

IACP

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS

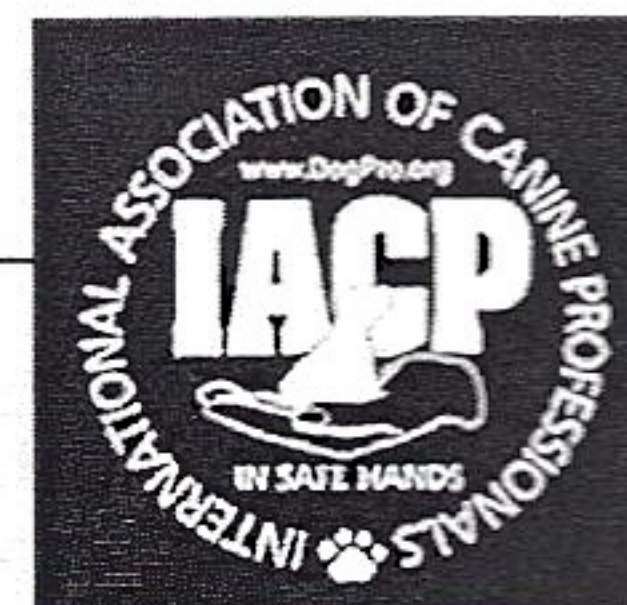


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The International Association of Canine Professionals is an organization established to maintain the highest standards of professional and business practice among canine professionals. Its aim is to provide support and representation for all professional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

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

For Those Dedicated to the Well Being of Dogs

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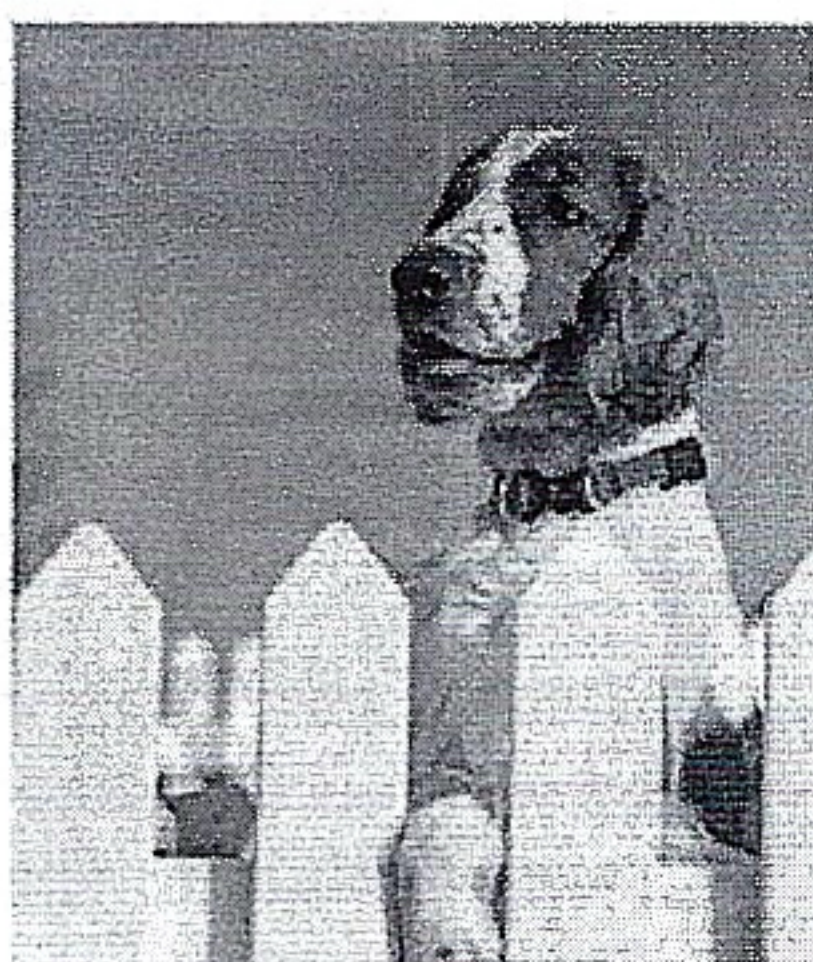
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From the President

Improve Your Search Engine Rankings... and Ours!

by Marc Goldberg, CDT

IACP is working on enhancing search engine rankings for IACP's web site. We would also like to help you accomplish the same. So we have come up with a plan. We would like to invite you to submit as many dog articles as you would like for publication in an articles section of the IACP site. Using these articles on the IACP site will give us a great deal more content and key words within our site. This should help raise IACP's profile quite a bit.

Each article that we publish on the site will carry a live link back to your web site. Live links back to your web site are one factor that search engines use when ranking your site. Plus, members of the public reading your article on the IACP site will be able to click that link and visit your site to learn more about you, giving your more hits.

Because this is a big project there are some rules. Articles which do not conform to the rules cannot be accepted. Because we anticipate a high rate of participation, we will be unable to correspond regarding individual articles.

Here are the rules:

1. You **MUST** be the writer of the article, and by submitting you grant IACP the right to use your article on its web site as described above. IACP will not publish your article in any other venue or format without your permission. We will not print individual copyright information on each article, but you will retain all copyrights to your work. We will place the following on each page: "Copyrights are held by each individual author, and they reserve all rights to their work. Reprinting without an author's written permission is prohibited."

2. There is no maximum length for any article, but the minimum word count acceptable is 250 words. You may submit as many articles as you wish. You will receive up to two links on EACH article we use.

3. To be considered, each article must meet the following criteria:

- a) submitted in Microsoft Word
- b) emailed to Marc Goldberg at canineshrink@aol.com
- c) contain no special formatting using bold face, italics, tabs, columns or embedded photos

- d) contain text only
- e) first line is author's name
- f) second line is article's title
- g) following author's name and title is the body of the article, text only, no photos, no formatting
- h) final line of the article is author's preferred web site including the full url starting with <http://www>.
- i) you may include one web site link or two if you have more than one web site, but no more than two.



Let me stress that you continue to completely own your article. You are simply granting us permission to use it along with your link on the IACP web site. We will remove your article(s) later at your request, but we will not be able to edit them for you, or permit you to edit them once submitted.

What sort of articles should you submit? Any area of dog behavior and dog ownership is appropriate. Remember, your reader is the dog

owning public...not other dog trainers. So your handouts and training articles will work fine. If you are writing on subjects such as canine health, please stick to the legalities if licensing is required to administer any of your suggestions. Avoid submitting articles on veterinary subjects unless you are a veterinarian or are reporting veterinary research and citing sources.

Many of your hand outs can be used for this project provided you meet the above formatting requirements. IACP reserves the right to reject articles for any reason, but the most likely reasons for rejection would be that the writing is not clear, needs editing, contains misspellings or is too controversial for this particular venue.

All that being said, we'd love to see your articles on house breaking, leash pulling, teaching the sit stay, how to stop counter surfing, how to raise a puppy, how to ... almost anything the public wants to know!

Thank you and we look forward to collecting your submissions and using them to enhance the IACP web site and give you links at the same time.

Marc Goldberg



A Little More on Retrieving

By Martin Deeley

This evening I watched my four and half month Labrador bitch fumbling for the first time with a puppy canvas dummy. It had slipped out of her mouth while on a retrieve and she was having problems picking it up. I encouraged and laughed at her antics, she was trying so hard, and then I realized the problem. She is teething. Many trainers stop retrieving during the teething month and I have known some trainers that will not start retrieving until after the dog has got its second set of teeth. Myself I find this a waste of valuable time and learning experience so when teething occurs I often will give just one or two retrieves on dummies covered in a soft sock to help them grip easier and if they continue to drop the dummy I stop for a few days or a week to let things settle down.

So often we encounter problems with retrieving. Some we create, and some are part of the dog's natural character and behaviour. During these early days retrieving provides you with an opportunity to 'read your dog'. How willing is he to work with you and share retrieves? How easily is he distracted? How attentive is he? If you watch your dog you can actually see the relationship you are forming and the type of dog you have. From these observations you can then begin to adapt your training and the management of your dog so that you can begin to shape or re-shape the attitude and skills you are training for.

Over the years I have had many different 'characters' of both retriever and spaniel. No one training method is the best and although there are actions that will often encourage the right behaviour you have to be able to adapt, change and be creative. I find that it is only when you make a big issue over a problem (especially showing a loss of temper) that even bigger problems occur.

If your pup shows little interest in the retrieve or in a particular part of the retrieve then you have to motivate the pup to want to do it. Generally this means having

fun with the retrieve and ensuring that when you do, the pup sees playing with you as being far more interesting and enjoyable than any other moment in the day. A rolling tennis ball or a dummy covered in a dry rabbit skin can create far more interest and temptation for the pup. Let him chase and enjoy the moment. Make sure you let pup know you are pleased instantly when he does something you want – even if he picks the dummy up for merely a second or shows an increased enthusiasm. Some puppies will be more interested in a squeaky toy or an old sock or slipper. There is nothing wrong with using these initially until pup becomes interested and then you can attach it to a dummy or parts of it to a dummy so that the dummy becomes familiar and recognized for the pleasure it creates.



If pup picks up the dummy but does not want to return, although we may think the pup is being possessive, it is usually the result of a lack of 'basic obedience'. Your pup does not feel 'obligated' to come when you call. In cases like this return to your basic recall training by attaching a long but light rope to the collar to guide the pup back to you when you call. Initially get the recall good without the dummy and then do it on the retrieve. Once pup is coming in on the long line, you can reduce the length of the line or let it run loose, only picking it up when you need to, to 'reel' pup in if he begins to avoid you. If you do simple recalls and sits with pup on a standard leash, often letting him retrieve with the leash 'still attached' but not held gets the desired result. Pup will realise the leash is attached and be more under control. As mentioned in the last issue, narrow spaces also help guide pup back to you, and do not throw retrieves too far until you and pup get this stage right.

