

by Dick Russell

Something had been killing my chickens. Several days ago I had found the half eaten carcass of one of my young hens. Then it was a rooster that had been reduced to a scattering of gray feathers.

The culprit was most likely a raccoon, or maybe a gray fox. I've seen each in the woods that border my property.

Dick Russell oversees his Large Field Socialization class. ***(Photo by Ami Moore.)***

Whichever it was, one thing was certain. I needed to change my chicken keeping scheme. I had to shift from free range to day range. Either that, or I'd be reduced to eating store bought eggs. Some things are too horrible to contemplate. Day range it was going to be.

Mid-afternoon I went out to put the plan into action. After four hours of chasing, shushing, badgering and generally harassing the birds, having run myself to the verge of a coronary conclusion I had managed to get one hen into the coop.

This needed rethinking, but I needed to leave to teach the evening's obedience class in fifteen minutes. I'd rethink it later. I abandoned the hens to their own devices and to the vagaries of fate.

The next afternoon, I took Annie, my border collie, out to help with the cooping of the birds. She made a difference. Thirty minutes of her responding to the commands she'd learned on sheep had the hens tucked safely away for the night.

Yesterday we put them to bed in ten minutes flat. The only command I gave was "chooks."

My chicken coop is set up next to my barn. There is a two feet wide alley that runs between the two. The coop is backed by the net wire fence that surrounds the sheep pasture. There is an eighteen inch wide space between them.

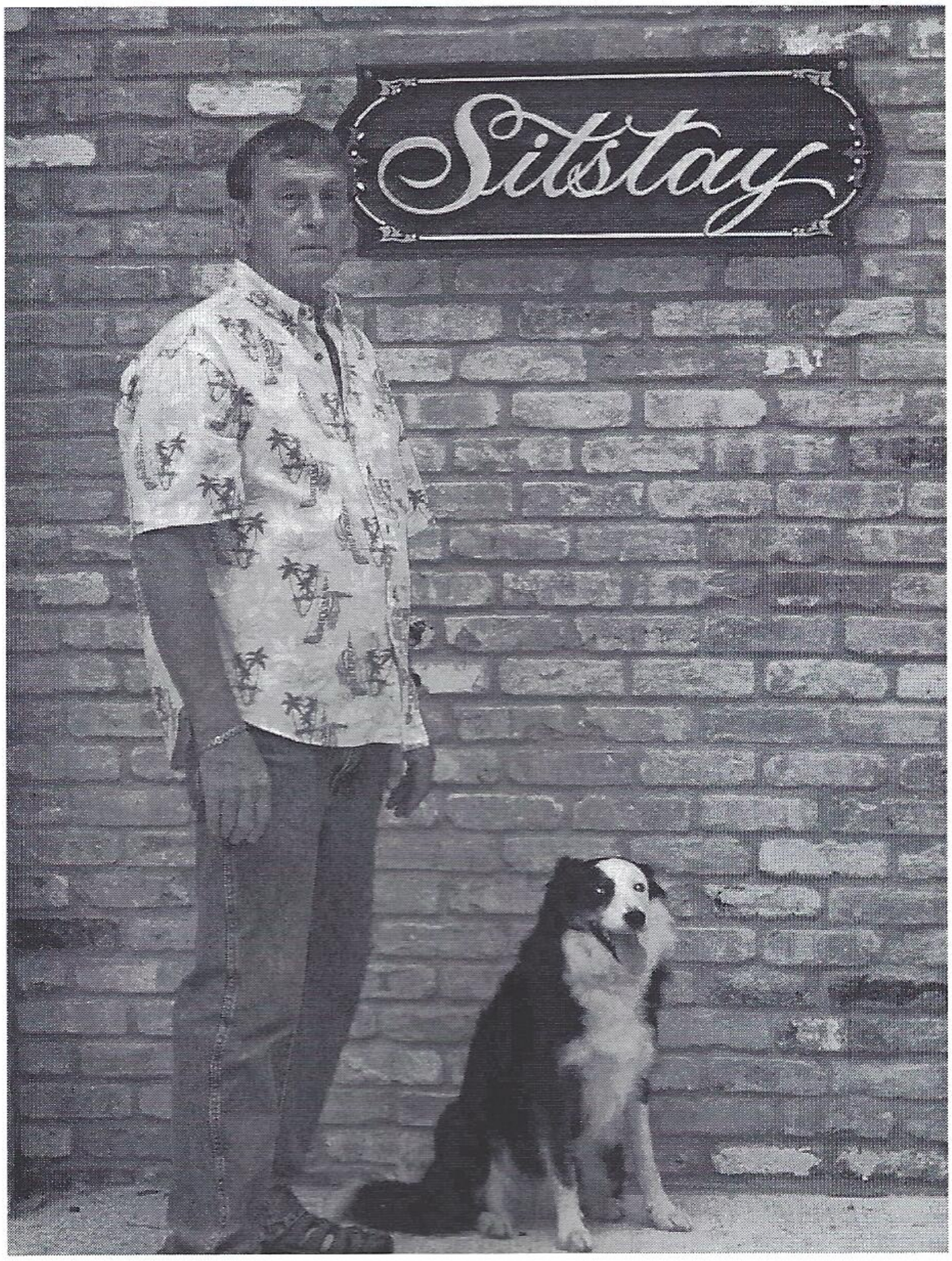
I noticed that whenever Annie pushed one of the hens down the alley between the horse barn and the chicken coop and then along the far side of the coop by the sheep fence, that the hen would round the front of the coop and dash through the poop.

Poop is not what you are thinking. A poop is what us country boys call a small opening - sort of like a doggy-door - in a chicken coop. There is a drop down door that closes the poop. Mostly, though, it is left open so the hens can go in or out to eat grain or to visit a nest box when an egg is imminent.

As soon as I noticed how well the across the back, along the far side, round the front and through the poop route worked it became my route of choice. That's how I directed Annie to move the birds. It's the path that I sent every hen along even when there appeared to be a more direct route.

The day that this became my sole route, I had to direct Annie to push a dozen hens along it before she figured out what I wanted.

The next afternoon, I needed to direct her just twice to set her onto the path of rightiousness. And the day after that, only once. Since then, "chooks," is all it takes to have my birds safely put away for the night.



