

# IACP

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS

## SAFEHANDS JOURNAL



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

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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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### International Association of Canine Professionals

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## Want to be published? Here's your chance!

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

## PHOTO Submissions welcome, too!



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# President's Letter

by James Hamm

The first half of 2015 has been an interesting time for the IACP. The organization has already exceeded its projected growth for the year, bumping to 1700 members as of mid-June. Many of our members, including Directors, have been featured speakers, presenters and trainers on television, radio and the web. The ongoing standardization issues in the Therapy Dog realm still have our full attention, with our leading members responding quickly, making adjustments and continuing to provide exceptional support to pet owners and the canine industry. Our partnership with PETT is growing exponentially and our ability to impact the industry as a whole has grown significantly over the last 12 months and annual elections are coming upon us to select Directors.

The Annual Education and Training Conference is quickly approaching and I am very excited at the potential and promise of this year's event. It is the annual centerpiece of the organization, and this year's conference will be the biggest and best in the IACP's history. The 2015 lineup of speakers is the largest and most extraordinary we have ever offered. Speakers are coming in from Belgium, Canada, Scotland and the United States. The range and variety of topics will cover a full spectrum of canine disciplines. In addition to the largest list of primary speakers, we have also expanded our "Dinner Chats," so your professional development no longer ends at 5pm--it goes well into the night. More vendors and industry representatives will be on hand than we have ever had at an annual conference for you to check out. The St. Louis location provides International

Airport convenience, the comforts of a major hotel complex, and expansive indoor and outdoor training space for all scheduled activities. Food, shopping and nightlife are all available on site. It is a new location for the second consecutive year for all of us and I am excited to see the Gateway city first hand.

The IACP and its programs and benefits are here for you. Membership always has its direct benefits for signing up and carrying the card. This year's conference will give you more bang for the buck and intangibles than ever before. It will broaden your knowledge, help you take charge of your career, and build your credentials. You will enhance your personal and professional network, make new friends, and stay inspired and motivated. You will have direct contact with speakers, presenters, industry and the IACP leadership throughout the event. The conference will also provide you with the opportunity to become a leader, a mentor and an influential force in the organization, and outside of it as a representative or ambassador.

The Board of Directors and I look forward to seeing and serving all of you at the Conference and the rest of the year. We are progressing on several projects in Education, Member Benefits, Certification, Training, and Standardization to further enhance your IACP experience. We appreciate your support of the organization that supports you, and we will continue to grow and strengthen the base we were built upon.

Respectfully,

*James Hamm*

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**Canine First Aid/CPR Class (certification on completion) - Added Fee, Limited to 40 per class**

**Jack Clark - IACP Treasurer on Business/Tax**

**Brad Strickland - The Dogs Are The Easy Part**

**White Paper Contest Winners - Two Winners Present**

**James Hamm - IACP President - Keynote Speaker**

**Thursday, 9/17**

**Dr. Allison Faber - Canine Movement & Gait Analysis**

**Bill Creasy - Training a DAD Start to Finish**

**Mark Hines - Kong - Topic TBD**

**Bart Bellon - NePoPo Training Method (1pm - 6pm)**

**Friday, 9/18**

**Bill Creasy / Mark Hines Seminars Repeat**

**How Being Involved with Rescues Builds Your Business - A Panel Discussion**

**Duke Ferguson - The Art of Attention**

**Tyler Muto & Josh Moran - Standard Deviation: The Importance of Aiming for Unreachable Ideals**

**Pam Martin - Catch This!**

**Leslie Horton - Introduction to Skill Training for Service Dog Public Access**

**Brenda Aloff - Communication with Your Canine: Understanding the Native Language of the Domestic Dog**

**Friday Dinner & A Speaker (Added Fee - Limited Space)**

**Behesha Doan - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD): The Need for a Paradigm Shift in Training**

**Nelson Hodges - Working with Fearful and Feral Dogs: Gaining Trust**

**Tod McVicker - Being Authentic**

**Sarah Wilson - Using Oxytocin Awareness to Increase Your Effectiveness**

**Saturday, 9/19**

**Brother Christopher & Marc Goldberg - The Other 23 Hours: What to Do When NOT Training Your Dog**

**Jason Vasconi - Large Field Dog Socialization: An Efficient Path to Fulfillment**

**Pam Martin / Josh Moran & Tyler Muto Seminars Repeat**

**Michael Ellis - Topic TBD**

**Patrick Burns "Terrier Man" - Mirrors, Frames and a New Set of Glasses**

**Randy Charach - Mind Flow: Gain Control Over Your Inner Thoughts & Achieve Greater Productivity & Happiness**

# Dogs Can Identify Liars—and They Don't Trust Them

## by Dr. Stanley Coren

*Editor's note: This article was previously posted on Dr. Coren's blog on the **Psychology Today** website. It is being reprinted here with permission from the author.*

One of the delights of watching the behavior of young dogs is the way that they approach almost every human being in a trusting and friendly manner. The same applies for young human children, who enter into social interactions with the idea that every human adult is trustworthy and has their best interests at heart. Of course, over time, the human child will learn that some people are more reliable and worthy of trust than others.

New data shows that the same holds for dogs.

It now seems clear that if you frequently lie to dogs, they lose their trust in you and begin to act as if they can no longer rely on the information that you give them.

In a pair of studies published in the journal *Animal Cognition*, a team led by Akiko Takaoka of Kyoto University in Japan showed that dogs will only use information and follow commands from people who have a track record of being trustworthy.

The first study involved 24 dogs and relied on the fact that dogs will reliably go in the direction that a human being points to. Two opaque containers were presented to the dog—under one of which was hidden a bit of food. In the first phase, a researcher pointed toward the container that had the food concealed inside; as expected, the dogs ran to that one and got the reward. The second phase was designed to show that this human was no longer trustworthy. Now, while the dog watched, the researcher showed that one of the containers had food under it while the other did not. However, just before the dog was released, the person pointed toward the empty container and encouraged the dog to go to it. The final phase was a repeat of the first part of the test,

with the dogs being shown two containers and the experimenter again correctly pointing toward the one which had the concealed bait.

The results were quite dramatic: In the first phase, the dogs showed their usual trust of all people and the majority went to the container that the researcher pointed to. However, in the final phase, the dogs showed that they had apparently learned that the researcher was untrustworthy, and only 8 percent reliably went in the direction that he pointed to.

