

IACP

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS

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International Association of Canine Professionals

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The International Association of Canine Professionals is dedicated to the education, development, and support of dog training professionals world-wide. The IACP provides a community where experienced dog trainers mentor, guide and cultivate members to their full potential. Our commitment to the highest quality training increases our members' skills and abilities, develops professional recognition, and improves communication on training best practices. We support our members' rights to properly use and promote effective, humane training tools and methods to create success for each dog and owner, while expanding the understanding and cooperation among canine professionals and dog owners across the full spectrum of the canine industry.

In achieving these aims through education and training, the IACP works actively to reduce cruelty and abuse to canine partners.

**For Those Dedicated to
the Well Being of Dogs**



How to Join IACP:

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

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

AFFILIATE MEMBER — An active interest in a career as a canine professional but lacking the experience to be an Associate or Professional member, i.e., apprentices, students of canine professions, trainees, volunteers, part-time, and devotees of canine related occupations. Cannot use the IACP name or logo for business purposes and may not vote.

Annual Fees:

Professional \$125.00; Associate \$100.00; Affiliate \$65.00

An additional \$30 fee applies for initial processing costs of Professional and Associate members only.

Benefits:

All IACP members receive an electronic copy of The Canine Professional Journal, have access to our email list, seminars, educational materials, business support materials, events and activity calendars, regional group participation, and our Certification Programs. Discounts for sponsor services are available to members.

Applications and renewals can now be paid through MasterCard, Visa, and AMEX.

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The IACP is proud to announce that Members

Jill Barratt, Tiffany Brown, Sandra Brown Maisano, Trina Carr, Denise Collins, Kim Gambino, Kim Greco, Kirk Halma, Nelson Hodges, Lana Kline, Michele Kohl, Alison Lee, Scott MacDonachie, Sarah McMurdo, Amanda Nepomuceno, Maryna Ozuna, John Sparks, Dawn Scheyhing, Debbie Tisdale, Kim Toepfer, Richard Warfel

have successfully completed their Certified Dog Trainer examination and are now able to add the designation IACP-CDT to their names.

In addition, Members

Tracy Atkins, Heather Beck, Melanie Benware, George Cockrell, Bill Creasy, Diane Blackman, Katy Cushing, Lisa Marie Daniel, Monica Davis, Melanie Donne, Kim Gambino, Babette Haggerty, Christine Hixson, Nelson Hodges, Pauline Houliaras, Nancy Johanson, Bonnie Krupa, Sharon Larson, Chad Mackin, Jagannath Rangarajan, Brad Strickland, Debbie Tisdale, Kim Toepfer, Laura Waddell, Bonny Wainz

have earned the CDTA and PDTI certifications and are now able to use these designations in their titles.

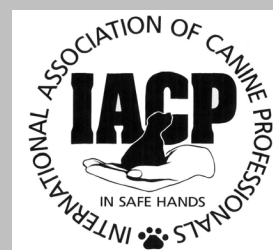
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President's Letter

by Tyler Muto

As those of you who attended the Annual Educational Conference are aware, our former President, James Hamm, has resigned his post at the advisement of his physician. Although I wish I were assuming his role under different circumstances, I am proud, humbled, and excited to be taking over as President and overseeing this great organization as we move into the future.

James did an excellent job at the helm of the IACP. Over the past two years we have experienced steady growth and a level of excitement and buzz among our members that has not been present since the early years of our organization. I feel incredibly fortunate to be taking over leadership at a moment like this and plan to build on the momentum of our recent success. Those who know me well know that “good enough” is not in my vocabulary, and I have goals to help the IACP achieve new heights.

I'm currently in my fourth year as a member of the Board of Directors, and I have served 3 ½ years as Vice President under both James Hamm, and Karen Laws. Throughout my time on the Board, I have learned a great deal about what it will take to maintain the high standards of those who have served before me, and to live up to the dedication of our members.

This organization is privileged to have many volunteers who are our backbone. Their consistent work on various projects has helped us to become the most exciting and dynamic organization in the canine industry. Although there is not room to mention everyone, I wanted to highlight a few:

First and foremost, I would be remiss if I did not commend our Conference Committee. The amount of behind-the-scenes work that goes into creating such a grand event cannot

be overstated. This year's conference was one of, if not the best that we have ever had. Not only did we achieve record attendance, but the number of bright new faces added a sense of energy and vitality. The quality of presentations set a new bar, and several of the presenters who had never attended one of our conferences before expressed to me how surprised they were by the awesomeness of our organization. For those of you who attended the conference in 2015, you may be pleased to know that we will be returning to St. Louis next year and we anticipate setting new records once again.

This past year our Education and Certification Committee unveiled a new foundation level certification exam. The exam was several years in the making and we were thrilled to be able to deliver it to our members. After a several-month trial period, and various folks having taken the test and providing their feedback, the committee has decided to temporarily remove this exam from our website in order to make some changes so that the exam will hold up to the exacting standards of the IACP. As the politics of this industry continue to change, establishing a foothold in education and certification is going to be crucial in ensuring that the IACP can maintain strong influence, and support the values of our members.

Our Service Dog Committee has been working harder than ever and working closely with government agencies, not only to set high standards of professionalism and ethics among service dog trainers, but also to aid business owners in understanding their rights as well as the rights of service dogs and their handlers. Additionally, our Therapy Dog Committee is working to establish the



IACP as a leader in therapy dog testing to ensure balanced dog trainers can continue to help a wide range of dogs to achieve the skills necessary to be effective and responsible therapy dogs.

Lastly, former President and current board member Karen Laws has been working on communicating with the Canadian government to address the repeated proposal to ban electronic collars throughout Canada. Outreach such as this is, in my opinion, is one of the most important functions of the IACP. While we have always worked to combat closed-mindedness and dogmatism in the industry, we have not always been good about communicating our efforts to you, our membership. If I can achieve only one thing as the President of this organization, it would be to expand our efforts in this capacity, and to ensure that open-minded dog trainers everywhere know that the IACP is fighting for their rights. Together we can stand strong as the unified voice of reason.

I leave you with two simple requests. First, we are always in need of more volunteers. Especially volunteers with ideas, and the ability to implement those ideas. If you are interested in volunteering, please send me an email to tyler.muto@canineprofessionals.com. I will be building a list of folks who I know I can call upon to assist with our organization's goals. Secondly, and most importantly, spread the good word. The IACP is growing in numbers and influence, but we still have a long way to go if we want to implement real change in this industry. If each and every one of you reaches out to a colleague and enrolls one new member, we will shatter records, and be able to take this organization to a level it's never seen before.