The author and Annie

In five days time, I went from this ain't working and I'm gonna die to leaning against the oak tree sipping a lemonade and watching my dog be a useful wee beast. I did it by consistently asking her the same question until she consistently gave me the answer that I wanted. I bent the twig the way that I wanted the tree to grow.

Bending the twig and watching trees take shape is one of the easiest and most overlooked principles of practical dog training. I find that it works well with a dog that I am training. It's also the easy way that I've found to insure that my class students succeed with their own dogs. Frankly, I wouldn't attempt to do it any other way.

Dick Russell is one of IACP's most respected and self described "contrary" trainers. Based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Dick is willing to share his knowledge and experience with everyone.

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A few words from the Editor:

I hope you enjoy this newsletter as much as I enjoyed working on it. This being the first one I have worked on, there were plenty of bugs and kinks to work through. From here on you should receive your newsletter in a more timely fashion.

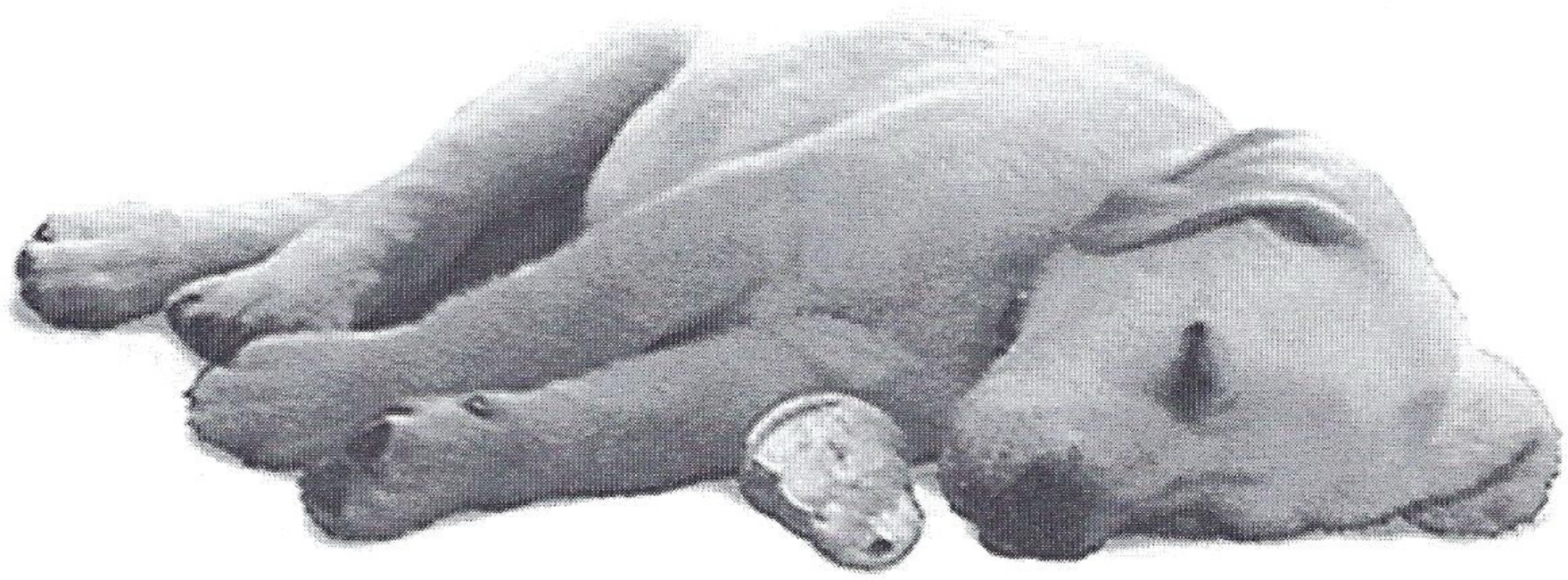
Thanks to Martin Deeley for trusting me with this job. Of course, I'm sure partly he was glad to unload it on someone else! Like you, I have always looked forward to leaping into my Safe-Hands. And I gave little thought to how much work went into it...even though I have a background in publishing. So thanks to Martin for the hundreds and hundreds of hours he has spent over the last years putting this beastie out. Kudos also go to Pat Trichter for her eagle eyes as a proofreader. And the authors, thanks to them as well!

Speaking of authors, every newletter I have ever read from other organizations includes a plea for articles from the Editor. This newsletter is different. We don't plead, beg, whine or even cajole. We're dog professionals. We have attitude. So we draft authors, demand articles and we praise for effort.

It is not nearly as hard to write an article as you think. Donating blood is a lot harder. But do think of this as your opportunity to share with other IACP members. Knowledge and collaboration are the lifeblood of IACP.

Let's talk about what YOU can write for Safe-Hands! Contact me at Canineshrink@aol.com. I will help you through the entire process.

Marc Goldberg, Editor



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Containment Phobia in Dogs

by Karyn Garvin

The Sisters: Claustrophobia and Containment Phobia...

Most of us have heard the analogy that the crate is to a dog what the den is to the wolf and that dogs love their crate like their own private den. This may be true for most dogs but not when the dog is claustrophobic. Claustrophobia does occur in dogs as well.

Claustrophobia is defined as a fear of confined spaces. Dogs, like people who suffer from claustrophobia, experience panic and an acceleration of their heart rate. People will sweat while dogs instead will pant and drool. I have known numerous customers who said that at first, they had thought that their dog had urinated in the crate when in fact it hadn't; there was just that much drool.

We must recognize, as pet professionals, that some dogs are claustrophobic. Once this truth is acknowledged we can begin to prescribe the right choices for managing the pet's behavior in the owner's absence.

Containment phobia, the sister to claustrophobia, is different. Containment phobia is defined as a fear of being trapped. It is the inability to move freely from one environment to another regardless of the size of the space that frightens them. This is very likely rooted to an animal's genetically preprogrammed survival instinct of a fear of being caught or trapped.

A dog with containment phobia that is locked outside in the back yard with no one home may destroy the house trying to get in, or jump the wall, or destroy the fence or gate trying to get out. This same dog is capable of equivalent damage when locked inside a house and attempts to escape to the outside. It is not the size of the space that frightens them, but being trapped or contained in an area. Dog owners and pet professionals have often nicknamed the escape behavior artist the "Houdini" dog.

Treating Phobias

A phobia is an irrational fear. It is not based on a real threat or danger but on an imagined one. The symptoms, however, are very real and very unpleasant for the pet that experiences them.

