

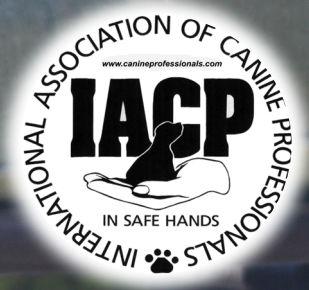
IACP

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS

The Canine Professional Journal



Volume 17
Issue 2
SUMMER 2016



The Canine Professional Journal *is the official journal of the...*

Newsletter Staff

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Publisher IACP
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Per issue Rate:

Business Cards \$45.00, 1/4 page \$350.00, 1/2 page \$450.00, full page \$750.00. Send high resolution files (JPG or PDF in CMYK) to the above email address, and a check made out to IACP to:

IACP Journal, P.O. Box 928, Lampasas, TX 76550

Deadlines

March 1st, June 1st, September 1st, December 1st. Submissions will be considered for the next available issue.

IACP Membership/Journal Information

International Association of Canine Professionals
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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.

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The IACP is proud to announce that Members

Heather Beck, Melanie Benware, Katy Cushing, Andrew Fraser, Jen Freilich, Cindy Gehring, Cindy Hoppes, Nancy Johansen, Petra Koehler, Linnea Lyckberg, Chad Mackin, Chris Myers, Elaine Pendell, Jagannathan Rangarajan, Cindy Sanford, Brad Strickland, Laurie Wagner have successfully completed their Certified Dog Trainer examination and are now able to add the designation IACP-CDT to their names.

In addition, Members

Susan Barnes, Morgance Ellis, James Hamm, Debby Kay, Karen Laws, Kristi Smith, Pat Trichter, Laurie Wagner

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

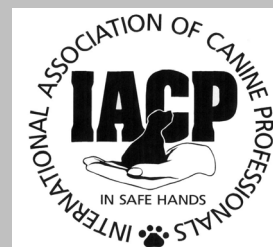
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President's Letter

by James Hamm

The IACP, through the effort of the Board of Directors and focus Committees, has achieved a lot for you in the last 12 months: the Foundation Exam, CDT Incentive, 2 Year Conference planning cycle, west coast education conference, increased sponsorship, partnership with industry through PETT, our incorporation with the U.S. FAA and DOT for Service Dog matters, and several other smaller projects.

In the coming months you will see some changes and revisions to the Canine Professional Journal, IACP logos, all printed material, website interface, social media platforms and all presentation materials.

We have started an advertising campaign specifically to increase internet traffic to our "Find a Trainer" search to get more business directly to you. This campaign will be a three phased approach which we will monitor closely to maximize the potential return to all of you. Please update all of your information on the Find a Trainer page to get the most out of it.

The Board has developed a member recognition program to thank all of you for your support, contributions and dedication to the IACP. Over the next 60 days, many of you who have been in the IACP for 5, 10 or 15 years will be receiving a special thank you in the mail. We cannot continue without you and the Board of Directors and I wanted to thank you for everything you have done for us as an organization to grow and stay relevant in the world of canine professionals.

I would like to give a special Thank You to the Service Dog Committee for getting the IACP into the forefront of National and State Level Service Dog policy development this year. The work of Bill Creasey, Leslie Horton and their entire team of Service Dog Trainers is simply incredible.

The 2016 IACP Educational Conference is quickly approaching. We moved it out west for the first time in 7 years to give everyone an opportunity for professional growth, development and networking. We have signed up a lot of west coast talent for speakers and sponsors so please take advantage of this year's opportunities. Our focus this year will be increasing hands on performance with dogs in attendance and more practical applications than lectures. We always encourage you to bring your dogs to the event and this year we will keep you and your pups busy throughout. Scent Detection, Drive Capping, Behavior Modification Through Play, Working Problem Dogs, Canine Circus School, Grooming Techniques for Trainers, Incorporating Head Halters into training are just a few areas where hands on training and coaching will be available. Our speaker lineup is filled with senior and upcoming talent, including Jerry Bradshaw, Frances Metcalf, Andrew Ramsey, Jeff King, Jay Jack, Martin Deeley, Sherry Boyer,

Heather Beck, Monica Davis, Blake Rodriguez, Mailey McLaughlin, Cesar Millan, Karyn Garvin, Andrew Tarvin and Crystal Washington. Ontario, California is a wonderful little city located half way between the California High Desert and Los Angeles and is an ideal location for incorporating a California vacation with some professional development. I truly hope to see you there.



If you cannot attend, remember Live Streaming will be offered again so you don't have to miss out on the quality content-filled opportunities we have assembled.

IACP Board of Director Elections are right around the corner. You can get all the information on the IACP website and each of you should have received the election / nomination information in your email. If you have not, please contact me at james.hamm@canineprofessionals.com or martin.deeley@canineprofessionals.com and we will ensure you have the information you need. The IACP is a working Board of volunteers and we need your talents, time, abilities and or your support. Please take the time to participate as a candidate or by casting your vote for the most

qualified and motivated people to continue to serve the IACP and you for years to come.

It is an honor to continue to work for you as the IACP President and I hope you see the hard work and effort the Board of Directors has done for you this year. There is always more to do, and you will see it over the next 3 to 6 months, so stay tuned and we will see you in Ontario, or on the Internet, in September.