Respectfully,

Tyler Muto

tyler.muto@canineprofessionals.com

Want to be published? Here's your chance!

The Canine Professional Journal editor is looking for submissions relating to all aspects of professional canine care. Articles should be of interest to a diverse membership of canine pros and should range from 800 to 1,500 words. Articles are subject to editing. See page 2 for details.

PHOTO submissions welcome, too!



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"We mushers aren't the athletes. The dogs are the athletes."

~Jeff King,
4-time Iditarod champion



"What an amazing weekend! I learned so much, and everyone was so kind, fun, and welcoming. It feels like a family, and I can't wait to return next year."

~a bunch o' attendees



"I want the dogs to love the hunt itself, first. Then I will teach them to indicate on the odor."

~Andrew Ramsey,
Nosework



"You can get connection without compliance, but you will never get compliance without connection."

~Mailey McLaughlin,
From Connection to Compliance



"If you can't get a dog to sit next to you on a loose leash, you'll never get one to walk with you on one."

~Heather Beck,
It's the Fool, Not the Tool

"Each social network has a culture. Facebook is about community. Use it for pictures, client stories, and community fundraisers. Don't make it the 'me' show. Nobody likes that."

~Crystal Washington,
Social Media Tactics



"We don't pick the dogs that are good at stopping. We pick the dogs that are good at going."

~Jeff King



"Break down training into very small parts, and be pleased at small successes. Believe that your dog wants to please you."

~Martin Deeley



"The clarity the dogs learn from the Game will affect them in all aspects of their relationship with you."

~Jay Jack,
A Deeper Perspective on Tug



"Containment Phobia is almost always misdiagnosed as separation anxiety. And when a condition is misdiagnosed, there is no cure."

~Karyn Garvin,
Separation Anxiety vs. Containment Phobia

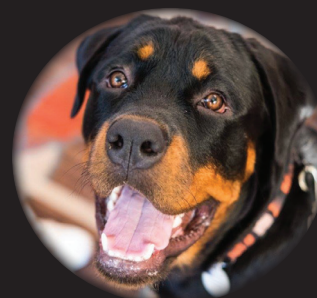


"You have to set boundaries in your business, and care for yourself. You cannot pour from an empty cup."

~Sherry Boyer,
The 3 Mistakes Trainers Make

The 2016 IACP Educational Conference is now over, and those who attended are richer for the skills they acquired and the knowledge they absorbed. But, as always, it's the friendships between colleagues that leave the most lasting marks. Spending 4 days in the company of like-minded, passionate people will do that.

**Please join us in St. Louis, MO,
September 13-16, 2017 and see for yourself.
And to all who attended this year, thank you.
You make the conference—all of you.**



Questions for Veteran Trainers, Part 3

Editor's note: I asked IACP members who had only been training for a few years what questions they'd like to ask "veteran" trainers (those with two decades or more "in the trenches" dog training experience). Then I found some "old-timers" who were graciously willing to take the time to answer those questions. The following are their answers. Read more about these knowledgeable folk starting on page 13. This is the third of a multi-part series; I hope you enjoy it.

What is one thing you have changed over your career? In other words, what training method or thinking process you had at the beginning of your career have you abandoned, and why?

George Cockrell: I'm significantly more open and fluid in my approach these days. I learn new things about dogs with every new student that comes my way. Coming from a background of hard core, old school mindsets, it is sometimes quite a chore to prevent getting stuck with a one size fits all set of approaches. A young trainer will do well by learning from all corners of the dog training community.

I've completely abandoned one-way thinking. It doesn't work for me anymore.

Martin Deeley: The biggest change was my progression into E-collar work. I have always believed that on occasion dogs need correction, and punishment may be necessary to achieve that correction, whether it is positive punishment or negative reinforcement. When I first experienced the use of the electronic collar, I was not impressed in any way. In fact, I thought it was a tool that should not be used. But that's because of how I had seen it applied--it was solely a punishment tool. In the early units there was not the ability to change levels on the collar from the transmitter, and many of the trainers that I watched were using it at high levels and conditioning the dogs

to take that level. This did not appeal to me. However, after spending time with 2 experts from Tritronics in the use of the collar, I saw the potential and began to experiment at 'low' levels, ones that the dogs could just feel. Based on what I experienced with my dogs, I began to introduce the e-collar gradually into my approach, using mainly momentary at a level the dog could just feel. I had been taught by my expert/mentors to use the collar as negative reinforcement for the introduction throughout (escape training). Escape training was the accepted approach at that time. So the use of momentary as the main sensation was different. There is no doubt this use of momentary as the main vehicle of communication was the beginning of E-Touch (my course into the humane and creative approach to using the electronic remote trainer). My present day use and teachings have been my biggest change.

I have to admit I was surprised as to how well this approach worked and how much easier it was to work and communicate to my dogs what was required, in a way that they accepted and enjoyed. I do believe that today's e-collar provides us with a much wider range of developing communication and learning opportunities with our dogs than any other tool. We have the ability to use it in a way that helps the dog achieve and enjoy training (and the work) even more. I do not think we have touched but a small percentage of what can be taught with the assistance of the tool.

The e-collar has not taken away my use of any tools; it has enhanced my ability to use them and made my approaches more effective.

I continue to develop and find gentle and easily understood approaches to working with this tool on all breeds of dog and all forms of training and behavior modification.

At one time many years ago, the approach to punishment was to lay leather leash across their backside or wherever. Now I find an attention-getting tap on the e-collar followed by my body language and attitude is enough to say "that is not what is required," and enable me to quickly show them what is, resulting in a happy dog and me--a happy trainer.

Cyndy Douan: I've completely discarded the notion that a trained dog is a dog that is calm and doesn't move around a lot. The dogs I dreaded to see in my early years were the freaks. They lunge, leap, bark, mouth, spin, and react to everything in their environment. Those I thought I could never bring around to my idea of "trained," or if I was going to try, it was going to be a battle. These days, these are the dogs I love the most! I see all the potential in the world with these dogs to channel all of that exuberance and sensitivity into meaningful work. These dogs scream to me "Give me a job! Give me purpose! Show my handler how to be my teammate! Make my life make sense to me! Help me understand why I feel the way that I feel!"