There is a lot of debate and discussion among scholars on the cause of phobias. It is an important debate because it provides a direction for treatment. If a pet has a learned fear of something, the fear may be cured by confronting it repeatedly and using desensitizing techniques, along with counter conditioning efforts. However, when the fear is inherent, it may not be possible to cure it.

Thunderstorm Phobia in Dogs

Thunderstorm phobia in dogs is seldom learned behavior; rather it is passed down genetically from generation to generation. A fear of thunderstorms doesn't usually appear until after a dog turns 6 months of age. Often, a dog owner will relate the story that the first time he noticed the dog panic was when a car drove by and backfired. Shortly thereafter, the owner noticed that the dog had a fear of thunderstorms. Did the dog learn to fear loud noises? The answer is no. This dog had the genetic predisposition to thunderstorm phobia, and the car backfiring triggered the onset of the phobia.

Pet professionals understand and accept thunderstorm phobia in dogs. We understand the desperate attempts to escape that can result. We don't blame the owner for the condition. Desensitization techniques typically fail, and obedience training has no impact on eliminating the phobia. It can only be used to distract and redirect the dog under the circumstances. It's the behavior problem we dread, because we know there is little we can do. Drug therapy is often prescribed which can be very helpful in softening the trauma experienced by the dog.

The Profile of the Containment Phobic Dog

Breeds

It is neither breed nor gender specific.

Size of dog

It is present in all sizes of dogs from toy to giant.

The smaller dog may not choose fence jumping or attacking windows as an escape route for obvious reasons.

Age of dog

Phobias tend to show up with age. Containment phobia, just like thunderstorm phobia, will more likely begin after six months of age.

Temperament of dog

Some of the calmest and best-behaved dogs have containment phobia. Often, this is the only behavior problem the owner has with this dog. It can also co-exist with any other temperament of dog.

The condition is permanent.

This is an inherent trait and the dog will not outgrow it.

Mild to severe cases

The dog's responses to containment phobia, at first, may seem mild, but just like thunderstorm phobia containment phobia will become more severe with repetition and age. It is not the age of the dog that makes the experience and the dog's response more violent. It is the repetition of the experience that comes with age.

Early signs

Early signs are claustrophobic reactions when left in a crate. Dogs that are claustrophobic will not always experience containment phobia. However dogs that suffer from containment phobia are always likely to show early signs of being claustrophobic.

This same puppy is also more likely to scramble to jump over a gate when contained in a room.

Escape behaviors include:

Ongoing attempts to break out of a dog crate

Ongoing attempts to escape every kennel run

Jumping over or going through dog gates

Jumping a fence

Digging out underneath a fence

Chewing and digging through a fence

Chewing and digging through a wall

Destroying exits when contained in a room. This could include: doors, windows, window coverings such as curtains blinds, etc.

Breaking through glass windows

Chipping teeth on a chain link fence trying to escape

Self-mutilation and even death as a result of escape attempts

When sufficiently contained in the back yard, destroying the house trying to get in

99% of this dog's destructive behavior is targeted at barriers that prevent the freedom to move from one environment to another, namely indoors to outdoors and vice versa.

Good News, There's a Cure

The good news is that with the correct diagnosis, treatment is very successful.

There is a cure for the destruction of home and property, not to mention the damage the dog may be doing to itself in the process. There is a way for the dog and the dog's owner to live happily ever after.

Modify the Environment Therapy

The environment must be modified, because it is, indeed, the environment that is triggering containment phobia in the dog. That is great news! When a dog suffers from thunderstorm phobia there is nothing that can be done to control the weather.

However, with containment phobia, the environment can be controlled, and drugs are seldom necessary.

Every home environment and every dog is different. Precisely what needs to be done at one home can vary from the next. However, in all cases, the remedy is twofold. First, give the dog freedom of movement and second have consequences in place for the escape behavior. It is also very important that the modifications to the environment occur simultaneously. We have to support the dog in making the right choices in the owner's absence.

First, the dog has to be given the ability to move from one environment to the next and back again when it chooses. Freedom of movement from indoors to outdoors is the ideal solution. (In very mild cases, this is not always necessary.) At most homes this can be done by installing a dog door and teaching the dog how to use it.

Secondly, when the dog panics and goes to a location, be it the door, the window or a fence, it is with the intention of using whatever force is necessary to bypass it. The dog is seeking the reward of escaping at this location and instead it has to find a consequence. It also has to be a safe consequence of substantial force for the dog to decide "Oops! This is not an option."

The Electronic Consequence for Escape Behavior

The beauty of the electronic correction is that it is safe and effective. The dog soon learns that everywhere is safe except for those places it once tried to exit. It has a sense of freedom and is rewarded for making the right choice by avoiding negative reinforcement.

When used properly, electronic consequences are the best solution for dogs that have phobic reactions. When a dog is hysterical and its adrenaline is flowing, the consequence will have to be substantial to be an effective deterrent.

I personally recommend and sell the Invisible Fence Brand solution. The dog owner will have a qualified person to install the system and support with the training. There is also a pet containment guarantee. That is very reassuring for the dog's owner.

Electronic fencing now has both indoor as well as outdoor solutions, which can combat most escape artists tactics.

Each situation is different, but with a knowledgeable trainer, and a fencing professional working together, there will be a happy ending.

Never, Never Depend on a Remote Electronic Training Collar for Escape Behavior

The remote electronic training collar was never designed to be used for escape behavior. I have known dog owners who thought they had the problem solved with a remote collar.

Unfortunately, it was just a matter of time before the dog will try to escape again and without the owner there, there was no consequence so the dog escaped.

The Only Other Alternative Therapy

Never leave the dog at home alone.

Containment Phobia Is Different From Separation Anxiety

Many social animals are distressed when separated from their companions or loved ones. Feelings of loss and frustration are a result of love and attachment.

Separation anxiety is related to the relationship between the dog and owner, so there are several things that an owner can do differently to reduce the level of frustration and unruly behavior that occurs when the owner is gone. I would also be the first to agree that separation anxiety is without a doubt the leading cause of misbehavior in an owner's absence.

Unfortunately, Containment phobia is almost always misdiagnosed or mislabeled as separation anxiety. Professionals frequently jump to this conclusion as soon as they hear that it only happens in the owner's absence. In this case, it happens when the owner is gone because that's when the dog is confined to one area. The dog doesn't panic being shut in when the owner is home because it knows that when the owner is there it will be let out. The dog has learned that it can rely on the owner's ability to unlock the door and provide freedom of movement.

