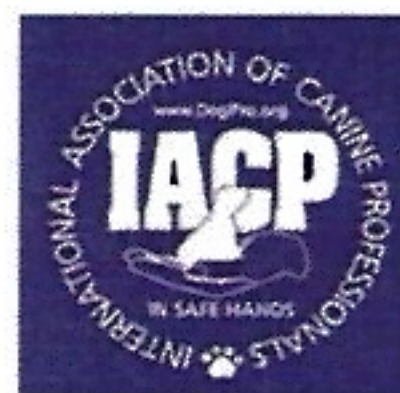


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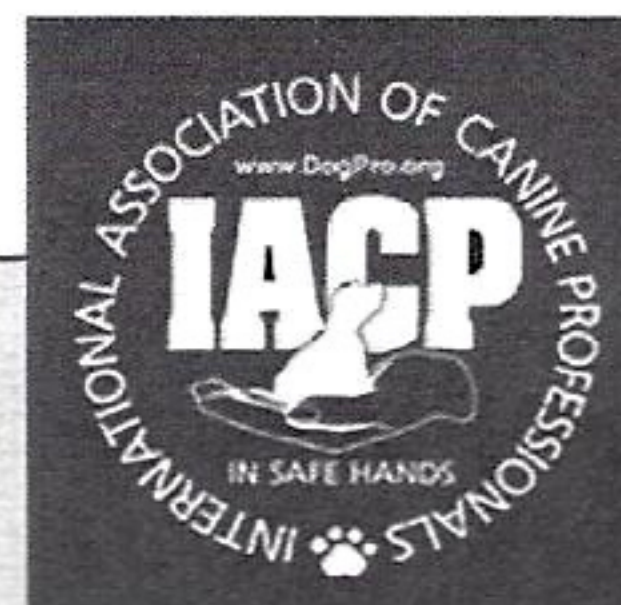


Safe Hands Journal



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Marc Goldberg
Martin Deeley

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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.

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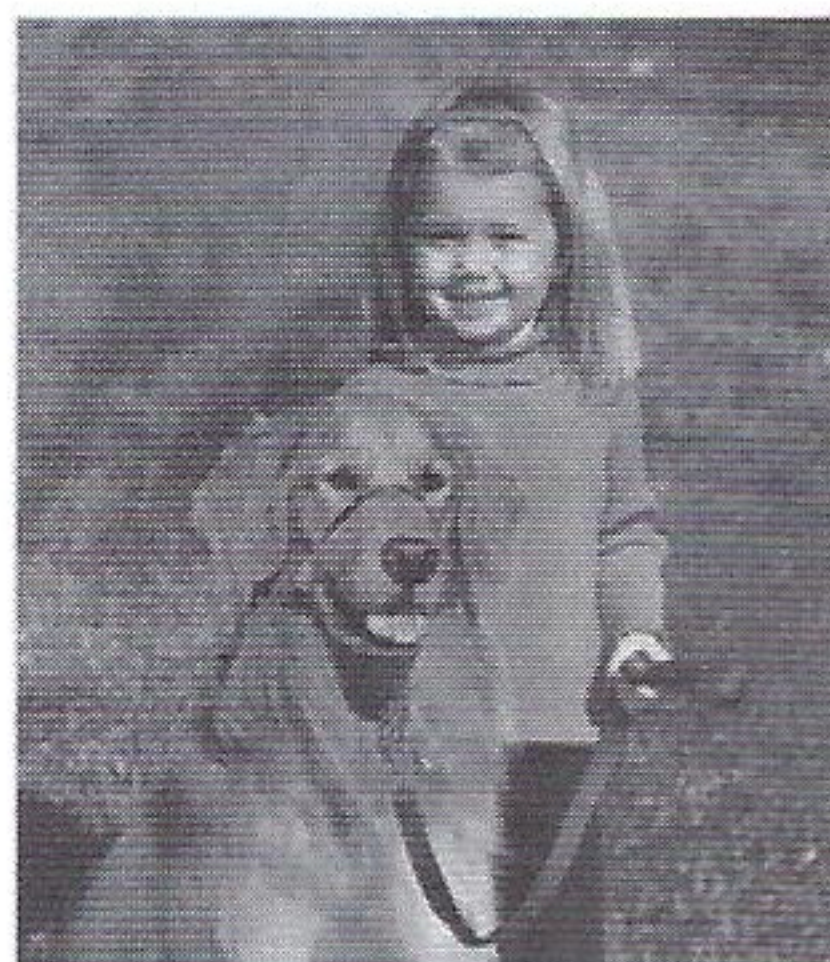
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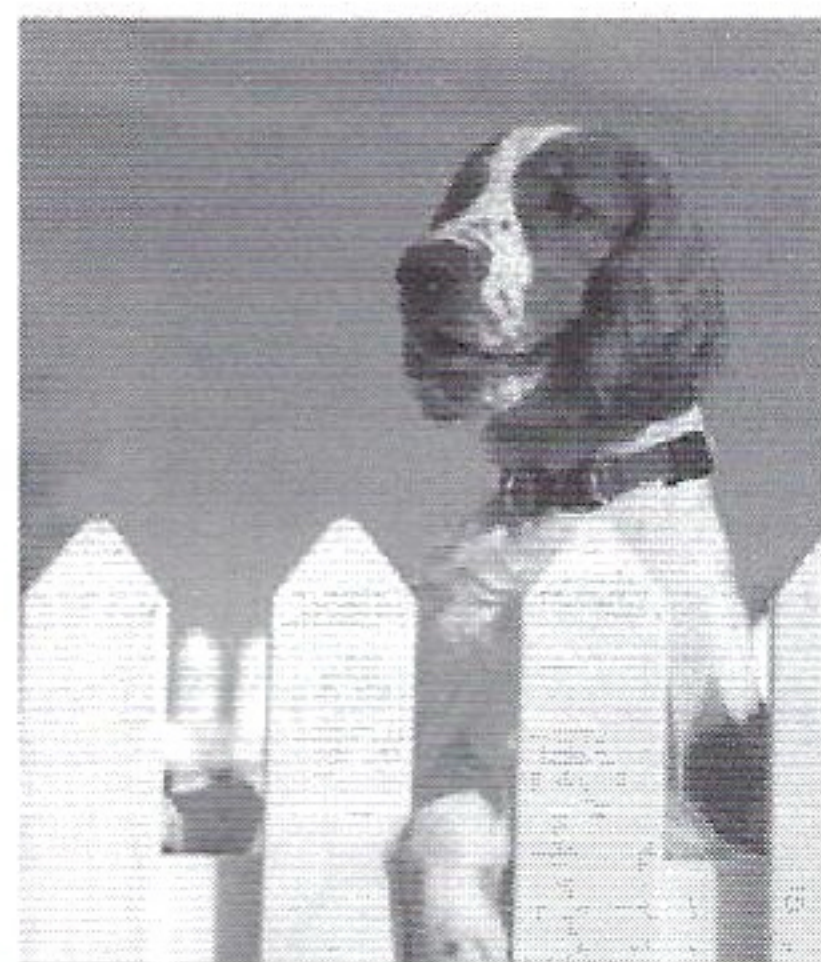
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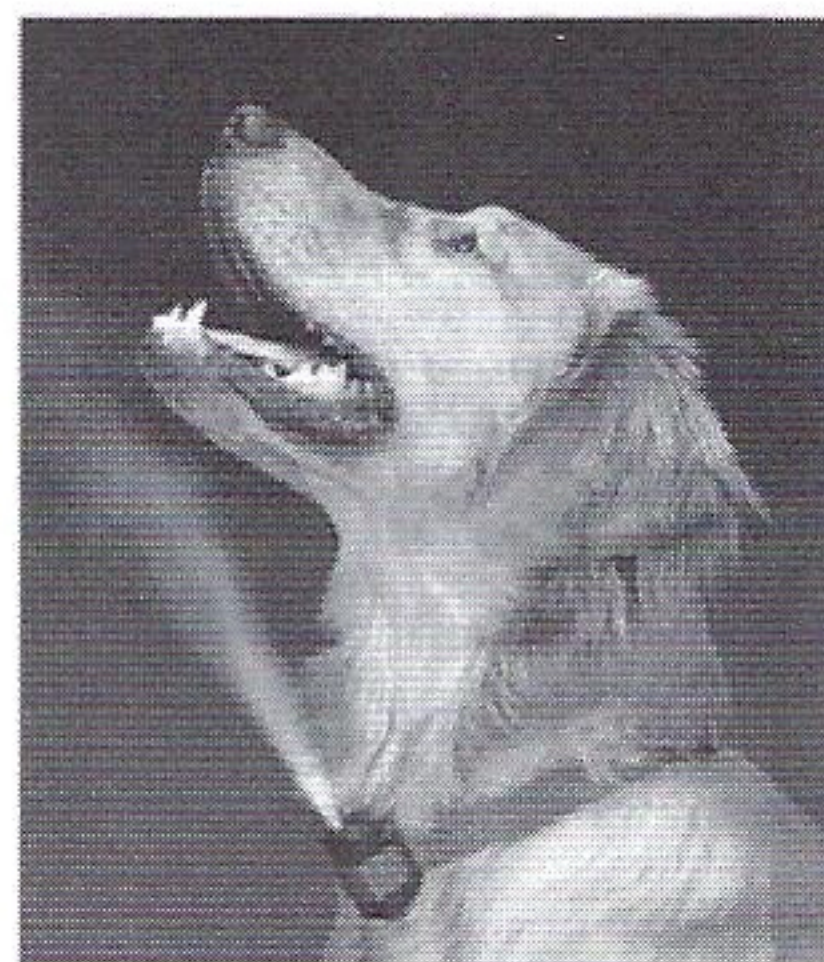
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From the President

See you in March at Conference!

by Marc Goldberg, CDT

Today I had a sad reminder of how important we can be to the lives of our clients and their families. Milo and his owner were due in tonight for a meeting about his upcoming training. I'll call Milo's owner Julie, a really nice lady who understood that her dog needed training.

So she did the right thing and contacted a trainer, and arranged to meet with us to make a plan. I called Julie earlier today to confirm our appointment. She didn't return the call nor did she show up. So I called again just to check on her, and she answered the phone nearly in tears.

"Milo ran out the door last night and we lost him," she told me. Milo has been missing now for almost 24 hours. The family has canvassed the neighborhood and done everything they can for the moment. Temperatures are dropping into the teens this week in Chicago, especially at night. Milo is a three pound Yorkie. Although I am pulling for the little guy, chances aren't good.

We teach every dog to sit and wait at doors. I want a dog to see an open door and think "this is where I sit." I'm sorry I didn't have the chance to teach that to Milo, and I hope I...or someone else...still will. Remember guys, even though you may not get thanked every day, what you do is important and helps families sleep at night.

Conference is coming up in Hutto, TX and YOU should be there! March 18 to 21 will be your opportunity to hear Temple Grandin, author of *Animals in Translation* and *Animals Make Us Human*. I read both of these books well before Dr. Grandin agreed to speak at our conference, and I couldn't be more delighted to have the chance to meet her in person. Glance at one of her books and you'll see why.



We have a full complement of speakers and workshops at this conference. Check the IACP web site at CanineProfessionals.com for more information. But one thing is for sure, a trip to Texas this year will have you pumped for months.

I can't tell you how exciting it is to walk into a huge center full of DOG PEOPLE, and not just that...IACP DOG PEOPLE! Believe me, you're family and you'll be welcomed as such...or maybe even better depending on the family. Join us for Conference this year. You'll have a blast and learn enough to pay for it over and over.

Marc Goldberg



“He Knows What I Want”

By Martin Deeley



An important skill we need to develop is ‘reading’ the dog we are working with, and by doing so determine if he really does understand what we are specifically asking. We may be under the impression that a dog is reacting to a verbal command when he could easily be responding to body language, a familiar situation or place where he does this action habitually. All too often dog owners think that their dog is misbehaving when in fact he may be doing what he believes is required or he may not actually understand the verbal command, even though we think he does. We have all heard “He knows what I want.” But maybe he doesn’t.