I believe now that a trained dog is a dog that has brakes, gas, and steering; and has an owner who can handle that dog using voice, whistles, or body cues, without the aid of training equipment, and in any of the environments the owner intends to place the dog throughout that dog's life. You have not learned all that you need to know about training dogs until this is the result you know how to provide to your clients.

Babette Haggerty: I thought I had all the answers and that I knew better. I knew nothing. I also had a big ego. A few bites later, I realized that I wasn't so cool.

Linda Kaim: I don't think I really had too much of a "process" when I was starting out. I had some exceptional mentors that made sure I understood the process they were teaching me, but like all youngsters, eventually I thought I was outpacing my teachers,

so I experimented and extrapolated pieces that worked or I preferred, thinking I was going to improve the method or technique.

I guess in the long run, what I have abandoned is my desire to change things, and the attitude that I have a right to. I no longer think I need to reinvent the wheel as much as I wish to perfect my application of the things I have learned.

Mary Mazzeri: I have changed my approach over the last 40+ years. I started as a Koehler trainer/'mentoree'. I was a bit 'mechanical' in the beginning, using his techniques like a hard and fast recipe but I did gradually learn how to 'adjust the seasonings' as needed. Bill was an amazing trainer and I still use many of his techniques over a wide variety of behavioral issues. To answer the question, I no longer use his 'Tranquilizer' on aggressive dogs because of safety concerns. It is effective but difficult to use correctly. Now Gary Wilkes 'Bonker' often serves the same purpose much more safely. (Check out his Youtube video.) A lot of counter conditioning goes into a dog, often eliminating the reactivity before needing use these measures.

When I started the Electronic collar in the '70's, it was a pretty harshly aversive tool, which could only be used to punish a dog or stop an unwanted behavior--very limited. I love the modern remotes which can be used to actually teach wanted behaviors quite gently. Used properly, they are



brilliant. By way of illustration, I trained a dog born deaf/blind heel on leash, sit down and off leash recall using the E collar, lines, and treats. He learned by interpreting low level signals thru his sense of touch. Each electronic 'touch' was coded in a different rhythmic pattern. He learned, much like "Helen Keller" learned, through the sense of touch.

Tawni McBee: When I first started training professionally, I apprenticed with a local company. The thinking was fairly narrow: a take-off on Koehler Method of Dog Training with many (as I now know) changes and modifications. We were given a sheet of what to teach and we were shown how to teach it. It was very stifling. I slowly moved the edges of that box but I had no idea how far I could move them until I joined IACP and began to network and go to workshops and learn just how much I didn't know. The most obvious change, I think, is my attitude (learned during the apprenticeship) about prong or pinch collars. I thought they were the devil's own tool and that anyone who used them was evil and cruel. I now know that tools cannot be evil or cruel. Only the user can make them so. While there are still tools I don't much care for or don't often use, my mind has been permanently opened to the idea that most all tools can be used well if the person using them knows what they're doing. I now use prong collars part of the time and I recognize when I need to use them.

Sarah Wilson: Assuming things are the dog's fault. Everything a dog understands about a cued behavior we taught them. Everything they do not understand or are confused about regarding a cued behavior, we taught them or failed to teach them. I am, therefore, much slower to find fault with a dog and much more tactful when I think I do than I was when I started.

What one process, method, or mode of thought have you NOT changed during your career?

Cockrell: I still believe that a dog should be somewhat limited in his choices. Since we continually place them in human controlled

situations that are quite foreign to the culture of dog, we as handlers have a supreme responsibility to direct them and their behaviors. In short, obedience to command should still be paramount.

Deeley: To be versatile and adapt to the dog I am training. You have to develop your own approach and this may vary from dog to dog. There are rules and guidelines to help you become an effective and result-oriented trainer, but these are not set in stone. Be intuitive. Learn to read what the dog is telling you and develop your own approach based on this communication. Look for ways forward that may not be in textbooks and on videos from others. If it works and results in a happy, trained dog, then it is good training. Put the dog in a position to succeed and help him begin to make the right decisions. A mistake by the dog or an unwanted action is an opportunity to train. Don't be too proud to take a step backwards and show the dog what you are asking of him in



a less complicated way. In other words reduce a distance for an action; don't expect perfection immediately, but be satisfied with a small step towards the perfection you seek. Guide the dog into the actions you want using a leash. The leash is your best friend during training. Dog training is all about quality and not quantity of training done in any one session. The session may be seconds or maybe minutes. You have to realize that to create change, both the trainer and the dog need to focus on the opportunity to change--the behavior may only show itself for a brief period of time.

Douan: I have been around the world with methods and I have tried a lot of things. I have never abandoned the basic tenets of training that I learned from the start. That is that training is always broken down into step-wise progressions, using consistent repetitions, and that each concept must be understood clearly by the dog before proofing begins. I must train before I test. I always confine the dog at least 30 minutes before

and after the training session. I know what I am training before I start a training session. Mistakes the dog makes in performance are a product of my failure to train him to that level of expectation so that he is fully prepared to execute. Finally, that ALL training begins with the "Basic 6" (heel, sit, down, stay, recall, and place) installed and reliable under distractions.

Haggerty: Balance. I played around with all methods, techniques and tools. Balance is most important.

Kaim: My belief that it is more important to help the dog make good choices instead of punishing it for making bad ones. This has never wavered.

Mazzeri: The Koehler long line work is still the foundation for all of my obedience and behavior modification work. It is essential! I have innovated a few variables along the way such as marking (Yes) eye contact when the dog offers it. (Koehler allowed NO verbal communication –because he knew that the average dog owner talks too much



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and at the wrong time and for the wrong reasons.) I find marking the eye contact speeds up the learning process for the dog, and starts to teach timing to the dog owner. It is a foundational, follow the leader, attention-building exercise that 'talks dog' to a dog.

McBee: I'm not sure there is only one, so let me pick one of several I can think of. I started out learning how to do a fair, well-timed, well executed leash correction with no anger involved. I keep that trick in my little tool bag because I still think it can be extremely useful when needed. Part of the trick is knowing when it's needed. The other part is maintaining the calm and fair part of it. I think it's extremely important to know when and how to do a good leash correction and even more important to remember what tools you are using on the dog. "Fair" is not over-correcting a dog wearing, for example, a prong collar. "Fair" is applying the correction for the right reason and at the right time.