At a young age pups can sometimes mouth, shake or play with a dummy. When he does this, one way to catch his attention is by clapping your hands and calling enthusiastically, backing away as you do. If you

only throw the retrieve a short distance, the moment your pup runs to the dummy follow up after him so that you are closer to him and then start the enthusiastic recall and back away. Watch your pup and if he is coming nicely to you, be much quieter in your praise. If he starts to mouth, move closer quickly catch his attention (Clap your hands and call) and then back away as he looks and encourage him up. The idea is to break the habit through distraction and then encourage when he is doing it right. Most dogs will grow out of this problem but the quicker the habit disappears the better. Don't confuse dropping the dummy because he has a very soft and gentle mouth, with playing with the dummy. If the dummy slips out of the pup's mouth and he has problems picking it up, don't worry. Try a different dummy or cover one with a sock. Sometimes packing an old sock with other socks to make a big but soft and light package helps pup get the hang of holding gently and correctly. With a pup that chews on the dummy I will often make a larger dummy or use a heavier one so that it is difficult to chew and he has to concentrate on carrying, therefore forgetting to chew.

Some pups decide that running around you when they return and playing 'keep away', is great fun. When this occurs never grab for your pup or the dummy, and do not chase. Back away, put a fence or wall behind you and then encourage and wait. When pup comes close enough, touch your pup, even a scratch along the rear end is usually enough to distract from circling and create confidence in coming closer. Pet and praise and never be too quick to take the dummy. Always touch your dog, and as it comes closer guide him gently into your body praising softly. If you have done some good basic training and pup enjoys sitting for you often a soft 'sit' or sit whistle (provided it has been taught) can again obtain the desired result. I introduce the whistle for the recall and sit commands very early, in fact almost immediately as I start play training with a pup. This has its advantages as it is so different from all the confusing verbal noises and commands the pup hears. A light 'sit' whistle if it has been correctly taught can over-



rule any messing about your pup is doing, and actually stop the unwanted behaviour.

I have had a few dogs especially cockers that would drop the retrieve on the return and start hunting. With any pup that drops a dummy close and does this, I will kick the dummy or pick it up and make it interesting by throwing it just a small distance and insisting it is brought up to my body. When a dog is more interested in hunting than retrieving it is advantageous to not allow any hunting at all until the retrieving is well habituated.

Your hands should always be friendly and one of the big problems I regularly see with clients is where a pup does not want to put the dummy in a trainers hands or wishes to avoid them completely. To minimize this, you need to get your pup to accept your hands reaching forward to his head. With pup on a leash in front of you, slowly at first move one hand forward cupped, palm uppermost under his chin and stroke gently and slowly, then take your hand away. Do this two or three times. Then use both hands and put them either side of the head, slowly and gently rub with your fingers under his ears. Do this regularly each day until you create confidence in your reaching forward and putting your hands near his mouth and head. Never go over the top of his head, go to the side and underneath. If he will take a dummy from your hand, again do the same while the dummy is being held. Occasionally remove the dummy and give it back. With pup on the leash throw the dummy only a few feet away and let him pick it up, encourage verbally and guide him back to you with the leash. Gently control his head with the leash while you reach under his chin and stroke his chest before taking the dummy with a 'drop' command. Once your pup is doing well on the leash you can then do it without the leash.

Getting a good retrieve is built not just on inherited skills but on the dogs confidence in you and the partnership you are developing. So often trainers want a dog to be at Retrieving University when they have not even been through Kindergarten. Where your pup lacks enthusiasm, increase it by making it fun and letting him chase. Where there is too much excitement and pup 'plays' too much ensure the basic lessons are well learned – the 'sit' and 'recall'. Look for ways of creating the right behaviours, do it in small stages and be patient.

Martin Deeley is a founding member of IACP and the author of Working Gundogs, newly revised in 2009 and available from Amazon and other booksellers. Contact Martin at www.FloridaDogTrainer.com.

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The Art of Persuasion

By Mary Mazzeri

Buster is a fearful, neurotic Boston Terrier. His female owner was quite certain that he was incapable of being 'cured'. Since she came to me for training and behavior modification, I suppose there was some part of her that wanted to help the dog enjoy a more peaceful life. During the case history she enumerated all of the many things that caused him to respond fearfully. As I sat listening I also sat observing the dog's nervous behavior as he paced tethered to the chair of his distraught mistress. She'd been instructed to 'ignore him' unless he settled himself into a down, so that I could watch his behavior without any input from her as we talked. She was having a very hard time not consoling Buster...

I continue to be amazed that people are willing to trust a total stranger with their dog's behavior problems. Our clients have a need to feel really heard and we need to really listen carefully for clues to the problem. In our 'detective' work we gather relevant information as we piece together the possible causes for behavioral problems or abnormalities. As we take in information on breed, age, gender, physical condition, personality, health, nutritional status, living conditions, family/pack dynamics, and other pertinent information, we can begin to work toward a solution. Often the behavior modification desired in the dog is achieved by effecting behavior modification in the owner and family. Dogs often have problems because their 'people' have unintentionally created them. Frequently we can only reform the dog's behavior problems if we can modify the owner's behavior. Dogs must learn to live in a human world but their humans need to be educated to understand the basic needs and drives of their dogs.

There is a saying "You can't win them all." I'm certain that that is also true of dog training clients, but that shouldn't keep a dog trainer from trying his or her best to persuade a client to enact a change in the dogs (and often the owner's) behaviors. All of the variables keep our profession really interesting and often challenging. It generally requires a fair amount of psychology as we reach into the problem and help the owner discover how or where they've contributed to it. It seems to work best when we can draw that realization out of the client. We owe it to the dogs.

Persuaded or Perturbed

We all have met the abrasive trainer: Blunt without diplomacy, the intimidating 'my way or the highway trainer'. They can be frank without discretion, accusatory or deprecating. This approach must work with some students because these trainers seem to have clients. And we'll assume they get results if they stay in business. I guess it depends. How is the lesson presented to the student? Are they bullied, guilted, or embarrassed into 'cooperating'? Is the trainer empathetic or judgmental? Can we be factual in helping them to realize the root of the problem without being condemning? Can we give an honest analysis without harsh judgment? Are we as patient with the owners as we expect them to be with their dogs?

Now and then we run into the student who in some way cherishes their dog's problem. I'm not totally sure why they come for 'help'. Maybe some have a sort of Munchausen syndrome by proxy, they want sympathy and attention. But for the most part, people do come for help. They cooperate when they feel safe and when they feel heard. They cooperate when we give them attainable goals in incremental steps. They collaborate when we encour-

age their awkward attempts, as we teach them to do the same for their dog's.

What is it that brings a client into your training program? Perhaps they believe in your ability on the strength of recommendations or perhaps you have a great website. Often they want results/relief in resolving a really serious or annoying dog behavior. Perhaps they just want their dog to be safer, well mannered or to have a better relationship with their dog. Will they feel safe in sharing their problems with YOU? Are they willing to do whatever it takes to help their dog? What will keep them in your program? Let's look at a few case histories and think about how we interact with the dog owners.

Nurturing Neurosis

Our friend Buster presented as a healthy but nervous 2 yr old neutered male Boston Terrier. His female owner reported that he was afraid of everything. It became quickly apparent in the intake evaluation that she herself was a nervous and fearful person. To label her overprotective would be an understatement. At the start of the field work a neighbor set off a firecracker and he reacted pretty strongly, trying to run as far and as fast as he could before he ran out of long line. The client reacted MORE strongly, ran in, swooped him up into her arms to console him. She said "Well, that's the end of this lesson", distraught and gasping. "That's it. We might as well stop here. He'll shut down for 3-4 hours now."

I said, "I see. Well, we have a choice to make here. We could stop now and leave Buster locked in this state of mental turmoil or we could actually do what you came here to do and help him through this. What do you think would be best for him?" She hesitantly agreed to allow me to continue some long line work with him. He was pretty frozen initially but with some gentle insistence, he got up and started following. With a little happy, calming verbal reinforcement given at those moments when Buster began to volunteer a few steps at a time, he came around in 3-4 minutes to a point of obvious relaxation. His nervous mistress needed to see a really non-threatening approach. Helping her to understand that she was unintentionally reinforcing—even exacerbating, his every fearful reaction, took a bit of diplomacy. I didn't 'accuse' her of making him worse. I discussed how dogs perceive attention and affection as reinforcement for their behavior. I explained how the dog looks to the leader for healthy emotional cues for stability. I generalized the conversation with 'when owners' instead of with 'when you'. She finally registered what I was telling her and asked me "Do you mean when he shakes and cries and I pet him, that he thinks that I want him to be that way?!" "Why yes, that's exactly right! Now we're going to praise and pet him for being brave." It was the beginning of the breakthrough I'd hoped for.

Spoiled beyond Repair?

