

IACP

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS

SAFEHANDS JOURNAL



Volume 16
Issue 3
Fall 2015



SAFEHANDS *is the official journal of the...*

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Advertising and Application Address

Per issue Rate:

Business Cards \$45.00, 1/4 page \$350.00, 1/2 page \$450.00, full page \$750.00. Ads may be traded for articles. Please consult the editor. Send high resolution, print ready files 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

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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.

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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

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

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

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Cover photo: Scout and Sam, by Kelly Puccio (finally!)

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The IACP is proud to announce that Members
Tim Cutter, Ellen Guerrero, Natalia Kataoka, Gail Kulur, and Kathleen Medel
have successfully completed their Certified Dog Trainer examination and are
now able to add the designation IACP-CDT to their names.



In addition, Members
Mailey McLaughlin and Larry Neilson
have earned the CDTA and PDTI certifications and are now able to use these designations in their titles.
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Well done!
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President's Letter

by James Hamm

The 2015 Annual Education Conference is complete, and what a fantastic event it was for everyone. I could not be happier for the members who attended, nor more proud of the team who put it together. St. Louis was a fabulous host city and the Sheraton complex was amazing.

This year the event changed a lot from conferences in the past. We went from a central hub to a collection of families with their own centerpieces. Some groups were familiar while others were either new to the scene or had been absent for quite some time. Over half of the attendees were new to the IACP or first time conference attendees. That is truly inspiring for our future. It was very nice to be a part of it with all of you.

I would like to personally thank our presenters who provided purpose, direction and motivation to the 300 present and 75 Live Streamers online. Each of you made this event a special one and we hope to see each of you again soon.

Past success and achievement aside, I feel compelled to address a few things that concerned me while at the conference. Please note these are only my observation based on a fractional population of the IACP. My viewpoint may not be received well by all but I feel a strong need to share it.

I believe we have some significant gaps that need to be addressed. Those gaps are related to Education, Motivation, Vision and Communication. I look at the early officers of the

organization, many of whom were present this year, and as I measure them I saw an overwhelming majority with academic achievements, college degrees, business and education experience and a desire to take action for the greater good of the community. I also saw the desire to communicate with one another regardless of the severity of opposing viewpoints.

What I am afraid of is the cultural shift which focuses on the accumulation of wealth, the perception of notoriety in full view of the public, and an isolationist stance from peer groups becoming the dominant motivators in our organization and in our profession. I know everyone has to make a living; I truly understand that as I have a family of 6 to support. What I don't see is the level of community action and the completion of long-term academic goals with a vision on the future and not just the present. Communication between "families" is not just a nice thing, it is essential to survival and sustainability.

About 20 years ago I read an Arnold Schwarzenegger quote which said:

- 1. Trust yourself
- 2. Break some rules
- 3. Don't be afraid to fail
- 4. Ignore the naysayers
- 5. Work like hell
- 6. Give something back

The first five were easy to understand and apply on a daily basis but the last one took some time for me to wrap my head around it. Give Something Back. That



is what we struggle with in a society so driven around "I", "ME," and "MY."

Creating a successful business and personal independence afford us a level of professional ignorance to the potential consequences of the future. Those of us who have the good fortune of success have a moral obligation to support the development of our youth (or newcomers to the industry) professionally and personally as a leaders and mentors. We have an obligation to protect what we have built with the help of others around us. We have a duty to communicate on a large scale with our communities and our governments to protect one another including the tools we use to achieve success. We have to offer a strong resistance, not just to claim victory over a perceived opponent, but to set a positive example to those people whose frames and views have not yet been set.

The IACP is approaching 20 years old and we cannot hide from the requirement to come of age. There are fights on the horizon that we need to lead. Some are about morals and ethics in the service dog industry, standardizing skills and abilities though certification, and even licensing to be a canine professional in the first place. Then come the big fights, which will require real perseverance on tool bans, methodology, education and regulation and the influence of "trendy or marketing science." These are inevitable and we need to prepare.

In order to do this properly, we need to look at long-term individual professional growth, organizational success and a desire to engage in long term political and social issues affecting our membership and the public at large. My biggest concern is with the entry of so many young people in the IACP who will be in this industry as their first serious profession. Despite your personal success in the dog industry, I urge you to continue the pursuit of academic excellence and the pursuit of higher education. Hone your skills but develop your mind. *The future will need more of you than just your dog training skills.* At the end of the day, you and I will have to communicate on a public platform to our members, the public

and the government. Don't allow short term success and financial independence stop you from achieving academic excellence because our future depends on educated people with skills in debate, organizational management, public speaking, activism and leadership.

The IACP 's newest generation will be a key focus for the Board of Directors and I for the remainder of 2015 and all of 2016. We wish to mentor and groom members to do bigger and better things than the current BOD and I could hope or dream to do. Lets look far ahead together, wrap our minds around the overarching issues of the future and lead the IACP to negotiate and debate from a REAL position of strength. Lets give something back, set a good example and accomplish key tasks together.

Respectfully,

James Hamm

James@canineprofessionals.com

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Humane Dog Training

by Tyler Muto

Editor's Note: this piece was originally published in Tyler's blog on his website, connectwithyourk9.com. It is being printed here with permission.

My friend Suzanne is a volunteer for the City Animal Shelter, and very involved with animal rescue throughout the area. Occasionally, she spends a day at the K9 Connection training center with me to observe my work and take anything she can learn back to the shelter to help the animals.

Being active in the community, she is also friends with other trainers, including some who have been my critics throughout the years.

I am a balanced trainer. I believe that the dogs are best served from a training approach that utilizes both reward and consequence to give them the maximum amount of feedback on their behavior possible. There are many trainers these days who disagree with that approach and prefer to train using only rewards (and the consequence of no-reward) to train dogs.

I respect these other trainers for what they do, and I respect their opinions, but based on my experience, I cannot abandon my conviction that dogs, like humans, thrive on balance.