Wilson: I keep trying to understand dogs better and then do better by them. That has never changed and never will.

What are the top 3 articles (or books) you've read and/or written that clarified or inspired the way you do something in your training, the way you do business, and/or who you are or want to be as a canine professional?

Cockrell: I've always been a fan of William Koehler's books. While they may seem dated, there is great insight in the whys and hows of teaching the lessons a certain way for a specific amount of time. As far as I know those are the only books that can be considered a true method in that they are very specific in their exact, step by step approach.

Not necessarily a book nor article, but near the beginning of the Internet, there were two email groups. The "Pro Trainers Group," and the



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Heather Beck is focused on teaching how to work with dogs with behavioral issues. You will watch Heather throughout her daily activities, including consultations with clients and their dogs, working with dogs at K9 Lifeline for Board and Train, and working with their own pack of dogs. You will also spend a lot of hands on time with dogs learning how to work with problem dogs in a safe, but effective manner.

"Balanced Trainers Group." The Giants lived there: Captain Haggerty, Vicki Hearne, Pam Green, Jay Stull, all of whom are gone over the bridge. Others who are still with us are too numerous to list. Those email groups were where the IACP was born. I know this to be true, for I was there.

I've read and re-read hundreds of books and articles over the years. Each has left its mark in some way or another. My inspiration comes not so much from the written word. It comes from all of the incredible teachers and friends I've admired and watched over all of these years.

Douan: That's a hard question, because I don't know that the books have inspired me nearly as much as the teachers and mentors I've met and worked with along this journey. That's where I saw, learned, and changed the most. I know that one of my mentors, Hubert Bailey, is writing a book, but I have no idea what is in it or when it will print. There are folks I've met who I wished had written books, but who passed without getting all of that knowledge on paper. I always recommend M.Scott Peck's *The Road Less Traveled*. It helped me order my life and my outlook on others. Napoleon Hill's *Think and Grow Rich* helped me understand how to win over my clients. When I did not understand the mind of the working lines Border Collie, Donald McCaig's *Emminent Dogs, Dangerous Men* helped me figure that out, but mostly Donald's online musings to a discussion list many years ago led me to where I am with that today. There would have been nothing I could have read that would have taught me what that "it" feels like when you really are connecting with your teammate during a performance. That's not something you can teach. That is something you find.

Books & articles are good for picking up facts and general knowledge. If you need to work on the practical skill set involved in training the dogs, reading a book will result in your own interpretation of what the book instructs. You will do a better job of learning practical skills with an in-person coach. You need eyes on you to tell you what you are doing right and adjust or fix the things you are having trouble with.

Haggerty: I don't think I can narrow it down to three. I read a lot of Zen books which make me a better trainer and person. The course that I took with Susan Briggs, "My Successful Pet Biz," clearly helped the way I do business. The person that I want to be, not just as a trainer of dogs but as one to pass on what was so freely given to me came from my dad's writings but even more so, having him as my mentor. Not just his books or articles but what inspired me about him was the way he shared and helped people.

Kaim: I read copiously and have, ever since I was a wee lass. My first experience into dog training was the infamous *Koehler Method of Dog Training* in 1972. Blanche Saunders and Winifred Strickland were pretty significant influences, and after I taught my first trained retrieve at the tender age of 14, I was pretty much making myself blind by reading every thing I could get my hands on. I must admit, my greatest treasure at this stage of my life are the three hefty Lindsay tomes and Scott and Fuller's *Genetics and the Social Behavior of the Dog*. There are too many to limit it to just



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three, but if I had to name only three, Koehler, Lindsay, and Scott and Fuller's work should be in every legitimate trainers' library.

As for who I want to be, or emulate. No one, really. I have no illusions that I will impact this profession beyond doing good work and having lived my perfect life. I would hope that I leave a good example for folks entering the profession, and be enough of a curmudgeon to discourage certain folks who think it "looks easy".

Mazzeri: *The Koehler Method of Dog Training*, William R Koehler;

Beyond Basic Dog Training, Diane Bauman;

Behavior Problems in Dogs, William E Campbell

McBee: I don't tend to rely on articles or books and I write mostly for my clients, not for other professionals. I do pick things from watching other trainers and attending workshops and seminars. I've learned that it doesn't pay to try to 100% copy any one person. I pick and choose things that I think will work for me. I will say that my recent decision to run my own workshop clarified, for me, a whole lot about what I do and why I do it. I asked various workshop clinicians what they did to prepare their curriculum and the best answer I got was to write an essay for myself on what I wanted to teach people, how I wanted to teach it and why I wanted to teach it. Doing that was very enlightening. It helped me sum up what I wanted to do in a workshop. I think that workshop helped me clarify for myself what I'm really all about. I know not everyone can or should try to run a workshop, but I think it could be a useful exercise to sit down and write an essay about what you do and why you do it. I love a little phrase I picked up from a video on FaceBook (of all places!). I'm sorry I don't remember the presenter. He is a comedian and inspirational speaker, I think. He presented on "the why of what you do". That resonated with me. Think about it. "Why" you do something has a huge influence on "what" you do.

Wilson: I find a lot to think about reading Natural Horsemanship and focus my learning on people developing methods that are safe and useful for novices. I spend less and less time reading anything based on non-companion animals. The holes in such theory can be vast and deep when applied to pet dog care and training.

Three books I have returned to:

My Smart Puppy: Kilcommons and Wilson - I wrote this for pet people and it contains the basis of my work with clients and their dogs.

Beyond the Mirrors: The Study of the Mental and Spiritual Aspects of Horsemanship by Jill K. Hassler-Scoop - Short book that always gets me thinking.

Natural Horse-Man-Ship: Six Keys to a Natural Horse-Human Relationship by Parelli and Swan - A place to start though there are many wonderful natural horsemen and women to learn from.

Bios:

George Cockrell is currently the Training Director for Dogizone in Rockville Md.

He recently celebrated his 39th anniversary of training dogs and their humans. He has extensive experience in many areas of dog training, including Hunting Retrievers and Pointers, Police and Military dogs, Search Dogs, Assistance Dogs, Therapy Dogs Competition dogs, Animal Actors, and has personally supervised the training of over 20,000 students in both group settings and private practice. George is a longtime IACP member, an Ambassador, a member of the IACP Member Hall of Fame, and an all around nice guy.