Did the dogs learn that all people are unreliable in this task, or that only this particular person is a liar? Previous research has shown that dogs make judgments about the personality and behavior of specific people, and do not generalize to all people. Thus, dogs learn to pick out those people who are selfish and those who are not. So the researchers repeated the experiment with a new group of 26 dogs. The first two parts of the study were the same as in the initial experiment—thus, in the first phase the experimenter reliably pointed to the baited container, and in the second phase showed the dog which container contained the piece of food, but then pointed to the empty one in order to prove his unreliability. The trick in this second study was that in the final phase the “liar” was removed and a new experimenter, previously unknown to the dog, replaced him for testing. Now the dogs proved that they had not lost faith in all humans but only in the one who had been shown to be untrustworthy. They did this by once again acting reliably on the information provided by the pointing of the new person and going to where he pointed.

In an interview with the BBC, Takaoka said that this means that dogs can use their experience with particular human beings to determine whether they can be trusted. She noted that she was surprised that the dogs “devalued the reliability

of a human" so quickly, and went on to say, "Dogs have more sophisticated social intelligence than we thought. This social intelligence evolved selectively in their long life history with humans." In other words, while dogs interact with human beings, they also try to determine the nature and personality characteristics of each person. They use this information to predict the future behavior of specific people, and adjust their behavior accordingly.

This kind of judgment about the reliability and trustworthiness of people seems to be a rather sophisticated matter, at least in human beings. A study conducted by a team of researchers led by Kimberly Vanderbilt of the University of California, San Diego, used preschool-aged children. They found that even after they had been shown that some people were untrustworthy, 3-year-olds tended to accept the advice of the known liars to the same degree as from the truthful people. Four-year-olds were more skeptical but were still accepting advice from the unreliable people, and only the 5-year-olds systematically preferred the

information from the more trustworthy person. So the fact that dogs, who are usually credited with having mental abilities similar to a human 2- to 3-year-old child, can make this kind of discrimination reliably is somewhat surprising.

In any event, this research shows that dogs keep track of whether people lie or tell the truth, and use these memories to determine whether they can trust particular humans and the information they get from them.

*Stanley Coren, PhD., DSc., FRSC, is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Psychology at the University of British Columbia. He is best known to the public for his popular books on dogs and on general psychological issues; however, within the scientific world he is also a highly respected scientist, having done research in a wide range of psychological areas. He continues to be involved in various types of dog obedience competition and his various dogs have won many titles for their performance. He also teaches dog obedience with the non-profit Vancouver Dog Obedience Training Club. A full length biography of him can be found in Wikipedia.*

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# Why Can't We All Just Get Along?

by Jason Vasconi

I am getting more and more phone calls each year regarding dogs under one roof who got along for a period of time, but have recently started fighting. From what I can tell, the fighting is caused by several issues, like having a large amount of dogs, spoiling them, and doing nothing to fulfill their needs. The owners are, most commonly, giving these dogs an over-indulgence of their love and affection. Movies, TV shows, internet and social media could encourage a lot of this behavior also. I find that the fighting is most commonly caused by putting multiple, unfulfilled dogs under one roof and loading them up with responsibilities to the point that the weight of the load they're carrying around is so heavy, it has them stressed out and pressured to the point where they feel they need to compete and fight. This is something that can build up and layer over time. It could take dogs weeks, months, and even years before they actually fight or attack.

In order to fix any horrible fighting situation, you need to start at the root of the problem and fix the dogs internally. You have to meet their expectations and fulfill their lives and make them happy. This is done through a lifestyle change. You have to set the dogs up for success and give them a chance to reach their full potential. Fulfilled and satisfied dogs are less likely to fight.

Here are the three activities the owner should strive to achieve in order to reach the goal of fulfilling their dogs and set them up for success:

**\*\*This is the time to start getting the dogs or dog comfortable with wearing a muzzle if you feel it may come in handy later on.**

**On-Leash Walks** – This activity is done with the dog mostly using its brain. The dog should walk with a loose leash and shoulders even with your hip. The owner is controlling pace, direction, and when they stop and move. The owner and the dogs are walking as a team, but the owner is the coach. These walks build trust, respect, and a rapport between the owner and their dog. This puts the owner in a position to prove he is worthy of making important decisions while the dogs are under pressure, and that they can work together while following their coach's guidance. This will also help the dogs learn impulse control and how to be better at controlling their emotions. It also acts as an exhaust for the pressure cooker the owner created back at home.

**Off-Leash Walks** – Getting reliable control of the dogs without a leash is always a goal. Roaming at liberty as a pack feels natural to dogs. It makes them feel good. It puts the dogs in a position to succeed by giving them a chance to be together in a natural state of being. The dogs having the choice to use distance to communicate is essential for them to establish clear communication. Stimulating their nose and eyes while honing their pack drive can create a bonding experience. It also helps them with impulse control and helps them gain control of their emotions. Use the muzzles as necessary for safety. The dogs should be somewhat comfortable wearing them at this point.

**Controlling Things of Value** – So if stress leads to fights, the owner should have a couple of goals in mind:



- a. To take as much stress as possible out of the dogs and their environment, and
- b. To put the dogs in a position to learn how to cope with the pressure, stress, and anxiety better, including how to make better decisions when things are tough. Good decisions include walking away or giving an appropriate warning.

The owner has to break the pressure cooker they have created within their home. Dogs can be very possessive inside the house, and dog owners fuel it by trying to make the dogs happy by giving them access to the things and spaces they enjoy and find value in. Doorways, food and toys, furniture, the owners' space and affection, and even the dogs' personal space are things dogs can become possessive over. This can lead dog owners down a path they do not want to go. This path starts when:

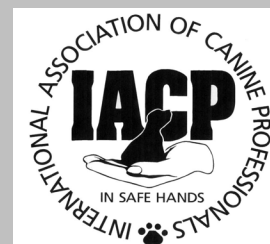
- The dogs find value in a person, place, or object.
- The dogs have access to person, place, or object whenever they desire.
- They become possessive over a person, place, or object.
- Once the dogs have possessed person, place, or object, it becomes their responsibility.
- Responsibilities lead to stress, pressure, and anxiety.
- Eventually the dogs reach their threshold and lash out.

Here are the five rules that the owners can apply around the house to relieve their dogs from most responsibilities:

1. Keep the dogs off the furniture , as dogs take value in high up, comfortable places.
2. Gain control of the dogs around open doors, as dogs may compete to see who can be the first one into or out of the house.



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3. Have control over feeding times and toys, as these are objects dogs will compete over often.
4. Make the dogs get out of your way (yield to you). Don't walk around them. Dogs can become sensitive about their personal space.
5. Determine when the dogs receive your affection and control the space around you. Dogs will hold a lot of value in this and may compete over it often.

