

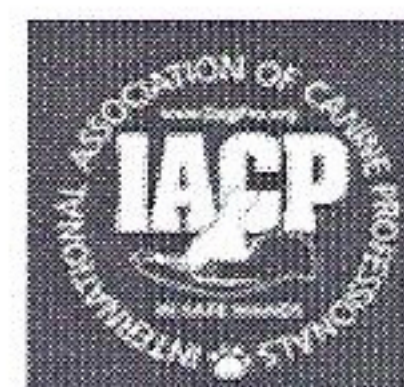
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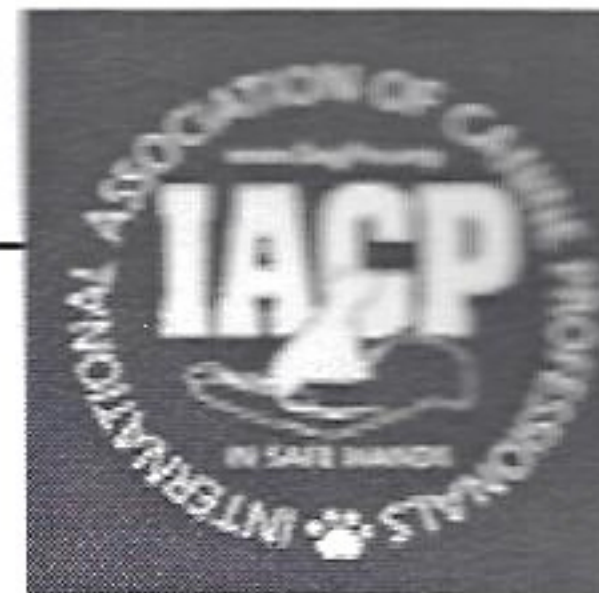
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Safe Hands Journal



Volume 8
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January 2007

SAFEHANDS IS THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE



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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.

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From the President Our New Leader

by Cyndy Douan

I am honored to be your new President. Since our founding in 1999, I have worked very hard to help build a strong professional association. I could not be more thrilled to tell you that IACP has now over 1000 members!

I want to thank two IACP Directors whose terms end this year: Robin MacFarlane and George Cockrell. Both have been instrumental in the growth and prosperity of IACP. Robin's work on conference organizing was phenomenal and relieved the workload of many other directors. George has been invaluable in the area of IACP member communications via e-mail with both the Safe-Hands List and the LEASH Program. George has built the best members discussion list that I have ever had the pleasure of experiencing. I wish you both all the best in your future work and ventures.

And now we welcome aboard two new Directors, Paula McCollum and Margot Woods. Both are accomplished dog trainers, veteran IACP members, and we're pleased as punch to have you aboard. I look forward to working with you both. Thanks also to all those who ran for office. The spirit of volunteerism is the heart of IACP.

IACP has recently launched a new search engine for our website. This should make a big difference to all of

our members in getting contacts or calls from potential clients. Also we have added extra features for our members on their search listings including the ability to customize with colors, business logos, and special tag lines to help their listings stand out. We have a blogisphere

where members can create their own dog pro blogs plus other perks that can be purchased through our website.

Finally, it's time now to start making conference plans! The IACP Annual Conference will be held from March 22nd to 25th 2007 at the Triple Crown Training Academy in Hutto, Texas. The conference gets bigger and better every year! We have lined up a terrific array of presenters and topics

this year. We'll have Wendy Volhard on Nutrition and Training, Marc Goldberg on Business Building, A GROOMER: Barbara Bird, plus Jerry Bradshaw, Melissa Heeter, Jill Schorochod, Vladi Roytapel, Tammie Histake Bumgardner, DVM; Thom Somes- The Pet Safety Guy, and Ian Dunbar. Start making your plans to join us! You don't want to miss this year!!

IACP



A handwritten signature of Cyndy Douan in cursive script.

Register for the IACP Conference...

AKC/Eukanuba Invitational Paula and Jeb Place!

by Maryna Ozuna

Recently, I went to the 6th Annual AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, AKC Agility Invitational and AKC National Obedience Invitational.

The Eukanuba, as it's become known, is an American dog event whose tone reminds me of some of the great animal exhibitions in Europe like Equitana, the days long horse extravaganza. Part dog show, part dog spectacle, it was designed in a concerted attempt to showcase all the breeds in a spectator friendly format. That a spectator might wander bewildered the entire time in a melee of dogs and events is a shame, but the goal is nonetheless laudable. Those within dog show culture take it as self evident. Overhearing many snippets of conversation, those without are left with a fractured fairy tales' understanding of the progression of events. Explanations of the selection process and the sequence of progression of winners in the respective events in the show catalogue, signage describing the same around the event, and informed announcing might make a difference to the uninitiated and help bridge the gap between the dog loving public and show culture. Nonetheless, it is a great and marvelous event, with enough fabulous dogs to satisfy anyone's dog hunger.

The weekend event encompasses nearly 3000 dogs competing in three National Championships: breed or conformation, agility and obedience, with three days of AKC shows preceding. This year's event was staged at the fabulous Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach, California. Situated by the ocean, and constructed around a park with lagoon, walking trails, and arched pedestrian bridges, the LBCC is a premier venue with roughly 400,000 square feet of event space. To be able to walk outside and wander around the lagoon is great mental health for the dogs as well as the exhibitors, although convincing certain breeds that they really don't want the ducks can be challenging! AKC and the show organizers have done a yeoman's job of negotiating dog friendly (at least for the duration of the show) hotels.