Another distinguishing difference is that 99% of the containment phobic dog's destructiveness is associated with escaping. Destruction, that occurs as a result of separation anxiety is more often directed at household items such as pillows, books, furniture etc. Dogs typically do not injure themselves in the process because this is an anxiety rather than a phobic reaction.

There are many techniques that work effectively to treat separation anxiety that will fail miserably with a dog that has containment phobia. The misdiagnosis of this condition leads to inappropriate treatment, devastation of the dog owner's property, and very likely the death of the dog.

I sincerely hope that this report will help to shed light on the differences between separation anxiety and containment phobia and will save lives in the process.

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The author operates a multi-faceted dog business in Tucson, AZ which includes obedience, agility, flyball, doggy daycare and Invisible Fence installation. www.karyngarvin.com

The Value of Redirecting Behavior

by Mary Mazzeri

When Sally brought an obsessive-compulsive, tail chasing Sheltie for training I knew that she had her work cut out for her. The dog had been to two other trainers and a veterinary behaviorist. Nothing had worked to date. Lady was a happy, good natured dog but she would spin herself crashing into walls or spin until her dizziness caused her to fall or vomit, occasionally she would spin until she would collapse exhausted. It was stressful for Sally too. When she wasn't spinning Lady was a delightful, responsive, intelligent dog.

We discussed her history, the medications she was on and determined the owner's commitment level to be high. An owner's commitment level is an important key to success in any behavior modification program. Then we set a protocol into place. We would teach Lady an acceptable behavior to replace her obsessive compulsive disorder along with medical supervision to monitor her progress.

Apollo was a 37 inch tall, eighteen month old Harlequin Dane. Very intimidating and he knew it. It was hard not to react to him on entering Bill and Karen's home. When people would pull back and gape, Apollo would charge them barking, growling, and snapping his teeth perilously close to their faces.

With both of the above examples, we developed programs that would give these dogs 'something better to do'. The solution was identical, even though the 'triggers' and the undesirable behaviors are vastly different.

Butch was an easy going Labrador but a compulsive retriever. He loved fetching the morning paper, his leash, and of course his slimy tennis ball. He would bring Iris, his owner, just about anything she dropped or that he found on the floor. This character trait was very handy except when he tried to pick up things that could harm him, such as the broken glass he volunteered to pick up as a horrified Iris tried to stop him.

Teaching a dog an alternative behavior to replace an undesirable one is called a 'Redirect". Behavior cannot exist in a vacuum. Sometimes just telling a dog "NO!" or correcting an improper behavior is not enough. A dog benefits from being taught 'what TO DO' instead, especially if a dog internalizes the response. Often a dog doesn't know what to do in a given situation and is usually quite relieved to learn what it is supposed to do, especially when that alternative is rewarding. Something as simple as teaching a dog to "Sit" when it meets someone helps it to understand the desired 'greeting ritual'. Let's look at two other useful redirect commands.

The "Leave It!" Command

It is always so much easier to start a puppy out on the right paw so teach the "Leave it" concept using food -as a distraction/target, providing a pup is food motivated. This is best initially practiced when a puppy is hungry.

Use six small plates and space them in a line about 10-12 ft apart, loading a small treat on each one. Walk the puppy down the right side of the line of plates and encourage it to take a treat from each plate, praising it for doing so. Once it understands the game, start to vary it. Have the pup on a plain buckle collar and short BUT NOT TIGHT leash in your left hand at your left side and take it for another walk alongside the row of plates (plates to the pup's left side). allow the dog to take the food on cue "Take it" but if it initiates going for the food without permission, say "Leave it" calmly and firmly, and intercept the dog before it can get to the food. Using the leash, gently turn the puppy to the right in a circle while backing up a couple of steps, luring with a piece of food or a favorite toy in the right hand as you bring it in to face you, sit and get the 'treat' from your hand. You're asking the dog to give up the treat on the plate for the reward in hand. The turn and sit is 'marked' with a verbal "yes! (or it could be marked with a clicker) and rewarded (food or toy). If using a remote collar, a low level tap coincides with the command, then the turn and sit/mark and reward pattern is applied.

The hand treats and the plate treats eventually become highly randomized. Only ask the puppy to "Leave it" when it is keenly interested in getting to

the food on the plate, not when it is hesitant. Keep the sessions short and sweet, usually for 4-5 days, and then the food in hand becomes randomized and faded. Pups are rewarded relationally, with petting and praise for responding to the command and turning to the owner.

You can then apply the pattern to other things that the puppy discovers on walks. (Not everything it discovers please; let the puppy explore safely.) Just to help it understand that "Leave it" means: Step away from that and move toward and focus on me instead. Fade the food pretty quickly and give it only for the most spectacular responses. Once a pup understands how to respond, hold them accountable. Puppies live supervised on a house leash which can be used to quickly redirect the pups.

You can use the same sequences with an older dog. This is done on whatever kind of training collar gives the best response for a particular dog. Once the dog has demonstrated understanding of the "Leave it" command, hold them accountable. They are positively, variably and randomly reinforced for correct responses. When they choose to disobey a command, pop the leash quickly toward you (or medium level tap on a remote collar) and remind the dog of its responsibility. (Negative reinforcement with a redirect to the correct learned behavior.) Praise when the dog is in the right place.

Commands are purposeful. Like Butch, a beloved pet could rush in to grab up food from a shattered, broken dish that was dropped in the kitchen, consuming broken glass in the process. Service and therapy dogs in a hospital environment that are not trained to keep their noses to themselves could easily scarf up a dropped medicinal pill to their own detriment. Building thoughtful inhibition into a dog's experience is safe, powerful, and effective training.

You can apply this "Leave It" concept to improper or unsafe attraction to or alerting on anything, i.e. garbage, goose poop, or other dogs for example. Practice at a safe distance from strong distractions (i.e. over reaction to other dogs) to keep down the 'adrenalin rush' response. Work at a point where the dog can still think. Plan ahead! Gradually desensitize the dog by working in closer proximity to other dogs. The desired response is to refocus your dog on you instead of the other dog. Once a dog has demonstrated that he understands, gradually work it closer to the stimulus and allow him to experience the consequences of his choices. Remember…

Give the "Leave It' command just as you have practiced. Reward the dog if it 'volunteers' the learned 'turn and focus' response. If not, pop the leash quickly and urgently to remind the dog just how important your request is. It will not be important to your dog if it doesn't seem all that important to you. Reinforce the proper response.