Two good examples of this are when we ask a dog to sit – a simple command and action. Let us take two methods of teaching this. In the first one, we have the dog on a leash by our side and as we say “Sit” we stop walking, lift the leash putting pressure upwards on his collar and release this pressure when his butt hits the ground. Now really we have done three actions, we stopped, we lifted the leash and we said “Sit” – which did he respond to? In addition we stopped walking and he is in a specific place – by our side. Which one of these signaled the sit? Which one did he focus on and understand as being the ‘command’ to sit.

Now let’s use a treat to lure the dog into a sit. Once again there is more than one action plus a different situation – food in the hand and dog sat in front. We show the dog the food; we direct our hand over his nose and lure him into a sit using the command “Sit”. We may even guide him with a gentle hand pressure on his butt. Again, let me ask, what did he respond to with the variety of signals from body, voice and situation? Which one became the communication ‘command’ which promoted the sit? With both training methods we naturally presume the verbal “Sit” created his action and will now be understood. This is not necessarily so, in fact I would be bold enough to sug-

gest – rarely so with a dog that is learning the action. If “Sit” means put your butt to the floor immediately, a dog which understood this would sit wherever he was. In fact what happens is that the dog will often hear the word ‘Sit’ and a variety of actions may result. He may maneuver himself alongside the handler, or in front of him, before sitting. He may check the hand to see whether there is a treat in it. He may wait for a pressure on his collar or butt. He may totally ignore the command – but rarely will he sit immediately the moment he hears the command.

Try this little test even with a ‘trained’ dog. Walk with the dog at heel off leash and while walking at a constant pace, say “Sit” but do not stop, look down or change anything – just keep walking at the same pace. Did he sit? If not, we have to ask ourselves does he really understand what sit means. Add to this test with a dog that understands sit and stay. Walk along, command sit, even stop to ensure he does. Then, with him sat, walk away and do not look at him. While walking away and not changing your body attitude call him with the recall command. If he comes immediately he understands the verbal command – if not, he does not. Try this with a variety of dogs and handlers and you will be surprised – may be not – to see how many do not understand the verbal command. They either understand a different ‘command’ often body language (may be one we do not even know we are giving) or a combination of verbal and body language. My experience is that they have understood body language rather than the verbal command.

‘Sit’ for many dogs means come and sit by my side because that is where it was taught. When handlers progress in their training and attempt to have their dogs sit at a distance they can become very discouraged when the dog tries to come back to their side to sit. The dog has understood the command to mean “Sit by my side” and not sit immediately wherever you

are. By coming back to the handler's side the dog is doing what he thinks is right but the handler becomes frustrated and thinks the dog is misbehaving. Not true!! Dogs relate a command to an action occurring where it did before. So if a dog has been taught to sit by your side that is what he will think he has to do. As we progress with the sitting at a distance, if he will sit promptly on command when he is two yards away it does not mean he will accept the command and respond to it at five yards and more. If he has been taught to come on a recall from five yards it does not mean he will come as reliably from ten. He has to be taught commands in a variety of situations and at increasing distances for him to comprehensively understand and react correctly to any command. Now, if there is this much opportunity for misunderstanding with these two simple commands we have to understand that there can be serious misunderstanding when we move into complex controls and work.

When training, it is a good approach to believe that your dog is trying to do right and wants to please. If he does not behave as expected, it is because we have

not taught him well enough in that specific situation, at that distance, or we have believed that he understood something that he did not. Before condemning a dog and creating more problems, give the dog the benefit of the doubt and ensure he really does understand what is required when and where you require it. Take a good look at what you are saying to him and determine what he is actually 'hearing'. He may not know what you want but is actually trying to do what he thinks you want.

www.floridadogtrainer.com

www.canineprofessionals.com

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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.

iACP

Dogs & Devotion

By Martin Deeley



Enchanting, thought provoking, enlightening and a true inspiration when days are grey, Brother Christopher and the Monks of New Skete have done it again with their latest book. *Dogs & Devotion* is a book that reflects the role our dog plays in our lives and the special often unspoken values and relationships we share with them. Reading this book, The Monks put into words feelings and emotions that we all, who love dogs, experience. They have a way of doing this in a way we can all relate to, from tough guy working dog man to companion lap dog devotee. As a trainer I can sometimes

forget many times how human a dog makes me. And how humble and more understanding I need to be. Dogs see life in simple pictures and in doing so can show us how we should feel and behave with others to create lasting relationships.

Under simple headings The Monks explain the dog's way. No religious overtones just simple explanations that we can all relate to and are moved by. Under Honoring Relationships, they explain, "In a fractured world of broken relationships dogs teach us the meaning of devotion and fidelity." So much



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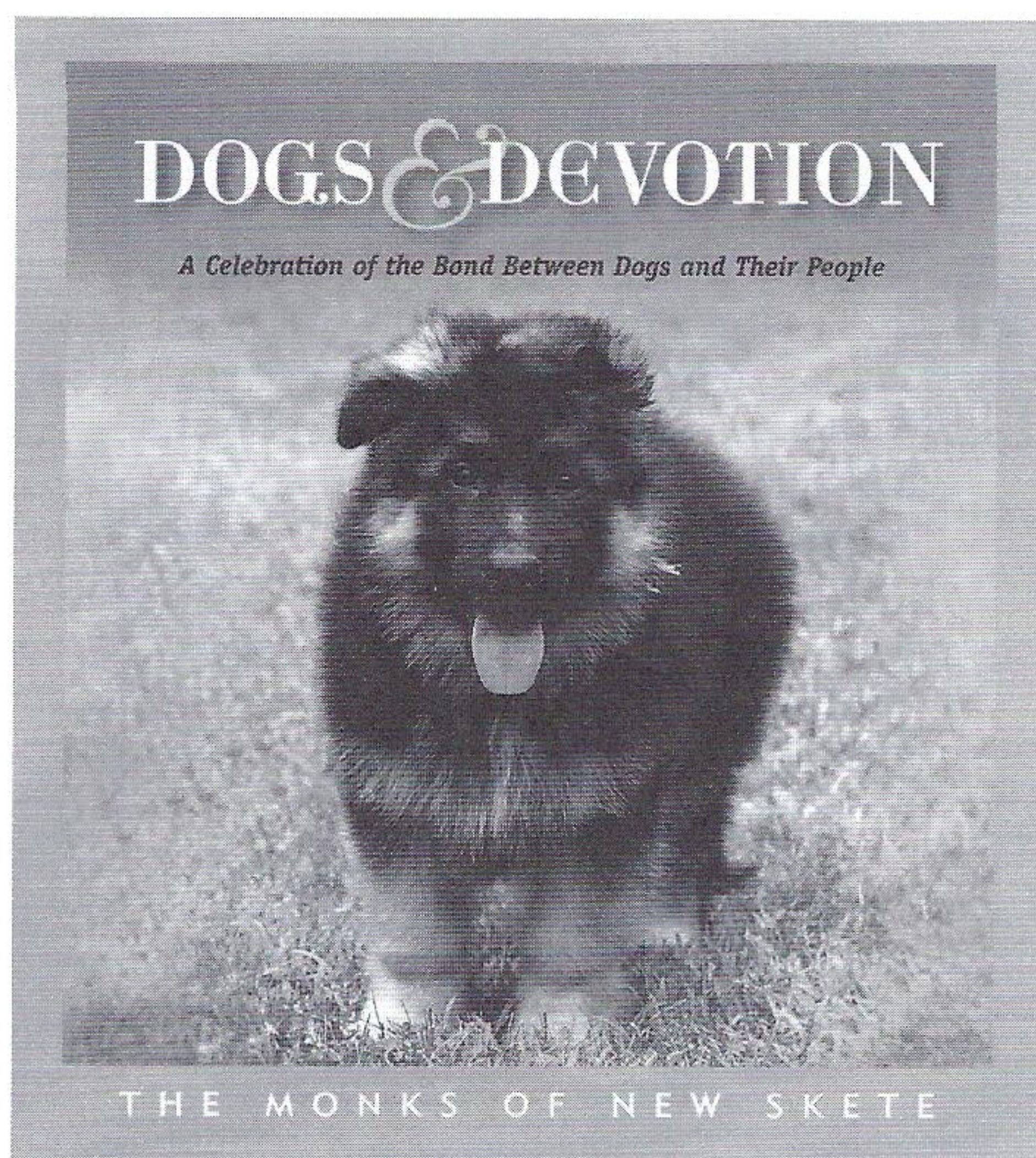


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truth in what is written the book is illustrated with soft and caring photography – bringing all words to life and realization.

Anyone who has met Brother Christopher of the Monks of New Skete will picture him speaking each word. He is passionate about dogs, describes them and their partnership with man in a way that we can all associate with, and do so in a manner that is simply a delight.

This is a not a training book per se, but it does provide moments of development in our thinking and the ways in which we can conduct our lives and relationships. Dogs are our teachers. I will constantly dip into *Dogs & Devotion* to bring a smile of understanding and, calm the stresses of the day. This is a book that will remain on my Coffee table in the knowledge that it will do the same for all who open these wonderful pages. It is a must for all dog lovers. Give it as a gift to your friends, and especially, to yourself. **iacp**

Put the Saver in PetSaver!

By Thom Some

Have you ever left your vet's office and felt like you paid more than you should have? I have talked to thousands of pet owners and there seems to be a general consensus that prices have been going up and more services are being performed, whether or not they are necessary.

Now, let me be clear, I am sure that you, like me, would do whatever it takes to save the life of our pets AND someone else's pets if we could.

It is best to have strategies in place before, during and after your vet visit, to help reduce the cost of your pet health care.

Before the Vet Visit

Take a Pet CPR and First Aid Course: According to the American Animal Hospital Association one-out-of-four more pets would survive if just one pet first aid technique were applied prior to getting veterinary treatment. The other startling fact is that up to 60 percent of animal hospital visits are emergencies. Knowing the skills and techniques of pet CPR and first aid can mean the difference between life and death, between temporary and permanent disability, between expensive veterinarian bills and reasonable home care and between rapid recovery and long recuperation for your pet.

Do Snout-To-Tail Assessments on a Regular Basis: how well do you think your veterinarian and vet tech

can really get to know the true health of your pet during the 10-15 minute appointment once or twice a year? Our pets experience the same "white-coat syndrome" we humans do. When examined by the doctor our blood pressure, heart rate and breathing all escalate. It is much better for you to be doing regular (3-5 times a week) Snout-to-Tail (S2T) Assessments with vitals. Vitals include: heart rate, breathing rate, temperature, mucous membrane color and meaning. There is a wide range of "normal" for a pet's vitals that's why it is VITAL (pun intended) you know YOUR pet's numbers. You can get a FREE Pet Tech S2T Worksheet at www.PetTech.net/S2T

Pet First Aid Kit: The biggest resources you have are your head, hands and heart. That is why we teach "use your head, be careful with your hands, because you have a heart." You actually have within your reach, as you read this article, all you need to respond to about 90 percent of the emergencies that occur. You have clothing you can use for bleeding; you have items that can be used to transport your pet. However, there are certain emergencies that it is imperative to be prepared for, such as poisoning, insect bites and stings that require more than your head, hands and heart.

During the Vet Visit

Be Prepared: Bring your S2T worksheet with written notes and a written history of what the pet has been presenting. Share this information with the vet, as veterinarians in general don't believe

you. For example, the lay pet owner brings his dog in and states he just started scratching a few days ago. The trained eye sees that the dog has massive hair loss with scarring, so this has been going on for a week, 10 days or even longer.

Ask Questions: Ask WHY everything they want to do is being done. Ask what they expect to specifically learn from the results of that test. Ask for a written estimate of all services to be performed. If there is anything that you do not want performed, tell them AND initial on the estimate that you are not authorizing that procedure.