National Invitational Obedience Championship

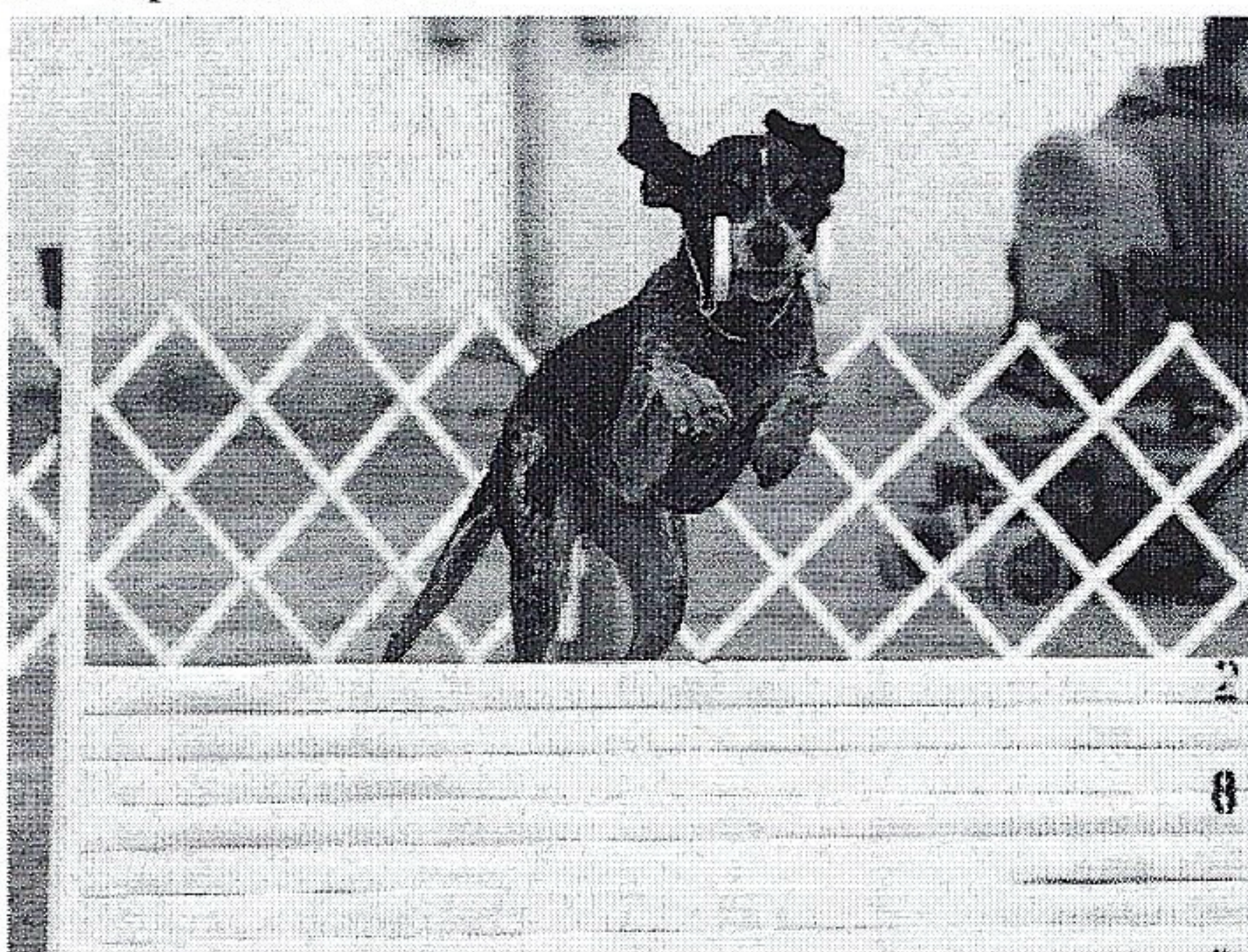
Taking a closer look at the NIOC, will give you an idea of how this event was designed to showcase the breeds in a different format than any other event that occurs in the United States. The NIOC format has been in existence for 12 years, and under the Eukanuba sponsorship the last six. Its target starting goal is approximately 120 dogs. In order to be invited, a dog must be in the top 10% of their breed, or be in the top 3 by OTCH points (Obedience Trial Championship). The remaining invitations go to the top dogs nationally in order of their OTCH points. This format does not then reflect the top 100 dogs in Obedience nationally, but rather the best of the breeds to create visual diversity to the audience, inform the audience of the possibilities for competition of the different breeds, and heighten the possibility of media exposure. That

there is still rarely any audience other than family and friends of the participants does not take away from this goal.

On the first day of the NIOC, the space is divided into six rings. Each dog competes once in each of the six rings with their scores cumulative to the end of the day. Exercises for each ring are posted at ringside, and are a mix of exercises from both Open and Utility combined in various diabolical ways. (On Saturday I believe it was 3 exercises in each ring.) Each dog performs the same exercises in each ring. Exercises from Open include: Re-

trieve over High Jump, Drop on Recall, Figure 8 and Heel Free, Retrieve on Flat, and Broad Jump. Exercises from Utility include: Scent Discrimination, Directed Retrieve, Signal Exercise, Moving Stand & Examination, and Directed Jumping.

At the end of Saturday's competition, the top 4 dogs from each breed Group, plus an additional 4 dogs based on top scores advance to Sunday's final round, which is a paired sudden death elimination much like the March Madness College Basketball finals. Thirty two dogs begin competition on Sunday. Two dogs go one after another in each of the rings. The top scoring dog of the pair goes on to the next round, for a total of four rounds until the final two dogs are remaining for the Final Round. As an example, exercises for Round 1 in-



CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

OODA Cycle...

The Art of Good Timing

by Behesha Doan

Timing is everything. We've heard it a thousand times. Common sense tell us that good timing is crucial when delivering praise, correction, and reward, but it doesn't come naturally to everyone. Is there a way for trainers and our clients to cultivate a knack for good timing? The answer is, Yes!!

At our Canine Training Academy, we teach our students how to get a 'feel' for good timing by utilizing the model of Boyd's Loop, a four-sided, decision-making strategy that includes Observation, Orientation, Decision, and Action. We call it the **OODA Cycle**. The OODA cycle, with its distinct elements, goes far in helping our students learn how to gain and maintain control of any training situation.

While we can apply the principles of the OODA cycle to every area of training, for this discussion we will use it to help teach our dog "Jake" the Sit/Stay. By learning the OODA cycle, you can break down your training and instruction to students into a step-by-step approach, which will quickly help you develop the skill of good timing.

Let's get started by placing our dog, Jake, into the sitting position. The instant Jake is seated; we enter the **Observation** phase of the OODA cycle. We must observe Jake's behavior closely in order to recognize any signs that he is thinking of breaking his sit, (fidgeting, fixing his gaze on some distraction, wiggling his rump, etc). We must also become aware of our surroundings so we can spot any distractions which might influence Jake's behavior (such as someone moving nearby, a squirrel, the grass growing). You get the picture.

Because Jake is new to all of this, we will only keep him in the sitting position for a short time and will be careful to end the exercise on *our* terms. It is up to us to make sure he remains in a sit until he is released.

Since Jake will become antsy with very little provocation, we

quickly move to the **Orientation** phase. It is in this phase, *that* we will orient our own body's position so we can quickly deal with any attempt Jake makes to break his sit. Jake should be well within arms reach, and we should have our leash efficiently placed in our hand so we don't waste time grabbing for it.

While we are Orienting ourselves into position, we must mentally establish a plan to maintain Jake's Sit/Stay when (not 'if') he tries to get up. This is the **Decision** phase. This phase dic-

tates that we must create a plan of action for what we will do when Jake makes a mistake. We must have our plan clear in our mind – before Jake attempts to break. Our mental plan might include bringing the lead up short, placing our free hand on Jake's wayward rump to keep it from completely leaving the ground, and having the word "Stay" ready to roll off our tongue.