These rules will help take the stress out of dogs and strip them of most home responsibilities. The structured environment takes away most things for the dogs to compete over, thus setting the dogs up for success. Making sure the dogs fully understand and follow these rules before putting them back together while at liberty inside is important. Muzzles may be needed at this point for safety. The dogs should be somewhat comfortable wearing them by this point.

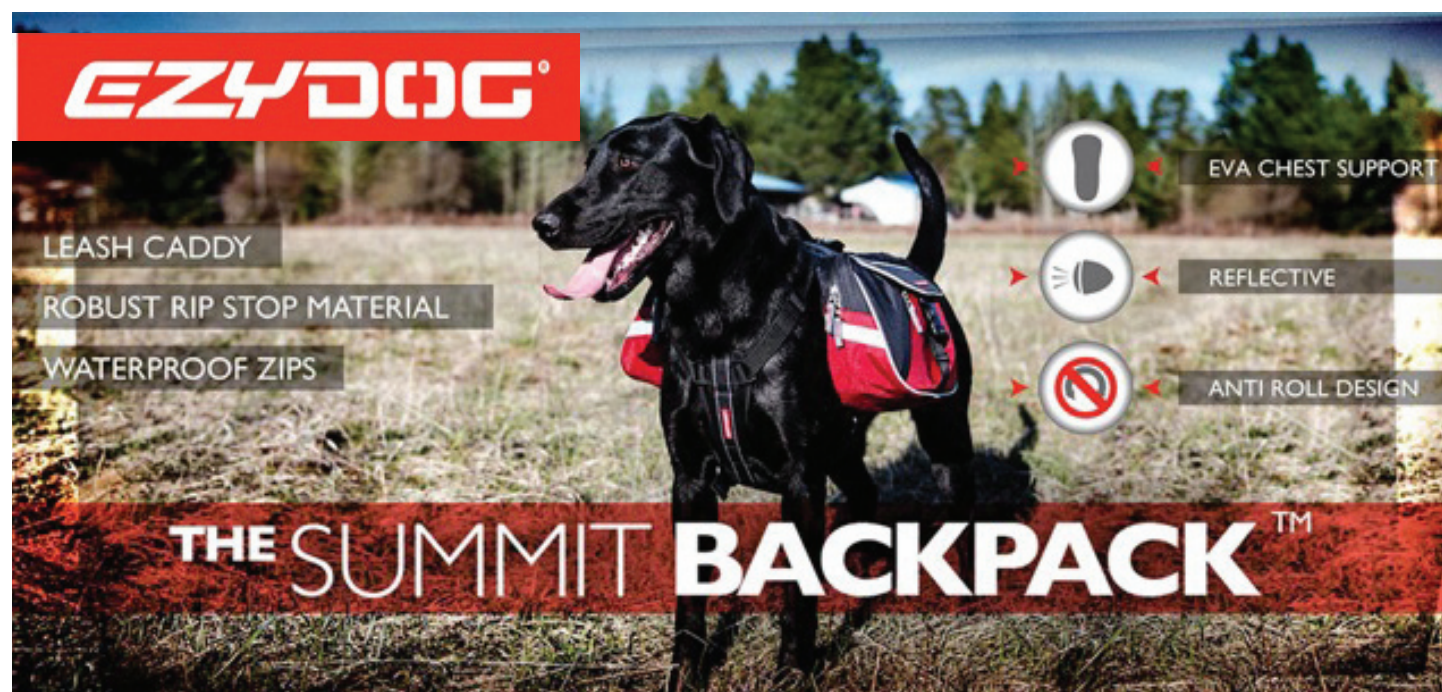
Socialization is the icing on the cake. Having a dog-social class to take the dogs to is a huge advantage. If the dogs are a good candidate for this, it will hone their communication skills, give them better control over their emotions and improve their impulse control. It may provide them with the opportunity to feel good about each other.

Every dog there is unfamiliar to them, so when they do cross paths in class, they will recognize each other, hopefully bringing them a feeling of comfort and they may even have fun together. The class is also a huge exhaust for the pressure they may be feeling back at home.

Why can't we all just get along? I don't know, but providing a lifestyle of structured on-leash walks, safe off-leash walks, controlling things dogs find value in, and socialization class is what I strive to accomplish when I get involved in this situation. How the "process to peace" in the home moves along will have differences depending on the situation, but your goal should always be to have the dogs enjoying each other's company again, or at least tolerating each other's company. The lifestyle that the owner provides for the dogs sets them up for success or failure. Providing a lifestyle for the dogs that sets them up for success should bring peace back to their home.

*Jason Vasconi is the owner of Transform My Dog, based in Dickinson, TX. He has been helping people and their dogs find freedom through training and socialization since 1989. Jason joined the IACP in 2007 and was inspired by the likes of the late Dick Russell, as well as fellow Texan-at-the-time Chad Mackin, to begin Large Field Socialization. He and his wife Elizabeth have 2 children and multiple dogs.*

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# Dealing with Difficult Clients

by Guy Kantak

In a past article, I discussed the advantages for trainers in developing interpersonal skills. Being “good with people” (or at least better) can go a long way in reaching successful outcomes – for dogs, for clients, and for your business. But interactions between people are generally a two way street, where success ultimately requires work from both sides. What can you do when the “other person” isn’t cooperating, or worse, is problematic? If you’re (honestly) doing all you can to help things along, what are some next steps? In my experience, I have run into a number of client “types” that can pose difficulties for someone running a business.

## The Scheduling-Challenged

When you’re running a business, the concept that “time is money” becomes a very real gremlin you wrestle with every day. There are only so many hours each day, and if your business is going to be successful, you must charge a fair rate for your time and services – fair to you, and fair to your clients. This, in turn, requires good time management. When clients change or miss appointments, it can greatly disrupt your best efforts to manage that time.

The most effective solution I have found is to establish clear policies regarding cancellations and associated administrative fees. Once I began charging fees for missed appointments, or appointment changes less than 24 hrs in advance, I began having far fewer issues. I, of course, make exceptions for emergencies. For clients that have prepaid visits on the books, they’re given concrete expiration dates. For those causing more than 1 or 2 disruptions to my schedule, they’re required to provide non-refundable prepayment for future visits if they wish to remain a client.

I think it’s VERY IMPORTANT to be clear that enforcement must be consistent, and doing so is

never mean-spirited. When clients disrupt your schedule, it’s an inconvenience and expense to you, and a discourtesy to other clients who may have wanted that appointment time. Explain this in a calm and professional way to those disrespecting your time, and most reasonable people will be more respectful in the future. If a client has issues with fair policies, they’re never going to be a good client, so move on.