Control/set up your training so that you are in charge of the environment and can direct the outcome in a positive way, giving the dog the opportunity to learn from the consequences of its choices. Take it or "Leave it."

The PLACE Command

This is a another very useful redirect exercise. It can be taught manually but I prefer to teach it with the remote collar. Dogs learn it in one week or less. The objective is to be able to direct a dog away from the handler to a specific location with a verbal and hand signal. Place a 'target' on a contrasting surface i.e. a thick rug, bolster dog bed or a raised box that your dog can easily fit on. The dog will learn most easily if the rug is on an elevated surface such as a box or at the edge of a porch and the area surrounding the Target is of a different color and texture. Dogs will learn this by contrasting visual and tactile differences.

Step One. Have dog at the left side on a 4 ft leash. Anchor both the leash handle and the transmitter in your right hand. The left hand will also hold the leash to direct the dog. Acclimate your dog to walk onto the box/target without using the transmitter until the dog stands on the object confidently.

Next start walking toward the target from about 10 ft away. When you are about two steps away, sweep your left hand, holding the leash, alongside your dog's head, use low level stim and command "Place". Keep moving and guide the dog up to the box with your left hand. Guide the dog all the way to the box/bed/target. The stim stops the moment the front feet are on the target. (If the dog does not have its back feet on the box, use the leash to gently 'tug/guide' it until all four paws are on the surface.) You may wish to occasionally put a treat on the box. Give lots of calm praise. Repeat 6-10 times.

Vary the amount of time the dog stays on the box. The dog may choose to sit, down or stand, but is not allowed to leave the box until released. When your dog does step off the 'place' without a release, have your finger resting on the continuous button so you can depress it the moment your dog's front foot touches the area outside the place object. Help your dog back on the place target quickly with the leash and stop the stim as your dog's front feet return to the target place.

Step Two. On the fourth day: Review step one until the dog is successful. Now bring the dog to within 4 ft of the box. Stop and wait a few moments.

Stim and give the "Place" command as you point your dog to the pad. Give your dog a chance to initiate movement toward the target. Keep the stim going and tug its leash forward with your left hand if it freezes or backs up. Gradually try to tug your dog toward the target without moving. If he doesn't go within 2 seconds of your command, guide your dog quickly to the pad. Find the level that motivates a quick response. Do not allow the dog to leave until released. End on success. Put the target in a new location each day. Every so often place a treat on it before you send your dog. The goal is to be able to send your dog to the designated location and have it stay there, without going with him. Gradually increase the distance you send the dog. A Place can be located wherever convenient and a dog can learn to station itself wherever placed, inside a home or out, in a car or when traveling.

Lady and Apollo both learned to internalize an acceptable response to stimuli. For Lady, when she felt the urge to spin, she was directed to her special place to lie down for a few moments. Lady became self-aware and her increased proprioception caused her to place herself in her bed until the urge passed. New neural pathways were forged, new habits developed.

Apollo, the snapping Dane, learned to bark an alert and then yield when asked to go to his bed on the far side of the room. By the way, these alternatives became so rewarding for these dogs that they both learned to initiate their responses without human interaction. With Apollo, he was proud to give the alert when someone was at the door and then run to his bed once his owners responded. Both dogs continued to be intermittently and randomly rewarded for their acceptable choices.

Butch learned to respect the "Leave It' command. He never lost his enthusiasm for retrieving, but he learned to step away from those things his owners asked him to leave alone.

Behavior cannot exist in a vacuum. There are times when you must stop a dog's behavior 'just because I said so' but for persistent problem behaviors, consider teaching and directing the dog an acceptable alternative.

Mary Mazzeri is Director of Care Dog Training in Carpentersville, IL. For over 30 years she has helped dog owners develop a healthy relationship with their dogs. Mary is a Co-Founder of the International Association of Canine Professionals and holds the Professional dog trainers certification through the IACP. She is endorsed by the National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors.

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From the SafeHands Email List

Litterbox training for dogs

by Pam Richardson

Q: How do we train a dog to eliminate in a litterbox?

A: I would make sure that the litter pan is big enough and easy enough for the dog to get in and out. He may be uncomfortable stepping up and down into the ones made for dogs. You can fashion one out of a cheap plastic storage bin and cut a door in it to any size you want.

Then make sure the litter is what the dog prefers. A piece of sod will work (as someone else suggested), or mulch, or one of the pelleted kitty litters. The litter made for dogs is sometimes too big and it rolls around and slips under foot in the pan. Some dogs don't seem to like it much. If he uses the pee pads put a used one down as a base under the litter. Use a large crate or an x-pen with the litter box in one end and his bed, food, etc. in the other end.

The area should not be much bigger than is needed for those items and should be rectangular. I have been experimenting with the litter boxes because I have mini-doxies and they are terrible to house train. I am in touch with several other breeders of various breeds who have also been using them. I just raised a litter of Labs using the boxes for the first time. At 4 weeks they were all using the boxes to defecate, by 5 weeks they were also using them for urination about 80% of the time.

This was a winter litter so there was no way they were going to get outside. By using the pelleted litter mixed with a bit of mulch they should easily transition to gravel, grass, mulch or any outdoor surface. I have to say that my clean up time was cut way down with the use of the litter and it was so much nicer not to have to wash poop off of puppies and their toys. As a bonus, it smelled better too and that was nice since I raise my puppies in my den where I am working most of the day!

Just to clarify. I am using the litter boxes to make it easier to transition the puppies to the outdoors and not to have them use the litter pans forever. I do feel that having the dogs go outside is best, but I understand that there are cases where the dog needs to use a litter box indoors most of the time and I don't mind helping with that.

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Everything Starts with Nutrition

Part I

by Wendy Volhard

Looking forward to getting a puppy soon? Or perhaps you have one right now. One of the greatest joys is bringing a puppy home and watching its reaction to all the new experiences. This delightful creature - a baby in every sense of the word - is totally dependent upon you for the quality of his future life. The decisions you make in the next weeks will affect its health, emotional well being, how long he lives, and to a great extent, his relationship with you. (For the sake of simplicity, I'm going to refer to the dog as "he" or "him".)