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Martin Deeley, internationally recognized dog trainer, writer, and commentator, has been training dogs for 35 years. He has not only trained with the best but also trained the best in his workshops. His dogs have won competitions in Britain, and in America. He has been a feature writer for leading American and European magazines, and is the only journalist ever granted a personal interview with Her Majesty the Queen of England.

Martin has written three top selling books: *Advanced Gundog Training*, *Working Gundogs*, and *Getting it Right with Gundogs*. He has commentated on over 80 European championship videos, and for 28 years provided the commentary at the International Gundog Competitions held at the Country landowners Association Game Fair, the largest Game Fair in the world.

Martin, with his wife Pat, continues to train dogs at his Florida Center and run courses through his International School for Dog Trainers. Martin is a Founder, Executive Director and Past President of the International Association of Canine Professionals. He was inducted into the International Association of Canine Professionals Hall of Fame in April 2011.

Cyndy Douan, MHDL, CDT, CDTA, PDTI owns Georgia Dog Gym, LLC in Rome, Georgia, USA and has been a full time professional dog training instructor for 26 years. Cyndy is a Co-Founder of IACP and served many positions over the span of 10 years as a Director of the organization including

Director of Education, Vice-President, and President. Cyndy has personally trained thousands of dogs of all breeds and mixed breeds through classes, private lessons, and board and train programs. She has earned over 100 performance titles on nine of her personal dogs and instructed numerous students to performance titles. Cyndy has trained and competed with her dogs in Obedience, Rally, Agility, Disc Dogs, Flyball, Herding, and Dog Diving. Through her breeding program, Cyndy has produced several top ranked working line Border Collies in the sports of Disc Dogs and Diving Dogs that have competed successfully at the international level, as well as successful working farm sheepdogs and trialing sheepdogs. Cyndy now splits her time between managing a 12,000 square foot boarding and training facility with a staff of 10 people, training and trialing 6 of her 8 Border Collies in various performance sports, and spending time with her husband of 20 years, Jeffrey White.

Babette Haggerty started working in her dad's kennel over 40 years ago, first during the summer and on weekends. She started on her own training in 1989, and built what became the largest dog training school in Palm Beach County. In 2012, she decided to return to her home turf, and opened up a canine lifestyle center in Midland Park, New Jersey. It offers canine enrichment programs, doggy day school, group classes and private instructions. Three of her books have been published: *Womans' Best Friend*, *The Visual Guide to Good Dog Training*, and *The Best Dog Tricks on the Planet*. She can be contacted at 201-444-9893.

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Linda Kaim has been training dogs professionally since 1979, all over the country. Her career began in dog showing, and blossomed from there to include breeding, veterinary assistance, and hunt training. She interned under a variety of upland bird dog trainers and retriever trainers over the years, and dabbled in protection sports as both a handler and decoy "when I was still young and daring." Since moving to Maryland, Linda has held positions with the Humane Society of Harford County in Fallston as the behavior counselor and temperament evaluator, the Baltimore Humane Society and the Mid-Atlantic German Shepherd Rescue as well as a plethora of breed specific and all-breed rescues in the area.

Linda often remarks "I will drop my leash when someone pries it from my cold, dead hands." Recently, she opened a 9,000 SF indoor facility in MD where "I can train out of the wind and sun because I am getting geezerly and don't fare well in the blazing heat of summer, or sub-zero temperatures of winter. I am officially old." The focus of her most recent research over the last decade has been with the development and early learning of puppies.

She can be reached at coeurdlionk9@gmail.com or online at www.lionheartk9.com.

Mary Mazzeri founded Care Dog Training in the early 1970's. Mary is a "trainers' teacher," having personally mentored dozens of other successful dog trainers who now own their own dog training businesses across the USA. She instructs and communicates by breaking down concepts and exercises into understandable components for both dog and handlers.

Mary successfully exhibited in AKC events for 32 years, putting dozens of titles on 16 personally owned dogs. She is certified by IACP as an Advanced Dog Trainer & Instructor – CDTA/PDTI; serves on the Education Committee as

an evaluator for Trainer Certification; and is an IACP Ambassador. Mary was named "IACP Member of the Year in 2010" and inducted into the IACP Member Hall of Fame in 2011. She can be reached at www.CareDogTraining.com.

Tawni McBee, IACP CDT CDTA PDTI, has been training dogs professionally since 1997. Prior to that, she trained horses and incidentally trained dogs along the way. She retired from the IACP Board of Directors in 2014, and is the chair of the IACP Dog Trainer Certification Committee. "I hold a 5th degree black belt in judo, which may seem irrelevant to some, but it, along with the horse training experience, has had a very large impact on my dog training." Tawni also does body care on animals, using a system I put together from a variety of methods with a Reiki base. She is married and has two sons, 10 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson. She owns 6 dogs and 2 horses on her Water Dog Ranch in Mesa, AZ. Tawni owns All Greatful Dogs, Inc. She can be reached at www.allgreatfuldogs.com and tawnimcbee@yahoo.com.

Sarah Wilson is a pet dog trainer with a special love of working with shy, sensitive and/or deficit companion dogs and rescued dogs. She has written or co-written nine books that have sold hundreds of thousands of copies and been translated into several languages, been seen on television (including "Good Morning, America" and PBS' "Nature"), appeared on radio, and has had several celebrity clients from her years owning a boarding and training kennel in NYC. She holds a Master's degree on the human-animal bond, tours as a speaker, and consults for Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Most importantly, has helped thousands of people and dogs succeed together since 1986. Find out more at mysmartpuppy.com, or email her at MySmartPuppy@gmail.com.

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Photo by Anne Baxter



Photo by Babette Haggerty Muldowney



Photo by Andi Watson



Photo by Mary Maltbie



Photo by Courtney Pass

Dog Pros: Regional Groups

by Nelson Hodges

I wanted to let everyone in the IACP know about the “Local Facebook Dog Pros” groups that have been created. We currently have a total of 17 U.S. based regional/local groups, and 5 International groups with more than 720 members total. Each of these groups operates within guidelines, but independently, and works for the benefit of each other within the group.

The purpose of creating local groups of “Dog Pros” is to create a local network of people in the professions, or wanting to be in the professions, to help each other. Not everyone invited needs to be an IACP member. However, once exposed to cooperative professionals in IACP, their interest will be piqued. By creating a local group that has informal gatherings, on a non-scheduled but regular basis, the organic nature of camaraderie and familiarization creates its own benefits for each member. There is really no “work” to it other than the initial FB page creation, and the invitation of others in your area. Start small or large. Let it grow.