## Not Doing Their Homework

It’s clear when working with clients that there are some who are not following directions and/or working on homework assignments. While these folks may seem an easy revenue stream to some trainers, they can be frustrating to others. Regardless of how you feel about such clients, I think there

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are some things to consider here. If a dog is not improving, and it's clearly due to the client, what are your options?

I always have a talk with the client and try to figure out whether there is a teaching breakdown. Some folks learn in different ways, so you may be able to make adjustments to your teaching style that could help them. Others may have various time constraints, and breaking assignments down into smaller, more easily managed items might move things forward.

However, there will always be some clients that simply won't do what they're advised. They may feel they know more than you, they may be taking training for a variety of wrong reasons, or they may be unrealistic dreamers thinking their dog will magically get better after 1 hour with a trainer. Make adjustments for those you can, but if that doesn't (or won't) help, then continuing to take their money isn't something I would keep doing.

### Poor Listeners/Talk Too Much

As a kid, I was always taught to politely listen. I still try to always do that, but when you're on a clock it's important to run the session, not let the client run things. Again, good interpersonal skills can go a long way here at keeping things on track. But some folks have a particularly dysfunctional skill set that can derail almost anyone's agenda. I won't say much more, but everyone can probably think of someone who fits this description. No amount of skilled communication can stop them from wreaking havoc on your day.

My best advice here is to recognize them quickly, and politely bow out. Telling them you're late for another appointment, or that you have a conference call scheduled, can give you a needed escape path. Be cautious about re-engagements, as the time vs. benefits equation is never favorable for a business owner. Brief emails may be more advantageous than 15 minute conversations to nowhere. If you can't manage your time with these people, then you need to re-evaluate whether you need to charge them differently, or politely decline offering service.

### Just Not Right

There are some clients where things are never going to work out, and it IS because of them. This can be for a variety of reasons, but some flags for me include "know-it-alls" who spend session time trying to impress others with their knowledge, those with stories that don't even vaguely fit observations, and feelings that there's "something off" with a person or in a home.

Be observant and respect your intuitions here. It's unfortunate that dogs get caught up in the chaos of some people's lives, but you don't need to get pulled into the vortex as well. If the dog is in any danger or being abused, there are community resources that are equipped to deal with such problems. In most cases the dog is fine, and these individuals simply seek to create chaos for others. Don't let them create chaos for you. If you are forced or stuck in an interaction, give clear direction, avoid open ended questions, and offer limited options. Disengage as quickly as possible.

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## Happy, Happy, Happy

Regardless of the reason you need to break ties with a client, or maintain a tentative relationship, you still need to work on maintaining your business reputation. While the customer may not always be right, they are always the customer. Unhappy clients can cause a lot of difficulty for any business owner.

Building a good reputation takes time and a great deal of effort. Problem clients will come your way. It's beneficial to have strategies in place to effectively deal with them in ways that limit disruption to your business. Being professional means always being polite, honest, and avoiding arguments. Disengaging tactfully from difficult clients may be challenging when you'd rather offer "a piece of your mind." But leaving a client still feeling good about their experience with your business is always a better alternative for you, your business, and your other clients.

*Guy Katak is a Certified Professional Trainer and owner-operator of "The K9 Guy." He provides one-on-one visits in the home for obedience, behavior modification, off-leash training, confidence building, puppy consultations and owner education throughout the Central Ohio area. Reach him at [www.theK9guy.com](http://www.theK9guy.com).*

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# Syn Alia Training Systems

## by Kayce Cover

### If not a dog trainer, what is Kayce Cover?

My name is Kayce Cover. I am not a dog trainer, although I train many, many dogs--mostly for behavioral rehabilitation, but also for performance. I am an animal trainer, and now, a trainer of trainers. My background includes early training in the Koehler method under the tutelage of Jake Huizengas, professional trainer (1970). But most of my professional training was as an exotic animal trainer, specializing in marine mammals. I worked in numerous zoos and aquariums, including 8 years at the National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institute, where I led the Aquatics and Bears division. I have degrees in animal science and education. I use many diverse tools. But two main tools, in which I offer certifications, are "Perception Modification" and "Bridge and Target."

Bridge and Target is evolved from Operant Conditioning, and was the predominant means of training marine mammals. "Perception Modification" was evolved through my own experience and investigation into how to best serve animals with issues of coping with stressors and managing their emotions. I believe animals are highly intelligent and I share information with them and work to engage them to align their purpose with mine.

### What happened in Dallas?

From Jan 16 to Jan 20, I met with a diverse crew of adventurous trainers at the Dog Training Club of Dallas County facility for a "SATS Certification Camp" in "Perception Modification." The results:

a resounding round of questions of "what the heck was that!?" from non-participants, and new proficiency in a critical tool use in the newly certified trainers. This certification does not certify someone as a dog trainer. It certifies someone in showing mastery in a set of basic skills and knowledge, and the ability to apply those. It is certification in first level proficiency in a specific technique (there are three levels in each certification).

### What is SATS?

SATS is short for the Syn Alia Training System. Syn Alia is Latin for "with others," and refers to the philosophy of this training system, which is that the best, most effective trainer/training is synergistic, where the team is stronger than its parts. In order to get there, we employ practices that are mutually respectful, responsible and beneficial. We emphasize integrity in our dealings with the animals, and we approach them with three critical communication practices:

These systems support trainer/dog/owner teams in creating any behavior they desire, along with the self management skills to successfully execute them. .

1. Transparency (what you see is what you get--no hidden agenda)
2. Coherency (we align all of your layers of communication signals)
3. Congruency (we align our actions to be consistent with the environment)

We are talking about a training system here. This is not just a solution to solving a problem. It is an approach to thoroughly prepare an animal to be optimally successful in his dealings with humans, throughout his entire life and all his activities. I approach this goal systematically.

## What is the SATS systematic approach to training?

**Perception Modification process:** In the beginning, we teach the animal to manage his own mental state, to choose his mental state appropriately, and to master his response to external stimuli - like other dogs, prey animals, food, general excitement, and more.

**"Bridging" and "Name and Explain":** Throughout this, and all training, we support the dog with information ('Name and Explain') and rich feedback ('bridging/marking'). We often name errors and redirect the dogs rather than correct them--giving the dog a chance to correct his own behavior. We often use 'time-outs' to correct dogs when they do not self-correct.