Respectfully,

James Hamm

James.hamm@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.

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Restraining Canine Drives: Capping and Neutrality, Part 2

by Jerry Bradshaw

(NOTE: Part 1 of this 2-part series appeared in the Spring 2016 issue of the Canine Professional Journal.)

Drive Neutrality

There are times in training where we need to not just cap drive temporarily, but reduce the dog's arousal in prey to a lower level. In the sport of PSA (Protection Sports Association) for example, decoys are present on the obedience field. In PSA 1, the decoy sits in a chair in a full suit during the routine, and the dog heels past the decoy a couple times before performing a down about 2 feet in front of the decoy prior to the recall exercise. During the down the decoy will toss distractions in front of and behind the dog. The mere existence of the decoy on the field creates prey attraction. The decoy moves during the distraction throw as well.

In PSA 2, there are 2 decoys standing and moving around the field, talking to the handler as they move. The handler must negotiate a figure 8 around the decoys, and food refusal, heeling, and changes of pace with the decoys on either side shadowing the handler's movement and passing in front and behind the dog multiple times are tested. On stationary exercises like down in motion followed by change of positions and a recall to heel, the decoys will position themselves near the dog, walking around and tossing balls to one another, and various other movements of a "non-agitating" variety. Decoys will stand beside the jumps as the dog is called over them. This is a higher level of attraction than the PSA 1.

In the PSA 3 obedience routine, the highest level of prey attraction, the decoys can make eye contact with the dog, agitate, run at full speed near and by the dog in any position, incite both prey and defense reactions, and the dog must be neutral to it all. Heel means heel, and down

means down, no matter what is happening in the environment.

In order to succeed in this kind of environment, the dog cannot merely be capped (see Part 1 for information), as the incitement of the drives is steady and unrelenting throughout the routine. The dog must actually learn that the decoys are irrelevant to him unless told otherwise. No matter how enticing, they are not to be considered options for biting. Trainers reward instead with toys throughout the routines, bleeding off drive, and the dog must become satisfied with these rewards. The trainer is basically deconditioning the dog to the arousal a decoy would normally elicit.

The process of drive neutrality with respect to the decoys is a process of systematic desensitization. The dog's drive is channeled into the toys for correct obedience responses and the dog is never allowed to fixate nor have the decoys. As training progresses, the dog may be given a bite on the decoy and then have to come back under control for more obedience. This is referred to in IPO (Schutzhund) as "secondary" obedience. In PSA there is no "secondary" obedience per se. In training well, we create neutrality unless otherwise commanded. The knife edge one must balance for success at the PSA 3 level is a sharp one, and part of the reason there are only 14 dogs that have passed both legs of their PSA 3 in the 15 years of the sport's existence.

This process of creating drive neutrality takes time. Exposure to decoys, varying the level of attraction, with both subdued decoy behavior at first and spatial management of the proximity of the decoys and thus finding thresholds of arousal we can manage. We reward neutral behavior often and systematically. In any process of systematic desensitization, there are two key variables. First, we must know the dog's triggers

(the stimulus that triggers his prey behavior into a high state of arousal) and second, understand where his thresholds are for these triggers. A dog actively engaged in attention heeling for which the movement of the dog and handler team allows some natural bleed off of prey intensity may allow for closer proximity of decoys, all else being equal. In sit stays, all else equal, the dog may not be able to tolerate the same level of decoy behavior and remain stable, so the trainer may need to manage both spatial proximity to the decoys creating a larger buffer between the dog and decoys, as well as considering where she places herself. The social drive aspect of the trainer's influence via rewards and corrections matters here too, and is an additional variable to consider. Double handling (requiring social dogs who can be handled by a 3rd party) as well as lots of back-tie training where we do not allow the dog to make bad decisions that satisfy their drives is in order in this training. Systematically, we desensitize the dog not to prey drive, but to

the triggers, objects and behaviors on the part of the decoys that cause the prey arousal to a high state of intensity. The part that keeps the dog on the knife's edge is that in the protection phase, the dog will have to also demonstrate obedience but is allowed to bite these decoys in protection (and bites are allowed in PSA 3 obedience routines as well) and so the attraction to them enhances with every bite session. This requires the dog to constantly practice neutrality, not make its own decisions, and understand that the trainer controls all access to the decoys.

In pet training, when we have dogs that arouse in prey on cars, bicycles and joggers, the elements of teaching drive neutrality are the same as for the performance dog, though we have slightly less control of the stimuli. If they arouse to defense at the proximity of strangers or other dogs showing aggression, the process of drive neutrality trained by systematic desensitization is also the proper way to modify the behavior. We must know what is actually causing the dog to enter the state of

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drive intensity (stimulus), prey or defense or both, and then systematically desensitize the dog to those things by varying approach to the threshold and rewarding alternate behavior in a calmer, non aggressive or intense state (usually we choose an obedience behavior we can reward that is incompatible with prey or defensive aggression).