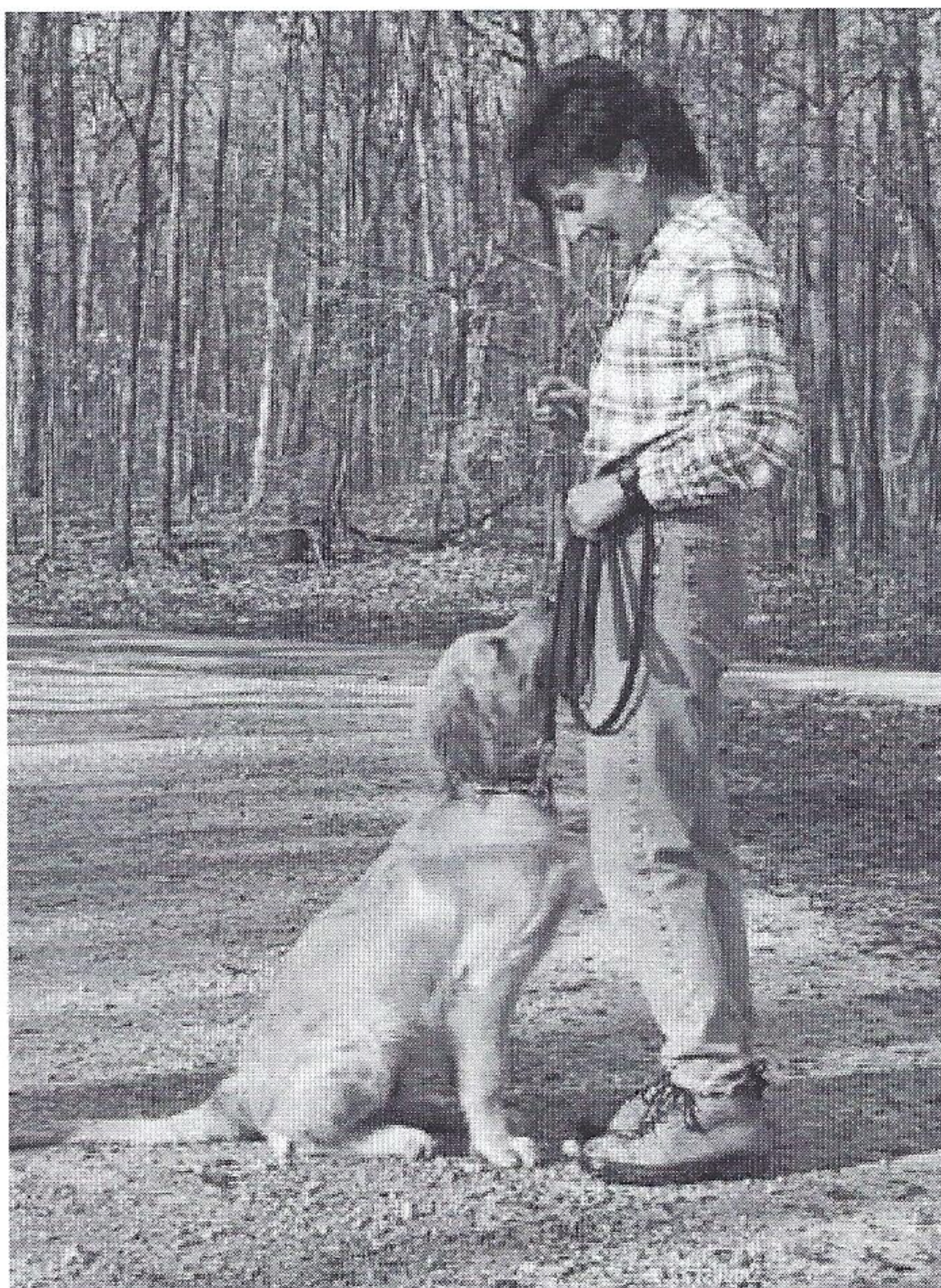
As expected, Jake makes a split-second move to break his sit. Since we have already **Observed**, **Oriented**, and **Decided**, we can immediately **Act** on our plan – even before Jake can completely abandon his Sit/Stay. Because we were ready, we could stay ahead of Jake's thoughts, and therefore maintain control of the situation. Once we have reached the point of *action*, we arrive back at the beginning of the cycle and are now ready to re-observe.

Observe:

Observation is the most important element. This may seem *like* a statement of the obvious, but

here is something to think about: When it comes to **Observing**, even though you can be sure of what you *have* seen, you *cannot* be sure of what you *failed* to see. Failing to see something that could affect your training situation can cost you when making split-second decisions

Remain highly aware of everything about the dog's behavior and what external stimuli may possibly affect that behavior.





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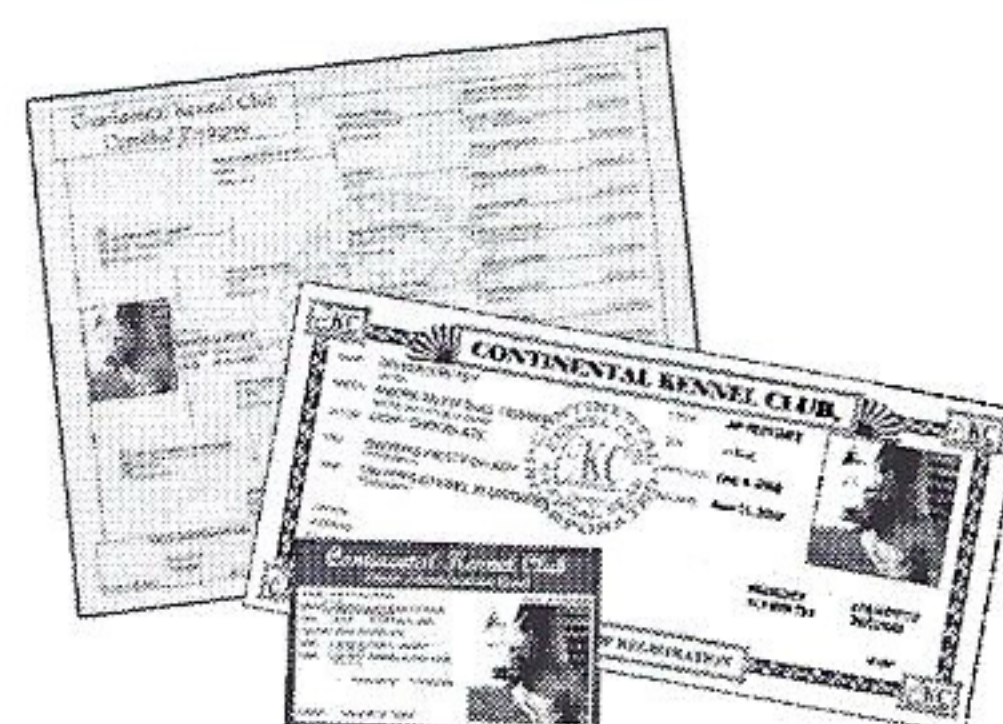
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Orientation:

You must position yourself appropriately to be ready to handle your dog's behavior as he reacts to surrounding stimuli in any given situation. Orienting yourself appropriately requires you to evaluate your surroundings and determine a plan of action.

Decide:

You must create a mental plan (decision) for what you will do when your dog does anything other than what you intended. Your inability to evaluate your surroundings during the orientation phase can lead to a no-decision situation. This is what we affectionately call the third "O" of the OODA cycle: "Oh..... Shucks!" Make sure that you have a clear mental plan of what you intend to do *prior* to the instant you actually need to do it.

Act:

It is here that your plan becomes split-second action. You have observed what was going on around you, oriented yourself to be ready to handle the situation, decided ahead of time on a plan of action for when things went wrong, and now you act.

Before Jake can even get his rear an inch off the ground, you have already worked your plan, issued your command, his rump is firmly back in place.