Some of the benefits:

Emphasize a network of professionals that is able to provide advice on business, technique, opportunities, behavior assistance, and many other elements.

Create the ability to band together to coordinate promoting, creating and conducting educational Workshops and Seminars from within or bringing people from outside the area to conduct these.

Create the ability to coordinate participation at, or create, local events.

Create sub-local support and advice pairings.

Engender natural cohesion of a locale.

Create the ability to assist with business/dogs when overloaded, or in an area of expertise that another person would be better suited to handle.

Provide benefit to everyone’s clients for best results and additional help/activities, etc. that may help them and their dogs.

Create a bigger market by banding together to help each other and create new clients and venues for clients. Local education of the public, awareness and creating cross profession awareness and contacts is a major factor. **Your competition is not each other; it is every other distraction and activity that humans do.** There are 320 million humans in the US and 80 million dogs alone.

Notify each other of local issues that may benefit another member (or all), or need attention of a larger group of professionals to create, mitigate or eliminate a problem area.

Create local resource lists for other related professionals, equipment, food and services that you can hand out to your clients and others.

We currently have the following geographic regions for Dog Pro groups:

USA

- North Texas Dog Pros
Dallas/Fort Worth and North Texas
- Central Texas Dog Pros
Austin/San Antonio and Central Hill Country
- Mid Atlantic Dog Pros
DC/Baltimore
- South Texas Dog Pros
Houston to Corpus Christi
- Florida Dog Pros
State of Florida
- S Ohio/N. Kentucky Dog Pros
Cincinnati/Louisville
- Bay Area Dog Pros
San Francisco/Sacramento/San Jose
- AZ Dog Pros
State of Arizona
- SoCal Dog Pros
South of San Luis Obispo

Northern Utah Dog Pros
Salt Lake area

Front Range Dog Pros
Colorado East of the Front Line Rockies

Utah Dog Trainers
State of Utah

Massachusetts Dog Pros
Massachusetts and parts of New England

Alabama Dog Pros
State of Alabama

North Ohio Dog Pros
Cleveland and Northern Ohio

Pet Pros of Philly
Philadelphia and region

Mid-State NY Dog Pros
Yonkers to Albany

INTERNATIONAL

Talking Dog Group
Central Ontario

Dog Trainers in Ontario
Province of Ontario

UK Dog Pros
England/Wales/Scotland

Ireland Dog Pros
Ireland

Costa Rica Dog Pros
Costa Rica

In short, you have resources, locally, that can help and are willing to help you and your clients. All you have to do is participate. If you have an interest to create a Local/Regional "Dog Pros" group, contact Nelson Hodges via Facebook PM or at k9content@gmail.com.

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Prediction Error and Reward Sequencing

by Chad Mackin

It is common knowledge that Pavlov found when he rang a bell and then produced food for a dog, the dog began to associate the two events. After a time, the dog would start to salivate at the sound of the bell. This is one of the most basic principles of conditioning and much of what dog trainers do is founded in this principle. The most common understanding of why this works is that of "co-occurring events." When two events occur together, the brain begins to associate them with each other. This makes sense on an intuitive level. I have asked a number of dog trainers about the co-occurrence theory and they all confirmed that this was pretty much their understanding of the process. However, the co-occurrence theory becomes troublesome when we observe something called "blocking."

"What the heck is blocking?" You ask?

Good question. Allow me to explain.

Let's use Pavlov's dog as an example. Once he's learned the bell signifies food, what would happen if we added another cue into that chain? Let's say we ring the bell, blow a whistle, and then give the food. One would expect the dog would soon associate the whistle with the food. But he doesn't. The whistle, while co-occurring, doesn't create the same connection as the bell. The new event is "blocked" and the dog doesn't create a connection. Co-occurrence cannot be the complete picture.

This is where the *prediction error theory* comes in.

To understand the prediction error theory, we first should take a look at why we learn in the first place. What is the function of learning? I've said for a long time that all learning is based on pattern recognition. But this theory takes it a bit further. This theory says that the point of learning is to be able to accurately predict outcomes. "In general terms, learning can be viewed as the

acquisition of predictions of outcomes..." (Schultz and Dickinson) This makes sense to me.

The Prediction Error Theory (also known as the Rescorla, Wagner model) suggests learning occurs when something surprising or unexpected happens. Under this model, when things go as expected, nothing is learned. This may be why so many athletes say they learn more from a loss than a victory. A loss results when the chosen strategies don't produce the expected results.

Pavlov's dog learned the connection between the bell and the food because the connection was surprising. He didn't expect the bell to be related to the food and therefore the connection caused him to change his expectation. But when we add the whistle between the bell and the food, the dog's expectation is still met. The food still arrives. Therefore there's no need to adjust the prediction of food. The whistle is irrelevant (redundant) and therefore "blocked."

This idea may seem to be splitting hairs at first glance. It may not seem to give us much information that's really going to help our training. But I am convinced this is one piece of a behavioral puzzle that has yet to be fully realized.

Before we can get to that, I want to look at some physiological factors.

In 1997, researchers were monitoring a part of brain called the ventral tegmental area (VTA). The VTA is an important part of the reward circuit. When stimulated, it releases dopamine into the brain. They discovered if they gave a monkey an unexpected shot of tasty juice after performing a specific task (pressing a lever in response to a flashing light), the VTA was activated. However, this result was short-lived. Over time, the juice stopped activating the VTA, but oddly, the light which was the cue to perform the behavior

continued to stimulate the VTA. (Shultz, Dayan, and Montague)

It seems once the difference between expectation and result disappeared, the juice became less rewarding. There was no prediction error, which also meant less reward. However, the light was not predictable, and therefore remained rewarding. *The unexpected reward is more rewarding than the expected one.* This result ties nicely with the prediction error theory as well. After all, such a mechanism would push an animal to keep trying for a reward until it could reliably be produced.