Fire Your Vet: It was back in 2001 in San Diego when I spoke at an International Pet Care Professional's Convention that I first started advocating firing your vet if they don't have similar beliefs and values of pet care that you do. The demographics of pets are changing. The average vet is a 55-year-old white male. They went to school with a different paradigm of pets in our lives. That demographic is changing and in the next several years the average veterinarian will be a non-white 30-ish female. They will be more open and knowledgeable to a variety of treatment options like acupuncture, acupressure, massage and homeopathy, just to name a few. There is no service or procedure that is available for humans that is not now available for pets.

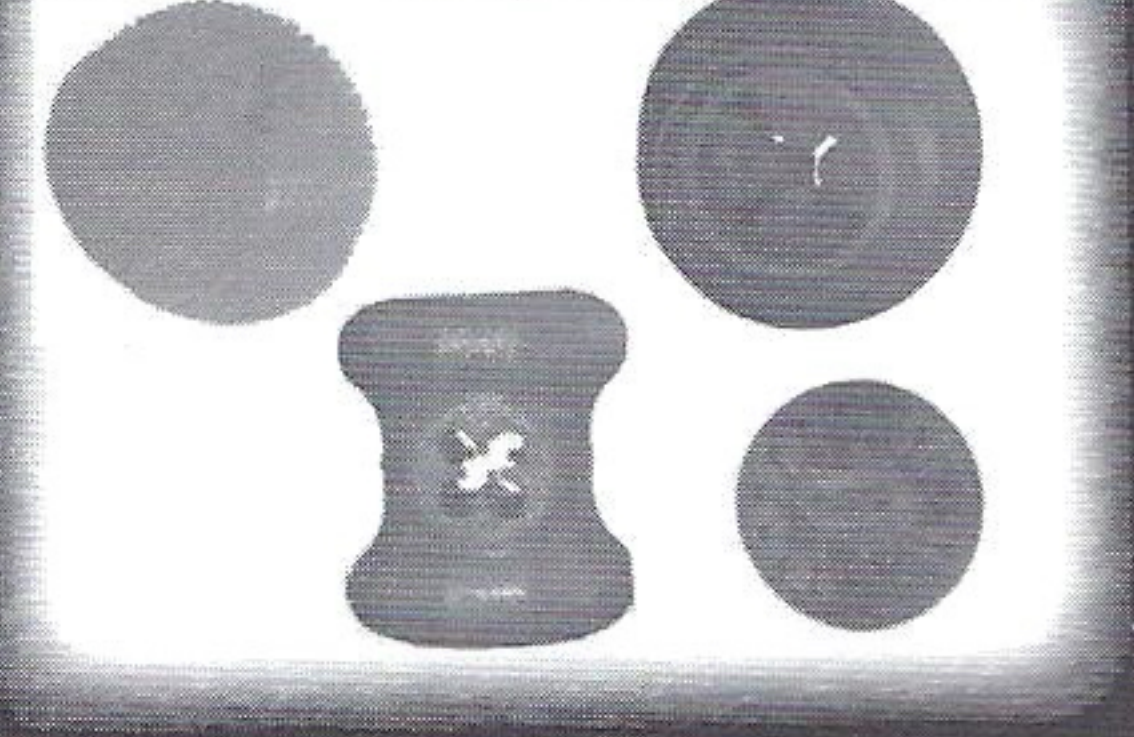
After the Vet Visit

Follow Your Vet's Instructions: If your vet prescribes medications, give ALL the medication as directed. Keep record of what and when you gave

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them on your S2T Worksheet. Keep an eye and nose on dressing to make sure the wound doesn't bleed, ooze or get infected. "Early detection means early intervention."

Begin Doing Snout-To-Tail Assessments: If your pet had surgery or some other invasive procedure then do the S2T twice a day for the next week to 10 days. If anything goes wrong or your pet doesn't recover as well or as fast as they could, you will have a written record of their recovery. Take pictures of your pet and the affected area. Take two pictures a day (one in the morning and one in the evening); you could even make a mini-movie of the site as it is healing. Remember, you can get a FREE Pet Tech S2T Worksheet at www.PetTech.net/S2T

Be Pre-emptive: Whatever situation occurred with your pet, fix it, so it doesn't happen again. Whether it is pet-proof latches on cupboard doors or getting rid of that plant that is poisonous in the house. I recommend that you pet proof your home, garage and yard by getting down on all fours (yes, just like your pet) and look (and smell) at the world from their perspective for any dangers or hazards that may exist for your pets. You'll be amazed at what you may discover.

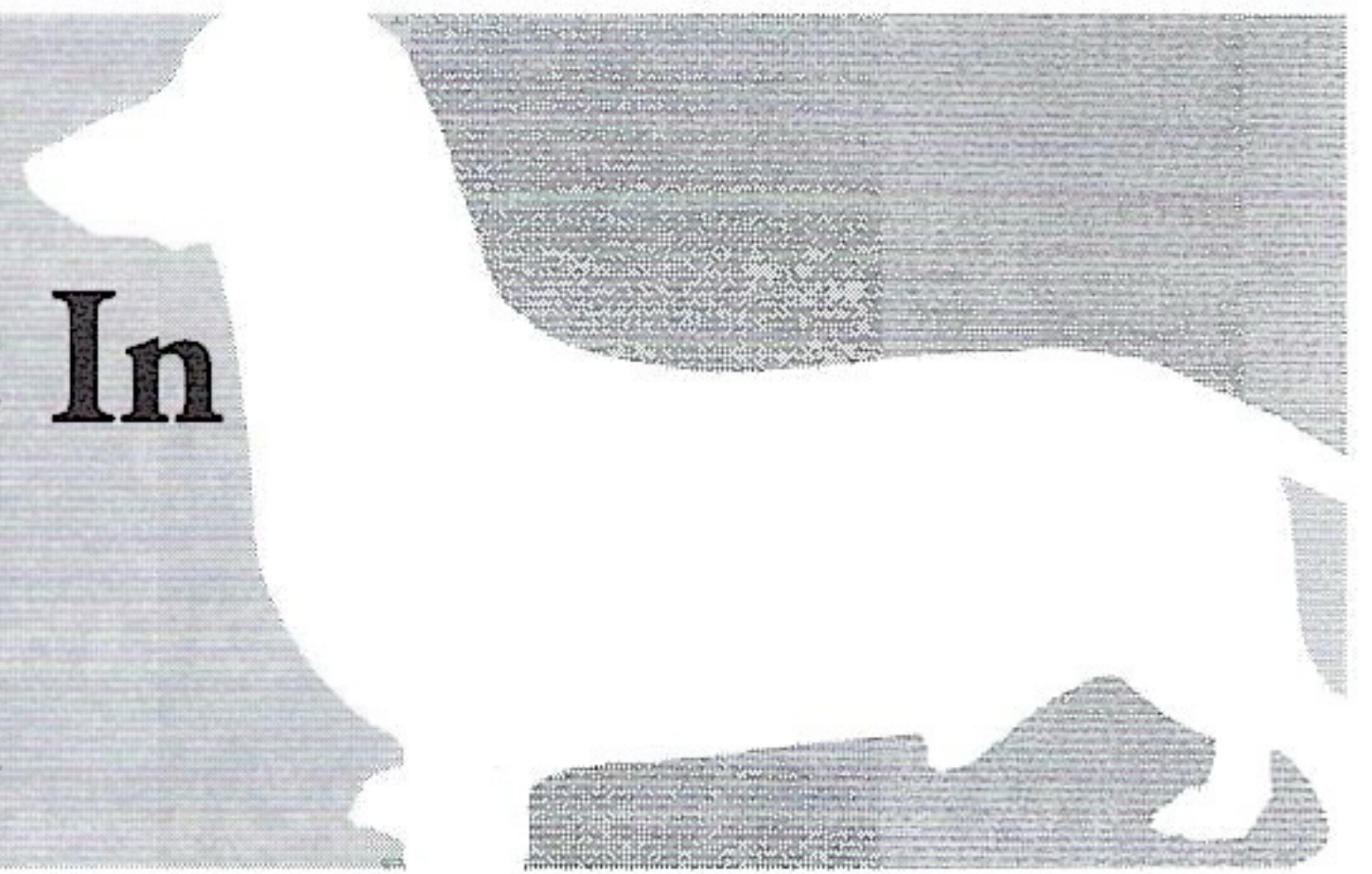
In conclusion, take responsibility and take action now for the health and well being of your pet's daily health and safety. Be active and proactive. Get trained, get informed and see you at The IACP Convention in March 2010!

Thom Somes, "The Pet Safety Guy™" is a nationally renowned speaker, author and professional trainer. He is the founder and President of Pet Tech, Inc., the first international training center dedicated to Pet First Aid, CPR & Care for dogs and cats. Pet Tech's programs are the official Pet First Aid, CPR & Care Training for the International Association of Canine Professionals. Teaching pet CPR, First Aid & Care is a great way to increase your bottom line, attract new clients and service your existing clients with information they want and need to know! If you are interested in becoming an instructor or looking for an instructor in your area, check our web site at www.PetTech.net, contact us by phone at (760) 930-0309 or e-mail iacp@pettech.net.

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Don't Fence Me In

By Jan Gribble

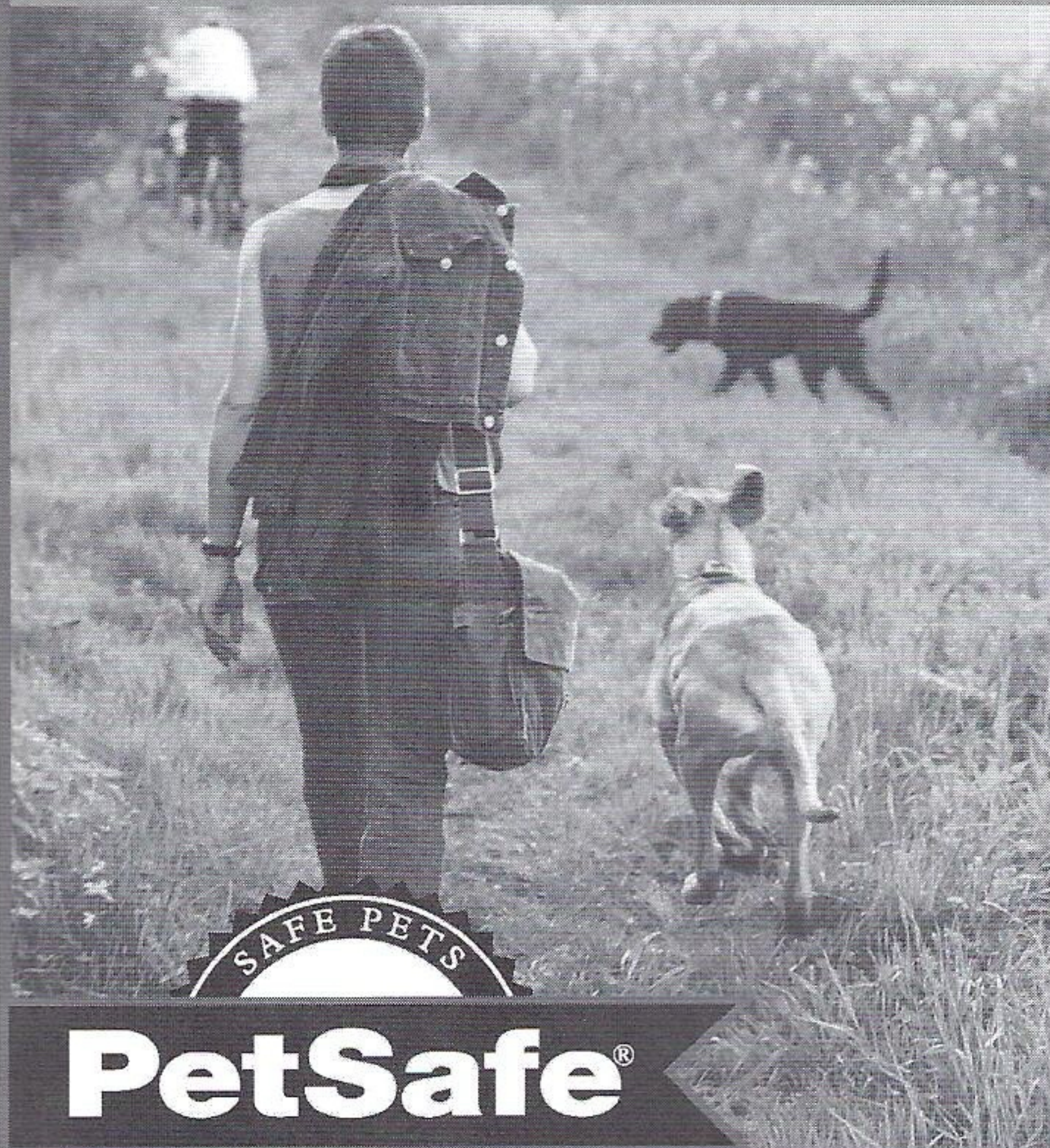


In the past sixty years there has been a huge population shift from rural environments to urban living. This shift has been accompanied by a change in culture as well. Households, more often than not, now consist of a single adult or two adults working outside the home. Men and women are waiting longer to start families and in many cases the dog finds itself being treated as a surrogate child. The relationships and expectations people have with their dogs has changed dramatically and unfortunately, it has not always been to the benefit of the dog. Growing

up in an urban environment separates the majority of people from any real understanding of the mental, emotional and physical needs of animals, including the dog. As a result, owners are reporting behavioral problems with their dogs in previously unheard of numbers. In many cases this is just a sign that the dog's emotional and mental needs are not being met.