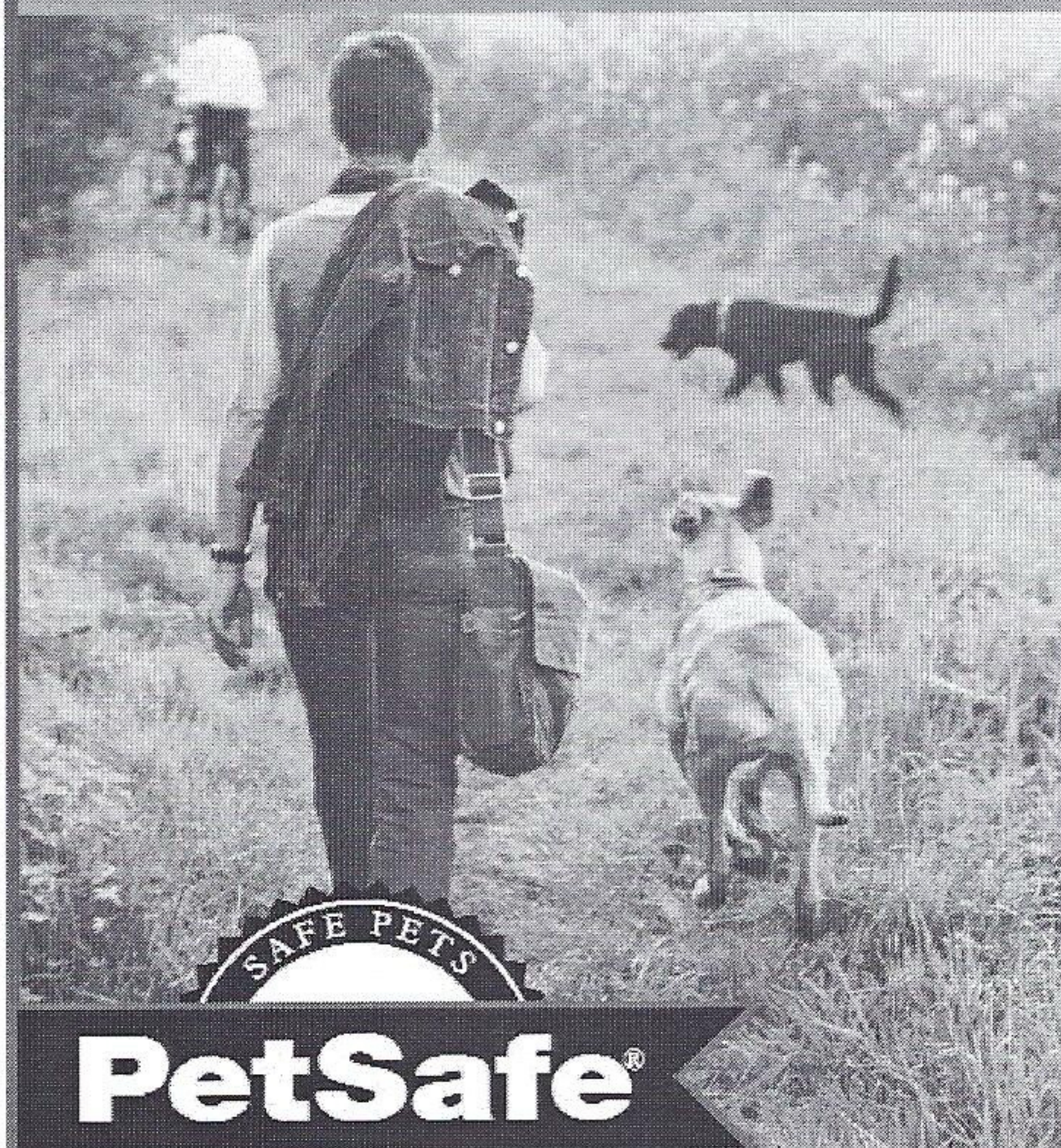
You have now arrived back at the beginning of the cycle and are ready to re-observe.

THAT'S NOT ALL!

It is important to realize that dogs go through their own OODA cycle. They too, Observe, Orient, Decide, and Act. To a dog, everything is a contest. Not necessarily a contest of wills, but a contest of speed.

For example, if we are teaching Jake to sit, and Jake spots something distracting - but you did not - Jake will not only observe it, he will orient himself towards it, make an almost instantaneous decision, and act on it. This could happen in less than a second. If you missed whatever it was that influenced Jake, you will suddenly be forced to react to Jake's response. A reaction on our part takes much more time than does action on Jake's part. This delayed response will put you a step behind, put Jake a step ahead, and the instant of good-timing is lost.

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One common mistake handlers make in good-timing department is developing tunnel vision when working with their dog. This happens when we fix our attention on just one small area of focus (i.e. the dog alone –excluding the distractions around you; these distractions alone – excluding the dog's reactions; your own thoughts whirling in your head – tuning out other influences, etc). By focusing too intently on just one thing, our vision can become much like the zoom-in feature on a video camera. We can see what we are looking at, but lose focus on other significant pieces of information that might well be important for us to know. For example: You may have your eyes fixed on Jake, but failed to notice that someone nearby is just pulled a ball out of their pocket, or another dog showed up, etc. Just because you did not see it, doesn't mean it didn't happen, and that it didn't influence the dog's behavior.

In light of this, Observation is your highest priority, because whoever observes first has an immediate advantage. Keep your eyes open and stay aware of everything that is going on around you both.

A final thought:

Even though both dog and handler revolve through the OODA cycle, they do *NOT* go through it at the same rate of speed. Whoever advances through the cycle the fastest is usually the 'winner'. On the other hand, the one who moves more slowly will usually be overcome by the events, and will be unable to maintain control of the exchange.

Applying the steps of the OODA Cycle to all your training exercises will definitely improve your timing skills, which will make learning much easier for both your client and the dog. The timing is perfect to learn a better way to train!

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EXTREME K-9 Training Academy

IACP

JEB CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

cluded: Scent Discrimination, Retrieve on Flat, Heel Free and Figure 8, Broad Jump, and Moving Stand for Examination. Round 2 included: Directed Jumping, Signal Exercise, Retrieve over High Jump, Drop on Recall, and Directed Retrieve. To survive all the way to the final, a dog had to perform ten different goes, essentially flawlessly, over two days against 97 other dogs. To say that this format is grueling on the dogs and handlers is an understatement. It is the Iditarod of Obedience Competition. Sports psychology strategies, nutrition, calories and electrolyte balance for both handler and dog are key to reaching the final rungs.

This year one of the key attractions was an unlikely sight, a gorgeous 8 year old, Blue Tick hound, owned and trained by IACP's own Paula Xan McCollum. Jeb, a veteran SAR dog in the rugged Idaho mountains, was not only the very first Blue Tick to qualify, but made it through to the final four, an unheard of feat against the typical Border Collie, Golden, and Lab overachievers, whose talent, even with the breed structured bias, still brings them to the final rungs at the end of the elimination. The crowd favorite, everyone gasped when Jeb not only retrieved a dumbbell over the high jump that had bounced way wide to the inside line, but did so with great drama and suspense -- looking around, looking at the jump, looking at Paula, then trotting himself back to the middle aligning himself nicely with the jump and with casual hound insouciance popping back over to present himself at Paula's feet. It was a refreshing change from the robot like performance of some of the semi-final and final rounds in the past. Hound attitude all the way, but hound attitude with a flair. A miscued jump and a missed sit on the go out in the fourth round, cost the pair the final cut, but gave them fourth place. Congrats Jeb and Paula on a job well done.