Systematic desensitization can be somewhat time consuming, and requires the trainer to both reward good behavior and hold a standard of performance firmly, correcting departures from good behavior, if they occur, as long as the corrections do not further cause conflict or aggression as can be the case when systematically desensitizing defensive behaviors. Thankfully, with pet dogs the drive intensities are often somewhat lower (though not always). Teaching the dog what it is to be in a non-aroused state is often necessary, as much of what a frightened dog faces just in daily life can elicit a defensive reaction. Getting a baseline of good obedience behaviors is critical. The dog will learn he is safe and sound while performing these behaviors (no threat will molest you in your

stays or during heeling). These trained behaviors can often provide the fearful dog a state of being that is comfortable and relaxed. While engaged in these obedience behaviors, the dog can extend these safe feelings to other triggers and move the threshold of defensive arousal (proximity to perceived threats), making the dog more neutral to common encounters so that he need not perceive threats in normal human behaviors and normal proximities. In effect, the dog is not tasked with making the decisions about what to do with this person coming closer to him. He just needs to hold a stay, or heel position, and all is safe. The same must be done with prey driven pet dogs: systematic desensitization to those attractions as we would exactly do with the PSA performance dog. We start with drive capping in some situations at first, extending to drive neutrality through systematic desensitization over time.

Modifying Behavior

We are fortunate if we can create the habits we want through conditioning dogs that are young.



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Drives are instinctual, and a prey driven dog that reacts to movement (be it cars or chasing a ball) is not created by us, it just is. However, it is the continual repetition of those stimulus-response-reinforcement opportunities that burn in the neural pathways and wrap them in myelin that create strong habits, faster responses, and quicker firing of these neural pathways without hesitation, whether good or bad. Knowing this, we have power to create good habits and redirect possible trouble in young dogs with early training intervention, where systematic desensitization and counter conditioning can be made more easily, before the neural trail is burned in strongly. When behavioral responses are clear and strong to certain stimuli, it will take more time and effort to change them.

The performance dog that is taught to bite equipment like sleeves and suits has a neural pathway burned in when he sees a sleeve or bite suit, and thus systematic desensitization is harder the longer this process has gone on and the more fluent the response. Managed drive capping may produce beautiful results in some situations, but in

others, for different sports or pet training situations, drive neutrality may need to be created. These techniques, once mastered, are used in all areas of training, and training a competition dog will help you master these techniques for your pet clients.

*Jerry Bradshaw is the Owner of Tarheel Canine Training in Sanford, NC. His experience and progressive training methods have made Tarheel Canine an industry leader in training and service. Jerry is co-founder of the civilian protection sport PSA (www.psak9.org) and the Police K9 Certification organization known as the National Tactical Police Dog Association NTPDA (www.tacticalcanine.com). Jerry is the author of *Controlled Aggression*, and the forthcoming book, *Commonsense Pet Training*. Jerry and his trainers have appeared on CNN, Good Morning America, and in many regional and National print publications.*

Additional Reading

Bradshaw, Jerry. Environmental Challenges: Basic Systematic Desensitization for Police Dogs. K9 Cop Magazine. November/December 2013.

Bradshaw, Jerry. The Talented K9 Trainer: Becoming an Expert Handler or Trainer. The Journal. Winter, 2015.

The Protection Sports Association. www.psak9.org

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How to Get Difficult Clients Eating Out of Your Hand

by Camilla Gray-Nelson

We've all experienced them: clients that snarl, bark back, and sometimes bite the hand that serves them. In customer service they may be rare, but they are inevitable, and take up more than their share of time and energy. To make matters worse, in the current age of Facebook, Twitter and (gulp) Yelp, just one unhappy client can spread such a ripple of negativity that it can take a company months -- if not years -- to repair its reputation.

As businessmen and women, how do we handle these vociferous and often vicious few that seem impossible to please? How can we turn that snarling wild animal into a puppy dog that's easier to work with and won't drag our name through the mud like an old sock? The solution is simpler than you might think, and it's right under your nose (or at the end of your leash, as the case may be.)

People, turns out, are a lot like dogs. I find those difficult clients to be quite similar to the occasional difficult canine that checks into my training school. And the same techniques I use to bring that stubborn or defiant dog willingly around to my way of thinking I find myself using with these owners. We are all animals after all. The human species just wears clothes and walks on two legs instead of four. Other than that, we are pretty similar. Once we understand this basic truth, we can become much more effective in all of our relationships, professional or personal.

Here are my three basic guidelines for dealing with difficult clients -- "Doggie Style."

Don't get emotional

The number one rule in dog training is to stay calm. This is because in the animal world, frustration or anger reveals emotional weakness. It makes it impossible to have the upper hand in a dog training relationship. Emotional output can also spark an

emotional reaction in the dog, creating not only an unproductive scenario, but a dangerous one as well.

Humans are animals too, and emotional communication can be equally unproductive and equally provocative. Communication with difficult clients, though stressful, must be calm and kind.

See things from their perspective

Dogs have their own mind. They see the world from their own perspective and in training, in order for us to reach a dog and help him learn, we have to know what he is thinking. It is how we establish trust and a starting place for communication.

Humans are no different. It is precisely their perspective that is the source of a difficult client's upset or dissatisfaction. **It is futile to argue with someone's perspective. It is what it is.** Whether or not their perception is "accurate" is irrelevant. To them it is reality. We cannot help a client unless we understand their perspective.

This means validating their feelings, not trying to change them. The irony here is that by validating feelings, you lower defenses, increase trust and ultimately -- you do change feelings. How many times do we try to explain to a client why they should not feel upset or dissatisfied with us? How frustrated do we get with the client that keeps changing their mind, or always finds little things to nitpick? Or we end up with a disputed invoice and a disgruntled client?