During my time with Suzanne this past Sunday, she brought up a conversation she had with a friend of hers who, very politely and professionally, disagrees with me. The comments of her friend were something to the effect of this:

"I understand that there may be some situations where dogs need to be corrected, but I am going to try very hard (and spend a lot of time) first to solve the problem with rewards-based training, before going that route."

A previous post of mine discussed some points about ethics in dog training and some research which showed that reward based-training isn't necessarily less stressful for a dog than a well

timed correction. This comment from her friend brought up another important discussion about ethics which I shared with Suzanne.

Again, the trainer here is drawing on the assumption that solving a dog's behavior issue with rewards only will always be inherently more humane/ethical than using reward and correction combined.

I disagree with this as a blanket statement and here's why:

When dogs are brought to a trainer due to behavior problems, those problems are typically having a ripple effect on both the dogs' and the humans' lives.

First and foremost, many of the behavior problems we see are the result of, or component of, the dog being under some amount of stress, duress, or anxiety. These are not 'happy' states for the dog to be under. I have an ethical obligation to help the dog come out of this state as quickly as possible.

Secondly, often due to behavior problems, the dog's life has become limited. Limited freedom, limited exercise, and limited socialization do not make for a healthy or happy life.

Third, these problems typically place a strain on the relationship between human and dog. Frustration, anger, and anxiety can drive a wedge between them. As inherently social creatures, I cannot help but believe that the dogs are negatively impacted by this social strain.

Fourth, let us not as professionals forget to take the stress and well being of the human into account. Humans are animals too, and as professional trainers we have an obligation to help the dog and human reach a better quality of life as quickly and effectively as possible.

Fifth, the reality is that we are dealing with families who often have limited time, limited

patience (usually their patience is already fading by the time they call me), limited training/handling skill, and limited finances (the longer it takes me to solve the problem, the more it will cost them). The unfortunate truth is that the more time it takes us to correct the problem, the more likely the family is to run out of money, or patience, and give up on the dog.

I feel I have an ethical obligation not allow any of these situations to continue any longer than necessary.

Now, with these considerations in mind, let's say someone brings in a dog with a behavior problem. I now have two options to consider:

1. I can get the dog and human to a better, more relaxed, less stressed place very quickly using a balanced approach, which involves everything good about reward-based training, plus added feedback of well-timed and tempered corrections, or
2. I can try to solve the problem using only rewards, no matter what it takes, limiting the

sources of feedback I am giving to the dog, and potentially spending a great deal of time (and the client's money) resolving the issue.

Which is more ethical?

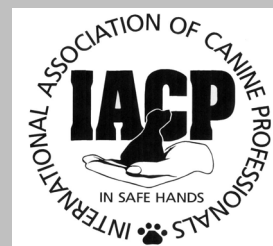
In my opinion, the clear choice is option #1.

If I were to select option #2, I would be allowing the dog and the human to exist in a perpetual state of stress, far longer than is necessary, costing the human more than necessary, and taking a significant risk that the goals will not be met before the human gives up (sometime because they have no choice).

You see, as professionals, we have far more to consider from an ethical standpoint than whether or not it is technically or theoretically possible to resolve a behavior issue with rewards only. **We must also consider whether it is realistic and possible for the family we are working with, and the potential consequences of our failure, or at least, lack of a timely solution.**



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The day after my conversation with Suzanne, I received an email from a potential client. The message read:

"I have a spayed female with aggression issues, especially on leash, and trying to bite the vet. I have been to other (positive) trainers but they either would not accept her as a client or gave up on her. I would like to know more about what K9 Connection could offer. After having watched many of your videos online, I think it would be worth a try with a different approach."

"You see Suzanne," I said, "I get emails like this everyday. The trainers locally who criticize me keep saying that they can do what I am doing with only rewards; but they're not doing it. I literally get hundreds of emails like this a year, no joke. The dogs are suffering."

Suzanne shook her head in disbelief.