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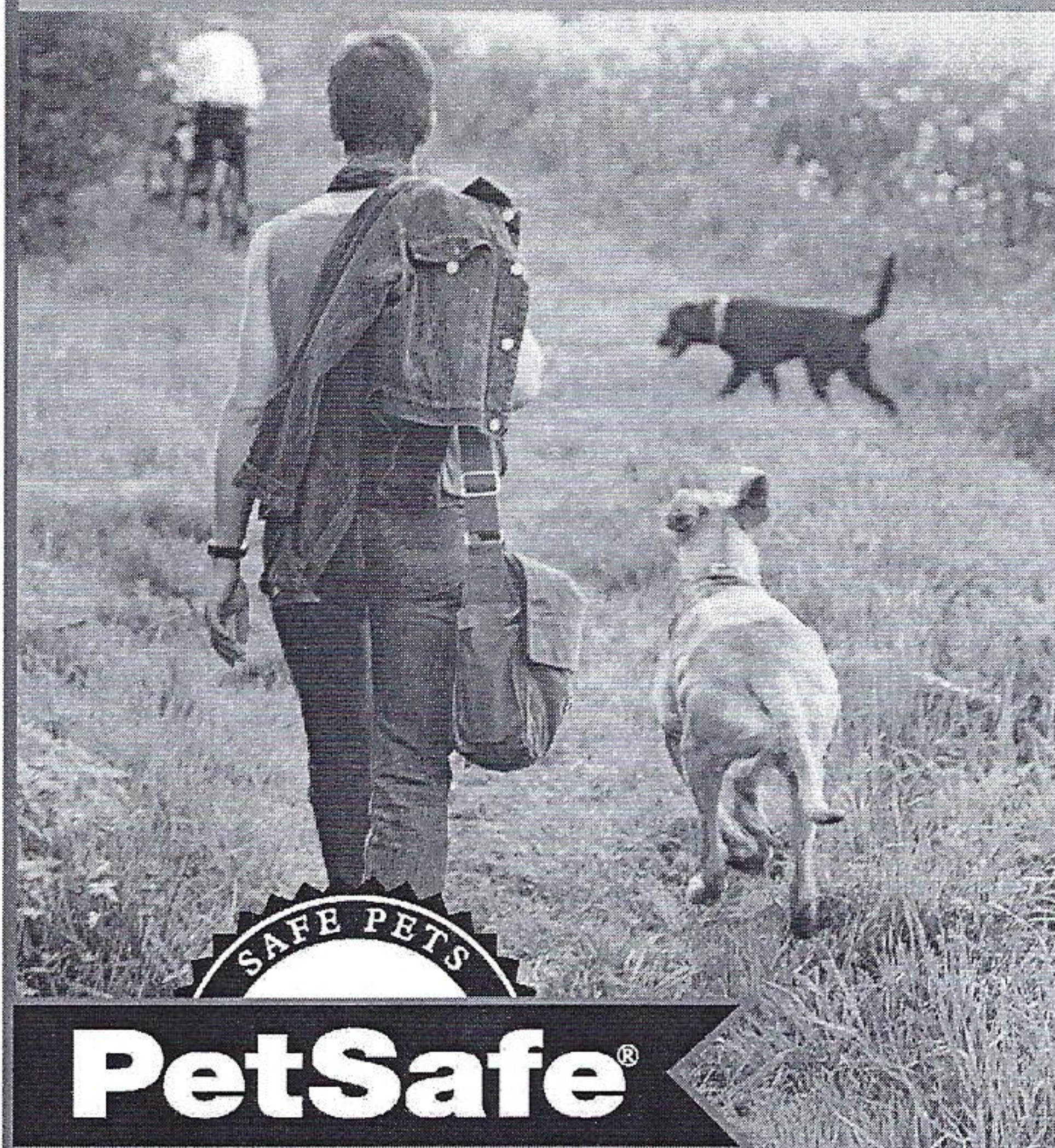
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A darling little 1 yr old white fluff ball, it was readily apparent that he was extremely spoiled. His owner, a 22 yr. old young woman who lived at home with her parents, viewed him as her 'dress up' dolly. He came last summer. Kay said she wanted him to stop ripping his dresses off, stop barking at her all the time, and to come when she called him. I commented several times on his beautiful white coat. "It seems such a shame to hide that gorgeous coat under a dress." At a later point I said, "It's so warm out perhaps we should reconsider the dresses. You don't want him to overheat do you?" Fortunately her concern for his comfort overrode her desire to dress the dog. She even conceded that maybe he didn't need a stroller when I explained that his little muscles could atrophy if he didn't get enough exercise. I promised that he would learn how to come when she called him. I promised to show him how to walk politely and proudly on a leash. She was a little overly concerned about

him getting 'dirty' on the ground, but I assured her that he was washable and would enjoy exploring in the grass.

Bacchi learned about his canine heritage. Kay learned too. Socratic questioning can help draw realization out of the client. Sometimes just by asking 'what do you think caused.....?' the client will indicate that they know what the problem resulted from. Getting them to realize or admit to the problem or the cause is a big step in the rehabilitation process. Confirm their awareness and propose the steps to resolution. Sometimes using a sandwich technique (+ - +), Find something that you can legitimately compliment them on, then constructively critique the problem, then end on another positive comment. For example: 1.) Make a positive comment, if possible, about their relationship with their dog, 2.) Identify the problem that needs work, 3.) Give them HOPE and find something

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nice to say about their dog. This will help get the point across without being offensive or causing the client to become defensive.

Kay was so proud of Bacchi's accomplishments when she came to pick him up and learn how to continue the training with him, that it counterbalanced her dismay that he was a little dirty (relative to pristine) and had a green smudge on the top of his head from his morning roll in the grass. I told her that the grass stain would wash out but, in the meanwhile it would bring him good luck, remind him of the time he learned how to be a dog and the time when Kay learned how to respect his 'dogness'.

A Bully Bully & Tough Love

Jill calls me to say that Kane, a seven month old female mini-Bulldog puppy, who had been through my puppy class, was still 'play biting'

only now Jill's husband wanted to 'get rid of the dog'. "Why, what's happened?" I asked. Jill said that she had gotten worse with the mouthing and play biting. Sometimes she'd pinch their hand or leg and leave blood blisters. She would guard their bed and bite hard at them when they tried to get in bed with her.

Jill pre-empts me with, "I know you said in class that she is a pushy puppy and shouldn't sleep in our bed but she's so adorable." I have a pre-existing relationship with her and know Jill's personality from puppy class and decide it is best to be politely blunt, so I counter with "If she's so adorable, why does your husband want to get rid of her?" She pauses on the phone. She is stuck between her need to have the dog in bed with her and the dog's need to have boundaries. So I try to connect with her feelings. I use the FFF approach: Feel, Felt, Found. "I know how you feel, there was a time I felt my dogs should sleep in bed with me, but I found that

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with some dogs, it makes them think that they have equality status with you, and in some cases, like your Kane, they think they own the bed and that you ought to sleep somewhere else. This is leading to a more serious form of protest biting. She should start sleeping in her crate in a neutral part of your home before the aggression escalates any further."

"But it's so hard to say no to her, she just starts barking at us," Jill sighs.

"We can fix that Jill, if you really want to fix it. I really want to help you. That is why you called, right? I can only help you if you let me help you. You will have to decide whether it's better to give her away or take my counsel to help you fix the problem so you can keep her. What do you think we should do?" Give them choices but help lead them to the solution that is best for them and their dog. The client has to make the decision internally before they'll act on it. Lead them to the best solution but let them choose it.

While 'leading questions' may be considered a faux pas in the courtroom, they are very useful in helping a client make good decisions for their dogs. Give them options, choices, but make it easier for them to make the right choices. People can tell when you are genuine and really want to help them and are treating them with respect. Successful interpersonal relationships go back to the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

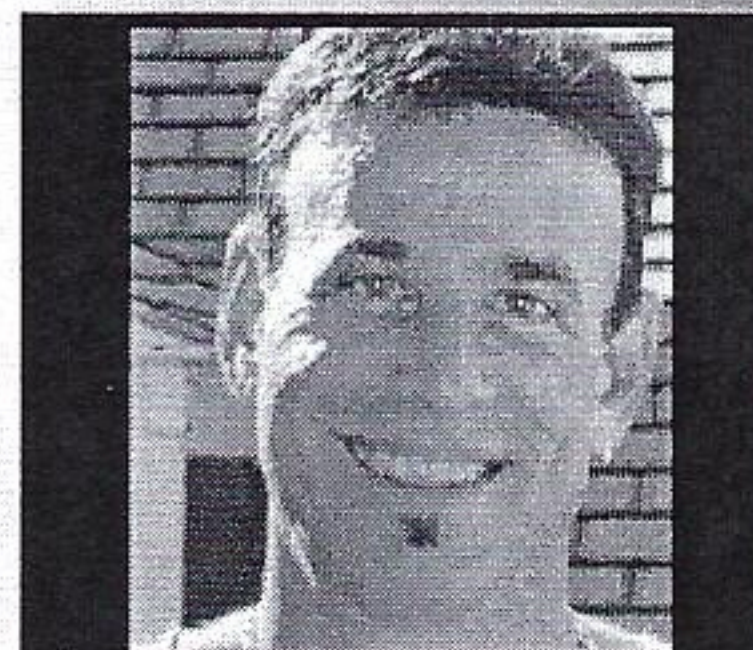
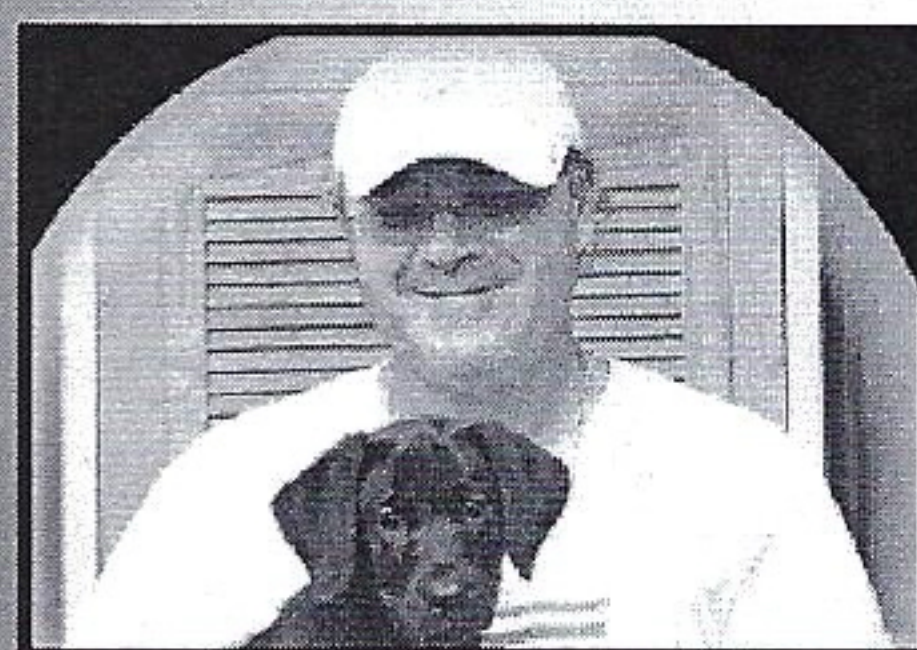
A couple of books and resources that are classics on effective personal communications are:

- "How to Win Friends & Influence People" by Dale Carnegie.
- A free e-zine is available at:
<http://www.dalecarnegie.com/> (Success Secrets)
- "See You at the Top" by Zig Ziglar
<http://www.zigziglar.com/>

Mary Mazzeri is Co-Founder of the IACP, IACP Education/Certification Committee; NADOI Endorsed; CPAC, NAIA, ADOA member. She has operated Care-DogTraining.com in the Chicago, IL area since 1970.