In my experience, the old adage "The Customer is Always Right" is always right! Seeing things from the client's perspective, forgetting about your own, agreeing with the client by validating their feelings and using this as a starting place for communication will tame even the most vicious beast -- four legs or two.

Praise works wonders

There is not an animal alive that does not enjoy being treated as special or told he's wonderful. In fact, when I work with an especially difficult or stubborn dog, my secret weapon is Praise. In the beginning, it is the only tool I can use safely if the animal is instinctively defensive. (Does this sound like some clients?) Praise disarms him, it plays to his already inflated ego, and before he knows it, he's jumping through hoops for me (literally.)

If my own experience is any indicator, there is absolutely no better way to get a difficult client on your side than by proactively looking for things about them to compliment. Are they wearing a gorgeous pair of shoes? Is their home beautifully decorated? Do they have a cool car? Great cheekbones? Are their kids good-looking or smart? Who does their hair? Ask for the stylist's name. What do they do for a living and do you admire that skill? And my personal favorite – compliment their dog!

I find that if I go the extra mile to find something in a difficult client to honestly compliment, I not only turn that client around, but it often reveals a warm and truly likable side of them. Sometimes we actually become friends. What's more, these types of clients may have a long history of being treated badly by other service providers because of their prickly character, making your kindness and good will even more impressive and appreciated. They may even become your biggest fan.

So next time a difficult client makes you want to scream, channel your inner dog trainer and they'll soon be eating out of your hand.

Camilla Gray-Nelson is the President and Director of Training at Dairydell Canine. She has trained, bred and shown dogs since 1989, and holds professional memberships in both IACP and NADOI. Read more at:

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Questions for Veteran Trainers, Part 2

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 17. This is the second of a multi-part series; I hope you enjoy it.

What is your biggest regret in terms of your career? What big error can I avoid by learning from your experiences?

George Cockrell: The single regret I have is that I've never really taken much time off from the business. I've been at this for 39 years, and truly cannot recall the last two week vacation I've taken. I truly believe that a trainer is not only what I do, but it's also who and what I am. This has taken quite a toll on relationships, both social and personal. If I were to do it over again, I'd spend a little less time with dogs, and a lot more time with family and friends. I'd schedule it with the same importance and vigor as I do training lessons.

Cyndy Douan: I don't know that I have a big regret. I do wish I'd started dog sports when I was young and able to really move well. I am happy with the path overall, though I do have a short list of what I wish I'd known earlier or done differently.

1. A fear of moving outside my comfort zone prevented me from working dogs in front of people who I knew were better at it than myself. This took years to overcome and once I did it, I learned so much more and got so much better. I still attend agility classes with an instructor who is much better than I am, and who sets things up to keep us up out of our comfort zones every week. I am challenged, and I screw up as much as I get it right, but every time, I figure something out and I get better.

2. I wasted time arguing methods and tool use over the internet when I could have spent that time building my business and honing my craft. The arguments will never be settled and will never go away. I really wish I had all of that time back.

3. During my first 6 years of training, I can recall in many cases that I failed to first rule out health problems before I began training with a dog. I do regret that.

4. Early on in my training career I had little understanding of structure, gait, and movement. I overlooked many injuries, deformities, and signs of subclinical pain that could have been causes or contributors to the behavior problems dogs were experiencing. Now, one of the first things I am assessing is how the dog is built and how it moves. Musculature, level of fitness and the dog's overall attitude are things I also look at.

5. As a young trainer, I recall feeling and responding to the pressure to spot-solve behavior problems. As a result, I left a number of dogs unemployed because I failed to also provide those dogs with a purpose or meaningful work.

6. I am no longer in the habit of hammering square pegs into round holes. I am honest with owners when I see that their dog is not a good fit for them. I do not squelch a dog's desire to work or smoosh him onto a place board for the rest of his life because the owner wants to keep the dog, but wants the dog to be still and not move around a lot. I refer out if the owner insists on it because I cannot watch a dog die on the inside.

Martin Deeley: I do not have any real regrets. I have been lucky. Doors have opened for me and I have stepped through and been accepted, plus my work has been recognized. The harder I worked and the more I said yes, and moved forward in my experience and abilities, the 'luckier' I became. Never be afraid to accept challenges

but do be prepared for them and make every effort to succeed when they arise. Do not over-estimate your ability or under-estimate it. Be true to yourself about what you can do. We all have fears and sometimes these fears and concerns can stop us moving forward. Kick your fears and the obstacles you put up to one side and get out there to achieve. No regrets--a failure is simply another opportunity to learn from.

Babette Haggerty: I ran my business for a long time like a dog trainer, instead of a business owner. Learn how to run your business like a business. Know your numbers.

Linda Kaim: I don't believe that I have any regrets regarding my career. I have traveled all over the continent on account of dogs. I have made many friends I otherwise wouldn't have on account of dogs, and I have learned so much on account of dogs. As for mistakes I have made? Ha! That would take more room than this article has room for. The biggest ones tended to come early on and were never repeated. They mostly revolved around the thought that I knew more than I did at that particular time.