**'Bridge and Target Training':** Then we use targets and bridges to define pieces of behavior and concepts, which we name, and can then assemble in infinite "behaviors." We name body parts, directions, relative positions, movements, individuals, locations, activities, substances, items. In short, we name everything. Training this way is a game changer. Rather than training for a single application, like obedience, we train to support ALL applications. It's like the difference between buying a dollhouse and a lego set.

These systems support trainer/dog/owner teams in creating any behavior they desire, along with the self management skills to successfully execute them. These are the two certifications I am actively offering and promoting at this time.

## What else is there to training systematically?

**Instructor:** For those who want to instruct others, there are critical skills and knowledge related to teaching versus training, for both people and animals. Learning modes, intelligence types, motivational types, pacing, curriculum development, presentation management, demonstration skills, distraction management, dissonance management, use of motion and physical stimulus in learning, use of mnemonics

and other learning aids--these are all critical issues of teaching others.

**Behavior Analysis:** This is the process of breaking behavior into components and figuring out how to most efficiently teach the components to create fast and efficient training progress. It is analyzing need and then developing a teaching process to fill that need. It is learning how to parse a behavior into its parts, how to recognize what training is required to support that new behavior in the performance context, and how to troubleshoot when things don't go according to plan. In behavior analysis, we construct the training logic pathway. We recognize the places where the animal must make a critical decision and what those decisions are likely to be so that we can directly communicate to the animal about those decision points and how we would like them to respond. A proficient behavior analyst can write the book on the logic steps to train any behavior. A proficient trainer with behavior analysis skills should be able to teach any animal to do anything they are physically and mentally capable of doing. This is a critical skill for anyone who wants to do original training work.

**Energy Management:** learning to discern and manage the various energies which occur during training scenarios - from equipping humans and animals to learn, to recognizing and alleviating rising tension, to discerning intent and motivation, to recognizing how to align an animal with your intent, to breaking through chaos and anchoring others during emergencies, to recognizing and employing critical timing in supporting performance levels - all this is the domain of animal management, and it is critical to training success, whether you have ever consciously thought about it or not.

If you are interested in learning more about SATS, please visit the website at [synalia.com/press](http://synalia.com/press). We offer manuals, a dvd, online classes, consultation and certification programs. You can contact me at [kc@synalia.com](mailto:kc@synalia.com). Looking forward to working together!

**iACP**

# Separation Anxiety: The Cure is...Straw?

by Marc Goldberg, CDT

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It seems odd, but straw can indeed be a helpful tool when working with dogs who suffer from anxiety, especially when crated. How did you discover this, Marc? Why does it work? Who should use it? How do you do it? I have been asked these and other questions so often that I've written this guide.

Sit down children, and listen to a not-so-quick story.

Once upon a time, I fostered a Doberman who was fairly nutty in the crate. I noticed that she tore up any bedding I gave her, such as towels or blankets. I became afraid that she'd ingest this stuff and become impacted. However, without any form of bedding, she fussed and became very agitated in the crate. What to do?

I decided to try and make up some sort of crate activity that would distract her from her woes, but would also yield some sort of bedding in the process. So I began to place cardboard boxes in the plastic airline type crate, and place some kibbles or treats in those boxes. The dog would spend happy hours tearing apart those boxes, finding those treats and eating them. By the time the boxes were demolished, she had a thick layer of confetti to sleep on and she'd root around in that a bit to find the last of the kibbles.

Then she'd sleep.

Eureka! But of course, eventually I ran out of cardboard boxes and decided to try a new tactic. I shredded newspapers into long strips and filled the crate with a very thick fluffy layer of newspapers. The dog rooted around in this equally well, tore some of it into smaller strips, and then would eventually relax in the crate. It seemed to me that she was doing nesting behaviors, and this was more settling than a bare crate, which only agitated her. A few months later, she was crate trained and didn't need anything in the crate.

Eventually I placed this dog into a lovely forever home and promptly forgot all about this nonsense.

Years later a man called me after business hours and insisted that he wanted to bring me a screaming Lab puppy THAT SAME NIGHT, but he also promised to bring a large wad of cash. So over he comes and the puppy was sleeping in his arms. It was 9-weeks-old, tender, adorable, and sleeping.

"You can't crate this puppy," he says, his eyes glowing red, "or he'll scream and you won't sleep. I haven't slept in four days. Good luck."

He threw money at me and bolted out of the door, the puppy now sleeping in MY arms. Zonked. Out like a light.

I crept over to the crate, gently opened it. Oh so carefully I laid the sleepy baby into the crate and held my breath. Nothing. Gentle snoring. Perfect! I begin to tenderly close the door, and one eye opens. The other eye opens. And then he screams. And screams. And screams. His head rotated 360 degrees and he vomited pea soup all over me, or at least it seemed so.

I rapped on the crate. I shook the crate. I covered the crate.

After one hour of nonstop screaming, screaming without surcease, screaming that left my hands shaking, I tried various tricks that I won't even bother to list. But nothing worked.

I wracked my brain, which is a little hard to do with everlasting screams so fierce that they get into your head like a nail gun shooting ten-penny nails directly into your frontal lobe. Now it's nearly midnight and, out of my mind, I quickly thrust away the idea of sleeping with the little booger. But what to do?

Newspapers! I need newspapers! Crap, don't have any boxes! I need boxes. Crap, don't have any of

those either. But wait! I had a phone book. So I tore out pages from 'Auto' to 'Pizza' and I started to crumple each sheet into a tightly wadded ball. I piled a bunch of them by the crate; puppy hasn't broken stride at all. He's screaming with all his might and doesn't even have the courtesy to pass out. But he sort of has an eye on me while I'm piling up paper balls outside his crate and when the pile is considerable, I open the crate and he screams while I shovel in all the paper balls I've made.

He's only toe deep in paper. And he's still screaming.

So I keep making paper balls. By the time I pour the second load of them into his crate, he stops screaming. He's just watching me quizzically because this is really strange! And I load paper balls into that crate until this puppy isn't quite buried in them. He looks like a small monkey in the McDonalds plastic ball pool where kids bury themselves in colored balls. I'm out of paper, so I stop.

Anyway, he's almost underwater now anyway.

He's been watching me, but now I'm done. So I watch him. And THAT is when this puppy turns three circles to nest into those blessed yellow pages balls, and he lays down. He's out like a light in ten seconds. I creep upstairs and sleep 8 hours. When I get up, I run on tiptoes down to the crate...and OH MY GOD HE'S DEAD...laying belly up, tongue completely lolled out of his mouth. The &\*\$#@-ing puppy is &\*\$#@-ing DEAD and somehow I've killed him with toxic yellow pages.