Sadly, not only the public's perception of dogs has changed. The attitudes and beliefs of many dog trainers have also changed. While once dogs were expected to be

my pet and me the best place to be



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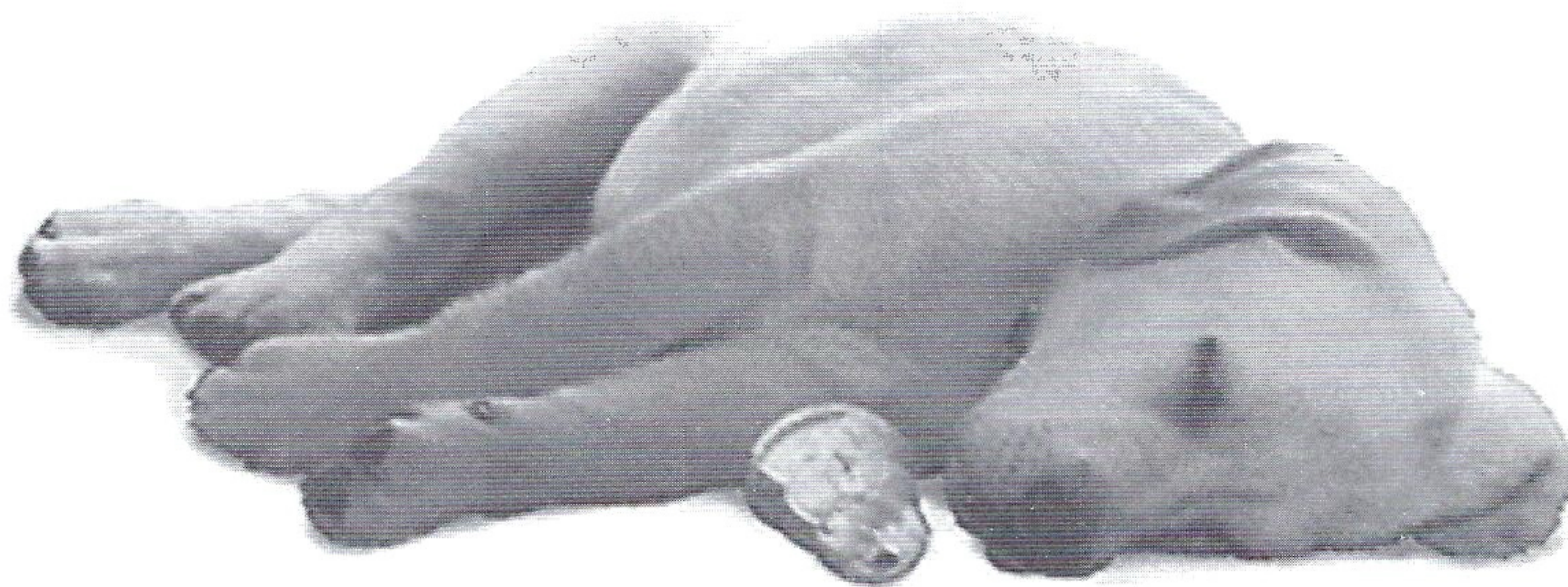


mannerly and well-trained so that they could accompany their owners to public locales, now dogs are banned from many of those places, largely due to the decline in standards for the family dog. As social mores stopped holding individuals responsible for their actions, more laws were, and are, enacted in an attempt to legislate common sense and good manners. Where once an owner would not have allowed his or her dog (or child) to be a public nuisance, now there is outrage when someone attempts to discipline a dog or child and instill correct behavior. Trainers nationwide are failing to provide dog owners with the necessary tools to actually train their dogs and instead are relying upon a wide variety of equipment to manage a dog instead.

No one should dispute that management can be useful and even desirable at times. Crates were unheard of by the general dog owning population not all that long ago. Now many dogs live in crates while their owners are not at home. While crate training is an excellent way to housetrain a puppy and ensure a young dog does not destroy the house, relegating an adult dog to a crate is usually a sign of an owner who has failed to teach the dog self-control and responsibility for its actions. Dogs, unlike perhaps ferrets or rabbits, should not be raised in crates! As with so many good ideas, some dog owners

have taken it to an unhealthy extreme, when consistent training in a reliable method would provide the needed guidance and discipline the dog really needs.

Equipment designed to stop a dog from pulling on leash such as the various head halters and no-pull harnesses are another example of using management rather than training. More and more dog owners are using these types of equipment on the recommendation of trainers. While some equipment can be used as part of a training program, with the intent that the use of such equipment will not be necessary for the entire life of the dog, in actuality, this rarely happens. Not only are too many owners no longer teaching their dog to walk politely on leash sans management devices, all too often I hear the refrain, from trainers, that since leash laws prohibit dogs being off leash, it is no longer necessary to train for off-leash reliability. This attitude fails to take into account that equipment fails. What happens when the dog slips its collar, head halter or harness or the plastic buckle breaks? When the leash breaks or is dropped? While prudent owners use leashes in potentially dangerous surroundings, when a dog is trained and not managed, an equipment failure becomes a nuisance and not a hazardous situation.



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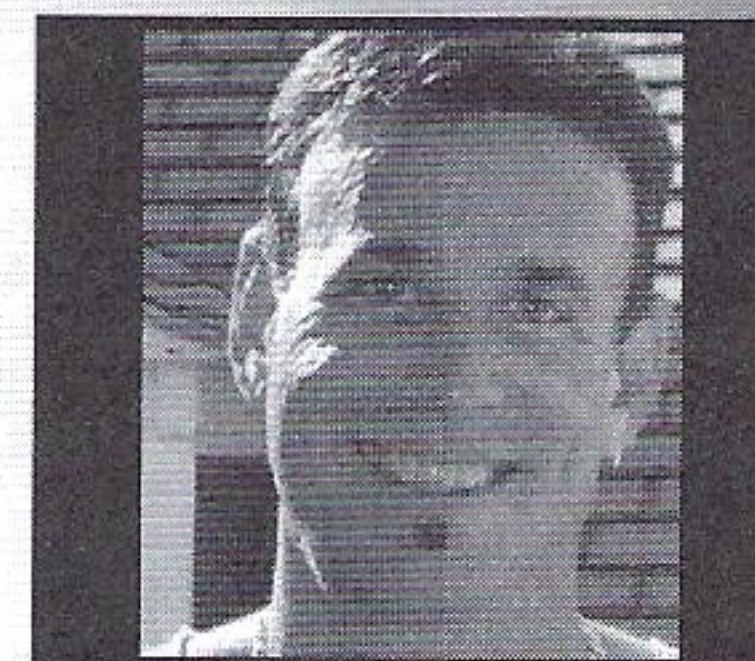
Fences are a boon to dog owners but rarely do owners stop to consider what would happen if their fence became faulty? How many dog owners actually inspect their fence regularly to ensure there are no openings underneath or that the fence is still intact? While boundary training should not be used in lieu of a fence, training a dog to respect boundaries and not venture forth is a requirement for dog owners who habitually leave their dogs unsupervised outside. In reality, gates are left open and doors are not always completely shut. Dogs that have not been taught to wait for permission to exit a door or cross a boundary are in very real danger of injury or death should they bolt out of the house or off the property.

Training a dog helps the owner develop a healthy relationship with his or her dog and is necessary to meet the emotional and mental needs of the dog. Dogs require structure and boundaries and training helps provide these as well as teaching the dog self-control, accountability, responsibility and reliability. Additionally, dogs need to be able to spend some time being dogs which means giving them an opportunity to investigate their world. Constantly restraining the dog, whether with a crate, behind a fence or even with a leash limits the dog and prevents it from reaching its full potential. Owners owe it to their dogs to provide the safest environment for the dog while still meeting the dog's emotional, mental and physical needs. Having a dog that is managed with equipment rather than trained means that the owner is risking the dog's life each and every day. Failing to teach a dog boundaries, self-control, accountability and responsibility for its own actions means that when management fails, and it will at some point in time, the dog is at risk of injury or even death. If a training program is heavily weighted towards management without any plan for training, the trainer is setting his or her student or client up for failure in the future.

The acceptance of "less" with respect to training has done little good for owners, communities and most especially for the dogs. Instructors and trainers should never allow standards for training to slide with the excuse that owners don't care about training and just want to manage the dog with the least amount of effort and time. As professionals, it is their job to communicate to owners why training is important and how it benefits both them and their dogs. All obedience courses and private instruction should focus on training rather than management and should encourage owners to follow through to accomplish reliable off-lead control. Even though not everyone will reach that goal, it is to the benefit of the owner, the community and the dog for trainers and instructors to always promote it.