Mary Mazzeri: In the beginning, I did not explore possible medical reasons for problem behaviors. I've learned more about certain symptoms that I have students follow up with their veterinarians. My biggest personal regret is that I feel I was too hard on my own first couple of dogs that I trained. Like many well-intentioned pet owners' dogs, they learned and they forgave me. I learned along with them. It took me time to learn patience, technique, and how to read their 'intention' during training. I probably corrected for things that I should have taken a few steps back on.

Tawni McBee: I don't think my main regret will apply to many. I deeply regret not turning to learning good dog training when I was much younger. I badly trained many dogs when I was younger. Perhaps the second part of

my regrets will help someone. I regret not going to more good workshops and seminars earlier in my career. I didn't see the need. I could have benefited greatly, early in my career, from the workshops I finally attended after I'd been training 5 or more years.

Sarah Wilson: That I thought pet dog training was about behaviors. It isn't. It's about the bond. Behaviors help to strengthen (or weaken) the bond but there is so much more to it than that.

How long do you think it takes, on average, for someone to learn enough to be proficient in teaching classes, lessons, board and train, and behavior consults (with no supervision)? How long did it take you to be comfortable doing it on your own?

George Cockrell: I would think at least a year of apprenticeship and a few hundred dogs of various types and temperaments before I personally consider using the term Dog Trainer with an up and comer. For the old-school traditionalist in me, those two words mean something nearly religious. I know that thinking is quite antiquated, and maybe even arrogant, but of the literally hundreds of acquaintances who work dogs that I've had the pleasure of meeting, I'd estimate there's only but a few dozen who I personally, and readily, consider to be the pure definition of Dog Trainer. Take notice of the Capital letters. I freely admit that it's a grizzled veterans arrogance that compels me to

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think this way. I never dared to call myself a trainer when I was brought up. My early mentors and betters told me when I achieved that level.

Martin Deeley: I won my first trophy with a dog called Ben way back in 1979. I probably thought I knew it all at that stage. In fact I was only starting and touching the tip of the dog training iceberg. I had been training my own dogs for the field and for competition for three years. There were few books, but I was lucky enough to make friends with two gundog trainers who really became my mentors although I did not see them on a regular basis. My learning was mainly through one book and then doing what I thought was right with my dogs. There is no doubt that you need to work with a dog, and work with as many as you possibly can to get experience. In this way you learn how to adapt, create and make changes to your training approach to match the differing personalities, abilities and temperaments of each dog. At one time I had seven dogs of my own and I had been able to select good working dogs from the best lines, which often made my job easy. My enthusiasm and minor successes had me, after about 5 years, taking in dogs for board and train. That is when I really began to learn. I had to make a good dog from one that was not bred from the best lines. It was quite a learning experience. Everyone bringing in their dog thought they had a jewel and I had to make what was not quite a diamond into a sparkling shooting companion.

At this time I was a college lecturer and therefore was familiar with teaching. This, plus getting known for having good dogs, meant that I was asked if I would do dog training classes for Game Keepers (equivalent of Game Wardens on game farms in USA). I jumped at the opportunity and there again I learned a lot. Helping owners to get the best out of their dogs requires a multitude of skills, least of all is how to teach the dog. You have to teach the owner and get them to play a role that obtains the results from the dog that they seek. To help

teach them what to do, I backed up my sessions with handouts and this became my first book when the Association I was helping asked if they could publish my notes. That was after about 5 years of training dogs. Because of the book, I received requests to write articles for magazines and from them followed a bigger book published in 1989. Maybe now you can see the progression, the time line from getting a dog and then both teaching and publishing a book on how I trained. This book, "Working Gundogs," has been reprinted on numerous occasions. I revised and added to it three years ago and could have written far more than the additional 30,000 words I had. Why? Because I never stop learning and evolving. There is so much more to share the longer you work with the dog.

I enjoy training dogs, I like to see what these clever creatures are capable of, but more than that I enjoy helping people enjoy their dogs. Helping an owner reach a standard with their dog and themselves that they are proud of and others notice. I did not make a decision on when to move into the different stages of my development and teaching. Opportunities arose, doors opened and I walked through. I then worked at doing my best at whatever was presented to me. Opportunities are there for the taking; be realistic and work hard to assist both owners and dogs achieve their highest standards. There is no time scale; there is only an ability scale, the ability to impart the correct



behavior to both humans and dogs and to teach them how to achieve this correct behavior.

Cyndy Douan: You must understand first that “dog trainer” and “dog training instructor” are two different skill sets. A person may be very proficient with board and train dogs--working for a dog training company--long before that person is ready to be in front of the public. The apprentices that I have had are usually ready to go alone after about 4 years, if they make it through the 4 years. I am thorough if I plan to put Georgia Dog Gym's name on that training. I have hired in trainers, but they have to have minimum 10 years training experience before I will let them work on their own without supervision. If I have a staff member who shows talent and skills, I will begin to allow them to work with day training dogs on a limited basis after about 9 months to a year with me.

I went out on my own after 6 years working with what was then the largest in-home dog training company in Metro Atlanta. I worked close to my boss/mentor for the first 4 years. He taught me the business end of the business first, and after about a year, he started me out going to train easy dogs and clients. He gradually allowed me to go out to work with harder cases, and the last year I was with him, he would send me out to do “clean up” on the other trainers’ mistakes or with clients who were dissatisfied with the service the other staff trainers were providing. At that point, I knew I’d be ok to go it alone. My boss was available to mentor me all throughout those 6 years and he bailed me out more than once when I was lost on how to fix a problem I was having. I could not have moved through it without his support.