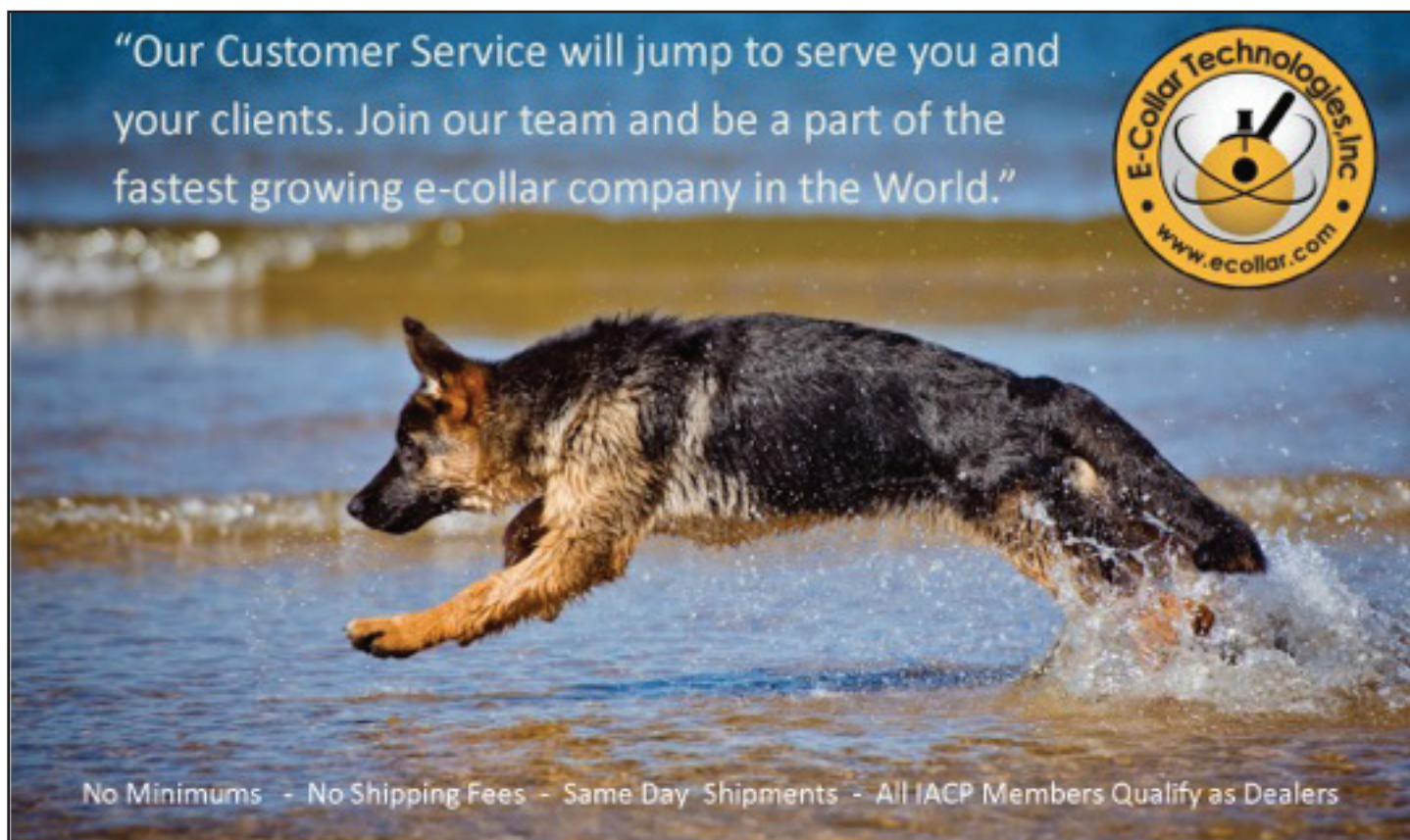
Later that day, a new client walked in. A young couple, Kelly and Mike, were referred to me by their veterinarian. They own two female pit bulls, who were utterly out of control, and had begun getting into very serious fights with each other.

The fights were serious enough to cause injuries that required veterinary attention, and dangerous. I had to get a handle on these dogs as quickly as possible for safety reasons.

In the waiting room, the dogs were exhibiting what the owners described as their usual behavior. They were sitting separated from each other (to prevent fighting), and were hyper, anxious, stressed, and pulling on the ends of their leashes, gasping for air. Their feet were clenched and nails were sliding across the floor as the dogs tried desperately to pull towards me, towards each other, towards Suzanne, towards everything. It was all that Kelly and Mike could do to hang on.

The dogs simply could not even go out into the world without being under an extreme amount of stress and anxiety. They could not go for walks together because it is when under this kind of stress that they are getting into fights. The other thing causing fights between them are resources, such as food.

I asked them to follow me back to my rear training room. Watching them attempt to walk the dogs through my building was awful. When we got to



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the room I said, "That was appalling. The first thing we have to do is get these two to calmly walk. This stress is triggering their fights, and they have to practice calmly walking side by side and controlling their impulses. Aggression," I explained, "is largely an impulse control issue."

I knew what I had to do. I ran to the back and grabbed two prong collars. Kelly said, "Yes, thank you!"

I fitted the dogs with the collars, and with each dog separately, introduced them to my trademark system of conversational leash work. My system does not involve any harsh or painful corrections. The leash and collar are used with a subtle pressure/release, correction/reinforcement to teach the dogs the boundaries and expectations of the exercise, in this case heeling.



By keeping the leash work simple, I was able to focus more of my time teaching Kelly and Mike how their energy, focus, and body language were affecting the dogs. My goal is to affect their entire way of being with their dogs, so they can be in a better position to influence the dogs' choices.

Within less than a half hour we had both dogs outside, walking perfectly calmly at each owners' side on a busy Niagara Street.

Then the big moment happened. I took the leash from Mike, and put it in Kelly's free hand. **For the first time ever, she was walking both her dogs together, on loose leashes.**

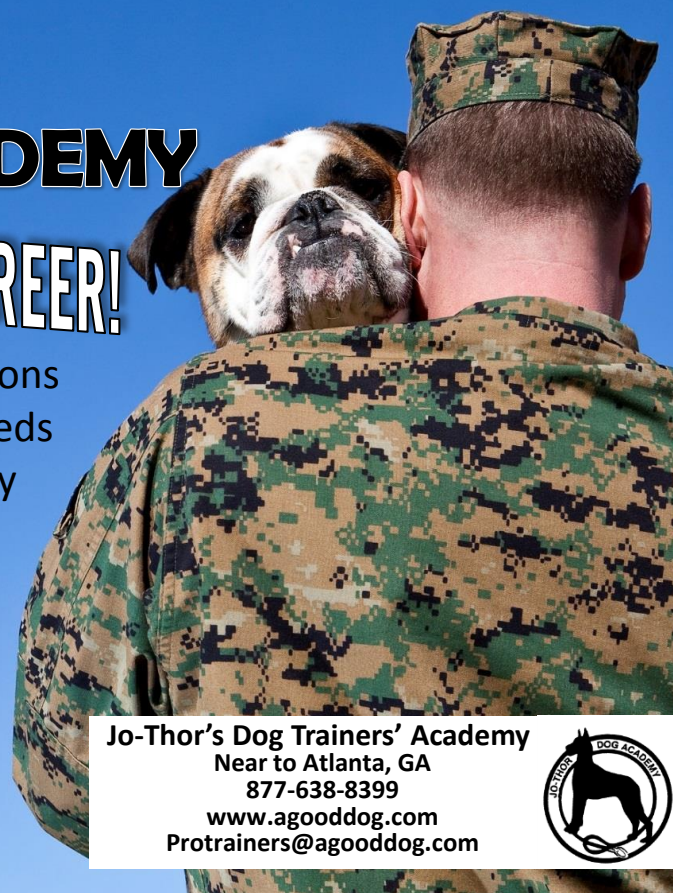
A man on a bicycle passed, she was in disbelief. Normally, she explained, bicycles would set the dogs off.