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Book Review: Working Gundogs

Authored by Martin Deeley | Foreword by Cesar Millan

Reviewed By Marc Goldberg

If you have ever wondered how the masters refine the working intelligence and energy of the hunting dog into a happy and finely tuned machine, you'll want to read *Working Gundogs* by Martin Deeley. First published in 1989, a newly revised edition has been released for 2009. More pages and more detailed advice have been added along with 120 new photographs. Also new in this edition is a foreword by none other than Cesar Millan.

But the most compelling parts of the book are the author's detailed descriptions on precisely how to build drive and working partnership from very beginning of the training process. Deeley

describes in detail how the trainer can form the optimum relationship with his or her dog. Many gun dog books have been written, but few take the time to recount precisely why a dog wants to hunt for his master, and how that desire can be molded and shaped with mutual respect even from early puppyhood.

I have observed many gun dog trainers pushing dogs very hard and then punishing them when things go wrong. Shaking the confidence of even a high drive dog can result in an unstable hunter, afraid to make necessary decisions at critical times, such as when the dog is hundreds of feet or yards away from the trainer.

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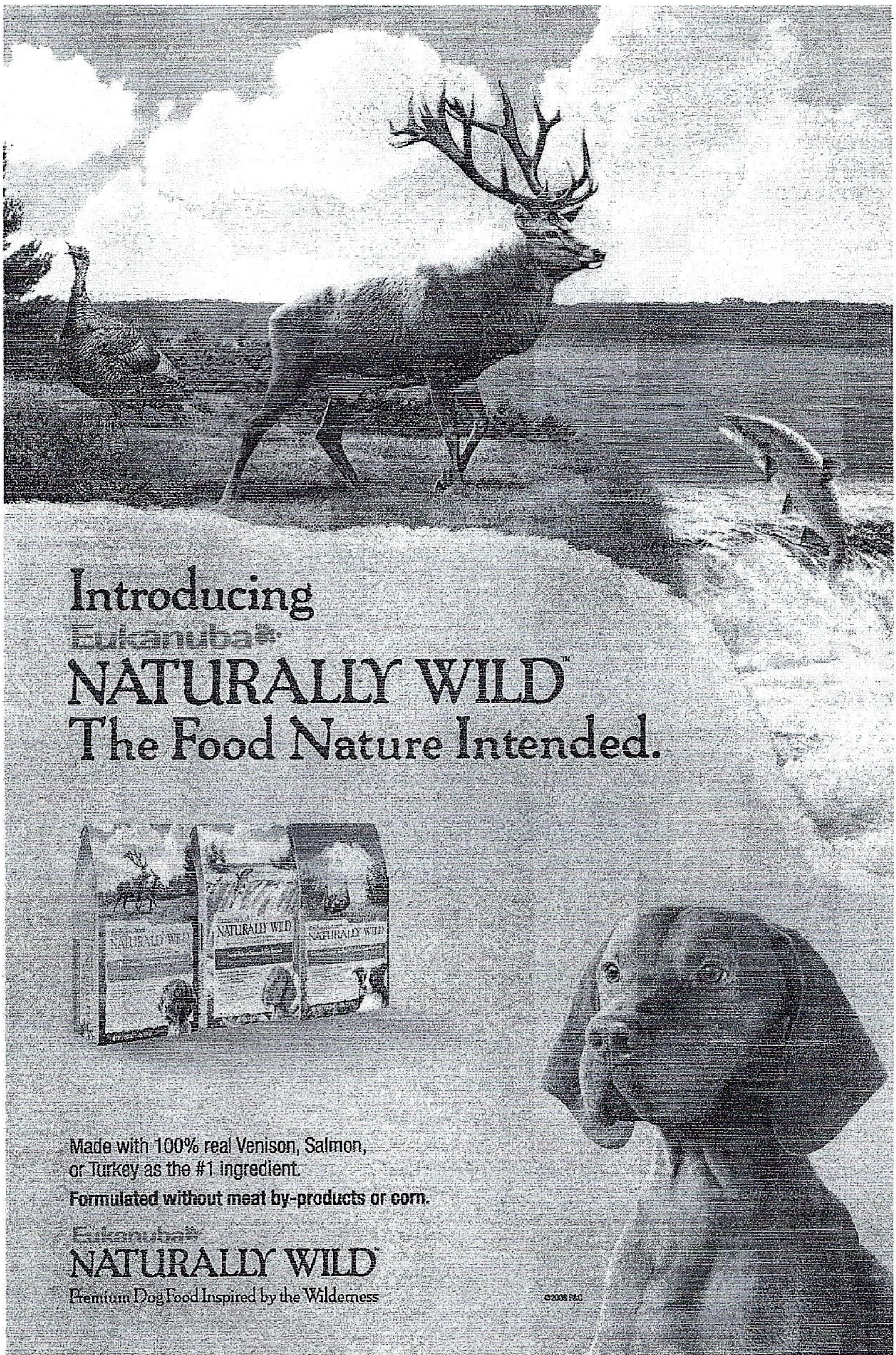
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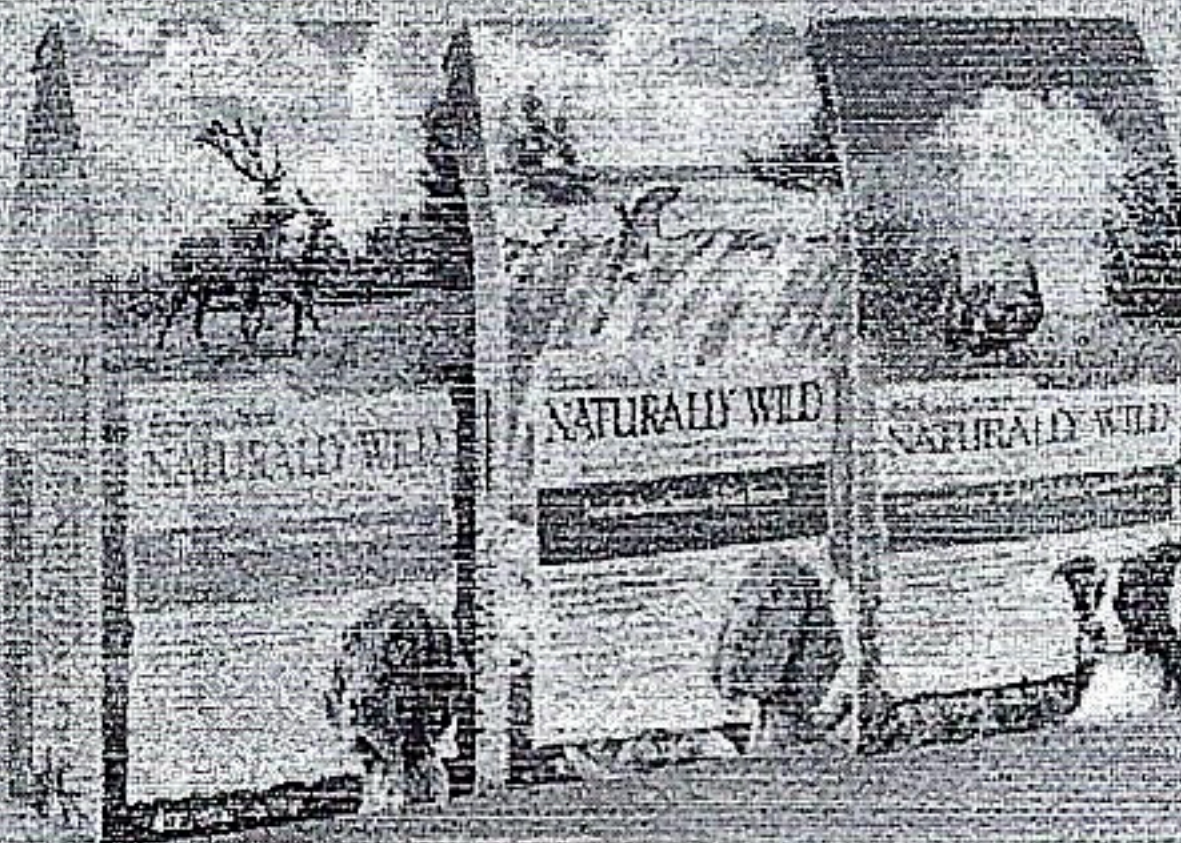
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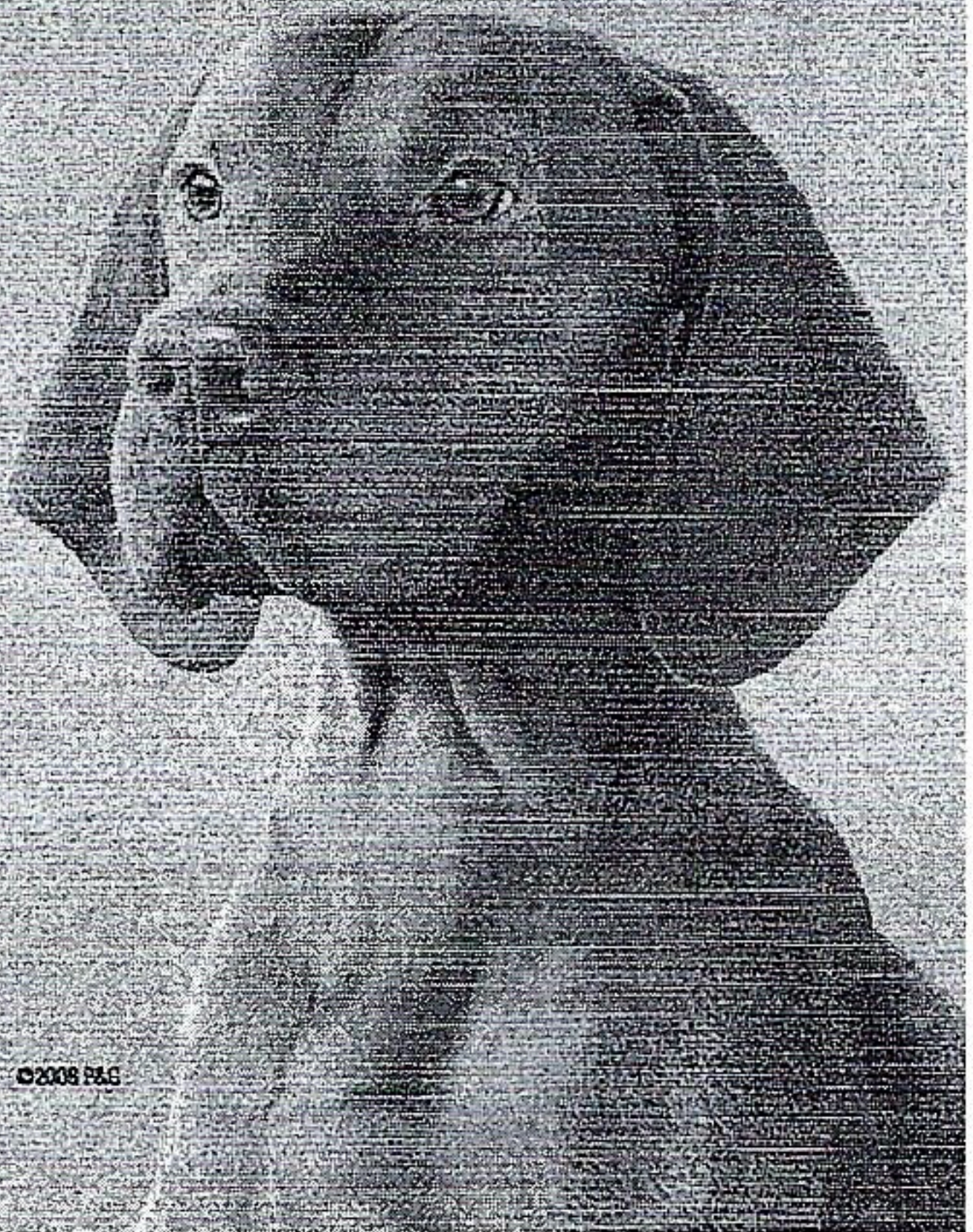