The author is a professional member of the IACP and President of NADOI. iacp

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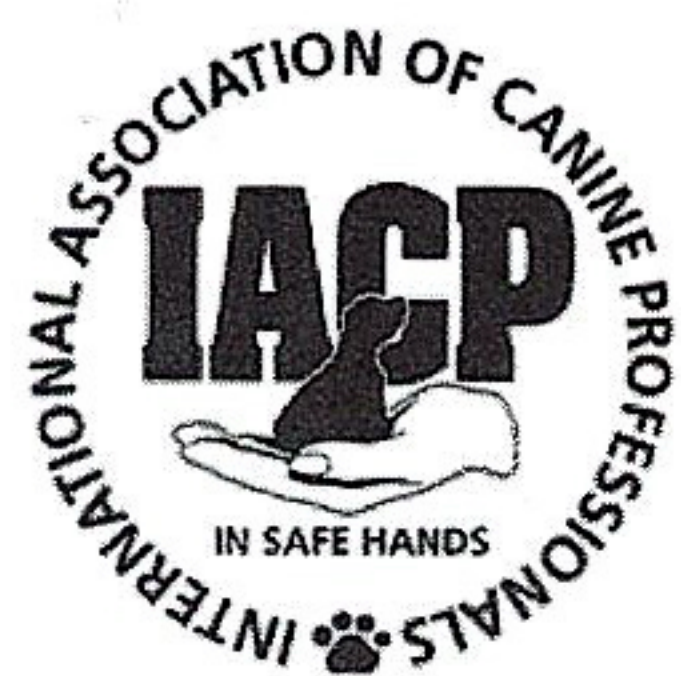
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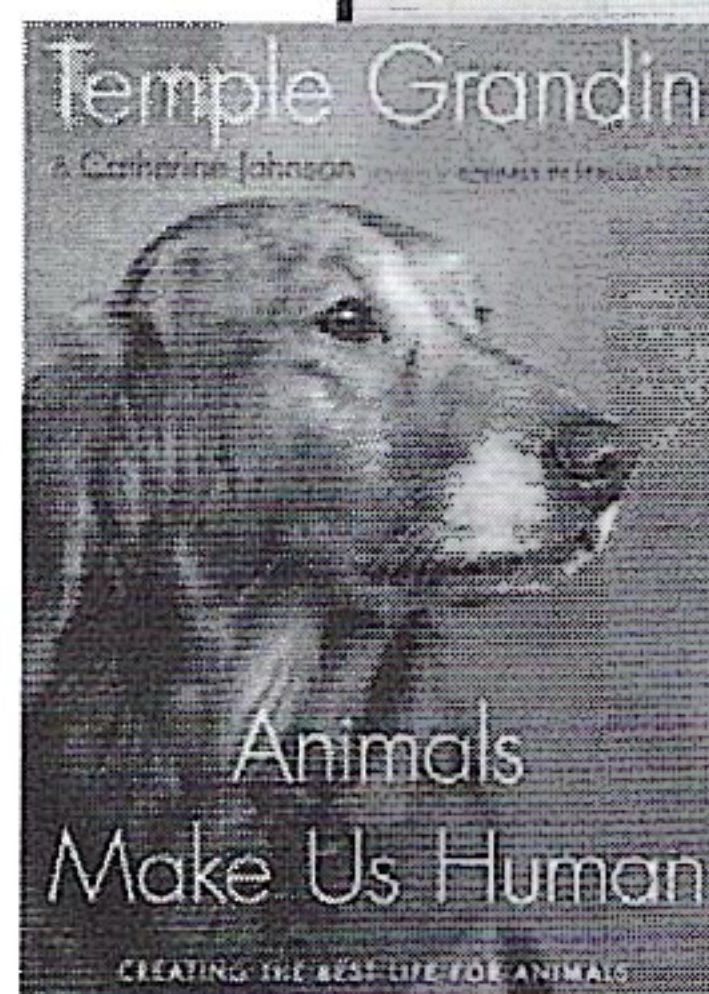
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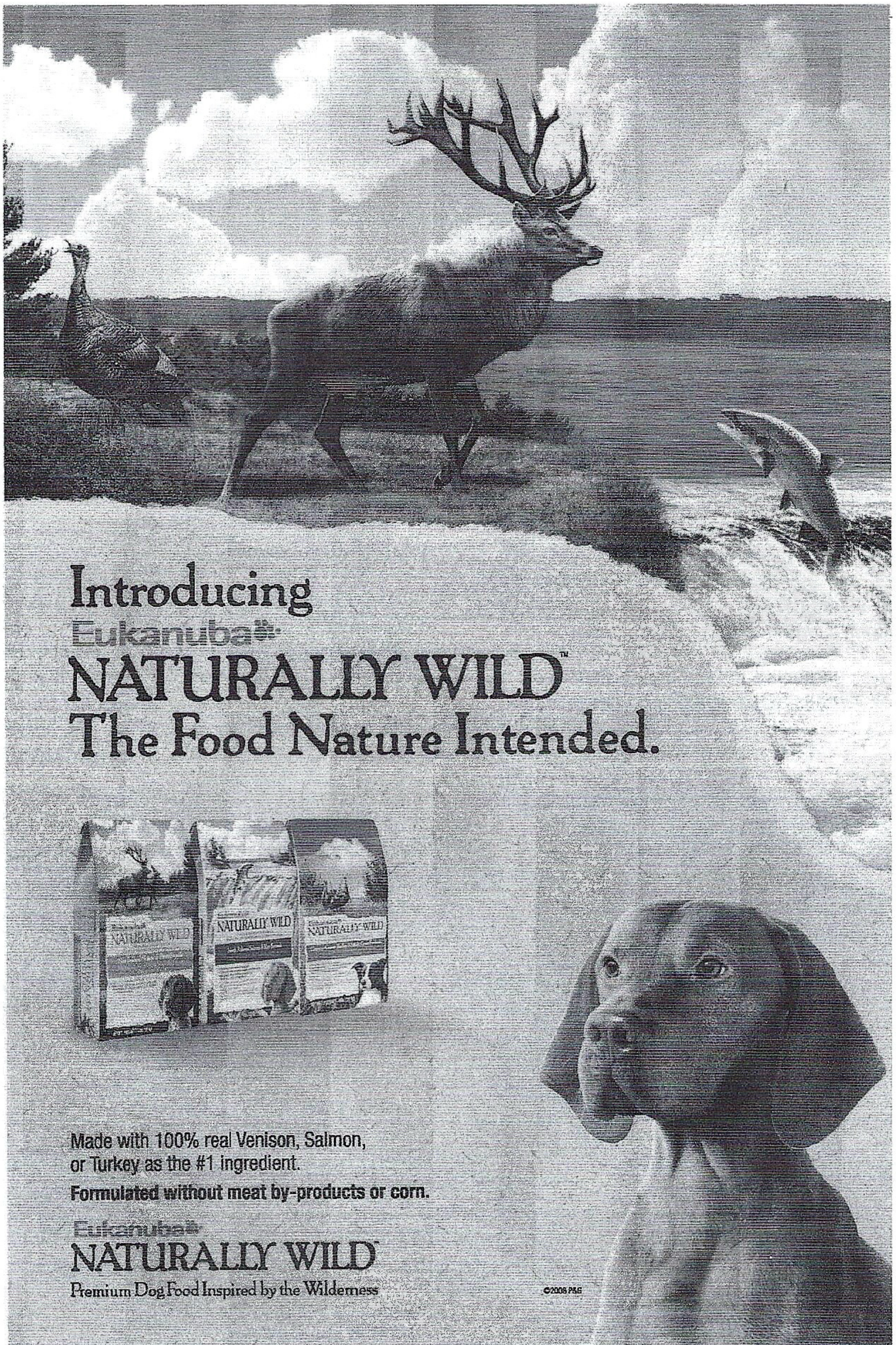
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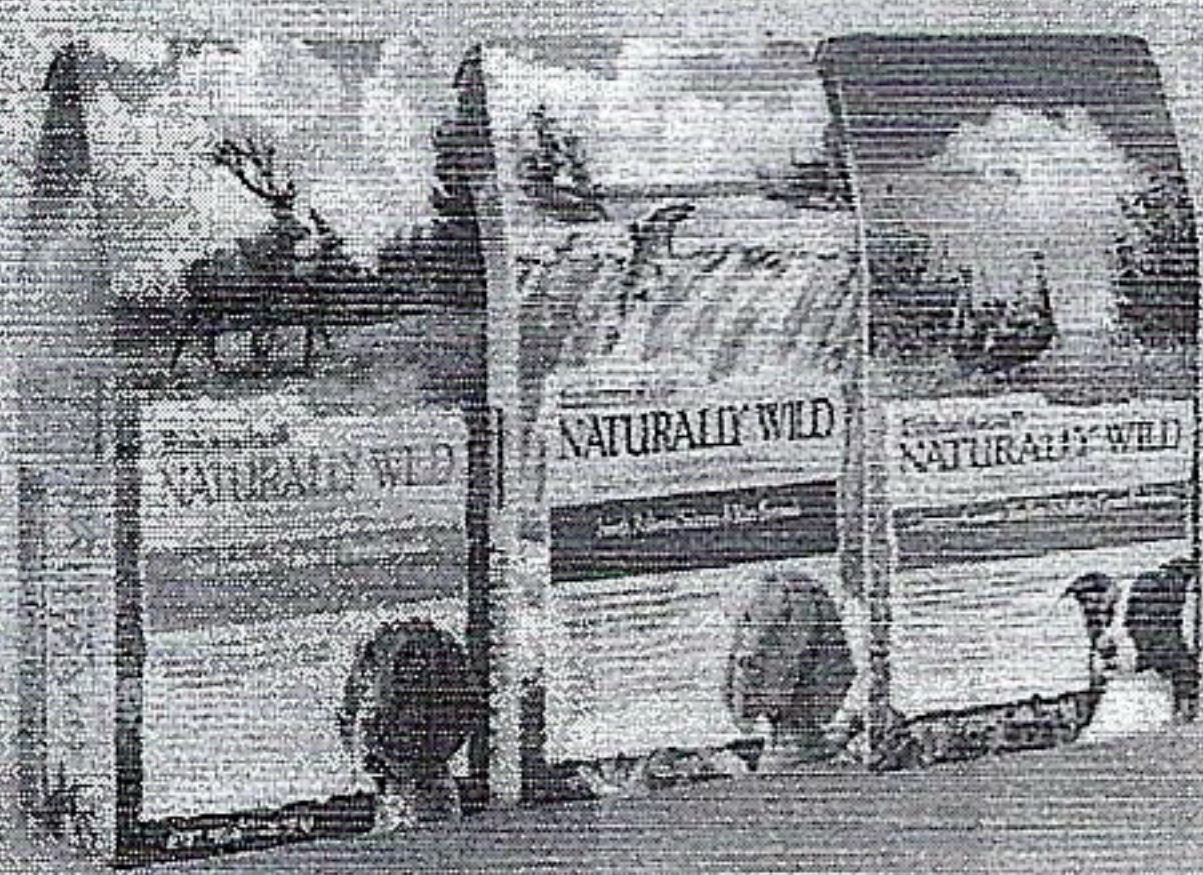
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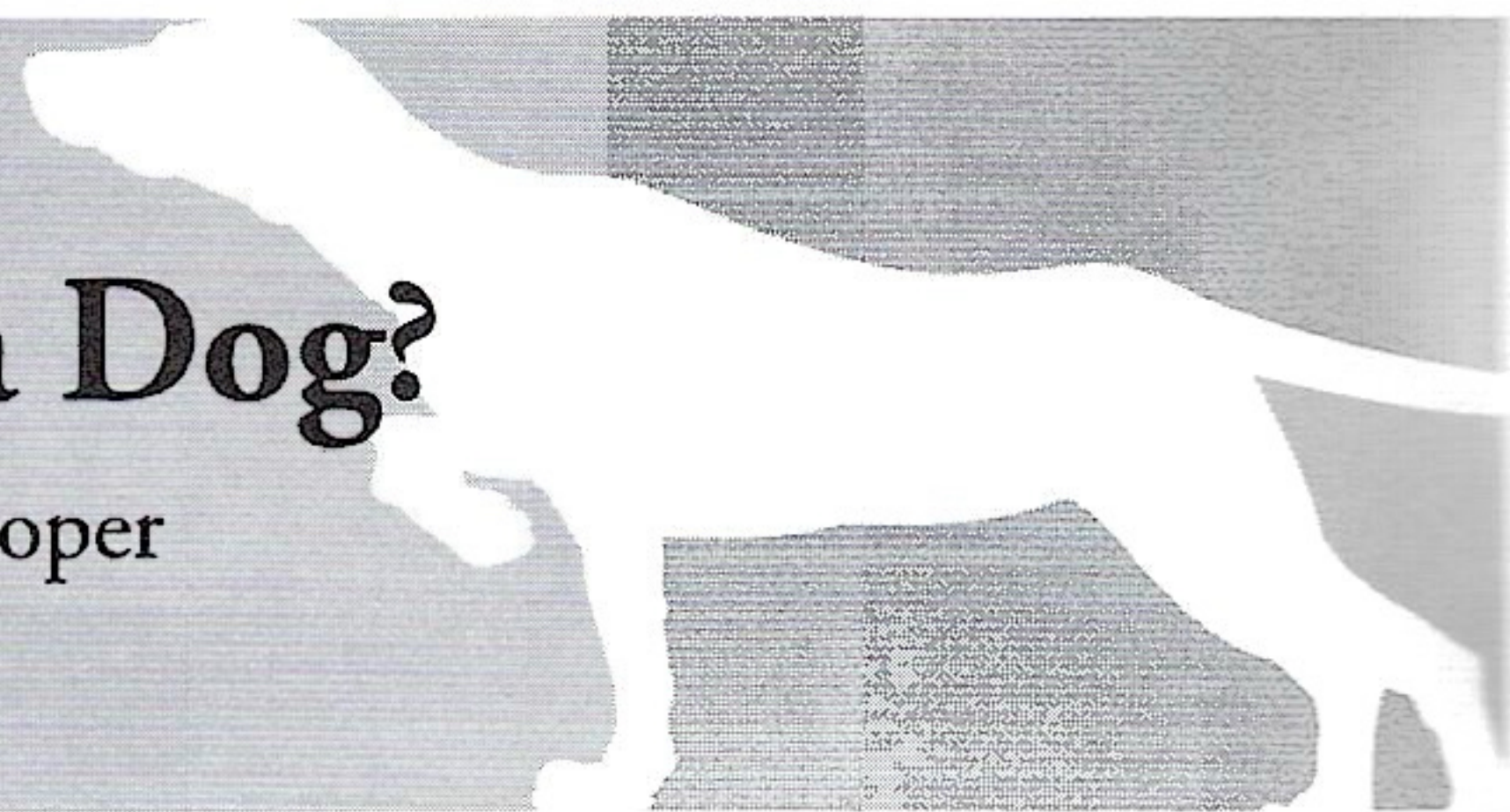
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Why Own a Dog?