Mayna Ozuna can be reached at AZDoggyDudeRanch.com or DogBodyCare.com and is the founder of Kinaesthetics, a system of canine body care. She is currently producing a Kinaesthetics DVD.

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The Contrary Dog Trainer

Large Field Socialization: Cure Aggression

by Dick Russell

I credit David Klien of Marabella, Spain with being the first to be able to absolutely cure dog to dog aggression. After spending about five years screaming at him that he was being completely irresponsible, that based on my experience, common sense and all the rules of logic, what he was doing could not possibly work, I was faced with the choice of trying his approach or seeing an otherwise nice dog be destroyed. I tried David's approach. That's when I became the first person in the western hemisphere to be able to absolutely cure dog to dog aggression.

Large Field Socialization classes, which I have been conducting on a weekly basis for the past seven years, seem to fly in the face of responsible behavior. What you do is to simply turn any group of dogs, without regard to their past history of dog to dog aggression, loose in a large area and let things run their course. A closer look, though, at the innate behavior of dogs shows that this is not at all irresponsible.

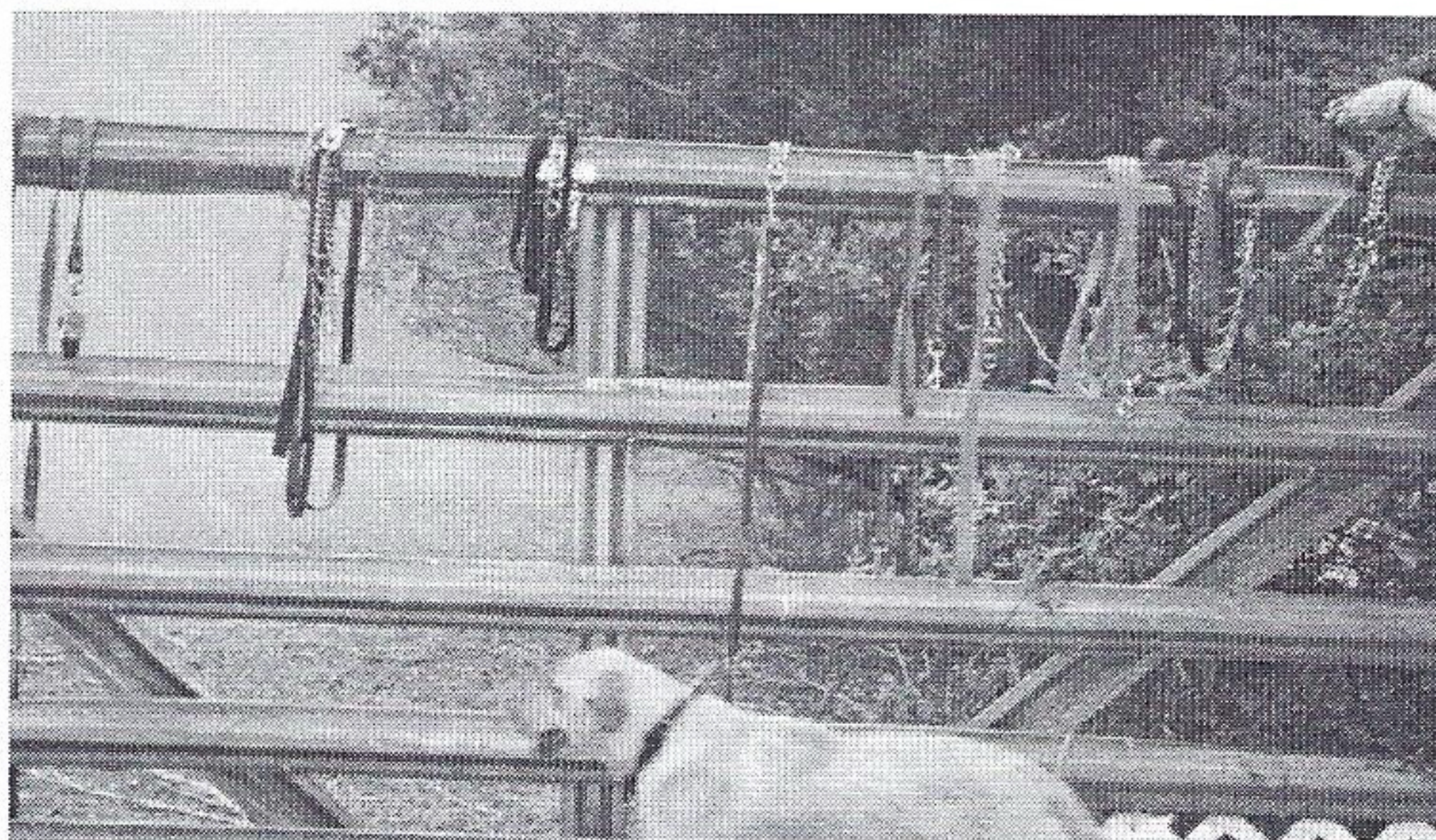
Back when I was a child, more than half a century ago, if one owned a dog, what it meant was that one put food out for the dog in the evening. The dog spent his day roaming the neighborhood, playing with all the kids and carousing with the other dogs. In those days, dogs grew up with well developed social skills. You seldom ever saw a dog fight and unless we whacked one with a stick, none of us kids managed to get bit.

Times and the law have changed. Now, if one owns a dog, one is required to keep him shut up in more or less solitary confinement. Dogs do not get the opportunity to develop their social skills. Dog fights and dog bites are epidemic. Large Field Socialization, because it allows the dogs to interact in a free wheeling and unfettered atmosphere, polishes social skills and diffuses aggressive tendencies.

Every Saturday morning, at my home just out of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, I conduct a Large Field Socialization class. If six dogs show up or if sixty dogs show up, it matters not to me, we take their collars and leashes off and turn them loose in about five and a half acres of well fenced pasture. We let them spend the next hour playing. The dogs run. They shoulder bump. They leap over one another. They duck under one another. They eventually discover the large mud hole on the back

of my property and splash into it with all of the glee of small boys on a creek bank on a summer afternoon. They seldom fight. What rare fights there are are no more than minor dust ups, easily ended and all contributing to the learning process.

Dogs, all of them, even the occasional "bad ones," are social creatures. The driving force in their lives is to be with and to enjoy the company of their kind. Given the opportunity and the means to do so, dogs rejoice at the chance. But before they can rejoice, dogs must first be able to communicate with their own kind. Dogs, to play peacefully must be at ease with each other. To be at ease, dogs must be able to read the continual body signals that others are giving. The only way they can learn to do this is to be allowed to practice doing it.



Participants leave their leashes "at the door" at Dick Russell's Large Field Socialization class.

What David Klein discovered years back and what I have seen countless times is that, with the exception of the battle bred breeds, all dog to dog aggression is fear based. Remove the fear and you get rid of the aggression. It is just that simple. Dog to dog aggression is not caused by big, bad or bold. It is caused by, "I am about to wet my britches." Put the dog in a position where he can control his fear and his aggression is diminished. Let his confidence level rise to the point of

relaxation and you cure dog to dog aggression.