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The author gives his philosophy of building layers of success one at a time in order to produce a dog who knows what is expected of him and is willing to comply. If you do not think of hunt training as a constant series of positive experiences for the dog, think again. As the author says, "Training is a step by step approach, constantly building confidence and skills, so never take too big a step or attempt to show off or test your dog on something you have not built up to."

A small introductory section called "Be Positive" is at the heart of Deeley's training system and is most likely at the heart of his success as a gundog trainer, including being named U.K. Gundog Trainer of the Year in 2007. To quote the writer on a positive training experience:

"Always try to build on the positive and praiseworthy aspects of performance. Putting the dog in a position where it is always doing wrong and you are chastising it for this, will not create the desired relationship....being positive and trying to get your dog to be successful each time, you must remember never to give it an instruction or command unless you can enforce it, or show it what you mean. 'Showing' your dog means exactly that: helping, guiding and encouraging."

Chapters include how to build a solid foundation of training, qualities of the trainer, understanding your dog and his basic needs, creating partnership, early training, retrieving, developing the hunting instinct, advanced training and hunting in the field. An appendix of training exercises shows many comprehensive illustrations that help the dog increase his retrieve distances, long range

directions, how to deal with water and obstructions and more.

Aspects of Working Gundogs can be extremely useful even to readers who will never hunt over their retriever or spaniel. The retrieving chapter is one important example. Many trainers use a force fetch with their dog, teaching the dog that retrieve is not optional and that pressure will be applied if the dog does not cooperate with the exercise.

Rather than use ear pinch, toe hitch, or any other form of force fetch, Deeley walks the reader through a wealth of detail on how to build and shape the dog's natural prey drive into a reliable and controlled retrieve. This methodology can be used to work up to long distance and hidden object retrieves while still working with a happy and confident dog.

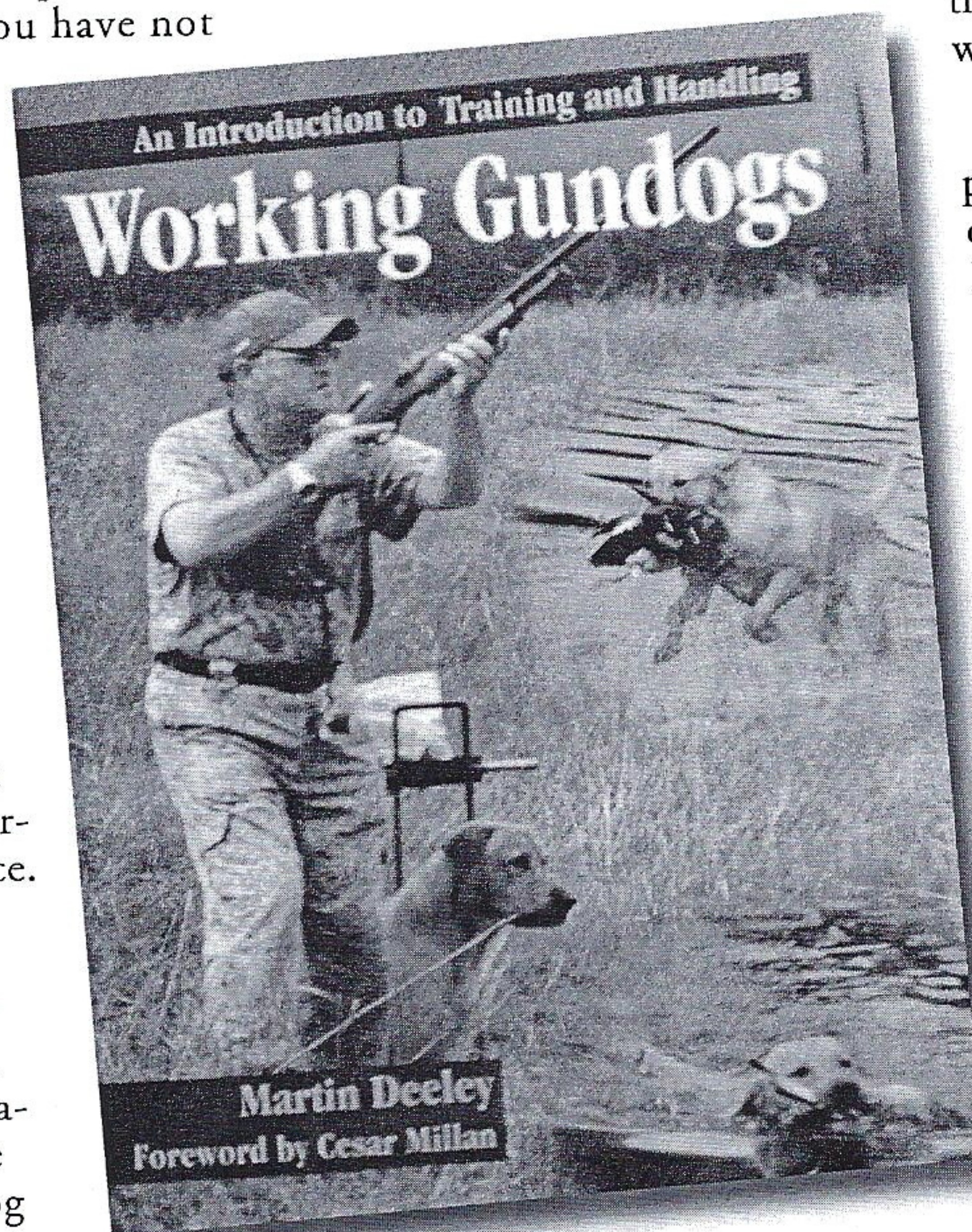
This reviewer has had the pleasure of watching Deeley teach retrieve many times and to some very unlikely breeds indeed including Bulldogs, pitbulls, Dobermans, Airedales

and others. Some of these dogs came to him with very little understanding of the retrieve. But all left him with the understanding that a controlled retrieve with a release to hand is a beautiful reward for partnering up with humans.

Inevitably there are times when mistakes will occur in a dog's training. The author explains how to prevent errors when possible, and how to adjust for them on the fly whether in training exercises or in the field.

Working Gundogs is published by The Crowood Press and is available from Amazon.com and other booksellers.

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Getting Things the Right Way Around

by Chad Mackin

This has been a long time coming.

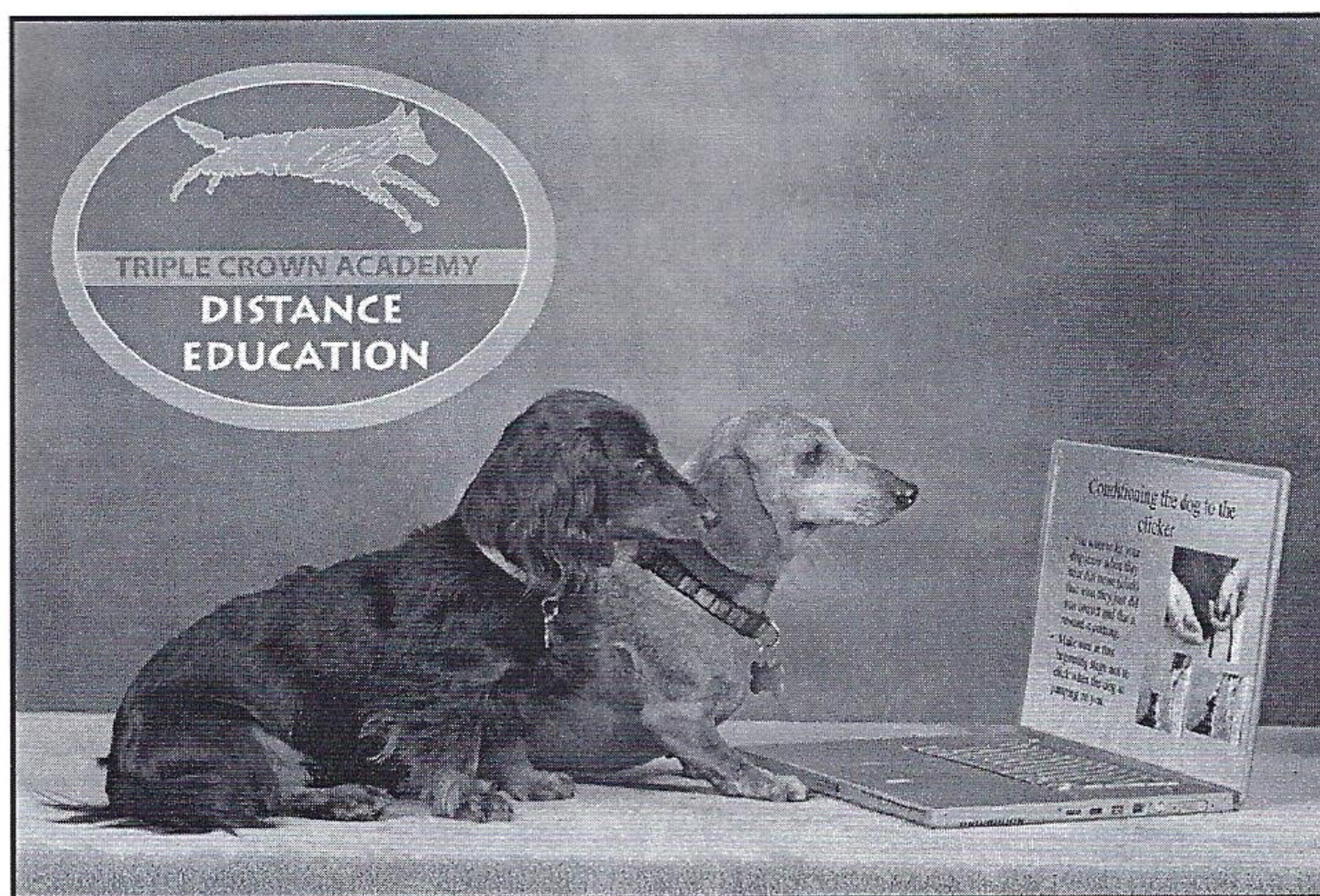
For some time now, I have been struggling with the right way to express a growing realization, a solid and persistent recognition of what is that danced on the very edge of description. Every time I tried the words failed me. It was a truth that wouldn't quite sit still long enough for me to wrap words around it. It remained just out of reach. I have tried in various ways to explain this in a way that accurately expressed the growing conviction. Ultimately, we can know something we can't understand, and we can understand something we can't express, at least not in words.