By Kevin R. Cooper



Man's Best Friend. When most of us hear or read that phrase our mind immediately thinks, "DOG." The phrase may evoke images of a cherished dog from our past or present. There is little doubt that many of us have fond memories of our dogs.

A Brief History

Depending on the source, the domesticated dog dates back to between 10 and 15 thousand years ago. DNA has proven that dog's closest wild relative is the Grey Wolf. They are so close; in fact, they can breed and produce viable offspring. It makes perfect sense that man and wolves would end up together; both are pack animals and hunters.

No one knows for certain how the domesticated dog came about, but the accepted speculation is that man came upon a stray wolf cub and raised it. It is also believed that other tribes or clans would have also found a cub and raised it. If the wolves were desirable, they would have been bred. Any offspring that was deemed dangerous or did not fit the needs of the tribe

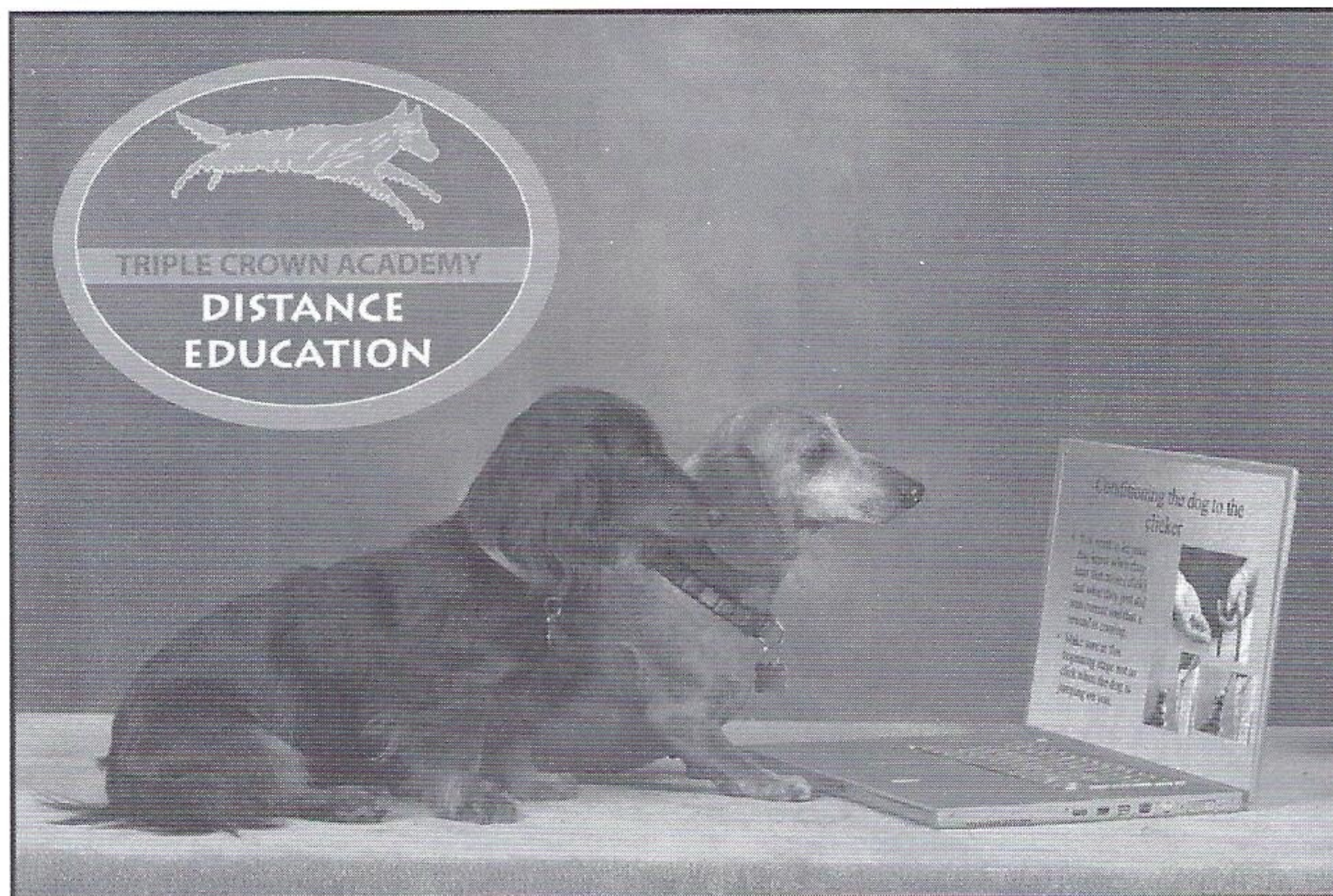
would be destroyed. From this process, the dog (*Canis Lupis*) mammal was created.

Dogs were further bred for certain traits which led to the hundreds of breeds we have today. Man used dogs to help with the hunt, to protect the camps, pull heavy loads and fight in battles. In return, they were cared for, fed and protected as a valuable asset. It is safe to assume that both man and dog benefited greatly from this relationship.

The Modern Dog

Dogs still assist their best friends with many tasks in today's modern world. Some of the obvious ones are assistance dogs that assist the blind, deaf and handicapped. They still help hunt by chasing, flushing and retrieving game. They also assist with herding cattle and sheep and guard livestock. They pull heavy loads as carting and sled dogs. These dogs are the minority.

Many dogs are kept as pets. Basically, they are kept for our entertainment, amusement and companionship. This can be the ideal role for many dogs. If you



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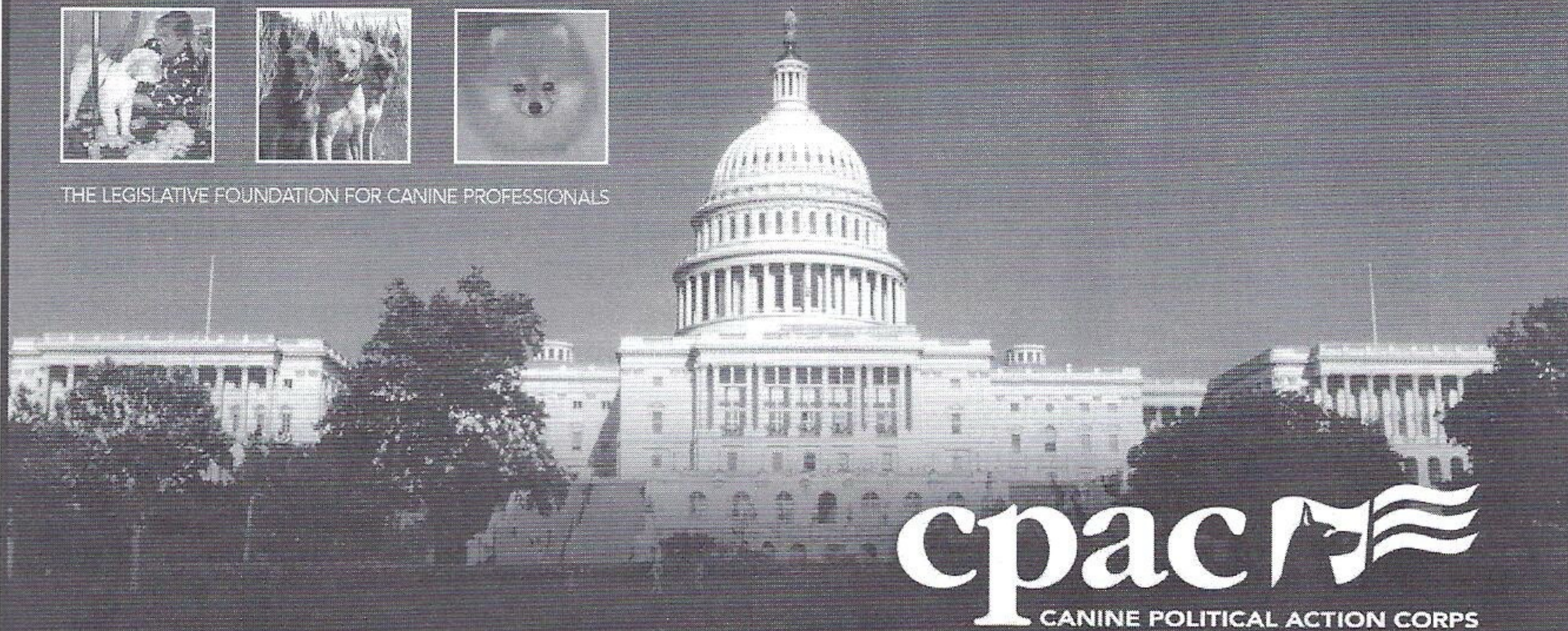
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remember from their history, dogs and humans are pack animals. They need to be part of a group to feel complete. That is why you see many people who live alone have at least one pet, usually a dog. Man and dog have a way of taking care of each other in a way very few other species of animals do. You see, we have a history that defines our relationship. Dogs have been bred that way. This means, it is in their genetic (DNA) interest to be with man. History has established this fact. We bred dogs to be with us, to work with us. It is hard to deny this history and science.

The Outside Dog

If we are to accept the fact that dogs were bred to be with man, then why do people own dogs only to put them out in the yard? A highly social and pack animal is relegated to be kenneled or tied up in the back yard. The only time they get any social interaction is when their owner comes out to feed and water them. How many of us would maintain a healthy and sane mind if we only interacted with other people for two minutes a day? I am certain that most would agree that it is not a healthy, fulfilling or happy way to live.

Another issue that contributes to the poor mental health of dogs is being constantly stimulated by their environment with no way to release energy. How frustrating it must be for dogs to be tied out or in a small dog run with birds, squirrels and other animals scurrying about. Tethered dogs can only run to the end of their chain and bark. Kenneled dogs generally run frantic laps trying to interact with their environment. This frustration is cumulative, meaning that it builds up over time. These situations, particularly the tethering and chaining of dogs can drive dogs insane. Contrary to popular belief, adding a buddy dog or two doesn't improve the situation. It just compounds it.

Recipe for Disaster

Now we have a dog that receives little socialization and constant stimulation without a safe release of that energy. This is equivalent to loading a revolver with a bullet and playing Russian Roulette. At some point the bullet will end up in front of the firing pin. This is the same with dogs. Constant pulling at restraints will cause them to weaken and eventually break. A dog in a kennel with nothing but time will find a way to escape.

Now we have an unstable dog running loose in a world that it is ill-equipped to function in. Remember, it has been isolated from the world, hid away in

a corner of the yard. These dogs are likely to chase people, especially children. They may bite either with malice or in play. These dogs will jump and can knock people over. They may even be overwhelmed by their new found freedom and run scared from everyone and everything.