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We returned to the office, and the dogs were perfectly calm and relaxed. Their stress was gone. The humans had taken control, and the dogs accepted the new limits on their energy and behavior gracefully and without protest. The humans were calmer too, and expressed that they felt empowered and encouraged. They all left in a happy, calm and confident state, eager to continue our training the next week.

I turned to Suzanne. "I couldn't have accomplished that with rewards only, not in one session. Walking calmly is just a small piece of a very big puzzle with those two; I can't spend that much time on it if I want to realistically help them. It takes a long time to teach dogs to walk that calmly on leash with rewards-only training. And she certainly could not have walked both dogs herself. They fight over food, so the last thing I want to do is try to give them a treat while walking side by side. Now the owners have made huge progress, and everyone's life is going to get better right away. The dogs will get more exercise, which will make them less anxious and happier, and they are not in that constant state of anxiety anymore. There is

still a lot of work to do, but that was a great head start. Putting prong collars on them was the most humane thing I could have done. Others may disagree, but I will sleep well tonight."

"I have to admit," Suzanne said, "When I saw them in the waiting room I thought, 'holy cow!' I didn't know what you were going to be able to do with them."

Later that day I had a client drop off a dog to start a two-week Boot Camp program. She drove over four hours from Pennsylvania to bring the dog to me. The dog acts aggressively toward other dogs, including those in her own home. "I've tried everything," she said "you are my last hope, and if this doesn't work, I will have find her a new home. I love her, but I won't have much of a choice."

Here we go again. I have a duty to give it everything I've got. And I will.

Tyler is the owner and head trainer of K9 Connection in Buffalo, NY, a speaker, and a trainer of trainers. He is also the current Vice President of the IACP Board of Directors, and a brand-new father.

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Conference 2015 - St. Louis, MO

by Mailey McLaughlin, Editor

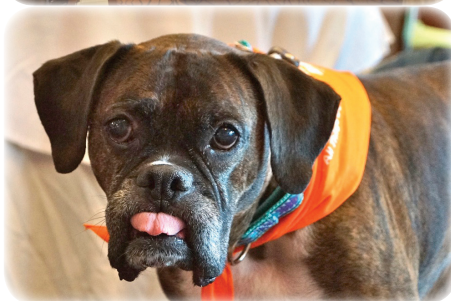
They came. They saw. They learned. They went home and Made Things Happen for the dogs in their care.

This is the story of a conference for canine professionals, a place where those who are open to the myriad of ways dogs learn learned as well.

IACP 2015 is in the history books now. We've all returned to our lives and our own dogs, our existing clients/students, and the exciting promise of future ones. Our heads are brimming with knowledge, and our hearts with the new friendships we have made. We have accepted dozens of Facebook friend requests, seen numerous posts about trips home and good times had, and felt a bit bereft that it all had to end.

No matter how you slice it, Conference is special. Sure, you learn new stuff. Yes, you get to see lots of dogs behaving excellently (ours is the only canine training organization that allows dogs at conference, something of which we are quite proud). Yes, you meet new friends and rekindle connections with old friends.

But it's the energy of the place that gets you revved up. It's the passion of the speakers to impart knowledge, and the openness with which that knowledge is received. There is meaning in those 5 days. And every year, it is just different



enough to help us renew and recharge.

From the first skills of canine CPR to the hypnotic effect of entertainer Randy Charach, you were the butts in the seats who made it all happen. More new attendees cut their teeth on this conference than ever before, and they saw some of the greats in the industry—Bart Bellon, Michael Ellis, Tyler Muto, Pam Martin, Dr. Allison Marshall, Brenda Aloff, Terrierman. You also got to see some rising stars, and some who have been at it a long time but aren't as well-known: Duke Ferguson, Jason Vasconi, Josh Moran, Brian Bergford, Heather Beck, Monica Davis, Melanie Benware, Mailey McLaughlin, Brad Strickland, Bill Creasy, Leslie Horton.

The Board wants to thank each and every attendee for what they brought to this year's event. We could not have done it without you. As President Hamm asked, please send us your feedback so that we know how

to make it even better in the future. Thank you, and put that knowledge to work!

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The Art of Tugging With Dogs

by Jay Jack

Now, with what I know and what I've seen, that word "tug" seems so utterly inadequate for the transformative ways you can interact with a dog using a tug toy. To me, now, the game is deep--nearly spiritual. And it can teach both people and dogs how to be together. One of my biggest influences, Ivan Balabanov, refers to it as "The Game." He doesn't say "tug" much when he's coaching. He says... "play." It took me years to catch the depth of that simple distinction. I will try to turn you onto the things I've learned.

Biological fulfillment

Dogs were built to hunt, kill, fight, and breed.

And...we let them do NONE of that.

Mental stress is caused by living in a way that is not congruent with your biology. But, we ask dogs to live a life devoid of their biologically appropriate behaviors every day. And that can cause stresses that can bleed out into other areas.

Clearly, we can't all just turn 'em loose and let them follow their nature. So, we do what all good trainers do. We find surrogate activities. Obedience. Agility. Nosework. Fetch. Endless miles on treadmills. The list goes on and on.

But tug, done well, can more directly fulfill those urges. Well, not the breeding one. But, you get my point.

They get to actually express their drives of hunting, fighting, killing. And it's glorious! Watching it done well is like watching animals play on the Discovery Channel. It's so natural. So perfect.