The truth I am speaking of, has been expressed (though at times imperfectly) every time I have picked up the leash since it began worming its way into my mind. But finally, the words have come, the thing that has been trying to escape from my brain into the air around me, has found the right words.

You see, I have been having trouble with the way pack hierarchies have been approached in

training, but I have been unable to really put my finger on it. What kept coming to me was simple, but not very illuminating, "They've got it backwards." I knew that this somehow referred to the way leadership was viewed, but that was about it. So I tried various permutations, and came up with different maxims that were, to the best of my knowledge, true, but didn't express completely what I was seeing. "It's backwards," was all I could come up with that really seemed to touch upon the central theme.

But finally, it seems that I have the words. They are not as earth-shattering as I would like, they aren't catchy and marketable. But they do allow, finally, this pesky thought that has been ricocheting round my head to become words. The key realization *hierarchy is built on top of strong relationships, not the other way around*. It is not the other way around. Watching other trainers work with dogs, and reading what they write, and listening to how they speak, and knowing how I used to train, it seems that even if it isn't said outright, the standard thinking is that we establish our



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relationship by exercising leadership, authority, and demanding respect. And that approach works as far as it goes. A great number of dogs have been and are still being trained by that philosophy. There is nothing inherently wrong with the philosophy, except that it is factually inaccurate. In short, it is wrong. Maybe not in all points, or even most, but in certain critical areas, it is absolutely wrong.

Let's look at the situation. Two dogs meet each other on the street independent of humans (once a common occurrence). Their first concern is not one of dominance or subordination, before anything else they must establish intent. What is the intent of the other dog? What are their own intentions? Before they even think about who is the leader and who is the follower, they have to decide if they will actually share space together peaceably, or are they going to try to run each other off. They may ignore each other, or they may sniff each other briefly and continue on their way, or they may travel together for a while. They may also fight. But none of these behaviors requires them to establish, or even consider, the issues of leadership and authority any more than I establish those things with the guy sitting next to me on an airplane. We may keep to ourselves, we may converse, we may even glare at each other, but we are not going to waste the energy trying to define a relationship that really is pretty clearly defined already. We are sitting next to each other on a plane.

So it is with the dogs in question. They may be palming around on the streets together, enjoying each others company, but at that moment, that is all they need to know about it. It isn't just that they don't know who the leader is, it is that they haven't even considered the question. They are not in the process of settling those matters, at least not deliberately, they are simply sharing space for a bit.

However, they are assessing each other's character so to speak. They are able to observe confidence, decisiveness, courage, consistency etc. and are certainly making decisions based on those things. But that's my point. The dogs are not actively jockeying for pack position, they are simply being themselves and letting their character do the rest. If, and when, it becomes necessary to fall into dominant and submissive roles, these character traits will be part of the conversation, and perhaps a large part, but they were not presented for the purpose of settling those matters. They were just part of getting to know one another. The idea

of establishing a right relationship by starting with establishing leadership simply goes against the natural order of the thing. It is an illogical progression, and whether we are aware of it or not, it never happens that way. The relationship will always come first, and only then can leadership or authority be established.

So what's the difference then? If we are going to establish the relationship first anyway, no matter what we do, why not try to establish the relationship by acting like a leader? As I said before, there is no inherent harm in it, but it can create missed opportunities, and misunderstandings. If our first goal is to communicate good will, our behavior will vary slightly than if our first goal is to establish leadership. The first thing I want the dog know about me is that I mean him no harm. That I am willing to share space with him, in whatever manner he is comfortable with. I am not forcing myself onto him, I am not insisting he allow me to touch him. We are in the same proximity and we must deal with each other.

I broker peace first. At first, I don't punish for growling. Even if the dog snaps at me, I will simply refocus him (to protect myself not to punish the dog) and go about my business. I will, of course, defend myself from a real bite, but it is so rare that a dog will go after someone who is being respectful of his space, that I rarely have to do it. Even then, once the dog is under control, the matter is left there. I have zero interest in teaching the dog that "I'm in charge," I merely teach him what I would any human I met, under any circumstances, I teach him how I expect to be treated. And I try to learn how he wants to be treated. Once we have brokered an understanding, we can begin the process of working together. And it is in *that* endeavor that we establish those other aspects of relationship leadership, authority and respect.

For me the it is clear, begin each relationship by approaching the dog as a sovereign creature worthy of respect and admiration, and use that as the foundation for the training that follows. In the final analysis, communication is a two-way street. One must listen as well as speak. And if you listen, it is spoken loud and clear: *Hierarchy is built on top of strong relationships, not the other way around.*

Chad Mackin is a Director of IACP and the founder of Pack to Basics workshops and dog behavior rehabilitation. Visit him on the web at www.packtobasics.com.

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Product Review: The Pet Convincer

by Marc Goldberg

Interrupting an undesired behavior gives us the opportunity to direct a dog back to a preferred action, one for which we can praise. Of course, the magic is in how one interrupts. Methods are as varied as your imagination, from making a sudden noise, use of light throw chains, a penny can, leash corrections, an alternate command...and on and on the list goes.

Of course, training the dog makes for a better relationship and a cessation of those pesky behaviors that clients so often complain about. And training is the ultimate long term goal. But I must admit, there are times when a quick and simple fix can fill the bill quite nicely. That's where the Pet Convincer comes in.

This simple, hand held device features a replaceable CO2 cartridge, a nozzle and a trigger. When you squeeze the trigger, the nozzle emits a blast of air and a "shhht" noise. By depressing the trigger fully, you can release a powerful puff with a very audible sound. And you can control how loud and powerful the air stream and noise are by only partially squeezing.

Unfortunately, owners yell at their dogs all the time. Raising one's voice is a natural human reaction to frustration. Rarely, however, do dogs stop a behavior when they are yelled at. Simply stated, dogs don't yell at each other the way humans do, and they are poorly equipped to connect the elevated voice with the cause of all the ruckus. Therefore, some other tangible consequence to poor behavior always works better.

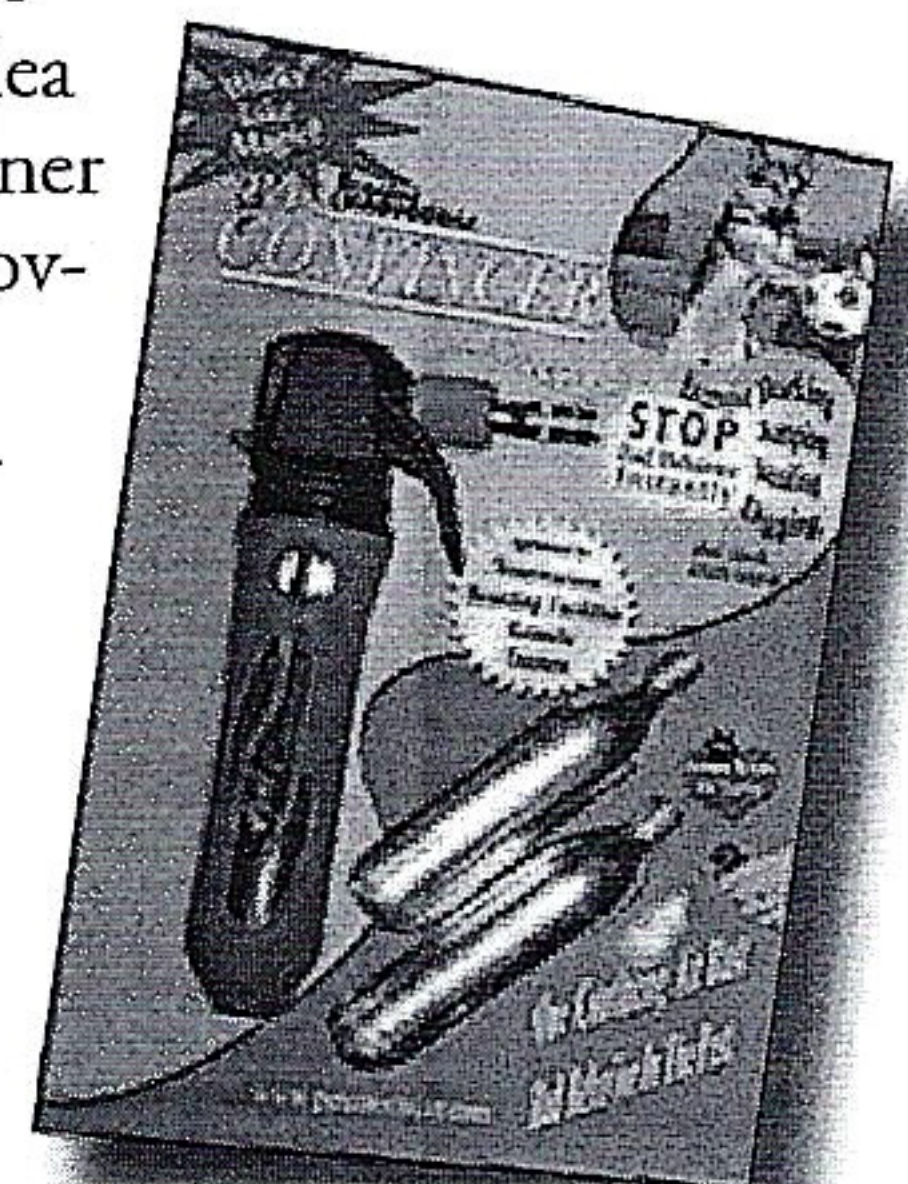
Possible uses of this product are many. Imagine the client with dog going ballistic at the door. A quick puff on the shoulder or back with the Pet Convincer tends to effectively interrupt the behavior far more effectively than shouting. The same can be said of jumping. In testing, I have used the unit for counter surfing and garbage eating with good results. However, I think the long term effect of using the Pet Convincer for those particular behaviors may not be long lasting enough because the dog is likely to equate the punishment with the human's approach. But some