But how do you make the correct decisions? Where do you go for advice and to whom do you listen? Everyone in the family, and certainly all your friends, plus the breeder, the veterinarian, the local trainers, all are full of advice, anecdotes, as well as old wives tales. Well, I am going to add some more advice and you can decide if what follows appeals to you, is logical, and more importantly, does it work for you?

First and foremost, what you feed your puppy is going to have the greatest short and long-term impact. What you put into him now is going to determine how he grows and grows as he should. Feeding a puppy correctly will give you a dog that is calm, playful, mischievous at times, with a good appetite, good health, a youngster who is a delight to train and with whom you forge a close relationship. If your pup's nutritional needs are not met, many of the following can happen:

> Excessive chewing, whining, not growing properly.

> When the vaccines are given the pup does not feel well for days.

> Gets diarrhea and other digestive upsets.

> Smells like a dog.

> His teeth get brown and dirty.

> His breath smells.

> He gets anxious when you leave.

> Doesn't like other dogs and is not keen on people.

> As he grows, he starts to shed continuously, and has a dull coat.

> He picks up fleas and ticks.

> Has a poor immune system and gets frequent infections.

> You are frequently visiting the veterinarian, spending a fortune.

> He may be subject to chronic ear, skin and urinary infections.

> Runs away frequently and is difficult to train.

> Doesn't seem to retain the training you have done.

It seems impossible, doesn't it, that the food you provide can have such an enormous impact on your puppy? But it does. I am not trying to turn you into an expert on canine nutrition, but if you grasp some basic concepts, making the right decisions is no longer so difficult.

Choosing the correct food for your puppy

Dog foods are not all alike and there are enormous quality differences. Last year alone, 87 new foods hit the market. It's become mind-boggling trying to choose the correct food for your puppy. By a process of elimination however, you can establish some criteria for choosing the correct food for your puppy.

First, let's look at advertising to see if it plays a role in your choice. Advertising is often cute, even entertaining.

Unfortunately, it doesn't tell us what we need to know about the quality of the food. To state the obvious, it is aimed at convincing you to buy the food for your dog.

Second, there is price. We tend to assume that just because one product costs more than a similar product, the higher priced one must be better. From your own shopping experiences, you already know this is not necessarily true. The same applies to dog foods.

So where do we begin our search for the food for your puppy? One way would be to start with the puppy himself. Select a food and in short order your puppy will tell you whether you made the right choice:

The first few months:

> Does your puppy like the food and demolish it?

> Does he have large, voluminous stools with a bad smell?

> Does he have gas?

> Are his teeth getting brown?

> Does be burp a lot?

> Does he have bad breath?

> Is he able to gain weight as he grows?

After a few months does he:

> Continuously shed?

> Have a dull coat?

> Smell like a dog?

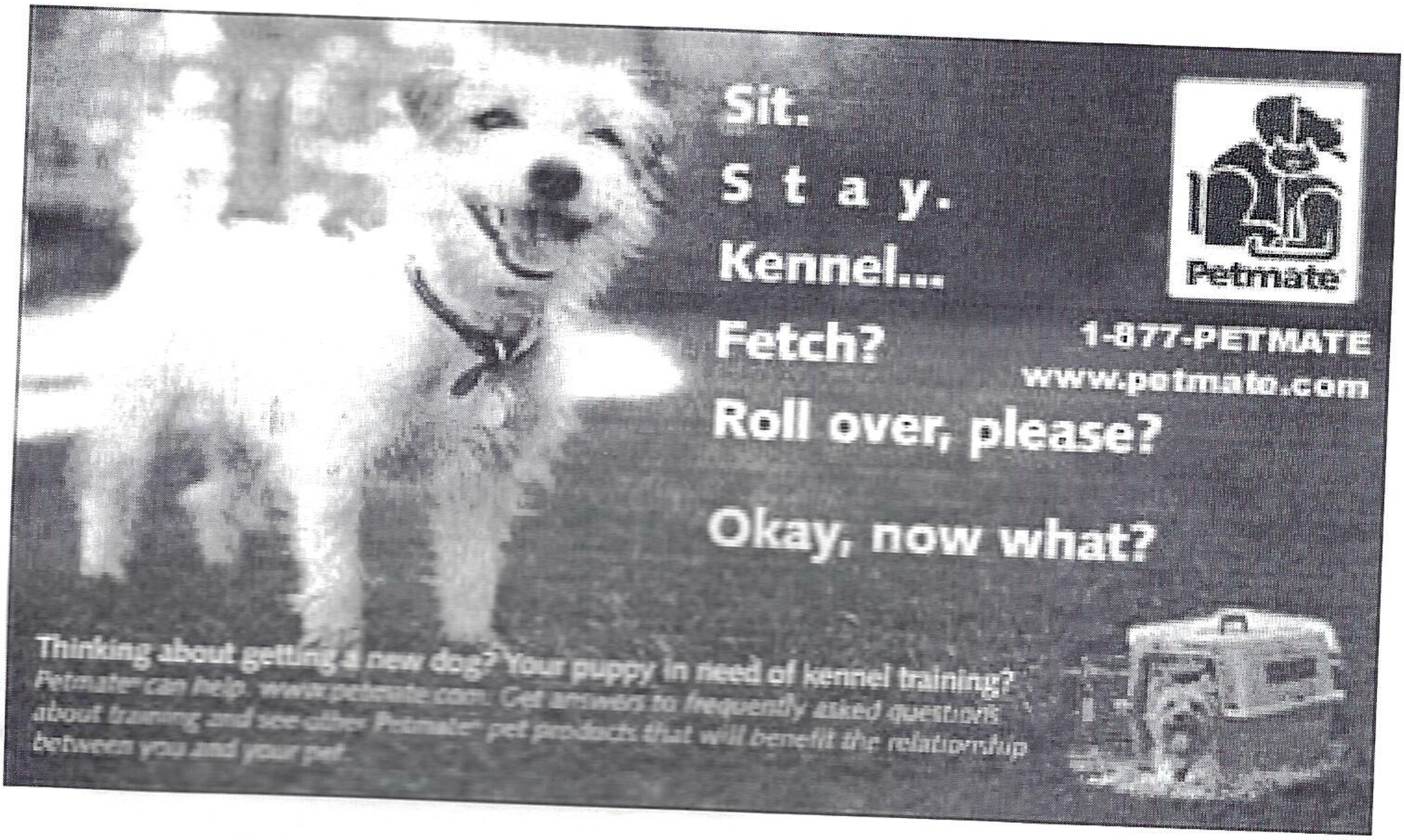
> Pick up fleas and ticks?