All animals have a comfort distance. It is the space that they need between themselves and other animals in order to feel at ease. The comfort distance increases and decreases depending on the circumstances of the moment. The comfort distance is referred to as the animal's flight-fight distance. If a threat is perceived beyond a certain distance the animal will retreat. If a threat is perceived within the distance, the animal will tend to fight rather than flee.

Having enough space that frightened dogs can stay beyond their flight-

fight distance is imperative to making Large Field Socialization successful. That is why I conduct these classes in five and a half acres. The space is large enough that an uncomfortable dog can withdraw to where he regains his feeling of well being. In a smaller space, even with fewer dogs, this is not always possible. Small spaces inevitably cause fights. There have been a number of trainers who have made the journey to Baton Rouge to observe Large Field Socialization. They have

returned home and attempted to do the same in much smaller areas, including inside buildings. The results have been quite checkered.

In an area the size of mine, which is bordered at places by a rough hedge, an uncomfortable dog can retreat to a place where he does not perceive that he is in danger. Over the years that I have done this, quite a few dogs have hidden in the hedge. I do not make an effort to extract them. They can stay hidden as long as they feel the need.

What typically happens is that eventually another dog will discover the hiding place and go over to it. He will approach with curiosity rather than as a threat. He will display curiosity and friendliness in his body language. This body language will either draw the hiding dog out or it will not. In either case, it conveys, "there is nothing to fear." Eventually the hiding dog is drawn out. What most often occurs is that he will find one dog with whom he feels comfortable and begin to tentatively play. Having played, he will quickly or gradually expand his circle of friends. As a dog's comfort level rises, the distance at which he can be approached by others without triggering a fight response shrinks. It is the rare dog that is not playing comfortably by the end of an hour on the socialization field.

The number of dogs participating in the socialization is also a major factor in making it successful. More dogs are actually better than fewer dogs. It works on the principle that many moving targets make it harder for a dog that wants to attack to

do so. Any water fowler will attest that should a single duck fly within gun range, it is an easy shot. But, let eight or ten or more fly by and all are apt to continue their journey. It takes an especially disciplined gunner to concentrate on one target in the midst of many. I have many times watched as a dog went toward another with aggressive intent. Before he can make contact, though, several will run between him and his target. In his distraction, the would be attacker loses concentration and, with it, his desire to do harm. Some withdraw. Most join in the play.

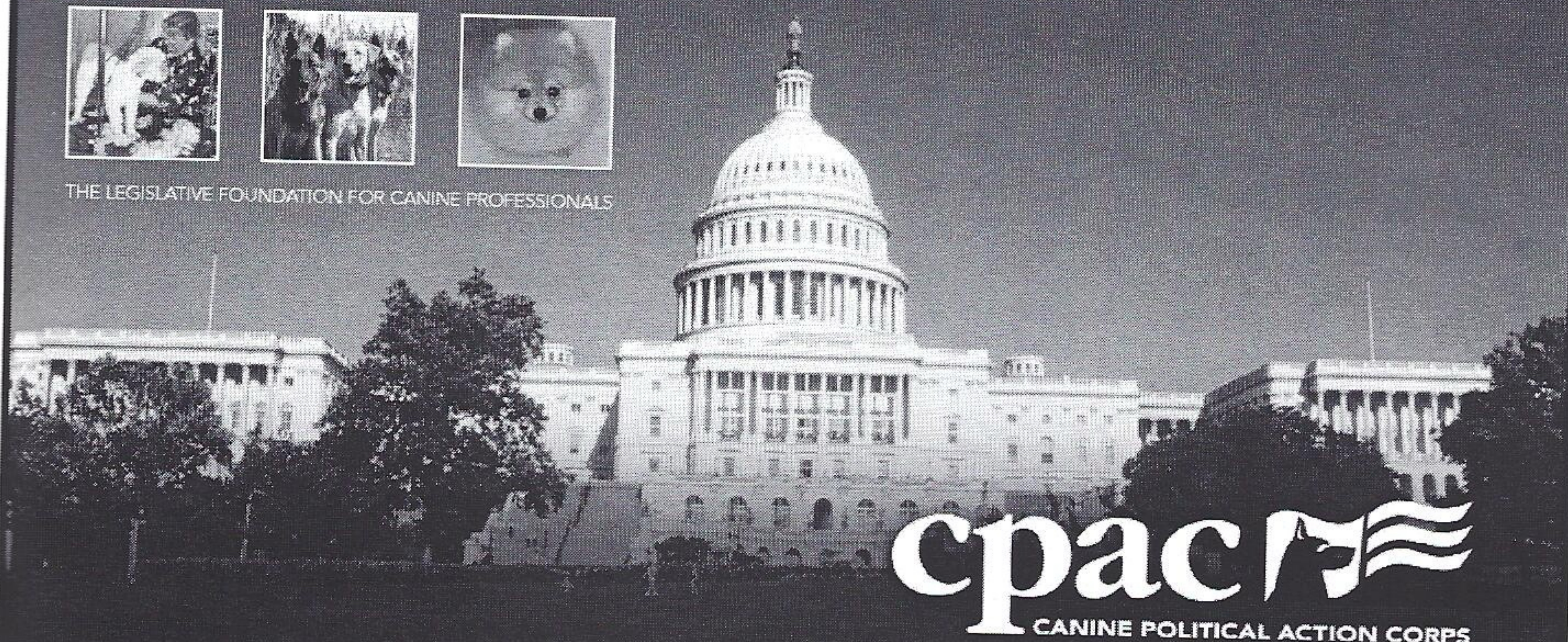
Someone once said that dogs worship the God, Frolic. It is easier for a dog to not be drawn into play when there is only one or two dogs playing, than it is to ignore the festival of several dozen cavorting about a field. The enthusiasm of mock chases, of raucous vocalizations, of a free wheeling leap into an especially large and sloppy mud hole is more than even the shyest can resist. When the pack is large, when it is boisterous, the pull becomes irresistible.

And, when things do not go well? Murphy's Law is always in effect. Murphy was an optimist. Occasionally, especially with older dogs who have a history of protecting themselves by being aggressive, we have an attack. I do not worry about these incidents until they occur because most times they do not happen. When they happen, I apply positive punishment. Some dog theorists will tell you that applying punishment in such a case will often result in the aggression becoming worse. This