dogs find this consequence memorable enough to make immediate and long lasting behavior choices.

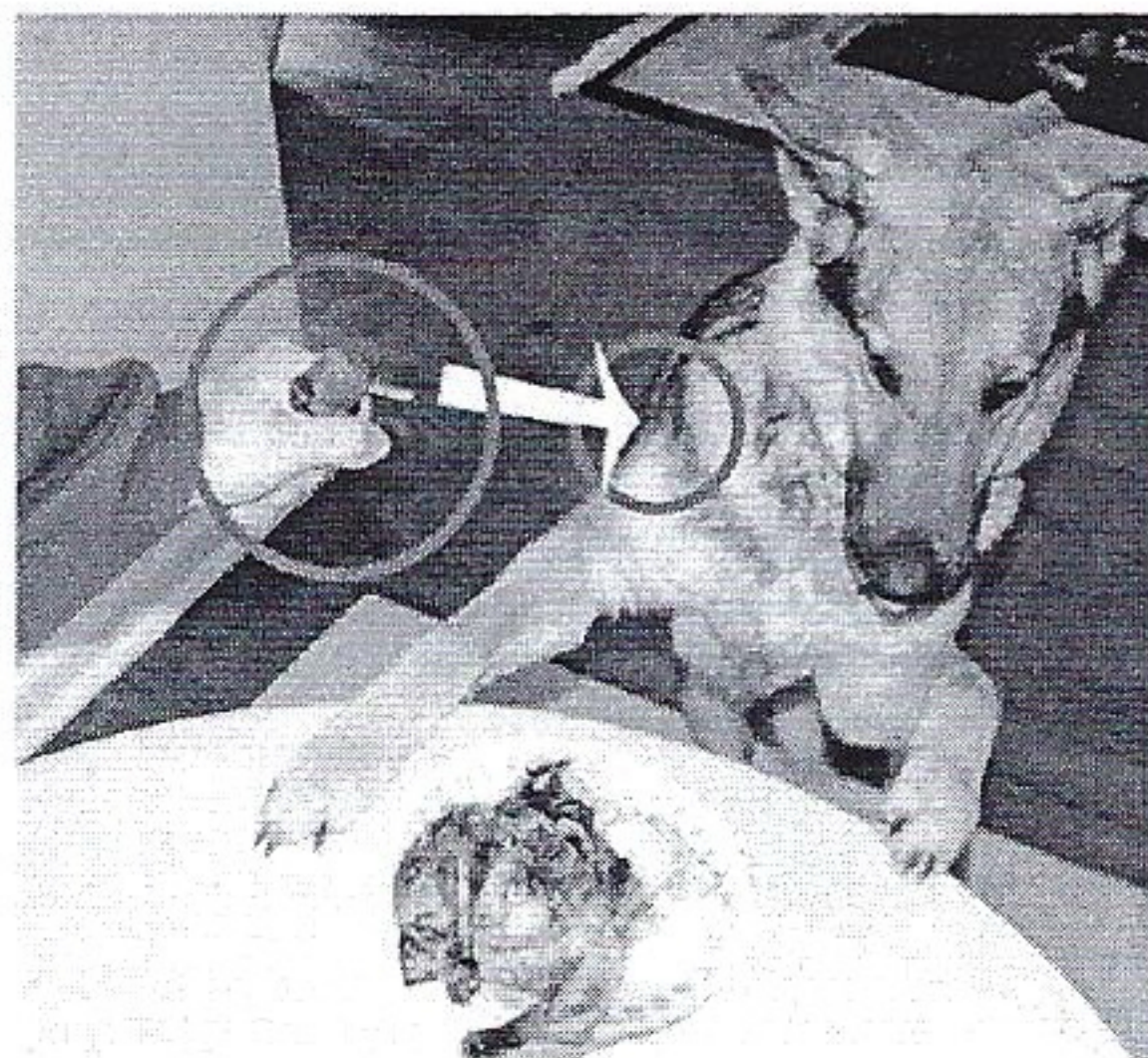
Yes, I do believe that dogs interpret the Pet Convincer's effect as punishment. It is startling, involving the senses of touch and sound. One scientific definition of punishment is a consequence to a behavior that makes the behavior decrease in frequency. Some owners and trainers are philosophically opposed to the idea of punishing dogs. Yet Skinner defined punishment as removing a positive reinforce. He also defined adding an aversive as punishment.

Personally, I'm not a big fan of arguing over science when discussing dog training. The point I'll make however is that although the Pet Convincer is an aversive, it will be perceived by the vast majority of human clients as an extremely humane one. From my own testing of the product, I think they will also find it quickly effective for certain behaviors that are difficult to resolve without a great deal of training. Certainly I would prefer the client have the dog properly trained. But if we can give the owner an interim solution, it may very well help keep more dogs safe in their homes.

Like any other aspect of work with dogs, timing is everything. I think it is useless to threaten a dog with the Pet Convincer because you'll condition the dog to react one way when you have it in hand, and another way when you do not. Ideally, the pet should be "convinced" when not looking at the handler. Yes, it is probably more effective to actually be close enough to puff the dog with air. However, the noise is also rather effective at interruption and can be heard from quite a distance.



Not long ago I had the product in my pocket when walking client dogs. Loose neighborhood dogs approached us, and not in a friendly way. I merely aimed the Pet Convincer at the two dogs stalking toward us. When they were six feet away I gave two quick blasts in their direction. The two dogs hightailed it away, yet the dog on my leash was not disturbed as he would have been had I used an air horn. This method may not work on seriously attacking dogs, but I hope not to have a chance to test that. But for the casual encounter I had, it was very effective.



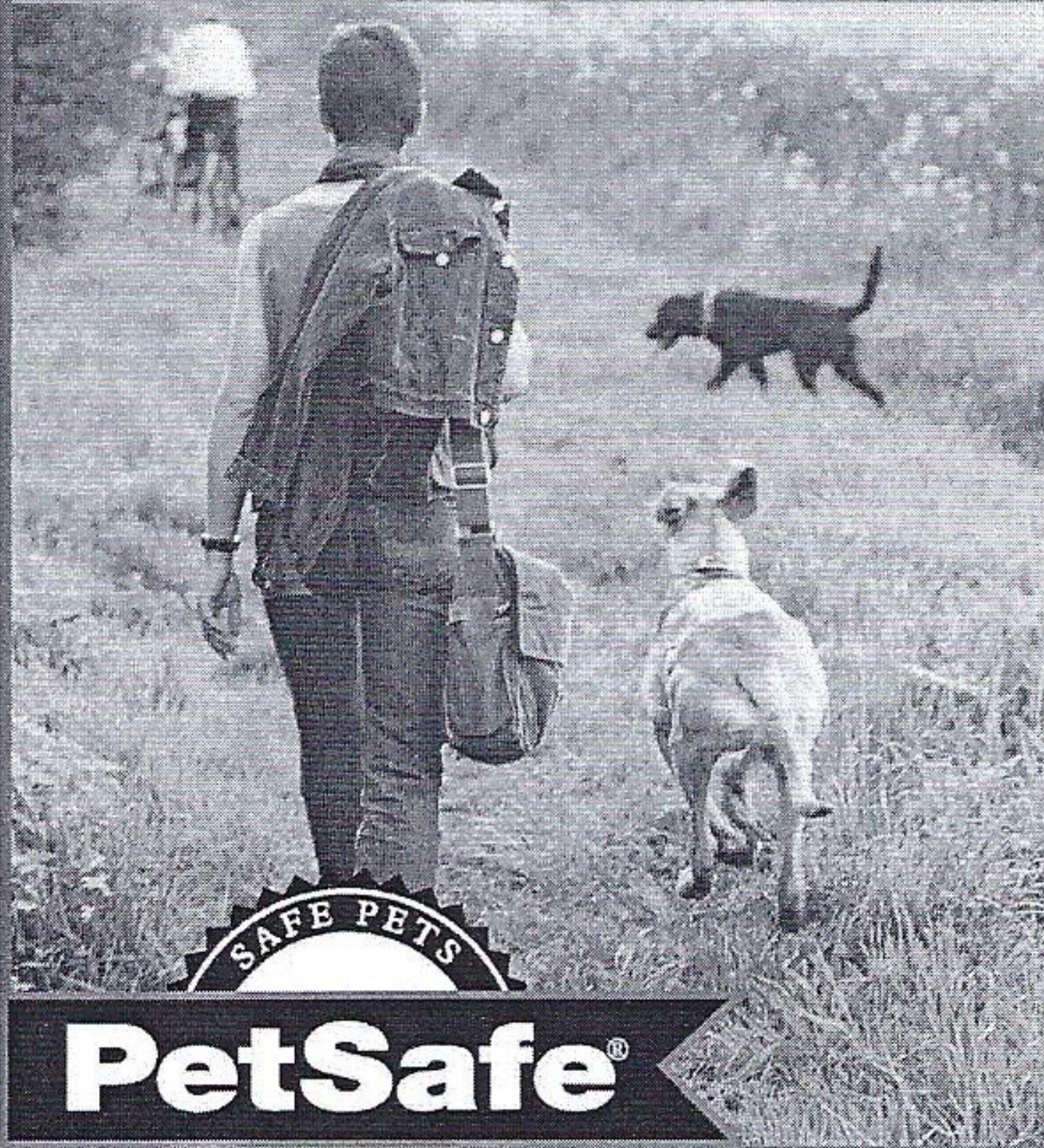
Some people are tempted to use cans of compressed air for the same purpose. These cans are sold to blow dust off computers. The problem with them, however, is that depending on the angle, they are quite likely to spray out freezing cold propellant along with the air. This cannot be good for the dog. If there is any disadvantage to the Pet Convincer, it is the price. At \$39.95 some might consider it pricey compared to the penny can.