I gasped. And that's when he opened an eye. The puppy hadn't slept in four days either. But he wasn't screaming. Anyway, he was fit as a fiddle and every day I pulled a handful of those balls out of the crate, and before too long he could sleep in a crate with nothing special.

The next time I had a dog with crate anxiety I knew I had to come up with something better, and that's when I remembered the farmer up the street with

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the “straw for sale” sign. So I tried that instead and found that it worked great. So here are the tips:

Use an airline plastic crate and fill it hip deep to the dog with straw.

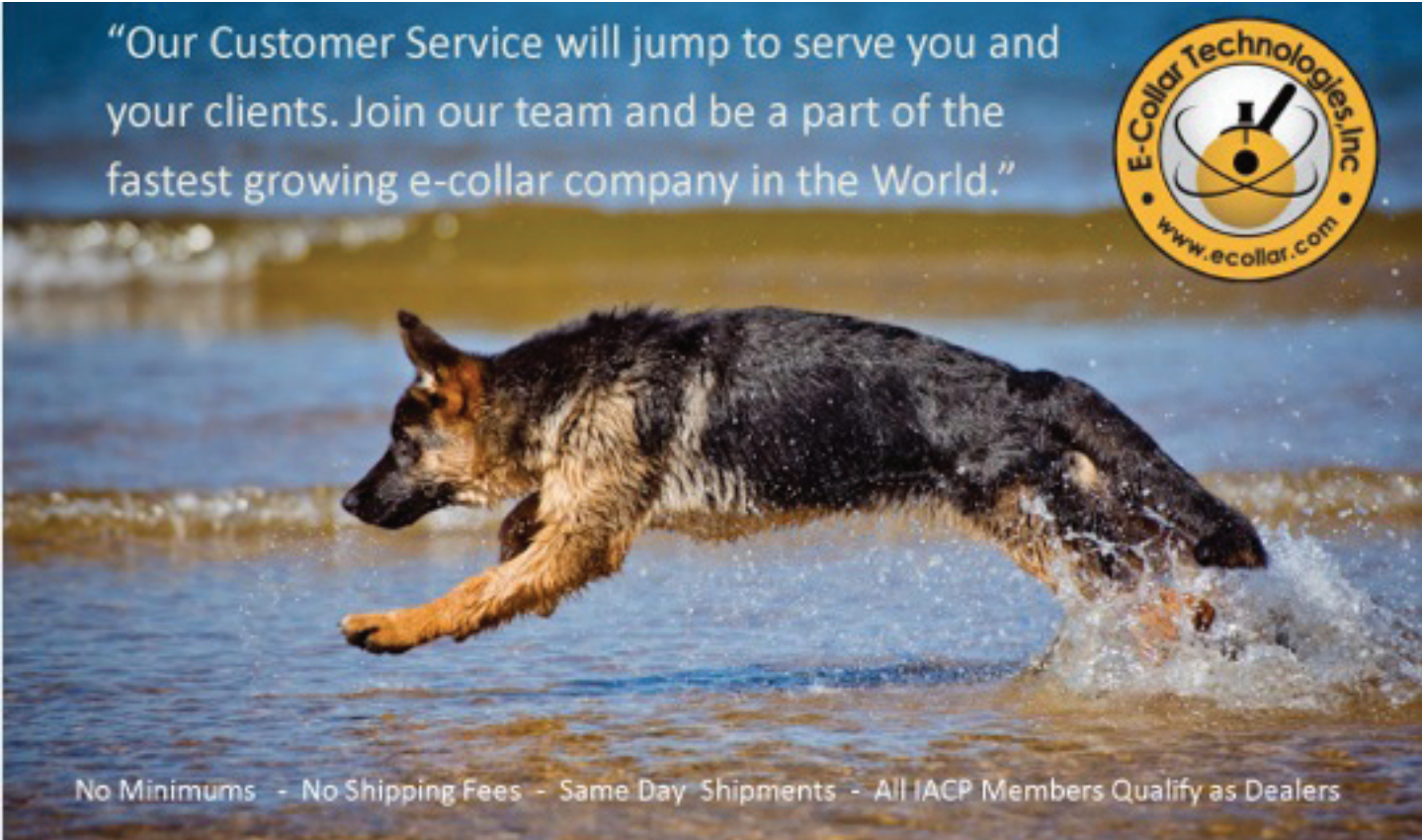
- Don’t use hay because that is dried grasses and dogs are more likely to eat it.
- Dogs don’t normally eat the straw, but you can keep an eye if you’re worried.
- You can use long strips of newspaper if you prefer, but it gets dirty and dusty.
- Put a sheet under the crate to make for easy clean up. Straw is messy in the house.
- It works because it engages the dog’s nesting/denning instinct.
- Many breeders keep puppies in some sort of organic bedding for a few weeks, so straw is like “old home week.”
- It is comforting to dogs to have something pressuring their body in the crate.
- Straw encourages some crate dirty dogs to be clean, but check for wet spots.

- Discontinue if you’re getting more crate eliminating rather than less.
- Change the straw at least weekly. They like new straw. It’s like getting clean sheets.
- I use it more for crate anxiety rather than housebreaking.
- If the dog digs around and fluffs the straw, so much the better.
- Foraging in the crate is better than freaking out in the crate, so you can toss in some treats.
- Straw helps rest time be more restful for many crate anxious dogs, but they probably still need more exercise than they’re getting.
- I’d give it at least a few weeks, but then you can remove handfuls of straw per day to wean off.
- Feel free to adapt any of these ideas as needed for your dog.

*The author is past president of the IACP and a member of the IACP Member Hall of Fame. Visit him on the web at [www.ChicagoDogTrainer.com](http://www.ChicagoDogTrainer.com). Information on his workshop is at [www.ChicagoDogTrainerSchool.com](http://www.ChicagoDogTrainerSchool.com), and he now offers a select Shadow Program.*

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# Lure Coursing: The Thrill of the Chase

## by Candace Gartland

When my husband and I drive our van onto the dirt road, the whining begins. As we approach the coursing field, the cacophony has spread from one dog to all of them. By the time the van is shifted into park, the din has reached near ear-splitting levels.

To say the least, the dogs know where we are and what the plan for the day entails. Such is the life of a dog that knows it will be engaging in an activity (or simulation of an activity) that it was purposefully created to do. For the sighthound, that would be hunting prey using sight. Prey is fast, so run faster.

Our ridgeback, Olivia, loves to be on the coursing field. Standing at the edge, she will rise up on two feet to get a better look at the dogs out on the field and the moving prey they are after. In her mind, she knows she can do better.