I remember at a previous place of employment we had a broken soda machine. It sometimes seemed to get confused and think that it had money in it when it didn't. If the coin light was flashing, and you pushed the button, you would get a drink. One of my co-workers would look like she won the lottery the moment she noticed that flashing

light. Her eyes would get big and she'd jump out of her chair and literally sprint to the machine to get the free drink. She often wouldn't even drink it at that moment. If I offered her a dollar to do some simple task she wouldn't get that excited. I always thought this was an interesting human trait. But tying dopamine to prediction error, it all makes sense. The 50 cent drink was more rewarding than an earned dollar because the earned dollar was expected. The flashing light indicating a free drink was not predictable, and therefore more exciting.

One way that trainers use prediction error (though maybe without knowing that's what they are doing) to motivate dogs is to vary reinforcement schedules. Done properly, a variable reinforcement schedule keeps the dog more motivated. It's a tried-and-true method.

A black and white advertisement for the Kong Wobbler. The image shows a dog's head and front paws interacting with a large, dark, hourglass-shaped Kong Wobbler toy. The dog is sniffing the toy, and several small, dark, bone-shaped treats are scattered on the surface in front of it. In the top left corner, the text "KONG" is written in a large, bold, outlined font, with "WOBLER" in a smaller, similar font below it. At the bottom of the image, the text "Feed a meal or just some treats.™" is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

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But the monkey results got me thinking in another way. The fact that the light *stayed rewarding no matter what* seemed very important to me, and variable reinforcement schedules don't work in that way. I wanted to figure out a way to give the cue that same element of surprise.

I wanted use prediction error deliberately, as part of my training protocol. Specifically, I wondered how I could use it to activate the VTA region of the brain more effectively.

I kept coming back to that damned light.

If I could use that principle of unexpectedness tied to a *certainty of reward*, I believed I could build a greater joy and therefore, more reliability in the dog.

What I came up with is a concept I'm calling a "reward sequence." A training session could be said to be made up of reward sequences. There are actually many informal reward sequences in life, but for training purposes, *a reward sequence is a series of cued behaviors (commands) that ends in a particular cued behavior which always produces a reward.* The *final cued behavior* (FCB) may change from session to session, or even during the same session under certain conditions (such as after a break in training or if the new FCB is a logical extension of the previous one; e.g. changing from sit to stay). When using reward sequencing, high value rewards such as food or play *only* occur after the FCB and *always* occur after the FCB (With my clients, I think I'm calling this the *always and only drill*.) For the FCB I usually choose a command, or behavior the dog is struggling the most with.

From the dog's perspective, each command gets the dog closer to the single command that produces the high value reward (again, the reward may be play, or food, or anything the dog really likes). After each command there is that moment of anticipation, will the next one be the one that always precedes the treat? This seems to create an excitement about each command, as if he wants to get it out of the way to find out if the next one will be the FCB. Of course if you run the chain too long, you risk frustrating the dog, but it

seems to me that this process creates a lot more durability in that regard than other ways of varying reward schedules. This is slightly different a variable reinforcement schedule where the dog is hoping each command will be the one that brings the reward. The dog knows which command will bring the reward. He just doesn't know when that command will come.

I have been playing with this for awhile now, but I will offer three concrete examples of how I've used this to dramatically improve trouble areas.

Case one: Taffy

Taffy is a pit bull mix, with two bad knees. The problem is genetic and she will need surgery on at least one of them soon. I had sent her home from a board and train program because of this. However, the doctor said that I can't make it worse, and thought that proper training would help her owners keep her calm after surgery when calmness matters most. So I agreed to bring her back into training. Since she can't sit, I had to teach her to stay from a standing position. If you've ever tried to build a stay from a standing position without teaching it from another position first, you know how much harder it can be for the dog to grasp the idea of not moving when there is no physical anchor. So I decided to start with a place command. However, Taffy just wasn't comfortable with the surface of the place board, and therefore would do it, but without enthusiasm, and would usually have to be led to the board. After 4 sessions she wasn't getting much better about it.

So applying reward sequencing, I made the place FCB, and gave her a food treat every time she did place on cue. I started out with several reps of place followed by food, then started adding her other commands in random succession building up to the place command which always (and only) produced the food reward. Within in a few minutes her attitude towards place changed. She started to get excited about the command. Once this was established I started making the stay after the place the FCB. This she rapidly accepted. This translated to the best stand stay (off place)

she'd ever done. I decided to end the session with a send away place from a 15 foot distance (something she had never done before).

The very next training session I had with her was the following morning and her owner was present for a private lesson. So it was a very distracting and high arousal situation for Taffy. Again, I made the place the FCB and after a bit of a slow start Taffy seemed to remember the game and got into it once again. By the end of the session she began to frequently go to the place board during breaks and wait for some acknowledgment. It's important to note that a scratch on the head seemed to be as encouraging at this point as the food treat. Just as the day before, I eventually moved to a stand stay off the place and found her to be stable even when I was tossing treats near her.

Case 2: Prescott

Prescott is an English Springer who is highly motivated and loves to play the obedience game. He's very stable on most commands. His biggest weakness is heel however. He does a respectable heel under most circumstance, but he doesn't "find" the position very well. If he's in front of me and I say "heel" he will move from my 12:00 to my 10:00 and seems to think that's enough. Or he did.

So using reward sequencing, I made the FCB the heel from front. I don't mean the formal front position, I mean calling him to heel from anywhere in front of me. I started by luring him into position each time, to make sure he knew what I was asking for. But this was the only command that produced a high value reward. Within a few minutes (less than five) he was happily finding the heel position about 80% of the times I asked. Yes, there were a few re-cues from time to time, but the effort was there. Notably, on one rep he walked behind me to find the heel rather than the swing version I had been teaching him, but he got to the heel position on his own.

The next day I saw more enthusiasm and excitement about moving into the heel position. *In fact, the heel command became more reliable*

than a "leave it" or "uh-uh" for breaking his focus on distractions while at liberty.

Case 3: Sebastian

Sebastian is a Shepherd mix with a serious bite history. He's bitten trainers and his owner in the past. One of his issues is people leaning over him. While he's never offered to bite me (though he curled his lip when I was giving him eye meds) he sometimes shows stress signs if I reach over him. So instead of telling him to do something for FCB, I did something. I said "over" and reached over him, giving him a food treat after I did so. As the previous examples, I reward *only* after the "over" cue and *always* rewarded after successfully completing it. After a few minutes, he noticeably relaxed when I said "over." Eventually, he laid down while I was reaching over him. This may sound like nothing more than counter-conditioning, and to an extent that's an accurate assessment. However, the *only and always* part of it along with the randomness of the cue (being at the end of a random series of commands) seemed to speed up the process. Compared to other counter conditioning protocols this was noticeably faster. Of course one trial doesn't prove anything, but I've been seeing consistent results with this process across many dogs in many circumstances.