> Have too much energy and become hyperactive, or dull and lethargic?

> Have to be wormed regularly?

> Frequently pick up ear or skin infections?

Any one of these can happen with every dog, but only occasionally. If this is a picture of your puppy, then it's time to make a change and to find out why.



Reading the label on the dog food package

Learning to understand the information on the package is going to help you make the right decision for your puppy. The ingredients have to be listed by weight, the heaviest being listed first, and so on down the line. The package will also give you what is called a "Guaranteed Analysis" for crude protein, fat, fiber, moisture, ash and often the calcium/phosphorus/magnesium ratios as well. The label may also state that the food is nutritionally complete or provides 100% nutrition for the dog. If the label includes these statements, it means that the food has undergone some testing, lasting 2-6 weeks, before it was marketed.

Also on the package you may see listed the words Performance, Super Premium 1, Premium, Econo, Lite, Regular and Low Protein. Newer foods may state, 'all natural ingredients' or 'organic'. What does all this mean to you, or better yet, to your dog?

The Performance food is one that has two or more animal proteins in the first three ingredients and is considered the highest quality. The animal proteins may be chicken and lamb, chicken and fish, or beef and chicken and so on.

Super Premium 1 is a food that lists one animal protein first, followed by different parts of grains.

Premium will have only grains in the first ingredients with the animal protein further down on the list.

Regular, Econo, Low Protein or Lite foods consist of chiefly grains and little, if any, animal proteins.

All natural or organic foods often provide superior quality of ingredients, and appear to be the industry's answer to the inroads home made diets have made to the bottom line!

Protein - Quality of Life and Health

With the emphasis on the quantity of the protein in the dog foods, you can see that it is the most important ingredient of them all. Remember that your dog is a carnivore. He is scientifically classified as such by the shape of his teeth, which have points on them, and are made for ripping and tearing meat. His teeth are not flat like ours, which can grind food.

Dogs come in over several hundred different shapes and sizes, and while your puppy is cute and cuddly, it is still a wolf in disguise. Evolution and selective breeding have changed the outside, but not the inside, which is identical to the wolf, even today. So it makes sense to look at what the dog/wolf would eat in the wild to keep him healthy, and to come as close as you can in your own home, to feeding him a diet that does exactly that.

Now, if you are still with me, back to protein and this is where it gets a bit murky. Protein in dog food comes from animal protein and from grains. The total protein listed on the package of dog food - called crude protein - is calculated by combining the protein from animal sources with the protein from grains. So, while the amount of total protein may be the same in the Premium food as the Performance food, that number does not tell you the source of the protein.

You say "So what? Protein is protein." Not quite. Animal protein is needed in your pup's diet to help him grow, maintain his health, ward off diseases, and rebuild cells. Moreover, there is a difference in the dog's ability to break down and utilize animal and grain protein. This is why the highest quality dog food is one that has at least two animal proteins in the first three ingredients.

Some of the new foods contain up to 47% animal protein and are listed as the first 5 or more ingredients in the food. These foods when fed exclusively can cause urinary tract problems, diarrhea and an inability to maintain or gain weight. Just as too little protein can be a problem for the digestive tract of the dog, so, too, can too much protein. I would liked to have seen some long term testing on these foods before they were marketed.

Puppy foods, as a rule, do contain more protein than do adult or maintenance foods. However, the same criteria apply. Look carefully at those first 3 ingredients and choose a food that has animal protein right up front.

What Else Does Puppy Need?

Let's take a brief look at carbohydrates. Carbohydrates come from grains, some vegetables and parts of vegetables, often referred to as fiber. Dogs only need a small amount of carbohydrates in their diets, but they do need some for proper stool formation, as well as the proper functioning of the thyroid gland. Carbohydrates provide energy, which is stored in the liver and available to your puppy when going through a growth spurt. Carbohydrates are also necessary for proper brain function.

Although dogs need some, a diet too high in carbohydrates is not good for dogs. You need to look for a food that provides animal proteins up front, then carbohydrates in a smaller quantity. Look for foods that contain such grains as oats, wheat, barley, or brown rice, since

they contain a lot of vitamins and minerals. They also contain protein and fat. Corn is used in many dog foods because it is cheap, but is not readily digestible by all dogs. Also avoid any food that lists soy in the ingredients. Soy is a grain that prevents proper assimilation of minerals.

Foods that boast 'no grains' often supply carbohydrates through the use of vegetables. However, half of these vegetables need to be roots (carrots, parsnips, beets, sweet potatoes) in order to supply the necessary conversion to energy. Be careful of foods that only provide 'above the ground' vegetables.

Fats - are they good or bad?

Fat comes in two varieties - from animal sources, and from vegetable sources. Your dog needs both. Animal fat is converted by the body into energy. Without enough animal fat your dog lacks energy, can develop heart problems, growth problems, dry skin and cellular damage. The opposite - too much animal fat - can cause obesity, mammary gland tumors, and cancer of the colon and rectum.

Vegetable oils, such as flax seed oil, safflower oil, wheat germ, olive and corn oil, are found in many foods. Vegetable oil is needed for a healthy skin and coat. The difference between them is how much linoleic acid is in each. Flax and safflower oils are the highest, and corn is the lowest in linoleic acid. If your dog is not getting enough vegetable oil, he may develop skin problems, which will erupt on his belly, between his shoulder blades and on the inside of his back legs. He may have thickened areas of skin, skin ulcerations and infections, as well as extreme itching and scratching. The ability for his blood to clot will also be affected.

So look for a food that contains both animal and vegetable fat.

Vitamins and Minerals

Dog food companies use a heat process in the manufacture of the food. Dog food is cooked before you get it, and therein lies a problem. When heated to 118 degrees most vitamins and minerals are destroyed. All processed food is heated above 118 degrees. In researching my original book on this subject, I called many dog food companies. I asked them how they protected the integrity of their vitamins and minerals in the food they produced. The answer was that they were well aware of the problem and to compensate for the loss of vitamins and mineral they used more vitamins and minerals than were called for by the governing bodies that oversee the dog food industry. That logic I was unable to follow. It would seem that if vitamins and mineral are destroyed by heat, it doesn't matter how much you put in - or in what form - they are still going to be destroyed. Don't despair just yet. I'll tell you what to do about it.