Dogs on the loose with little socialization can be difficult for untrained people to read the dog's intent. This misreading along with a dog working on pure adrenaline can lead to dangerous bites or a full blown mauling. Additionally, dogs that are on the loose can wander into traffic, causing accidents. It goes without saying what can happen in this situation.

What can you do?

The simple answer is if you cannot be a responsible owner, do not own a dog. What if you already have a dog and it is being kept outside? The answer is as easy as bringing it inside. Get an appropriate sized crate and start training. Interact with your dog. Play with it. If owners encounter problems they cannot remedy, consult with your veterinarian or a professional trainer. They are great sources of information.

Dogs that receive regular veterinary check-ups and have some obedience and manners training are less likely to be a nuisance to owners or their neighbors. These dogs are likely to live long and healthy lives because of the care and attention of their owners.

Let's not forget this is a two way street. Dogs can help humans to become healthier by taking them for walks. Positive interactions with our dogs release chemicals in our brain that help reduce our pulse and blood pressure. Even if you don't have a dog that is trained for a specific task such as hunting, guarding or assistance you can still give it the job of being a good canine citizen.

Bring the dogs inside. Stop creating unhealthy and unstable animals that result in being problems for you and your neighbors. If you need help ask your veterinarian, a professional trainer, groomer, animal control officer or friends with well behaved dogs. They can help you to make the transition from having a yard dog to having your own Best Friend.

Kevin R. Cooper is an Animal Control Officer in City of Jonesboro, Arkansas and an Associate Member of the International Association of Canine Professionals.

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Five Week Puppy Syndrome

by Maryna Ozuna

Background

A few years ago, I began receiving calls and observing troubling behavioral characteristics in certain puppies. The first few calls I got were all from owners who reported excessive biting and mouthing in the pups, to the point of feeling frightened of their 10 or 12 week old puppies. They would all say, "I know it sounds crazy, but you have to see this to believe it." I did, and they were right. Over the top, frantic mouthiness, and with those sharp, baby teeth, thoroughly capable of doing damage.

I began sharing this information with our national network of trainers, and other dog pros around the country. As we exchanged information over a three year period of time, a very distinct profile began to emerge, which I dubbed Five Week Puppy Syndrome, the reason being that all of the puppies who had characteristics of this developmental behavioral syndrome had been removed from either contact with the dam, and/or the siblings, or both prior to 8 weeks of age. The closer to 5 weeks of age the removal or separation was, and the more complete the separation, the more acute the symptoms. Not all of the puppies exhibited all of the signs and symptoms, but all of them seemed to exhibit at least three of the characteristics. The better the genetics, the less impact the separation between 6-8 weeks, but if the separation happened before 6 weeks of age, genetics often wasn't enough to rescue the pup from developmental chaos.

There were also geographic pockets of these problems. States prohibiting the sale of puppies before 8 weeks of age, had markedly less of these problems. Some of our colleagues had never heard of these kinds of profiles. Others wrote in, "Oh my God, you're describing what I'm seeing exactly."

In addition, as we began doing in depth investigation of adult problem dogs, particularly adult aggressive problem dogs, (either people aggressive or dog aggressive), and finding out their histories, specifically information about

litter separation information where possible, we found that these symptoms continued unabated into adult life. Even good, balanced training was often not enough to overcome these behavioral tendencies. Absent specific behavioral intervention, and certain specific steps of rehabilitation, unwelcome and persistent behaviors clouded the behavioral profile, and did not fade.

On the bottom end of the scale, the more scrambled the genetic puzzle in the dog (particularly where there were multiple competing drive tendencies) the more scrambled the brain of the Five Week Puppy syndrome dog. Finally, the more conformational and structural defects, the more distorted the behavioral profile became.

Conversely, dogs who managed to be pleasant, happy campers despite these developmental and genetic strikes, were keepers, because their personalities emerged intact despite the early history. Such Five Week Syndrome successes were very rare, and most of them tended to be dogs from well bred purebred working lines (whether small dog or large) no further away than one generation with strong, balanced conformation.

The closer to that MINIMUM magic developmental number of 8 weeks in the litter with both dam and siblings, the less the developmental impact of separation. The distinct nature of the developmental characteristics from 5 weeks to 8 weeks, and the contribution that the dam and siblings play (leaving aside for the moment other dogs) is so significant that you can just about date with eerie precision the age of separation of a pup by their behavioral profile.

Five Week Puppy Syndrome Profile

The profile continues to emerge, but here is a rough characterization of what we have seen, with the commonality in all the behaviors being their persistent quality. A caveat: Not all dogs who exhibit these behaviors are "Five Week Puppy Syndrome" puppies or dogs, but ALL DOGS REMOVED FROM THE LITTER AT FIVE

WEEKS OF AGE absent extraordinary intervention will experience developmental problems. Nothing we can do will ever totally make up for the lack of what nature does during those developmental weeks. We can bring these pups a long way. But improvement will not happen without specific attention to the deficits caused by early separation from the litter and the dam. Symptoms include:

- Excessive mouthiness
- Lack of bite inhibition
- Hard biting at extraordinarily young ages
- Lack of tolerance to sensory stimulation: touch, noise, visual confusion
- Lack of tolerance about most anything in general
- Lack of ability to generalize
- Slowness of learning
- Difficulty in sequencing concepts and learning
- Lack of bounce back
- Easily confused
- Highly vocal when upset or confused
- High startle response (startles easily and extremely at low stimuli)

These are the core factors we have seen over and over and over again.

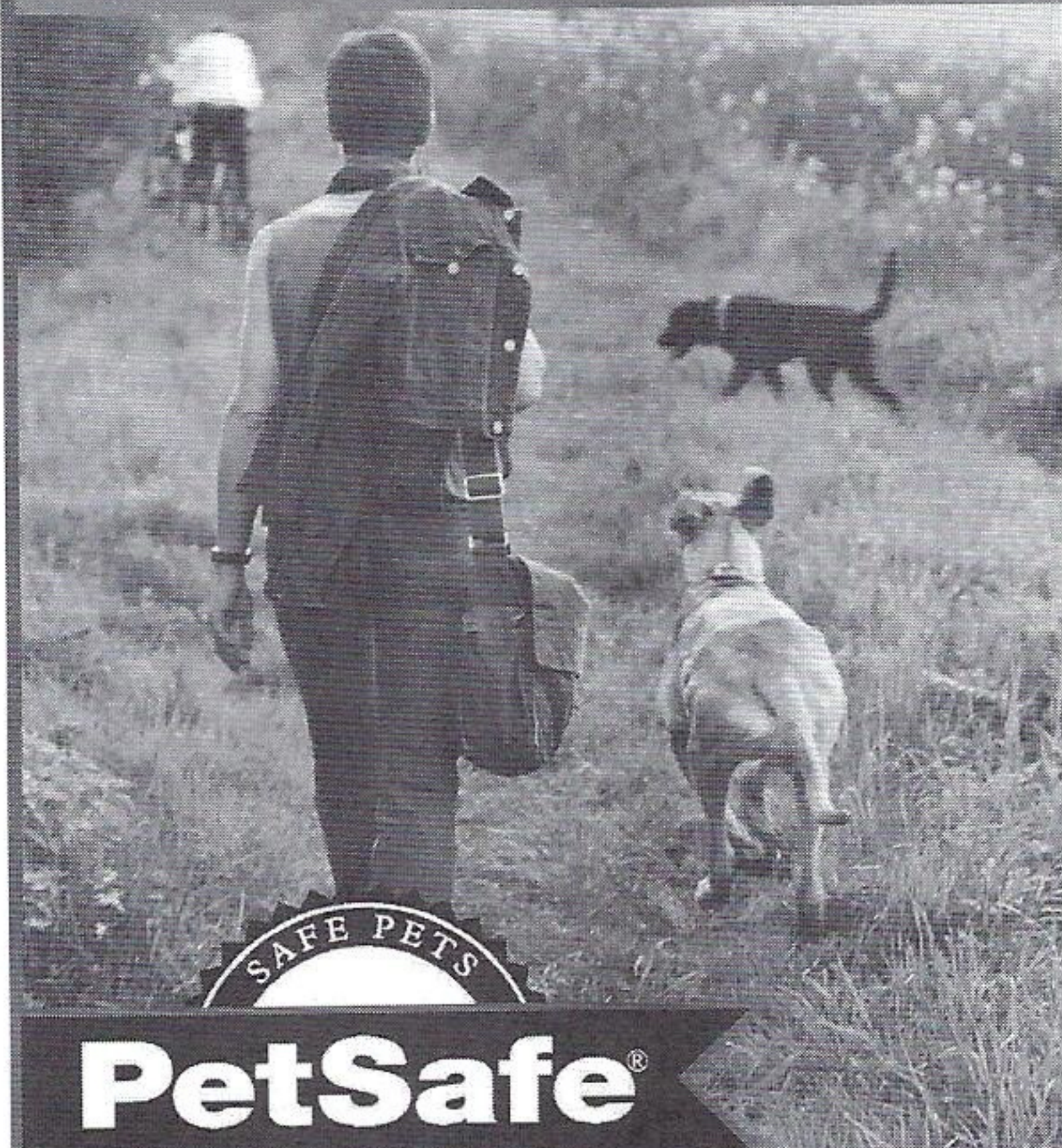
The Why of It

Let's take a look at why these deficits happen in pups removed too early from the litter. A look at one of the breed registries' informational pages about puppy teeth is illustrative.

"Puppies have 12 deciduous incisors which erupt at between 2-4 weeks of age, (3 on either side/six all together are present in the upper and lower jaws). Behind the incisors are 4 deciduous canine teeth that erupt at about the same time, (one on either side of the upper and lower jaws). Twelve deciduous premolars erupt when the pup is around six weeks, and are positioned behind the canines, (three on each side in the upper and lower jaws). Full deciduous dentition is present in Berner puppies from 6 - 8 weeks."

This means that around 5 weeks of age, pups have a mouthful of sharp teeth pressing down on Mom's increasingly sore teats. If the pup bites too hard, Mom corrects the pup very swiftly. She may grab the pup by the nape of the neck, she may growl, she may stand up and dump the pup on his cute little bottom, she might even snap at a persistent pup. These are NOT signs of a bad mother. Quite to the contrary. These are fundamental

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necessary ingredients for a pup to learn bite inhibition. This is nature doing her best work. The pups will literally learn how to pull their lips down so that they are sucking with their lips not grabbing and biting with their teeth. Persistently biting pups will soon find themselves missing meals. Hunger is a great learning tool. Pups rapidly learn that if they want mother's milk, they had better lighten up their mouth. Pups who don't have the opportunity to be corrected by mom will lack the same level of bite inhibition as a "normal" pup. These are the pups with the mouth issues from frantic mouthiness to nipping to downright hard biting.

Similarly, sibling pups begin to teach each other in their play. As puppies grow, they begin to play and interact with each other in increasingly rough and boisterous ways. It is common to hear a litter of 6 week old pups tumbling and growling and shrieking at each other if they get nipped too hard. Again a pup that plays too hard, learns that either they get attacked back and harder by the others, or that no one will play with them. Ostracism is the ultimate penalty for a dog. Puppies in particular don't like to be ostracized, so will alter their behavior when playing with the sibling pack so as to be more successful in the pack group. Pups lacking sibling interactions can have issues with bite inhibition, sensory sensitivity, and overall tolerance. Rigorous puppy interactions (within reason) teach pups give and take, social organizing of the pack, tolerance to touch, and the ability to bounce back from an encounter.