But I believe it to be an acceptable cost considering the multiple uses and compact size it has. I have only found one competitive product marketed for similar use. That product is a bit cheaper but does not appear to be refillable and so it will make for more landfill garbage and a higher cost in the end.

I believe that the sound component of the equation is important and helps fix the punishment in the dog's mind. I noticed a client dog clambering up on a trash can to peek over my fence. I "pet convinced" him on the back and he never went near that trash can again. (Yet he did not later become fearful of the general area where the can was located.) When that dog whipped around to see what happened, I had already lowered my hand and pretended to have nothing to do with it. Therefore, he connected the punishment to the can (rather than to me) and he avoided it in the future.

Vladae Roytapel, IACP member, is co-inventor of the Pet Convincer, along with Christopher Mushenski. They do sell replacement CO2 cartridges, but they are a standard size available at Walmart in the sporting goods department. Having attended numerous group classes, I know that many trainers have different ways of dealing with those dogs who bark incessantly during the first lesson or two. Trainers

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may wish not only to keep a few of these on hand to sell to clients, but may also wish to demonstrate their use on those barkers.

A word of caution that the manufacturer stresses is never to puff dogs in the face with the Pet Convincer. The blast of air can be powerful depending on how hard you pull the trigger, and this could potentially cause an eye injury. I found it easy to puff a dog on the back or shoulder for an effective but very humane correction.

The quick fix is not always the best or only solution. That being said, too many owners scream uselessly at their dogs or worse yet, get rid of them because of behaviors that can be managed with a simple puff of air. After playing with the Pet Convincer for a couple of weeks, I'm convinced that it's worth a small pocket in my tool box.

More information can be found at www.PetConvincer.com. The author of this review, Marc Goldberg, is President of IACP, and trains dogs in Chicagoland. He can be found at www.ChicagoDogTrainer.com. iacp

Training Dogs Using Pack Work, Part 1

By Maryna Ozuna

Pack work, using a group of dogs to influence the behavior of an individual, is an amazing tool which can create permanent change in a dog and help create a healthy balanced attitude and behavior. There are a variety of ways in which trainers use this concept to assist in the training of a client dog from simply using a senior steady, trained dog to calm a nervous nelly, to having a young dog mingle with a variety of well balanced older dogs. However, a number of trainers are using fascinating varieties of pack concepts to reach to even deeper layers of instinctive reprogramming of our typical modern, disorganized client dogs. Some examples of common modern pack work include: an off leash Working Pack Walk; Large Field Socialization, and its smaller versions; and leashed Migration Pack Walks, to name just a few. And while these are concrete modern teachable models of pack work, it is important to put this in historical context and understand that folks have been using dogs to teach other dogs for millennia.

When using any training tool whether be it a treat, a retrieve toy, or a group of dogs, it is first important to assess what you want to accomplish and why. What is it that you are trying to shift? Is it certain behaviors, is it an overall chaotic organization in the dog, lack of focus, dog/dog aggression, dog/dog fear,

insecurity in general, over boldness, a hooligan puppy, an unstructured rehab case? There are many, many different components to using multiple dogs as an asset to training.

It is not enough to just plunk an untrained dog down with a bunch of other dogs and expect miracles to happen. They could. But you could also have a disaster on your hands that could create a more, not less, unstable dog.

So for example dog parks are never pack work. Pack work has nothing to do with letting dogs run





around in high adrenaline with no focus and no interruption. That is always high adrenaline prey drive, with a huge component of defense drive thrown in. There is an enormous difference between this chaos and pack work. Multiple dogs does not a pack make. Multiple dogs moving over space does not a pack or pack work make. Multiple dogs moving in a *calm, focused and organized way in pack drive* makes for pack work. Again, like any other tool, you need to have a game plan and know where you are going and why.

For me, the reason I use a dog pack to train is that it rebuilds a dog's brain from the inside out. What I see over and over are dogs who are too unstable to even teach a sit, or wait, and have them retain the command, let alone an off leash recall. Before we can train, we have to create a creature who is balanced and stable enough to train, and has the capacity to learn. An adrenaline addicted dog, who has spent the last three years of his life pinging around a house, doing whatever, wherever, and whenever he wanted, is not a creature who is yet ready to really learn. There is homework to be done first.

Pack work can help calm, and organize a dog's brain so that someone is home when we want to go teach a "leave it" command to the dog racing around the house for your clients' clothes or dish or toy yet again.

In addition, pack work creates an ever increasing ability to focus under distraction, that mimics the high stimulation nature of modern life with dogs.

It literally teaches dogs how to handle their own adrenaline, how to cope and maintain despite distraction: visual, auditory, sensory, movement distractions. Translated into simple, everyday life, it can help your dog learn an "off switch".

In order to understand the nuances of the different ways in which people use a 'Pack' to train dogs or influence their behavior, we first need to understand a related concept referred to as "Pack Drive", as we use a dog's deep seated pack drive in various ways when we are working that dog within an actual pack. In *Dog Training for Dummies*, Wendy Volhard defines pack drive as follows: A series of behaviors associated with reproduction, being part of a group or pack, and being able to live by the rules. She goes on to say,

Dogs, like their distant ancestors the wolves, are social animals. To hunt prey that's mostly larger than themselves, wolves have to live in a pack. To assure order, they adhere to a social hierarchy governed by strict rules of behavior. In dogs, this translates into an ability to be part of a human group and means a willingness to work with people as part of a team. Pack drive is stimulated by rank order in the social hierarchy.

So, when we train a dog to an off leash "Let's Go" command, we are building pack drive in the dog. We are building the dog's ability to move in an organized fashion over terrain, in cooperation with the pack, even if the pack is just you, the handler. When we ask a dog to walk along with us, to follow us, we are asking the dog to be in pack drive. Following is a pack drive exercise. Heeling is not. Heeling is a moving, positional exercise that is not intuitive to a dog, and is often frustrating to both dog and human. Following, moving along with, but not necessarily in that tight box of a heel is a pack drive exercise. "Checking in" (a dog who slows and looks back when off leash), or a full "Come", are all nuances of communication within a pack, and are all pack drive exercises.

In very loose terms, you might think of pack drive as the desire to please, to work with you, to focus on you, to look to you for a command or the next stage of affairs, to follow you when you move, to come back to you, to accede to your leadership, to move out of your way when you move. As you can see, many of these qualities are the very things that pet owners

would like from their dogs and don't have. One of the common things that clients will see and comment on with dogs whose pack drive has been increased is: "My dog looks at me now, and looks to me for direction." Yup, pack drive.

In my opinion, there is no faster way to build pack drive in a dog than by using an actual dog pack. For me, it cuts training time of complex canine unbalanced behaviors by months if not years.

Lastly, pack work, which is typically a moving exercise, also teaches dogs how to connect back into their own bodies. Again, an enormously common problem in the modern dog, and one which will always be a clear impediment to learning. So let's say for example, you have a disorganized dog, who has had chaotic leadership, can't find his hind feet to save his life, doesn't even begin to look to see where you are, is on high distraction, and whose adrenalin is on permanent on. It will be tremendously easier to train such a dog to heel if he is actually cued in to paying attention, whose overall vibe level has dropped about ten notches, and who has decided that maybe, just maybe, humans are relevant to more than just distributing food?

There is a reason that the Koehler sequence at its most basic works, over and over and over again. It is because it starts with building pack drive, focus, and connection, and moves on from there, only after there is clear reward-able buy in, and clear threshold of functioning pack drive.



Using an actual dog pack moving in a coherent and structured way to build not only pack drive, but a full and complex pack language, a balanced brain and a balanced body can add an additional powerful tool to the training equation that can rapidly help to bring order to a chaotic soul.

If you are using your own dog or dogs as a tool, you need to constantly assess his readiness and inclination to do the job asked. Did he just come through two weeks of dealing with a young dog who was constantly testing, testing, testing their boundaries? Has he had some large dogs to deal with who bumped or banged into him? Have you had your pack dogs backs checked to make sure they are soft, sound and supple? Do you do digital radiographs every few years to assess encroaching arthritis? Do you work your teacher dogs on a continual basis to assess their steadiness, responsiveness to command, and level of focus and cooperation?

A dog pack is not a tool that once sharpened can be left alone. It is a tool that needs subtle attention on a daily basis. Your working dogs are not robots. They can wake up cranky in the heat. They can have an extra hard job and be tired the next day. They can have too many dogs, too much chaos and need a break. They can get sick. They can age. And they can burn out.

Pack work is exhausting for our dogs. Whether they're good at it or not, it's still energetically exhausting. The better the pack dog, the more likely it is that they will work well beyond the time when their personal well needs to be filled up. It's up to us to continually gage our own dogs and make sure that we have a happy, balanced working partner before subjecting them to yet another plunge into chaos land.

Stay tuned next edition for Part II: How to build a working dog pack. Development concepts of mirroring, perimeter, check-in, ranging, velcro, criss-cross, narrowing and expansion as well as examples of different styles of pack work: migration, mingling, and mingling with distraction.

Maryna Ozuna is a professional member of IACP and can be found on the web at www.AZdoggyDudeRanch.com. She is also the founder of the dog body work called Kinaesthetics.

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