Babette Haggerty: It depends upon the person. I like my apprentices to have a good year before I set them loose but everyone is different.

Linda Kaim: When I started out, I was the Greatest Dog Trainer Ever Born. Ten years later, I might have been half decent. After training for

well over 2 decades, I still interned with trainers outside of my realm of expertise, and to this day, I have no problem with seeking the counsel of folks in disciplines unfamiliar to me. When you think you have learned it all, you still have a lot to learn.

Mary Mazzeri: No one right answer to this question. I think the answer depends on the aptitude of those aspiring and what skill set they are planning to teach and what kind of dogs they will be working with. It could take several years for unsupervised group and private students. Problems like separation anxiety and aggression tend to need a lot more experience. I can only answer from my own experiences. I came into dog training with a teaching background. I trained several dogs thru advanced levels before I taught basic classes. This took a couple of years and I observed others as they taught group classes (in an Obedience club setting). I apprenticed under the guidance of more experienced instructors. I assisted before I instructed classes. At the same time, I was assimilating information any way I could through books, video tapes, lectures, seminars, workshops, observing other trainers. I didn’t start board/training until after 2002.

I strongly recommend being mentored (observing, studying, and apprenticing) under the direction of a successful trainer in your field. There are several good schools listed on the IACP website. They are a wonderful starting point but even they will tell



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you that no craft is fully assimilated in 4-8 weeks. Admittedly mentors are few and far between.

Tawni McBee: I think one can become quite proficient in any one of those one at a time over the course of a year or so, but it's highly unlikely that anyone can become extremely proficient in all of them without years of experience. I was comfortable doing them on my own way before I should have been. One doesn't always know what one doesn't know. I think 6 months to a year of supervised work teaching classes and doing lessons is sufficient to do them unsupervised IF there is someone around to help if needed--with a phone call at least. Board and train would require at least a year supervised with lots of dogs. Behavior consults at least another year. I pretty much agree with the thought of the "5 year syndrome." Trainers who've been training up to 5 years start to think they know it all about between 2 and 5 years. After 5 years, they suddenly realize just how much they really don't know. Much of this, however, does depend on how many dogs you're training, what schooling you've gotten or are getting, and what type of dogs you're working with. For example, I routinely had 15 - 20 dogs at a time in training when I first started, as well as helping at group classes for graduated dogs and helping with protection classes and helping out at a local rescue. The company worked a lot of aggression cases. If one is only training 4 or 5 dogs at a time and isn't getting a variety of experiences, one will not advance as fast. As I mentioned, I was likely comfortable before I should have been. I was removed from direct supervision within 2 months of starting. With hindsight, I think they should have supervised me for at least another 4 months.

Sarah Wilson: There is no "average". Depends on how closely the person is willing to observe the dogs, how well they read the dog, the nature of what they personally project onto the dog and how much they are willing to/able to change their opinions/approach.

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.

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 commented 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, MHD, 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.

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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The Evolution of Scent Detection Training

by Andrew Ramsey

Humans have utilized canines to detect things for us for a very long time. Man's best friend has proven himself an invaluable asset in that regard, and the list of things we employ his service in locating for us is a vast and ever-expanding one. However, the types of dogs we typically use and methods on which we rely to train them have progressed as dog training as a whole has evolved.

Historically, a very specific type of dog has been used for substance detection training. The ideal canine student to enter a sniffing dog program traditionally has been a highly motivated pupil. Often selectively-bred to genetically possess extremely large amounts of hunt drive and be highly physically possessive of some type of toy, these candidates bring motivation for the work as well as the desire for the reward itself. While these traits indeed do lend themselves to the learning process, they are not absolute necessities to create an effective detection canine. The developments that have taken place elsewhere in animal behavior learning can also benefit those of us who train detection dogs.

One component that has remained and always will for the real world use detection canine is the social and environmental stability of the dog. While we can improve this in many dogs, because of potentially genetic predispositions or previous life experiences, not all dogs possess the boldness to enter into any area and perform as needed. Because of the unpredictability of the environments in which working canines can be called upon to search, stability will always be a crucial factor in their success. However, for many pet dogs who struggle with social or environmental obstacles in life, recreational Nosework provides an excellent enrichment activity that greatly increases their confidence.

We of course know that all dogs have noses, and while some breeds' genetic characteristics and traits result in a natural inclination of searching in an ideal manner stylistically for specific utilizations, the capabilities of any canine's olfactory system are extraordinary. The determining factor in selecting a working canine has been much more about motivation than it has been the skill level of the dog's sense of smell. If we figure out what a particular dog is motivated by, and we explain correctly that it will receive that if it locates a target substance for us, we can train that dog to communicate to us where that substance is located.

Through skillfully building vigilant searching behavior incrementally and incorporating the precision of communication that marker training provides, we open the door to a much wider variety of dogs that will perform well for us in this role than many would believe. As an explosive detection trainer for the U.S. Military for 6 years, I saw numerous dogs eliminated from training that could have been trained. As trainers, we should use all the tools at our disposal to produce the best end product possible.