The next session I decided to start muzzle conditioning (they had asked for this for his vet visits). I was using a clear JAFCO 3 strap muzzle for this. I started by dropping a few treats into the muzzle and letting him eat them out of it. I did this for about 5 reps, until he was comfortable taking the treats out of there, and then I made "muzzle" the FCB and went to work. The first few cues I had the treats still in the muzzle, but soon I started rewarding him only after he put his nose in the muzzle. Again, with a series of commands, heel, here, down, sit, stay etc, I ended every sequence with "muzzle" and a reward. Within a few minutes I could issue the muzzle command and play "keep away" with the muzzle and have him actively chasing the muzzle trying to put his nose into it.

I slowly started adding duration, and now he will readily put his nose in the muzzle for his owners.

We are taking our time and still doing short durations, but the progress is steady and swift. We just aren't in a hurry to push the issue and want to build as many positive associations as we can. I'm sure we could be moving faster, but have chosen a more patient approach. You can watch Sebastian's first muzzle session here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxZcxs0n9sU>

A note on punishment: Both Taffy and Prescott stopped working during their first sessions of reward sequencing. I gave them each a 3 minute time out in a crate in the training room. Taffy ended up getting a second 5 minute time out. Both dogs came out more engaged and more interested in playing the game. While I intended the crate time as -P, it may be that it was merely “soak time” allowing them to process the new game better.

I am certain that the idea of reward sequencing is a powerful one, and I believe that I am only

scratching the surface of what can be done with it. I am also certain we've all used variations of it before, but to the best of my knowledge, it's never been codified as a strategy. Give it a try and see if you don't see some cool stuff happening too!

Chad Mackin is a trainer, teacher, seminar presenter, podcaster, mentor, and muse to many. Founder of Pack to Basics, he is always seeking ways to provide clarity to dogs and people. He is also past President of IACP and knows a choke hold. It is possible that he is 7 feet tall, though no one has ever asked. Look for him on FB, or annoy him by emailing packtobasics@gmail.com.

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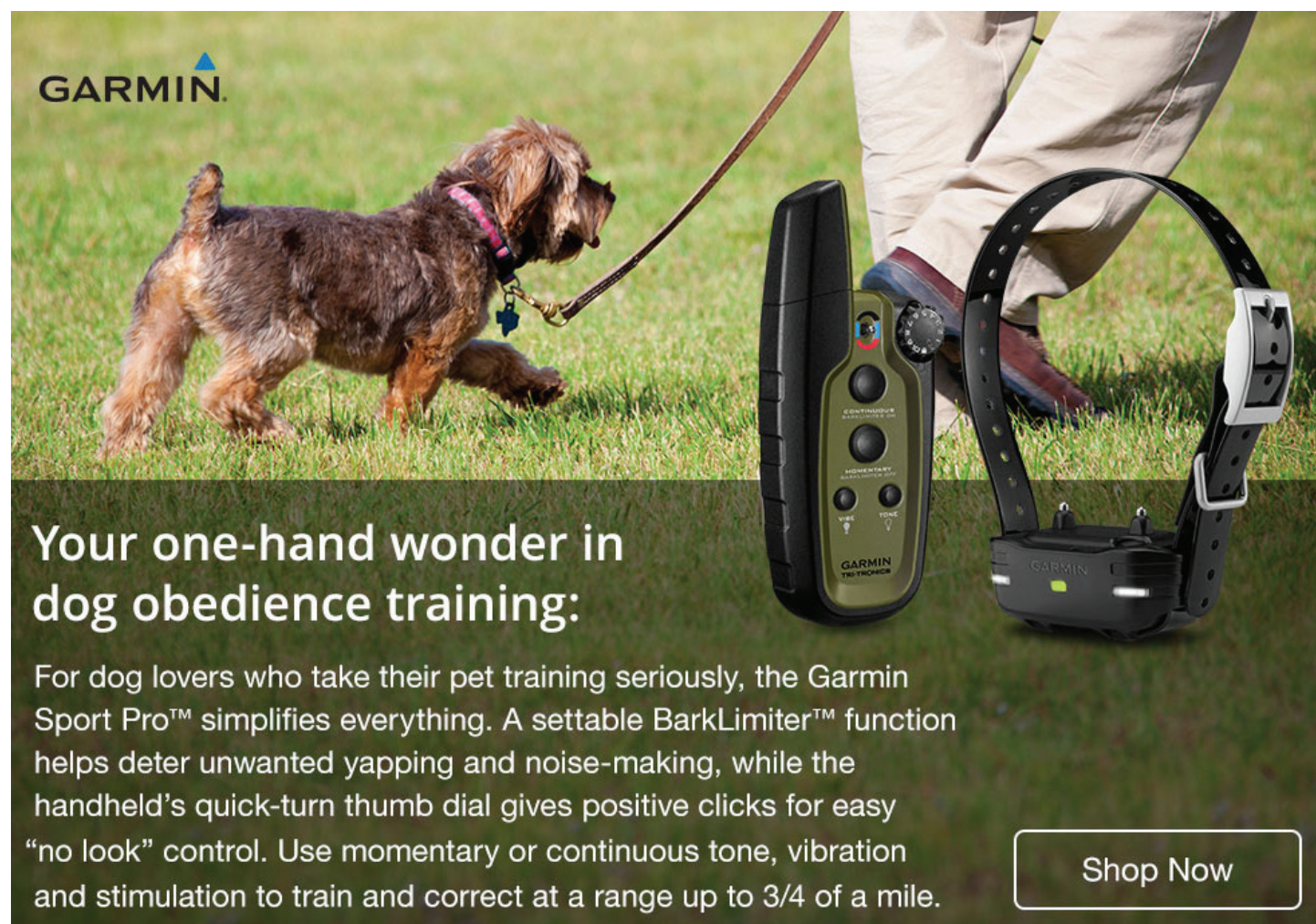
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The advertisement features a photograph of a brown and black dog on a leash in a grassy field. In the foreground, the Garmin Sport Pro training device is shown, which consists of a handheld remote and a collar. The remote has a large thumb dial and several buttons. The collar has a black strap with a silver buckle and a small display. The Garmin logo is visible in the top left corner of the image.

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