Relationship Building

Some people boil this down to functionalities, i.e., creating "Reward Events" that can be used in training, and creating "engagement" so you have a chance of seeming more interesting than the squirrel. But I see it deeper than that. I see it as

you sharing a game. Think about the bonding of sports teams. How "real" and "deep" that feels--just from playing a game. Hell, we send corporate types out into the woods to do "ropes courses" and similar nonsense. No one in accounting needs to be able to build a hut with their co-workers. But the "bigwigs" know that those games, those experiences, create bonds that transcend the woods and carry over into the corporate world. It's the same with "The Game." The bond that is created is deeper than just making a "thing" to give them for working. Done well, it bonds you together, deeply, with trust, and confidence in one another.

"Team" Development

Most people would call it deference, or obedience. It could be considered that. Not only does tug not create aggression, and opposition in dogs, but done right, it can create deep deference--but not the bullied, scared deference of heavy aversive training. I like to think about it as a sports team. I need to be the quarterback. My teammates need to listen, but, we feel like teammates! Not like I'm "The Warden." We play the game together! This is where they learn that letting me make the calls makes the game MORE fun! This really lets us stay as far away from compulsion as possible. Esoteric stuff aside, this is also where we will learn the actual language of training. This language will carry over into all training, not just games. But this is the process that it becomes our shared language. When we navigate the world, we will use the language learned in the game. even in emergencies. Markers. Bridges. Conditioned secondary whosiwhatsits--whatever you call them, this is where you build them.

Body Language Fluency

So, even though this is how you will teach them verbal language, in the beginning, anyway, body

language drives the game. I actually focus on that, and have people play the game entirely non-verbally. Even without that focus, in the early stages, BOTH the dog and the human have to become fluent in body language.

The dog is responsible for reading your body language. And yes, that is one of the HUGE reasons I recommend the game for teaching the dogs how to be at liberty. A dog that learns how to read humans, and is conditioned to respond appropriately, is a joy to live with. I even find that it has an effect in dog/dog social skills. In the game, Stillness is a definite signal for the cessation of activity. This is one of the first canine signals in conflict. Dogs that understand this signal, and what it means, have a better chance of navigating situations without inadvertent escalations. This is one of the places that I diverge from the world of bite work. Bite Sport dogs need to be weaned off of dependence on body language. After all, they can't let go when the decoy "stops." But, for pet dogs, I keep them responsive to body language. It

can have profound effects on their livability. This is important to me. The standard I was given by my main teacher Chad Mackin was that I'm not done till I can trust them at liberty. This is a big part of how I do that.

There's another side to the body language responsibility coin. And that is the human's responsibility to body language. Becoming proficient in tug necessitates that you be very clear in your body language. This clarity of body language can have HUGE effects on your ability to communicate and handle dogs outside of the game. This effect is SO profound that, in my martial arts academy, when I run into people that are scared of my dogs, I break out the toy and have them shut their mouth, and play the game. They are given three simple instructions. If you want them to bite, move quickly. If you want them not to bite, move slowly. If you want them to stop, stand still. After 2 minutes of playing, they are not only much more confident, but their ability to interact with ALL dogs goes up exponentially. The

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next time they approach one of my dogs, they behave with a fluency WELL beyond their “time” in dogs.

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Toggle

This is a word I got from another one of my big influences, Kayce Cover. She uses it to refer to the switch between arousal, and relaxation. And, as a student of her method of Conditioned Relaxation, I have a keen appreciation for methods that can work synergistically with it. When I finally “saw” the depth of the game, I knew right away, that it would fit perfectly. Played well, it doesn’t just “cap” drive. It can get dogs fluent in full emotional self regulation. In fact, one of the main ways I begin working dogs into understanding the toggle in Conditioned Relaxation is through the game.

Behavior Modification

I use Tug in behavior modification! Not only does it give them an outlet, an appropriate place to put those drives, but, it can finally fulfill them. It can reduce their base layer of stress, and stop it from bleeding out into other areas. And, because of the deference-building and relationship-building properties, it can stop a myriad of issues that arise from flaws in those areas. The body language fluency, and ability to “cap,” or lower drive on cue, actually gives them a chance at self control in social situations. It is one of the most powerful rehabilitation tools I know. It’s NOT just a game. It’s like Martial Arts for dogs. It’s a “violent” looking

activity, but, it teaches discipline, and self control, and respect. And it can lead to profound changes. (I needed the same thing. If I didn’t wrestle, and lift heavy stuff every day, I would kill someone in traffic.) Martial Arts saved my life. It made me a better person. I give that same life raft to the dogs—with a tug toy!

Now that I’ve gotten you all fired up to investigate, or, for most of you, RE-investigate this game, the question remains: how? That will be the subject of the next article in this spot. If you just play in “random” ways, you will get “random” results. To get the deep benefits, you have to have a deep game! We will talk about ways of giving your game more depth, and versatility. We will also talk about problem solving some of the common sticking points.

Go and think about how tug might be able to transform the dogs you work with, and I’ll teach you how in more detail next issue.

Jay Jack is the author of the blog Three Bad Bullys, an accomplished MMA fighter, and a martial arts nerd. His love of bully breeds began as a child, and he continues to find ways to increase the relationship between dogs and owners through private lessons and instructor training on tug and other activities. He lives in Portland, ME.

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A Comparison of Training Methods Between Dogs And Horses

by Marlenia Richardson

My thirteen year old daughter Grace works and rides at Red Horse Ranch. She attended a four-day Trick Horse Camp taught by Sue De Laurentis and Allen Pogue of Imagine a Horse. Sue De Laurentis graciously extended me a professional courtesy seat, as I would be driving Grace to camp daily any way. It may seem odd to think of training horses and training dogs as using the same principles. After all horses, are prey and dogs are predators, but bear with me (pun intended).