Using food in detection is gaining popularity, and rightly so. Even with highly toy-motivated dogs, it makes sense to start them on food for one big reason: after the search, we can reinforce numerous times the particular behavior we desire in a much smoother process than delivering the toy. For the dog that lacks motivation for the toy, using a valuable resource that they really want is the logical decision, and where we started using food in the first place in animal training. Of course, using a marker and food to train a new behavior and introducing a toy later has long been used successfully in multiple areas of dog training.

Advances across the board in other areas of dog and animal training have been slow to

impact the field of K-9 detection. The utilization of marker training results in a much clearer form of communication not previously possible. Using a verbal mark or clicker means that we can train precision right from the start by clearly explaining expected criteria and reducing incorrect choices. This results in a much more motivated and independent dog that responds as tightly to source as physically possible, and we can also proof handler error by reinforcing very key decisions and isolate criteria that really matters.

Our marker allows us to pinpoint and communicate to the dog exactly when they reached source. By using highly predictable odor sources that breathe from only one location, we can communicate source as a physical location and mark the moment the dog reaches it. In time we build duration of a freezing behavior at the highest concentration of target odor. This clarity of communication results in absolute precision.

We can use a marker to proof odor obedience and teach the dog to ignore handler cues. While our dog is in the correct position of its response, we can do many things to intentionally distract it, and we can mark and reward its obedience to odor when it stays on source. If the dog contemplates leaving source, we can mark the moment it makes the decision to stay at source or when it returns to source. The use of a marker allows us accomplish this in very small increments if need be.

We also can use our marker to immediately reward the decision of ignoring intentionally-placed distractions and going to source. In the beginning phases of training, this is conducted in the Training Lab and there is target odor in close proximity to the intentionally-placed distraction. When our dogs make the decision to leave the distraction and go to source, we can mark that correct decision when they source odor. This greatly clarifies to the dog what works in this

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situation and that items that may be of value elsewhere will not produce a reward for them in this context.

The use of a clicker or marker in detection is not a new concept. People have been doing it in various forms for a quite some time. There are, however, several techniques in regard to its application that ensure our success with its use.

Since detection is about a dog searching for something first and foremost, while learning these behaviors in the beginning, the dog must discriminate the item that is different and contains odor before it offers the behavior of its indication. In doing so we greatly reduce the possibility of false responses and put the priority on hunting and searching over a behavior the dog performs when it finds something. The foundation of detection exercises should be as such that the dog knows that it is going to go out and search for something, not just do a “trick” in terms of an indication for us. Some are of the mindset that all dogs already know how to search, and in one style of training, back-chaining the behavior of the indication is taught on one item first and then installed into a situation where the dog must discriminate two items, then three, etc.

But dogs choosing to naturally search for something that is of value to them is not the same as us getting reliable searching behavior on cue from them anywhere at any time. Because of these things, success is maximized if the dog understands this is first and foremost about independent searching.

While teaching and defining source, our odor containers should be precise and have a highly predictable source. They should not breathe through numerous places. Protocol-type boxes with one small hole where we know where the “finish line” is per se have a clearly defined source. If there are multiple holes, say on the top and on the side, we have no way of knowing if the dog followed the correct scent cone trail to source. To avoid this, it is ideal to have one small, highly predictable location for the target odor to breathe from in the initial learning stages. Later on, odor

can be hidden anywhere in anything and the dog will know where to go and what to do.

With my system now, I use the marker as a terminal bridge that marks the behavior the dog is performing as correct and releases them from it. After the mark they are released and free to do whatever they want, but I still come to source to deliver their reward. This is beneficial on numerous levels. Since this is a behavior that relates to position, I reward in place to reinforce stability of that location the same as I do in other instances where stability of the position is of priority. For example, I do not use a marker as a release for a dog that is supposed to hold its position in a down stay. I come to the dog and reward it in place and walk away multiple times to reinforce it remaining there. When I am ready to move on, I go to heel position and ask the dog to heel away with me. The highly motivated dogs can get twitchy about returning for the reward (the same way they could if you marked and released them from a down stay and they started to anticipate and creep). The dogs that lack independence often want to run back to their handler anyway, so I do not encourage this by producing payment close to me after the bridge. By walking to them, again they are free to break position, and delivering the reward there at source it gives additional value to source. When we are ready to move on, the dog is lured away from the hide by following the food lure or the toy dogs we play tug and move away from the hide. An additional benefit of coming to source to deliver the reward is lured the dog to exactly where we are going to continue our search. For the competition dog this avoids missing hides in extremely close proximity to each other as well as avoiding conflict of the dog wanting to return to a hide that is close to another hide.

The explosion in popularity of nosework as a sport has caused detection training to rapidly evolve. I have been able to experiment with many types of dogs and many various methods and see what works well, what doesn't and everything in between. While detection dogs have always been able to say, “It is here in this area” by sitting, my goal has been to have the dog say, “It is RIGHT

here” in a needle-in-a-haystack sense. By losing the requirement of the sit or down in recreational nosework, I use a freeze with nose touching source to communicate pinpoint accuracy. After all, the part of the dog that we use to detect odor is its nose. If it’s safe to do so, it’s ideal for the dog to use its nose to indicate exactly where the highest concentration of the target odor is located. There is nothing more precise.

Despite the said knowledge of the above, there is and probably will continue to be a resistance to change for professional detection dog trainers incorporating various training concepts. Often what has been done continues to be done, just because it has been done.