The most common breeds sanctioned to participate in Lure Coursing are Basenjis, Greyhounds, Italian Greyhounds, Afghan Hounds, Whippets, Borzois, Ibizan Hounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Scottish Deerhounds, Salukis, and Rhodesian Ridgebacks. There are a few other less common breeds that are also sanctioned.

Lure Coursing is a performance event for sighthounds to recreate the physical requirements of open field coursing to preserve these instincts. There are two organizations most often referred to in lure coursing: the AKC and ASFA (American Sighthound Field Association). Similar to AKC conformation trials, Field Trials are one-day affairs and are held all across the United States. And like conformation trials, it is also common to have trials on Saturday and Sunday back-to-back at the same location.

Imagine a very long string tied into a loop. The loop can be 650 to over 1,000 yards in total length. For comparison sake; one mile is 1,760 yards. Now go out onto an open field and run the length of string over a series of pulleys strategically placed on the field. Run the loop through a machine that pulls the string at high speed, and then attach three white plastic garbage bags to the string with about 1 yard of distance between each of them. The machine pulls the string, the white bags move, and the dogs chase the bags. The course has several turns to simulate escaping game.

Just like conformation, the dogs are separated by breed into class dogs (Open), champions (Specials) and veterans. Dogs and bitches, however, are not separated. The running order, and which dogs will be running together, is determined by a random draw.

Without going too deep into the rules, suffice it to say that a maximum of three dogs will be running at any one time, and a judge will determine which of the three performed best. Even though coursing may appear to be racing, first to the finish line does not determine the winner. Instead, the judge will score each dog based on five separate categories. AKC and ASFA use different categories that are roughly similar. Each dog must be scored in two full runs (preliminary and final) with the highest total score being the winner. In the case of ties, a tie-breaking run-off is performed.



Again, just like conformation, the Open, Champion and Veteran dogs for each breed will then compete for Best of Breed. Each breed winner may (but is not obligated to) then run in the Best-in-Field competition.

Even among sighthounds there are many instances where a

particular dog just simply won't run after the bags. The reasons for this are varied: insecurity at the prospect of being too far away from the owner, stress or anxiety brought on by running next to unknown dogs, or even just simply not knowing what they are supposed to do. As in any dog training activity, the best solution is to train the dog before it even becomes an issue.

Just like other activities, dogs under twelve months should avoid strenuous training and may not compete in coursing trials until they reach one year of age.

Once your dog reaches maturity and can put forth more effort, it will probably become necessary to give them some endurance training. As mentioned above, the typical distance in any trial is one third to one half mile. This is done at a full-on sprint with a minimum of two runs per trial (preliminary and final) with three or four runs not being uncommon (tie-breakers, breed run-offs, and Best-in-Field). Depending on the level of competition, some dogs (usually whippets) may have to run as many as five

or six times (multiple tie-breakers) in order to win. Only the best trained athletes can run six half-mile sprints in a single day and compete at a very high level through all of them. Low-activity dogs and overweight dogs are at a clear disadvantage.

The hound that finds that spark in its DNA driving it to chase will be forever changed. Agility? Yeah, that's nice. Conformation? Some dogs like the applause. But there's no substitute for the job it was meant to have. Collies herd; water dogs swim; terriers find vermin; hounds give chase. The ringing in my ears as we drive up to the field is a keen reminder of how much they love their job.

*Candace Gartland is the owner of Trek K9 Training, providing assistance for both dog and owner on a variety of topics. Candace has been training dogs for over 20 years in various sporting events with titles in Conformation, Agility, Lure Coursing, Rally, Tracking and NACSW Nose Work. Her original breed-of-choice was the Akita, but changed after fortuitously rescuing a mixed-breed Rhodesian Ridgeback that brought her and her future husband together.*

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# Critical Thinking

by Mailey McLaughlin, M.Ed., CDT, Editor

## Finding the Right Motivation

What makes you get up in the morning to do what needs to be done?

Perhaps it is duty. Your spouse, your children, your employees, and others who count on you to provide for them or guide them need your skills and abilities.

Perhaps it is necessity. Your work provides you with the sustenance of life, namely a paycheck. You don't work, you don't eat.

Perhaps it is vanity. Someone must do the work, and why shouldn't it be you? You are skilled at it, after all, and you are constantly striving to be even more skilled. There are others who can do an OK job, but you are better than they.

Perhaps it is passion. You truly love what you do, and you "would do it for free," and you relish the thought of making progress on tasks that get you to a desirable goal—such as a trained, happy dog.

It's very likely a combination of all of those.

Whatever the reasons, you do it, every day, or most every day. Some days are fairly easy and uncomplicated, but some are actually quite tough. You soldier on. You actually relish those tougher days (after they are over), because they always teach you something new.

It doesn't really matter what your motivation is, as long as you have some. Do you ever wonder where it comes from?

You've undoubtedly heard of the 2 basic personality types. Most of us are familiar with the letters based on the work of cardiologist Meyer Friedman, who coined them in the 50's with colleague Ray

Rosenman: "Type A" personalities are driven, urgent, impatient, aggressively competitive. "Type B" personalities are the opposite: unhurried, patient, driven in less chaotic ways, and better able to relax. Type A personalities tend to get a lot done, but they also tend to suffer more from heart disease and stress overload as a rule. Type B's, on the other hand, are healthier overall and endure far less stress. Once their findings were made, Friedman and Rosenman felt that the goal was to help Type A's become a little more like Type B's. These guys were physicians, after all, and heart disease is the number one killer of men and women.

Author Daniel Pink, in his book *Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us*, describes a departure from this system as another way to think about human motivation. He divides personalities into "Type X" and Type I." Type X behavior "focuses more on the extrinsic desires of the individual, concerning itself less with the inherent satisfaction of an activity and more with the external rewards to which that activity leads." In contrast, Type I behavior is fueled more by intrinsic desires than extrinsic ones, concerning itself less with external rewards and more with the inherent satisfaction of an activity.

No one is exclusively one or the other, of course.

Type X's find satisfaction in activities, too, and Type I's like to get paid. But for Type X's, the main motivator is external rewards, and personal satisfaction is secondary. For Type I's, the main motivator is the freedom, challenge, and purpose of the motivator itself. Money is a bonus.

Would it surprise you to know that Type I individuals almost always outperform Type X individuals in



the long run? That Type I behavior is a renewable resource? That it promotes greater physical and mental well-being?

Type I behavior depends on 3 nutrients, according to Pink. They are **autonomy**, **mastery**, and **purpose**.