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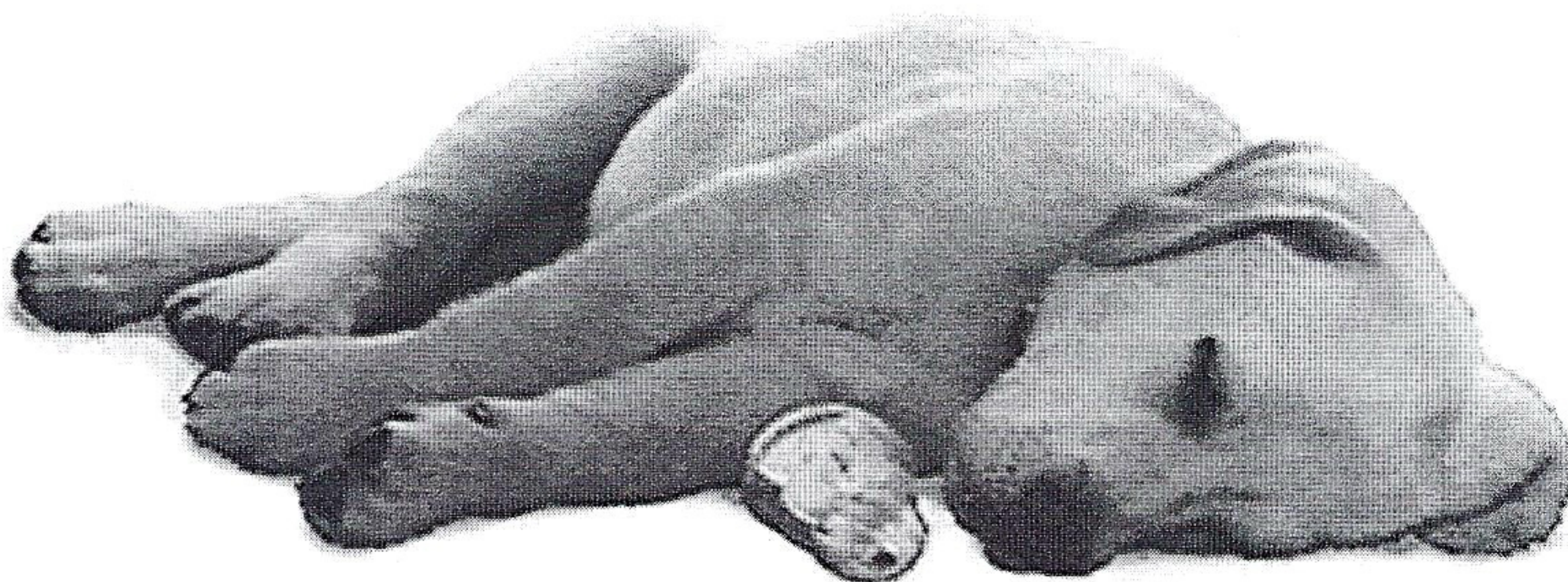


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notion is foolish. I find that just the opposite happens. The way that one gets rid of a behavior that one doesn't want is to punish it. The second sentence of the Learning Law, the sentence that lots of folks are not comfortable talking about says, "if as an animal does something, something occurs which makes him uncomfortable, he will tend to quit doing the thing which caused the discomfort."

I walk the socialization field with a dressage whip across my shoulder. If an attack takes place, I rush in and tap the offending dog away from the fight. The term is, tap. Punishment does not have to be draconian. In fact, excessive punishment has the wrong effect because pain prevents learning. Punish-



Dick oversees the field.

ment has its best effect at exactly the threshold of discomfort. Certainly not less, but neither more. The purpose of the tapping is two fold. First it stops the fight by moving the dog away from his victim. Secondly it deters future fights because the dog learns from the discomfort that that crazy old man will not tolerate such behavior. When they understand that, they quickly discover that fighting is not at all necessary.

I have found almost no correlation between dogs that growl, snap or lunge when they are on leash, with off leash aggression. Removing the leash, giving the dog space to move to his comfort level, having the other dogs invite him to play disarms his aggression. On leash aggression is absolutely not an indicator of off leash aggression. Removing the leash changes the dynamics of the dog's behavior.

I have, though, found a high correlation between incidents of on leash aggression and misdiagnosis by owners, neighbors, other trainers, veterinarians and, in one case, by a veterinary behaviorist. In the seven years that I have been conducting Large Field Socialization classes, more than four thousand dogs have participated. I cannot count the number of owners, who when I have told them to remove their dog's leash, countered with, "But you don't understand. He is dangerous."

My reply is always, "That's fine. Turn him loose. He's now my responsibility." And I smile at the look of amazement on their faces as their dog dashes off to join his newfound playmates.

There is presently a white Bull Terrier who is participating in the class. His owners moved here from Alabama. They called because walking him was becoming more than his fe-

male owner could physically do. The owners told me that while they were in Alabama, they had spent almost a year working with the veterinary behaviorist at Auburn University with no improvement in the dog. He had in fact become so bad that he was diagnosed as extremely dog aggressive and highly dangerous. Euthanasia had been recommended.

When we released him, he rushed to the first dog he could reach, exhibited a classic play bow and dashed off with the dog in hot pursuit. Several others quickly joined the chase. In joy, the terrier reversed direction and charged through the pack he had assembled. He spent the rest of the hour challenging every other dog to play.

Afterwards, I told the owners why the veterinary behaviorist had not been able to affect their dog's dog aggression. Nobody can solve a problem that does not exist. He was simply not dog aggressive. He was fearful on leash. His fearfulness exhibited itself as defensive bluffing. The cure was going to have to be to remove his fear, to increase his comfort level in close proximity to other dogs. With time his comfort off leash was going to translate to comfort on leash. We accomplished that in thirty two hours - two socialization periods every Saturday for four months. He's now in a group obedience class consisting of forty eight dogs. Other than wanting to play rather than wanting to sit or stay, he's no problem whatsoever.

Large Field Socialization classes are, in my opinion, the future of dog training and the only effective way to address the growing problem of dog to dog aggression. I consider them to be the most important thing that I am doing. David Klien considers Large Field Socialization so important that it is the only thing that he does. It allows us to get dogs past what has become a growing problem based on the way that we are required by law to manage our pets. Furthermore, Large Field Socialization works anywhere a trainer has sufficient space to conduct a class. Quite a few European trainers have taken David's lead with excellent results. American trainers who have visited me and returned home to try it, when they have allowed plenty of space, are having the same good results that I have. It is something that I think all with space should consider.

Dick Russell trains dogs in Baton Rouge, LA and is a regular columnist for the SafeHands Journal. His take on Large Field Socialization has been credited with saving the lives of many dogs.

IACP

Training a Shy or Anxious Dog

by Mary Mazzeri

A fellow dog trainer wrote: "I find the complexity of timing issues far greater with shy dogs than with goobery bold dogs. ...these are the kinds of dialogue I have with the shy ones, which often consists of more questions than answers."

When to praise, when not to praise? What is the precise event we are marking? For example we get the sit, but the dog then goes into submissive posturing head down. Do you praise the sit, or move the dog forward to get a happier response, and then praise? Bring the head up? What if there are stimuli around the dog that are making it more anxious? Do you settle for a lesser response, just hang out and do nothing, neither having the dog do it wrong, nor pushing them to do something when they are stressed, or just matter of factly ask for the correct response, sit with head up? What might that depend on?"

"I find it terribly easy in a million subtle ways to reinforce fear. How can you build enough bonding to create enough trust to get a dog to learn from you, without rewarding the fear behavior?" M. O.

To do these excellent questions justice would require a 'book long' answer but let's explore just a few basic ideas on the subject.

I think trying to convey when and how to do precise things is difficult to express in print so generalities will have to do. Often dogs that have behaviors involving any 'out of average range' responses, when you've got 'layers' of behavior exhibiting simultaneously, (some desirable and some not so desirable) you do have to sort through what, if anything, to 'mark' in the moment. For example, I tend not to physically touch fearful dogs when they are responding to the command in a timid way. I will use my voice modulations/tone to let the dog know it did do 'something' right, generally using the command word as part of the praise. (Good sit) but of course we can't be sure that the dog will link that to the right part of its response unless there is a repeatable pat-

tern to reinforce.