I also asked if they conducted assays (laboratory testing) on the finished product. I found very few dog food companies that went through the process of laboratory testing to determine the amount of vitamins and minerals left in the finished product.

Water

Your dog can live approximately 3 weeks without food, but only a few days without water. One of the most overlooked of ingredients in our dog's daily lives, water plays an important point. It is used by the dog for digestive processes, in the breaking down and the absorption of ingredients, as well as the maintenance of body temperature. Water helps to detoxify the body wastes and to keep the body's acid/alkaline levels correct. Fresh water should be available to your dog at all times, except during the housetraining process when it can be limited at night.

In the next installment, I will discuss specific diet recommendations. Stay tuned!

For more information, see "The Holistic Guide For A Healthy Dog" (2nd Ed.) Volhard/Brown DVM (Howell Book House, 2000).

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Wendy Volhard became interested in canine nutrition in 1973, when her Landseer Newfoundland "Heidi", at the age of six, was diagnosed with degenerative kidney disease and was given six months to live. With the help of "The Complete Herbal Book For The Dog" by Juliette de Bairacli Levy, Wendy began making her own dog food. Heidi thrived on her new diet and lived to be 12. Since then, Wendy has become one of the leading authorities on canine nutrition. She is consulted by dog owners the world over, breeders and veterinarians, and conducts nutrition seminars. She has lectured and written extensively about the connection between nutrition and behavior, health, performance and longevity.

Editor's Note: Wendy is a recent inductee in the IACP Hall of Fame. She gave a very successful presentation at the 2006 IACP Conference on the Volhard Method of dog training. We're thrilled she has agreed to present on Canine Nutrition at the 2007 Conference. Find more information on Wendy at www.Volhard.com.

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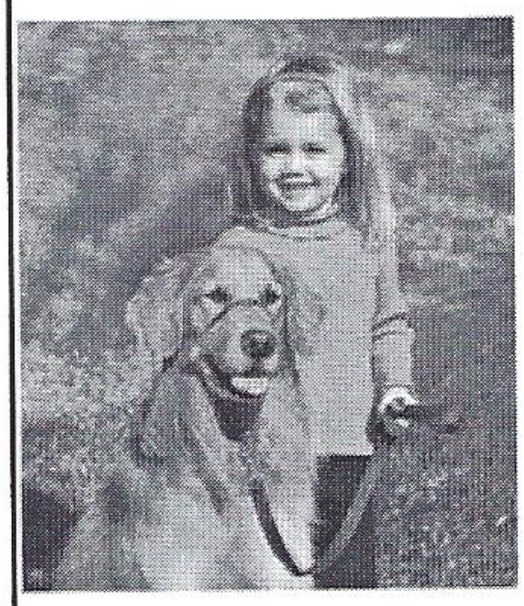

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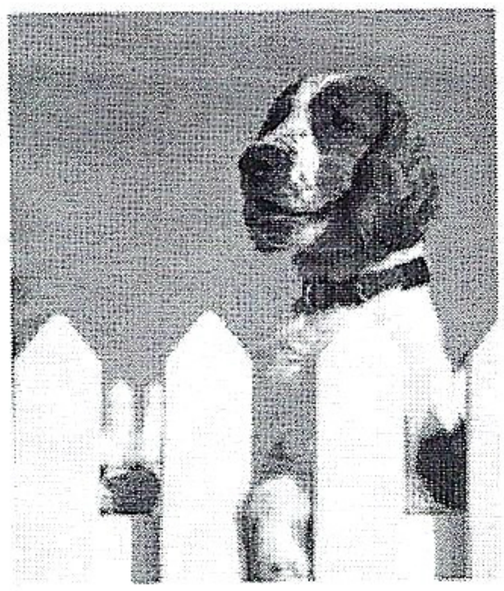

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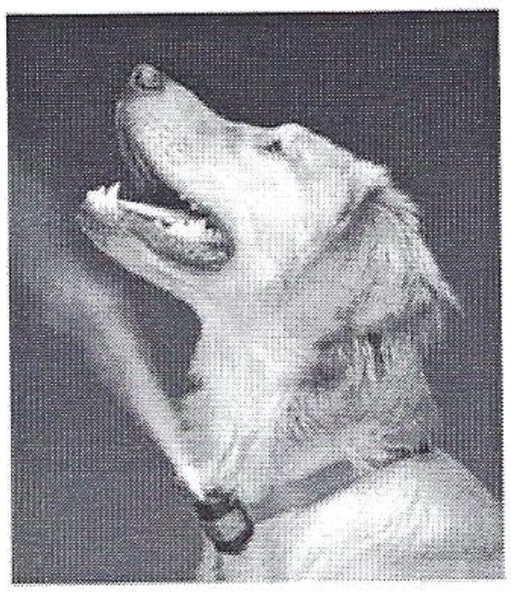

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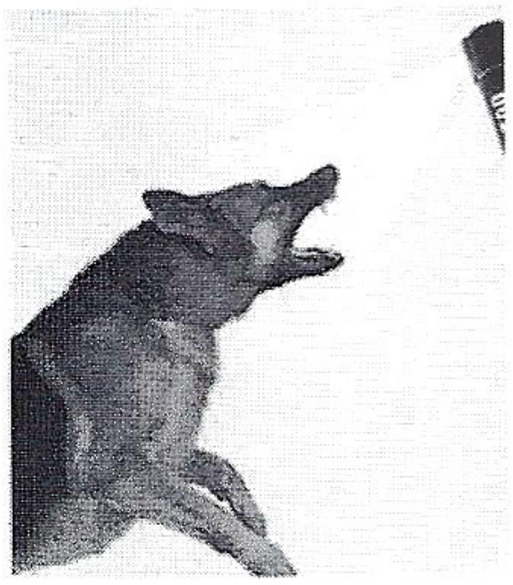

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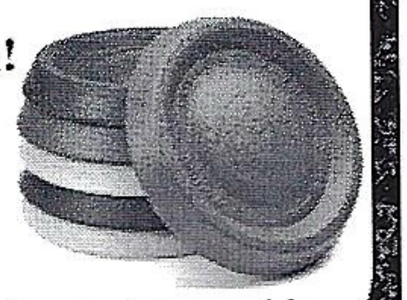

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