Sue and I began sharing similarities in training horses and dogs one day as I watched her work a lovely but very self-entitled Arabian mare who had been to a number of trainers before Sue (I think the count was five). The mare was a flashy copper colored horse who sparkled in the sunlight and won in the show ring but could not trailer, ran over handlers, and was dangerous to ride. After a vet and shoeing check, Sue patiently worked her in a harness for yielding. It made me think of the long lines, slip collars and pinch collars dog trainers use. The actual work reminded me of Dick Russell's yielding, rolled up with long line work by Marc Goldberg, Mary Mazzeri and Martin Deeley, applied to horses. This horse tried several evasions, and Sue worked her about 20 minutes. I laughed out loud because this horse was doing everything a dog will do to avoid working with her handler--pulling or barging over the handler, and just outright refusal. The horse had just earned a good girl and a rub from Sue when she decided to barge again. It was incredible--I saw the horse's eyes go from soft to hard and watched her make the decision to bully the human on the ground all over again.

Naturally, this was the end of the day and Sue was tired, but back to work they went for another 20 minutes at least. I was laughing because I had many a time done the same thing. The training principles of "end on a good note" and "end on the trainer's terms" came to mind. Sue and I shared a good laugh at how similar our respective work is. And, yes, this mare can trailer now and my daughter can lead her safely to and from the pens.

That day made me begin to think about the similarities of our work--everything from trainers that do not follow through and get the real foundation on the animal, to misunderstood, or misused, tools and equipment. I also thought about owner/animal mismatches and how food rewards have moved from reward to indiscriminate feedings that reinforce the wrong behavior. My thoughts were confirmed when I attended Trick Horse Camp.

One of the unique training aspects of Sue and her husband Allen Pogue is that they both use food in training and are teamed up with Manna Pro to do instructional videos on how to train horses with food rewards. Most of the folks I know in horses do not use food rewards because they do it incorrectly and just like with dogs the outcome is an animal that mugs humans for food. This behavior is dangerous in horses and many dogs. Sue is very strict about food rewards and corrections for mugging behavior. She uses the phrase "cookie time" as a marker to let the horse know that it is correct and a reward



is coming. The method is exactly the same for dogs--mark and reward to train that the marker has meaning. I use the word "good" as a marker. Many other dog trainers use "yes" or a clicker. Now the horse or the dog knows when the reward is coming.

Sue and Allen believe in shaping small behaviors to get to the goal. It is a process that, just like dog training, has no short cuts. The foundation must be solid in both horses and dogs. They also believe in incremental work to condition the horse so it is strong and flexible enough to do the more advanced tricks. They refer to some of the tricks as horse yoga. Sue will tell you "there are categories of tricks, each appealing to different aspects of personality with specific mental, emotional and physical benefits to a horse." (Captain Haggerty's trick books for dogs also make this point; in one book, he has a several-page chart breaking out the dog breed to the suitability of particular tricks in his book.) In both the horse and dog world, some animals do not have the conformation to do certain tricks, and it is harmful to try.

Allen is excellent at raising foals and uses his own method, Enhanced Foal Training, for imprinting work. How many of us also use a puppy rearing method that imprints dogs to humans? Alan and Sue believe this foundation creates a horse that bonds and trusts humans. Foals at their barn do gentle progressive tricks like stand on a platform to get fed and then go to that platform when sent (it looks like a giant placeboard). Allen is also installing an off switch in the foals--sounds just like a place command for dogs. I certainly believe that early puppy work done by the breeder is pivotal work for creating a human oriented dog that is confident and not afraid of the normal home environment rather than

leaving it to chance that a dog will have a pleasant temperament.

Another strong similarity is the use of tools. Just as "shock" collars are seen as cruel by the general public, so are horse whips. Sue and Allen believe in calling them guiders and they are used to extend the arm of the trainer. Dog trainers call it our tools e-collars in an attempt to educate the public as well as take some of the emotion out of the words.

The number and types of tricks Sue and Allen teach horses are amazing, but also similar to tricks we teach to dogs. They have a place command (the pedestal), picking up and holding objects, waving, and retrieve--just to name a few of the similar ones.



The advertisement is split into two main sections. The left section has a blue background with the PetSafe logo at the top, which includes the text "SAFE PETS" and "HAPPY OWNERS". Below the logo is the tagline "protect. teach. love." and a large white text block that reads "PetSafe brand is proud to be an IACP Sponsor!". At the bottom of this section is the website "PetSafe.net". The right section features a close-up photograph of a fluffy Bernese Mountain Dog puppy with black, white, and tan markings, sitting in green grass.

As a dog trainer, I teach that we train for the day we need to save a dog's life. A good sit command is always better than chasing a dog and hoping it does not run into oncoming traffic. The recall is also a life saver and makes it much more pleasant to be with a dog. Sue and Allen use training for the same purposes. It results in a calmer horse by using the horse's body and mind. They gave the example of a trailer accident: a trick-trained horse will trust its handler and move only when given a command, which will make it easier to safely free the horse or allow vet help. The whole process is safer for the horse and human. Trained dogs, of course, are calmer, accept handling, and are so much safer at the vet.

Sue and Alan emphasized your energy or intent in working with horses can make or break a training session. Many times I have said to owners and new trainers "if you are upset, angry or down, don't train because the emotion goes straight through the leash to your dog." Sue and Alan also believe in the energy or intent you bring to training sessions is going to transmit straight to the horse and mixed signals spell disaster in horse training.

Animals that are stressed are not learning. Sue and Allen are masters at using movement to decrease stress or to improve focus. Repetition is also part of the technique. If a horse shows signs of stress, they trot the horse around the training area a time or two, then ask again. This is repeated until the horse makes that small step toward the training goal. As the horse practices the same request, focus on the task increases. The same technique works for dogs, of course. If a dog is not making

progress and starting to stress, I just do a little heeling to relax the dog then try the new task again and reward small progress. I have found the best dog or horse trainers not only train the animal but are respectful enough to learn what the animal has to teach us. Both Sue and Allen believe each horse teaches us something.