With ever-changing electronic technology, canines continue to be our go-to option when it comes to us locating a growing number of things and have proven themselves an irreplaceable resource. They will be used for the foreseeable future to

locate matter that humans cannot visually identify. Dogs performing detection duties save lives, time, money and resources as well as provide us with a recreational activity to do that is enjoyable to both us and them. If you have not worked with a dog that is performing detection, you are missing out on seeing man’s best friend do what he does best

Andrew Ramsey is a former Military Working Dog Trainer with a life-long passion for interacting with canines. He has been dedicated to developing his F3 Detection System to train any dog to detect anything. Andrew owns and operates Ramsey K-9 Services and Ramsey Nosework in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he trains dogs and handlers for Law Enforcement, Protection Sports and recreational Nosework. Andrew has been featured in Nosework training dvds for Leerburg Enterprises, instructed Nosework Courses at The Michael Ellis School for Dog Trainers, and is a certified Judge for several Nosework organizations. Andrew and his wife Jaclyn have two dogs, a 15-year-old Miniature Dachshund Mitzi and a 13-year-old Belgian Malinois Fusel.

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RUNNING UNLEASHED

The Burden Of Information

by Heather Beck

I say it often: “you don’t know what you don’t know.” But what do we do with information when we learn something new? Could there really be a downside to learning new things?

As an example, have you ever known someone that you thought was amazing, and could do no wrong, and then, one day, they stab you in the back? Maybe they cheat on you, or steal from you. Can you ever go back to seeing them the way you did before, after learning how they really are, or how they treat people? No. The burden of information, when you learn something that changes your perception, presents a conundrum. Once you know something, you can’t unknow it. How do you change your relationships and your life to accommodate for this new information?

I used to live at adoption events every weekend and loved it, but as I started moving into training and learning more about dogs and dog behavior, these events became overwhelming to me. From watching dogs pull people around on flat collars, to kennels with 4 dogs in them and volunteers throwing treats in for the dogs, eventually, I just had to stop going. It weighed on me, but as I moved into training I found my “happy” place (although, attending the IACP conference brought me more burdens of information). The first time I saw Wendy Volhard speak about dogs and nutrition, I had just put my dog down due to bloat. I learned that I thought I was doing great with my dogs, but actually, I was killing them! The guilt I felt was huge, and unfortunately there was no way I could afford to feed all of my 6 large dogs raw. Knowing that would benefit them, but being unable to change what I fed due to financial constraints, was a burden I wished I did not have. Finally making the complete jump to raw food this year has made me feel so much better. I wanted to ignore it when I learned it, but once I knew, I had to make a change. It wasn’t a quick change, but it was a good one.

A more recent struggle with the burden of information and dogs has come to me from the last place I ever thought it would: a groomer! She has completely blown my mind about coat and skin care and, once again, I learned that my dogs just needed more attention to their coat and skin health through brushing and moisturizing the coat. Honestly, I NEVER brushed my dogs, and only bathed them every once in awhile. I brushed my cattle and horses and even my goat every time I was out with them and used it as a bonding experience, but I had no idea I was missing so much when it came to the health of my dogs through brushing. I have learned that what I used to associate with food or seasonal “allergies” really was simply a grooming issue. I learned that 95.8% of dogs with skin issues have dry skin! My mind was

blown, but now what? I had to start brushing my dogs and bathing and moisturizing their skin and coat! At K9 Lifeline, we have changed our policies and practices due to the new information, and now can fall in line with what we know is good for the dogs. Our biggest struggle now is getting the clients the information so they understand how important skin and coat care is, not just for long coated dogs, but all dogs—especially the short coated dogs who seem to get the most neglected when it comes to skin and coat care.

A few weeks ago, I spent time in Texas teaching a workshop to an amazing group of trainers, many of whom I have known and respected for years. I was going to be presenting my tools and techniques to people that I knew had been working in this industry as long, or longer than I had, and I was nervous. This was the most advanced group of people I had ever worked with and all I could do was hope that I could present my information in a way that they might feel “burdened.” We spent 3 days working hands-on with dogs on head halters, one of the most misunderstood tools in dog training, and I saw a lot of people in that group change their perception of a tool that they had deemed useless in their programs. It was awesome how open-minded everyone was and they were great at putting me at ease about what I was teaching them. Of course I also got them all thinking about brushing their dogs and skin care (extra credit burden).

Through that week I learned that new information is only a burden if you can see the value in it and how it can benefit you, your dogs and/or your clients. I highly encourage everyone in the dog world to “burden” yourself with new information. That just means you will be able to stay open minded and see value in new ideas, tools and techniques that come into your world. The “struggle” will affect you in positive ways when you make changes in your life to accommodate for the new information. Burden yourselves, then go burden others! Good luck!

Founder of K9 Lifeline, Heather has been working with dogs since 1995. Her experience ranges from Animal Control Officer to fostering dogs for adoption to running her own large breed and pit bull rescue. Heather spends time working with Saga Humane Society in Belize as an Animal Control Officer, helping to trap packs of feral dogs and cats and coordinating visiting Vet teams. When not in Utah, she is often working alongside the “Dog Whisperer,” Cesar Millan, as part of his Team of Trainers at the Dog Psychology Center in California teaching Training Cesar’s Way workshops to groups of students from around the world.

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