Tactile interactions with dam and siblings assists proprioceptive mapping. The pup is learning the dimensions of his body and distances between himself and objects. Proprioception, roughly put, is the body's ability to perceive where it is in space in reference to gravitational pull. There are specialized receptors in all the joints that allow movement information to be processed and stored. Imagine lights on an old fashioned telephone switchboard. The more lights that are lit up on the switchboard, the more physical coordination the pup has, and the more learning capacity. The more of these constant bumping, tumbling, wrestling moments the pup has, the more lights lit up on his proprioceptive switchboard. Which pup would you rather train and/or live with, one with a lot of lights lit up on their switchboard, or very few? I'll take the high proprioceptive pup any day.

What To Do

There are occasions through no fault of the breeder, pups need to be pulled from a litter early, primarily due to a medical emergency on the part of the dam. But

more often than not, pups are removed for a variety of uninformed breeding decisions -- "they're hurting the mom", "she's getting too rough with them" (can happen, but mostly what people are describing are absolutely normal mother dog corrections), "I need to move them out of that space", or the hidden "I need to get these pups sold". Again inquiries and information gathering can give you some further pictures of the puzzle. If the dam really did try to savage the pups, perhaps you might want to consider that pups from that line are probably NOT the best breeding stock.....etc.

So what do we do if we encounter one of these developmentally, disorganized pups? There are three key areas we need to address: receptiveness to touch (handling), sensory exposure, and tolerance training.

Handling

When we think about training a dog, we think numbers like 1- 5 repetitions or 5- 10 reps per training session, perhaps 2 - 3 times a day, depending on what we're trying to teach. But in the litter, the interactions with the dam and siblings go on all day and night. There are literally hundreds of action/response interactions throughout the day creating developmental learning for the pup. Hundreds. Think about it. It takes hundreds of interactions by Mom to teach the pup to not use his teeth when suckling. Watch YouTube videos of puppy litters. Count how many tactile interactions a pup has in the course of an hour. Even sleeping, they'll change position, bang and snuggle, climb up on, tumble over, regroup, reposition, etc.

The single most critical component of rehabbing these pups is to handle, handle, handle, handle them. I prefer to do the bulk of my handling exercises using a nylon martingale, like those manufactured by Premier. Holding the loop in the martingale, I can cradle the puppy and begin to touch him all over.

The photos show a five month old Golden Retriever pup, who was sold at 6.5 weeks. So best case scenario he came out of the litter at 6.5 weeks, more likely end of 5 or beginning of week 6. He came in to training for excessive mouthiness including biting of the owner, leaping up and eating the leash on walks, leaping all over people, -- I mean launching from 5' out at your mid body like a hurtling missile, not just silly jumping. He was also intolerant to touch.

You need to touch every square inch of these pups from front to back, top to bottom, leaving no square inch unaddressed. The single most critical piece of

the handling is to touch the mouth. I literally handle the mouth on these guys a couple hundred times a day. Your fingers should be TOGETHER. Fingers apart invites a bite. Fingers together are like Mom's mouth. You want to touch firmly, not lightly or teasingly, and NOT back and forth.

I will warn you that the first few sessions of touching, (and I generally just do this for five minutes) can be noisy and dramatic. Five week syndrome puppies will shriek at the top of their lungs as if you were killing them. Really exciting sessions may involve biting, snarling, and even peeing, defecating or blowing anal glands. Just quietly persist. With extreme 5 week puppies, you may well need to glove up the first few sessions. Less severe pups can be handled as shown below by simply gently closing the muzzle, as you are touching the dewlaps, cheeks and head.

Pay particular attention to the dewlaps, the sides of the muzzle that hang down over the teeth. Handling those and bringing sensory and proprioceptive aware-

ness to those dewlaps is critical to developing behavioral stability. I've even had really rank substantially older "can't be touched" dogs gentle up from repeated careful handling of the muzzle and reward.

Reward by pausing your hand briefly when the pup takes a breath, blinks, or calms in any way, shape or form. I also try and use food treats, very tiny pieces, if the pup will take them. They pause, I mark it with a "yes", and pop a treat in their mouth. Some of them won't take a treat the first time nor will you get much of a pause, but nearly always there's some split minute they stop to suck in a breath, you can use to mark and reward.

There are neurological reasons for persisting with these pups to flooding level. These are NOT neurologically normal pups who just happen to not feel like getting touched. These are pups with an artificially low threshold to touch, who need a serotonin flood to reset the touch barrier threshold. The less they fuss, the shorter the duration of time you need to touch.



Handling position of head and martingale.



Gently close the mouth as you touch dewlaps, cheeks and head.



Stroke firmly from the front of the mouth towards the back of the head.



Touching the dewlaps.

The more they fuss, the more their touch threshold needs to be readjusted. Gentle, closed finger stroking mimics mother's lapping tongue. It's a natural language for them that they tune in to quickly.

We've had a couple of pretty cattle dog pups here at the ranch this last month who came out of a shelter. We could never get clear information if they were born in the shelter or brought to the shelter, but both of them had the full symptoms of Five Week Puppy Syndrome. Both of them screamed like banshees when we started to handle them. The owners had not been able to touch them all over. Different parts of their body engendered louder drama than others, but mouth was hands down (as is typical) the worst. We've been working with them about a month now, and one of the pups is soft as butter now, affectionate and eager, touchable everywhere, and starting to put together multiple training concepts in sequence. The other is about halfway through the curve. Happy as a clam to dash in and out of other dogs and people bang into them, receive treats, gallop off, tumble, get up and gallop off again, unhappy to restraint and touching, allowing, but still very intolerant of close restraint around the face.

Sensory Exposure

In small increments, using markers ("yes") and reward, these pups (like all pups) need to be exposed to all sorts of sensory stimuli such as lights, sounds, textures, temperatures, smells, and a wide variety of visual landscapes. Bang a pot, have the pup sit, treat reward. Get them in the tub, sit, treat reward, and pop out. Take them in the shower, treat, and pop out. Take them out different times of the day, at night, in the car at different times of the day and at night, to different areas of town. Hard surfaces, soft surfaces, grass, sand, rocks, sticks, leaves, snow, ice, inclined surfaces, asphalt, concrete, linoleum, rugs, manhole covers, metal, wood, are all important to increase their sensory vocabulary. Check out scavenger hunts and socialization lists in good puppy books like *The Art of Raising Your Puppy* by The Monks of New Skete, or Sarah Wilson's *Smart Puppy*.

Tolerance Training

You cannot expect these puppies to be tolerant of the normal interactions of a household without explicit training. So one of the most simple and important pieces here is to bump into your puppy. Yup, bump into him. Many Five Week Syndrome puppies go ballistic if they get bumped into, so I bump into them, many, many times. Not hard, it's just a bump.

Bump, wait for a non-drama piece of behavior, mark it with a yes and reward. Bump, "oh what a good puppy...sit, yes, ...treat".

When I'm doing tolerance exercises, I almost always have a line on the dog either a short drag line or a long line, so that I can just step on the line, keep the pup with me, and interact with him without allowing him to run away. I can keep the energy low key and mark and reward in a timely, soft way. Once the pup is oblivious to being bumped into other than to move out of the way, I poke behind the shoulders and in front of the hind legs – the tickle spots. Again, gentle, it's just a poke to get them used to having things bump into them. I've seen these guys whirl and snap at a branch or a lawn chair that had the audacity to "poke" into them. These guys need to learn how to tolerate normal stresses. Your job is to help expose them enough so that they're experienced at life.

My core check list for tolerance training includes: bump; poke; grab a foot, hold, and release; and grab tail, gently, restrain for a few seconds, and release. You're not torturing the puppy, honestly. Had this pup been in the litter, his siblings would have chewed and pulled on his tail a thousand times before he ever got to you. We're making a game out of this, not teasing. So I'm standing on the leash, I poke behind the shoulders, (quick, light, just strong enough so that the pup can feel it), tell the pup, "ooh, what's that, as soon as his head comes around towards you, offer a treat."

I only do this once or twice here and there throughout the day. I never allow a negative reaction to remain. If the pup reacts to a poke or bump, have the pup sit, come, sit...mark, reward, release, play for a few minutes, do a tolerance cue again, bump or poke, or restrain, mark and reward. Little bits go a long way. Do NOT do tolerance training over and over again.

Filling in the holes for mother nature is time consuming. Ideally, we wouldn't have to substitute for her effortless grace. But you just might pull a nice pup's soul out of the chaos and into the land of balance.

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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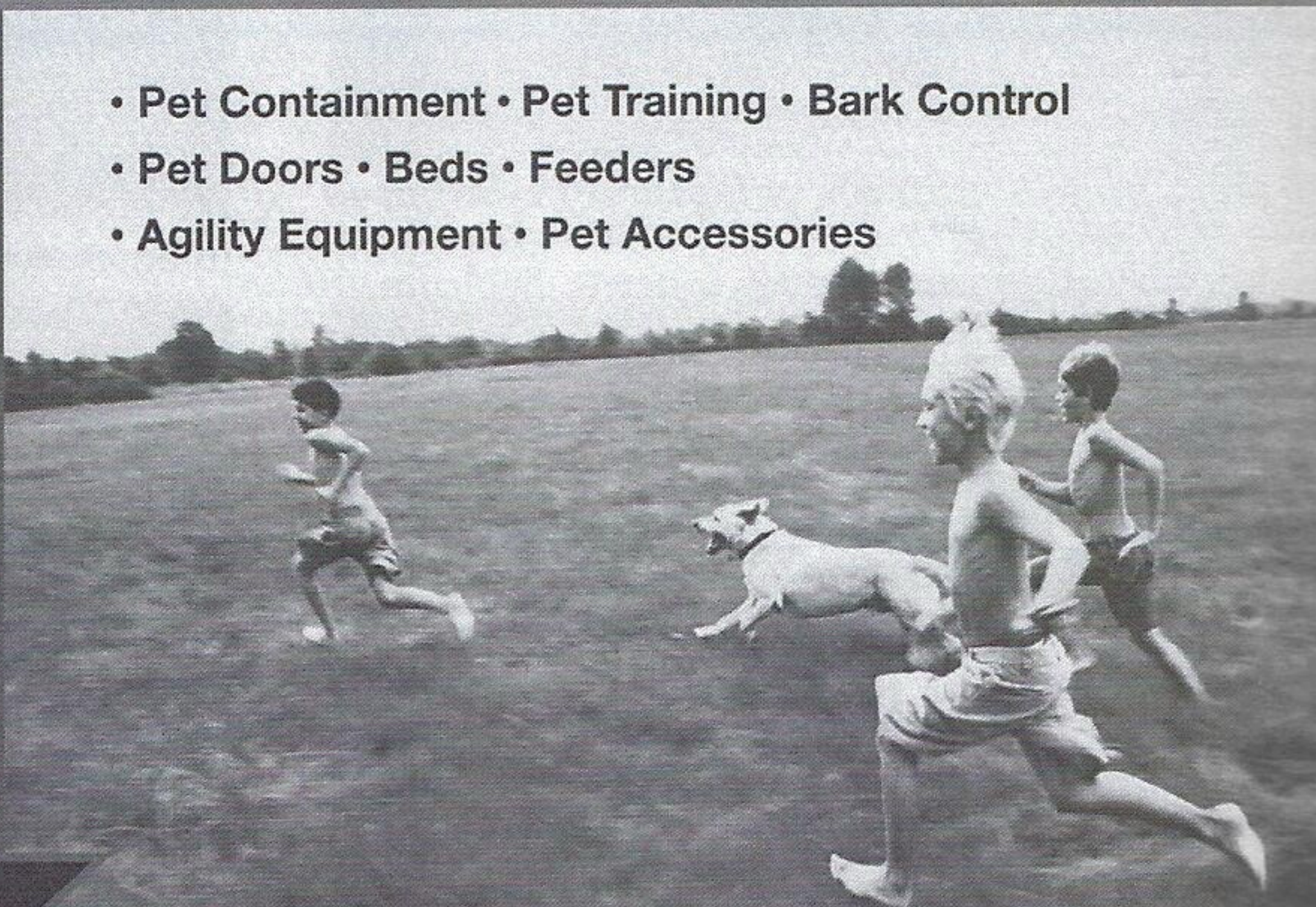
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