Another interesting similarity that Sue and I came to is the mismatched animal and owner. We see it in the dog world all the time--a frail, elderly person gets a massive dog that drags them down the street. The couch potato gets a Border Collie because it's such a pretty dog. Sue sees the beginning rider get a young racehorse (read: I have one speed--really fast). All of these are disasters in the making. It raises the question of how trainers can prevent or mitigate these situations.

Why is this all important? When we examine other styles of training, we think about the how and why of our own methods and become more solid in our training. Also, animal trainers need to support each other with best practices to counter some of the beliefs that all animal training is cruel. We can improve training by sharing methods that may work for a number of animals or help with difficult cases with fresh perspectives. And, finally, it is just plain fun to see good training on any animal.

Marlenia Richardson is the owner and head trainer at Pup to Dog Training in Austin, TX. A longtime IACP member, she is involved with the Gifted Animal Placement Program, which helps find shelter dogs for Law Enforcement and Service Dog work. Marlenia also trains seizure assistance dogs.

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Moving With Your Dog

by Melanie Benware

Have you ever undertaken a move to a new home? I'm not talking about a move across town or even a move across the country. I'm talking a move halfway around the world.

Last year, my husband was offered a position in Ireland, and although we were very excited about this opportunity, our first thoughts went to the dogs. How would we get them there? What is renting like with 4 big dogs? Will they need to quarantine? Those are just a few of more than a dozen questions that ran through my mind.

The first thing we did was hire a company to coordinate the move. We had a contact in the US and one in Ireland. The guy in the states was in charge of making sure we were in compliance with the airline and US laws for transporting animals. The guy in Ireland was overseeing all the details for importing the dogs into the country. If one thing goes wrong....our dogs either do not leave the U.S. or get to Ireland--only to be shipped back!

I will first say that all four of my dogs are with me now, happy and settled into our new home. However, our move was less than smooth.

Let's start with the Health Certificates and required vaccinations. The health certificate that needs to be signed by the USDA is only good for 10 days, and the dogs must be wormed within at least 24 hours before arriving in Ireland, but not to exceed 5 days before. My vet had to fill out paperwork for the USDA as well as for the Irish government. Ireland is a rabies-free country, so every dog that is imported must have a rabies vaccine given AFTER their microchip and at least 21 days prior to entering the country. I was not made aware of the importance of the microchip being done before the rabies vaccine, so 7 days before we are supposed to fly I get a call from our man in Ireland say-

ing Mongo, our German Shepherd, is not within compliance because his Rabies was done before the microchip. I will admit I had a small emotional breakdown, and long story short, our man in Ireland was able to pull some strings. Mongo could still fly; however, he had to be revaccinated and spend 2 weeks in quarantine in Ireland. Looking back on it, it could have been worse, but a 2-year-old German Shepherd coming straight off the plane and going right into quarantine resulted in a very anxious and energized dog at the end of those two weeks. It took me a couple of months to get him back to normal.

Flying the dogs over posed another set of obstacles. Airlines are very specific as to the size a crate needs to be for each dog that flies. After sending measurements of the dogs' lengths, widths and heights (both standing and sitting), it was determined that three of the crates would need to be custom built. The dogs do fly in cargo, and because they are not put with the rest of the luggage, but rather in a special area, space is limited. That meant that the four dogs would need to fly on two separate flights because the crates were so large. As I stated before, I have big dogs. The Lab mix went in a regular 700 series plastic kennel, but the GSD, the Bull Mastiff and the Boerboel went in the custom built crates that are best described as something you would ship a wild animal in from Madagascar!

These wooden crates were 2 ½ feet wide, 3 ½ feet tall, almost 5 feet deep, and weighed almost 200 pounds! Once the dogs were added, they were so heavy that they had to be moved with a forklift. I chose to have the Shepherd and the Boerboel fly first on the same flight as me and the Lab mix and Bull Mastiff would fly the following day. Myself and the first two dogs took off without a hitch, but a bad snow storm hit the



east coast and delayed the other two to fly by two days. Luckily, I have great friends who were willing to watch the dogs and bring them back to the airport.

Upon our arrival in Ireland, a vet met us at the airport to do a microchip scan and sign off on all the paperwork. At this point, the GSD had been in his crate for 12 hours, but because he had to go to quarantine he was not allowed out of his crate. He had to be loaded onto a van and transported straight to the quarantine facility. We were able to follow them and watch the unloading process and were allowed one visit in the two weeks. The other three were released straight to us and brought to their new home.

To make things as smooth as possible for them, they were each rubbed down with Lavender oil, we put bedding from home in the crates (also spritzed with lavender oil) and they were given Melatonin to help keep them calm. Due to breed laws, Mongo (GSD) and Bogart (Bull Mastiff) are required to wear muzzles when we are out in public. Leading up to the move, I had purchased their

muzzles and worked with them so they were comfortable being muzzled. The month after arrival was spent training and exercising in order to get them back on track. For the most part they all transitioned very well and easily. Mari, our 13 year old Lab mix, still will not let me out of her sight, even 8 months after the move, and Mongo required a bit of a reboot after he came out of quarantine. This was one of the most stressful ordeals I have ever dealt with, but leaving my dogs behind was not an option! I have learned a lot from this move and things will go much smoother when we move back to the States in a few years.

In short, do your homework as soon as you find out that you are moving! Get all necessary paperwork and vaccinations in order, and prepare for the worst. Set your dogs up for success.

Melanie is Dog Training Coordinator/Consultant for Holiday Barn Pet Resort in Richmond, VA, though she and her husband and all of their huge dogs have relocated temporarily to Dublin, Ireland for her husband's job. She is on the Board of Directors for IACP.

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Critical Thinking

by Mailey McLaughlin, M.Ed., CDTA/PDTI, Editor

"Love was the first to dream of immortality, — not Religion, not Revelation. We love, therefore we wish to live. The hope of immortality is the great oak 'round which have climbed the poisonous vines of superstition. The vines have not supported the oak, the oak has supported the vines. As long as men live and love and die, this hope will blossom in the human heart." ~Robert W. Ingersoll

Have you ever contemplated your own death? Human beings are the only species with this capability. Not only can we imagine hundreds, if not thousands, of ways we could eventually perish, we are the only species who understands that we will one day cease to exist.