Our line of work exposes us to all three of these, of course. It's not difficult to see how working with dogs meets those criteria. I would imagine that most who will read this are Type I's.

In our work, we understand motivators for behavior, probably on a more profound level than most, because we must find what motivates the dogs we are working with. We know about rewards and punishers, positive and negative reinforcement, sociability, and pack dynamics. We respond to our clients when they complain about Fido not responding that they may need to increase his motivation to do the behavior. Figuring out what motivates the dogs isn't typically the problem for us.

But how do we motivate the human half of the training equation? It would help if we knew whether the owners were Type X's or Type I's, but training one's own dog generally doesn't pay very well, so let's assume we need to focus on intrinsic motivators—and we'll call "having an obedient dog" an intrinsic motivator for them, if for no other reason than it avoids embarrassment and allows for more companionship in more places.

**AUTONOMY**—As an instructor, focus on their ability to get the work done at their pace. We all know that training dogs means using any interactions as teaching moments. You can schedule a training session with your dog, but training is happening all the time. Make sure they understand that every interaction with the dog is training. Give them a rough estimate of how many minutes a day their dog really needs, but tell them that those will be spread out and will be determined by when, and how, they interact with the dog.

**MASTERY**—I tell my students that while I know that they have jobs and family and hobbies and

lives, and that training their dogs is not the Number 1 thing on their list every day, it is necessary for them to become dog trainers in order to make their dogs behave. Luckily for them, they only have to know how to train one dog, but they will become that dog's trainer. And the more they do, the better he will be.

It's unlikely that they will actually achieve true mastery at this task, because they simply will not be putting in enough hours (unless they seek out competition) to meet that goal. But since true mastery is actually unreachable, owners can attain a measure of it by training their own dog to a high level of obedience. Regardless, it's how they feel about having mastered this task that counts. When they are pleased with the dog's behavior, that can be considered mastery on some level.

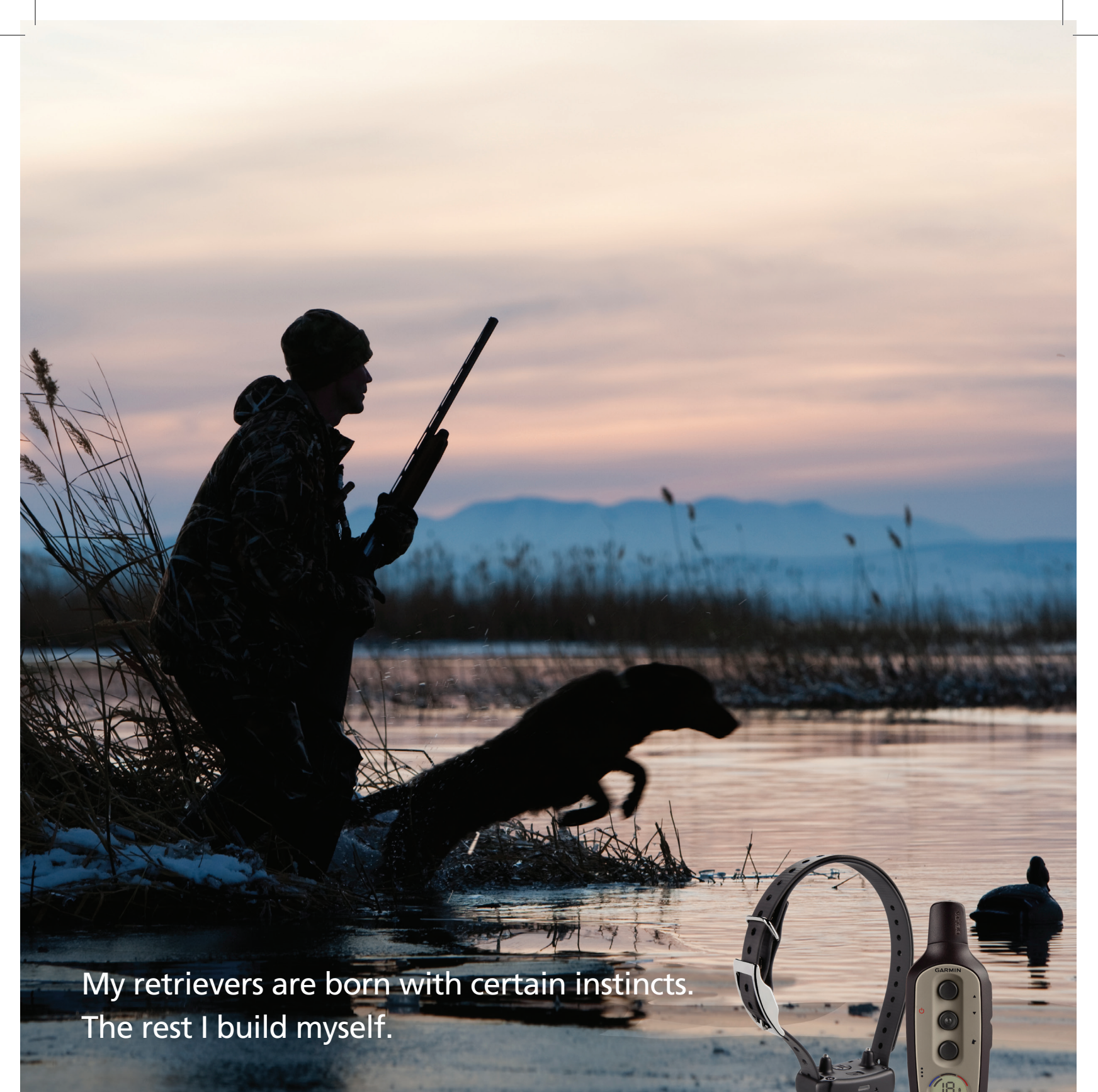
**PURPOSE**—To really motivate your human students, make sure you tap into this desire. Everyone wants to have a purpose in life. Training one's dog is probably not that purpose for them. That's OK. It doesn't need to be. Having a better relationship with the dog is a purpose, and this will not happen without communication. Training creates clarity, which improves communication.

People acquire dogs for different reasons, but emotional connection and tactile contact are usually quite high on the list. The more well-trained the dog is, the better he will be able to meet these needs for his human. People love dogs even when they are naughty, but they feel a deeper bond when they feel that the dog is trying to please them. If the humans feel like the dog is not connecting with them, they don't bond as well to the dog.

Make sure they understand the link between training and connection, and you have given them a purpose.

*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 CDT, and is Behavior and Training Manager for the Atlanta Humane Society. Read more at [www.carpek9.blogspot.com](http://www.carpek9.blogspot.com).*

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