Everyone has, at one time or another, contemplated the cessation of their existence, and what it would mean to those left behind. This is such a human activity that we cannot not do it. I'm not trying to be gruesome here. I am not talking about death as an activity, but as a concept. Don't think of a horror flick, or blood and gore, but of the idea of disappearing as a human being, and how that will matter. Because it will, hugely.

It will matter to your family and your friends, your business associates, your clients/students, the community in which you live. It would very likely matter more if it happens tomorrow than if it happens when you have already lived a full life and are elderly (this assumes the reader is not currently on the brink of death). It's always shocking to lose those who have not yet finished what they have begun, and even more so if we lose those who haven't even really had a chance to begin. It's incredibly sad. Heartbreaking. Numbing.

Rather than create anxiety or fear in you, this missive is meant to inspire you to begin, if you haven't already, creating your legacy. First of all, all that we have is Now. This moment. Instinctively, because you are human, you know this, but you forget it hundreds of times a day.

I am exhorting you not to forget it. Remember it, not to depress yourself, or become so fearful that you are afraid to leave the house, but to make you leave the house. No one else can build a legacy for you. The job is uniquely yours, and there is no time to waste. Whether it be your offspring, or your name and accomplishments, or both, that carry on after you are gone, make it unforgettable.

You owe it to the world. Build your talent, and your dream. Put yourself out there, because at some point, you will no longer have the chance to.

Mailey, The Pooch Professor, is Editor of SafeHands Journal and currently co-Vice President of the IACP. She has worked professionally with dogs and their people for over 30 years, holds a Masters in Education, is a CDTA and PDTI through IACP, and is Behavior and Training Manager for the Atlanta Humane Society. Read more at www.carpek9.blogspot.com.

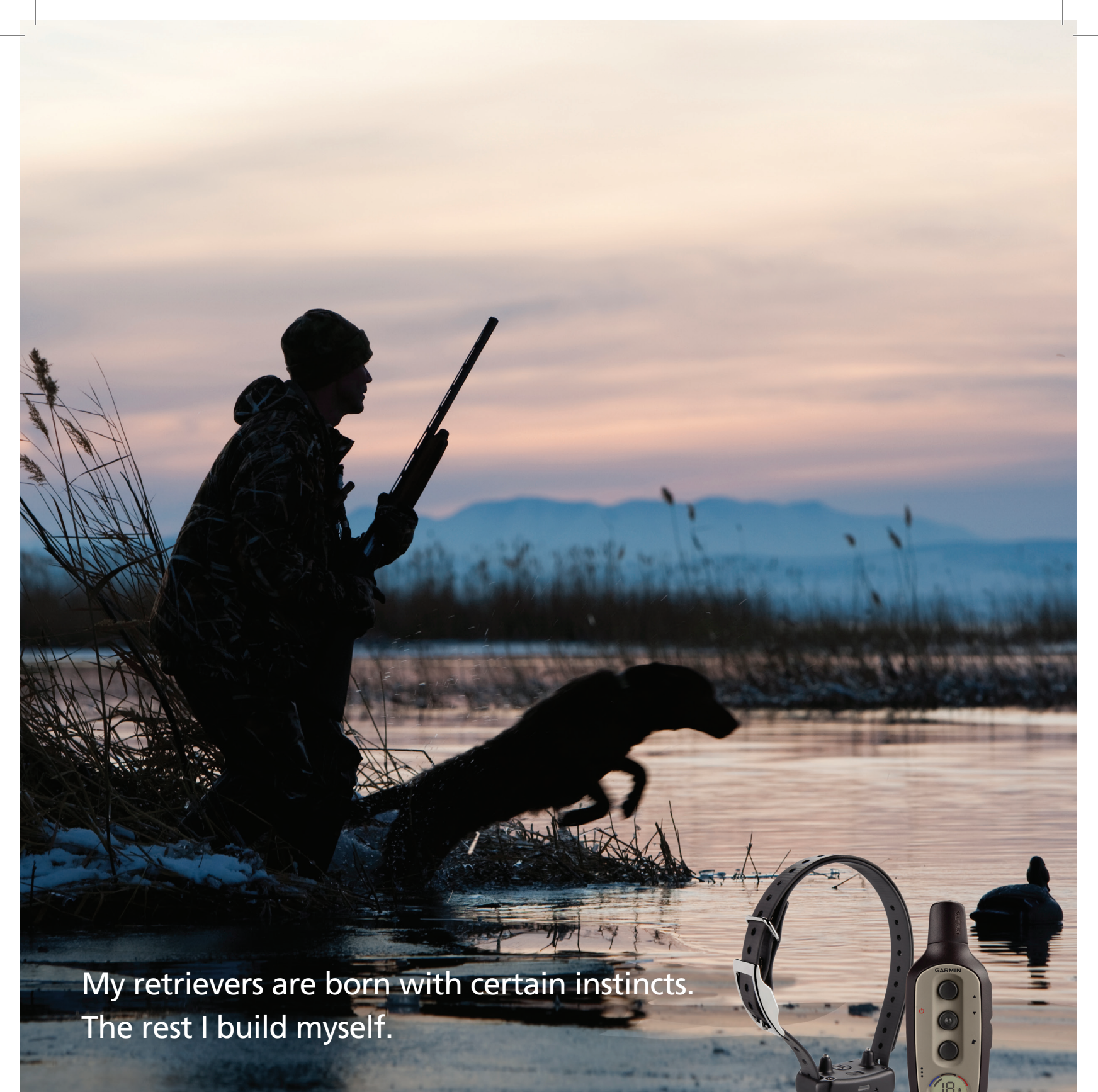
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