Let's use the sit as an example. If the dog does respond

to the sit, but tends to cower at physical touch. I will praise calmly, lightly with "Gooooood sit!" without touching/petting. I often have to 'experiment' vocally to see what a particular dog best responds to. Some like quiet reassurance and others more enthusiasm. Once the dog offers the desired behavior several times, I might briefly pet the dog under the chin, gently lifting the muzzle. (This of course assuming there is no fear-based aggression.) The muzzle lift encourages a

more upright 'confident' sit but should be a light touch and not forced. You must know how to read the dog. Some dogs have to be taught to accept touch. I'd say if you get a 'happy' tail wag I'd be more likely to touch than if the dog is cringing, tail is tucked or ears are flattened for example.



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There are just soooo many variables. It might not be appropriate to offer physical contact a dog in training for several days. But patience will win out unless the fear is pathological or physiological. Extremes in behavior always warrant veterinary examination before implementing any training or behavior modification program. Barring physical problems, temporary drug intervention - working with the dog's veterinarian - may get a difficult dog through the transition from pathological to normalcy.

All training involves some degree of stress, but just in general principle, if the dog offers some 'improved response', I praise calmly/quietly and either end the training session altogether or take a quiet break before going back to work -so much depends on who the dog is, how long you've been working with it and where the dog is at in a training program.

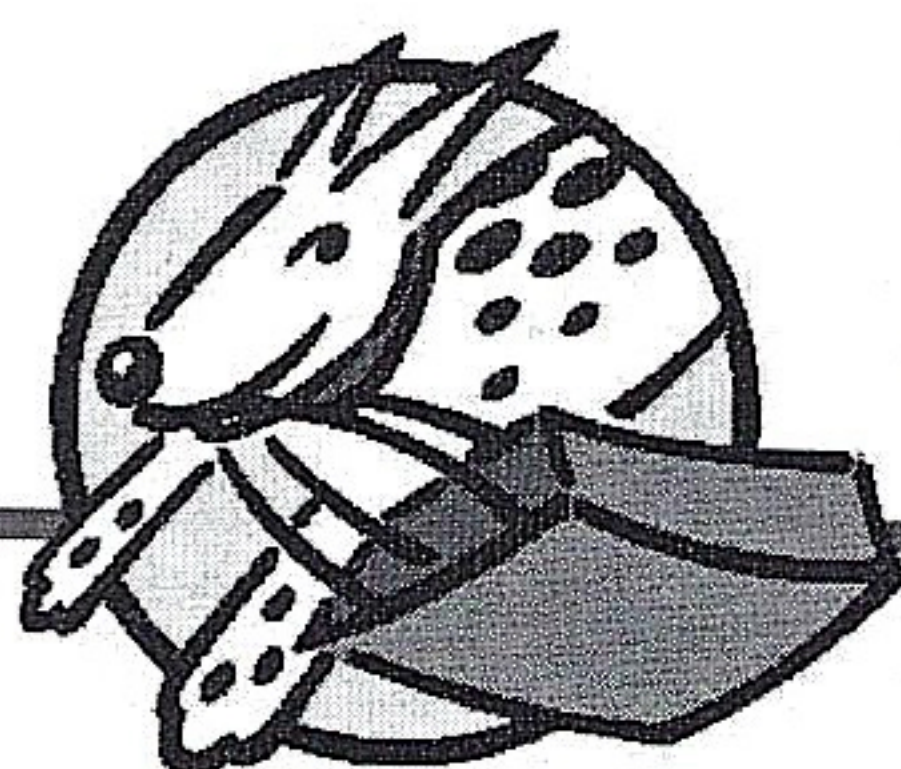
My goal would be to move the dog forward incrementally, so at points along the program I would add in either some aspect of increased difficulty, duration, distraction or distance. (But not everything all at once.) With a fearful dog I do work hard to engineer situations that will increase the likelihood that that dog will succeed as it is 'figuring things out' before adding problems (distractions) for it to work through.

My black Irish Wolfhound Legend was an 'overly sensitive' dog who worried about making mistakes and would freeze easily. He taught me a great deal about patient, compassionate persistence. Negative punishment (withholding rewards/verbal and physical) worked very well with that particular dog. He did earn a leg on his UD but never finished because we discovered bone cancer. But I love to tell about the time we were practicing putting together the 'utility routine' and were practicing the directed jumping exercise. (The dog is required to move straight ahead away from its handler on command about 50 ft and turn and sit in place on another verbal command. About half way between the dog and handler -off to each side and about 20 ft apart -are two jumps. The dog has to return to the handler by going over the jump that the handler indicates by arm signal and verbal command.

He went to the wrong jump (but he was honestly trying to do the right thing). When he landed I said nothing and made no eye contact. He saw me still standing with my other arm extended, indicating the opposite jump. Then he did a VERY interesting thing. He turned around and went back over the (wrong) jump to the place where I'd asked him to sit. Then he corrected his mistake by galloping over the other (correct jump) on his way back to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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Handling a Pup

by Martin Deeley

Too often when I go to visit homes where they have a young dog, the dog has become hand shy. In other words he is concerned when he is reached for and keeps just out of reach. Much of this has been created by owners grabbing for a fast moving pup, especially when he is doing wrong - like not wanting to come - and doing this in a rough way. We have to remember that hands will be used not just to clip on a leash or to pet, but to inspect, administer medicines, do grooming routines and to take objects from the dog. Hands should therefore always be friendly and we can start making this so right from the moment we get a pup.

A pup should never become frightened or even nervous of hands, so immediately you get a pup pick him up, and hold him close to you. If he struggles do not immediately put him down but wait until he stops. As he accepts being handled, turn him over and encourage him to relax in your arms. Some pups will struggle and be fearful of being turned over so do it only slightly at first. With such a dog, rock him gently increasing the amount until he will accept being on his back. When he is on the floor stroke calmly and slowly him so that he stays calm and encourage him again to lay on his side and back. Some pups will happily throw themselves on their backs to have their tummy tickled but the aim of this exercise is to give the pup the confidence to be handled when you need to groom or inspect him. It is not for him to demand tummy tickling.

Gentle brushing, the application of flea powder and ear drops should be introduced at an early age. This should be done matter of fact confidently with no fuss, bother or force from yourself. Play at powdering and applying ear drops so that you only quickly go through the

motions before you advance to the real thing and gradually build up the time you are carrying out such actions. Any activity which causes possible concern should be done with a fun approach and in very small steps. Touch and gently stroke and squeeze your pup's feet, may be even giving an occasional treat so that he believes all these potentially unpleasant activities lead to a pleasurable one - a snack. Even use the food if necessary to distract while you handle his feet. When he accepts you handling his feet, clip the very end of his nails quickly

and in fun so that he will come to accept having this done properly in future. With all these activities make sure you leave the dog with a feeling of happiness and confidence.

When a dog is a pup, no matter what the breed he is easier to hold and restrain and this is when hands can be introduced before he becomes strong enough to break away. Sitting on the floor cradle the pup in your arms and on your lap. With his head on your left side, place your left arm under his chin



and across the front of the chest with your hand on his right shoulder blade. The right hand then runs along the top side of the body with the right hand on the side of the neck just under the right ear and fingers curled around under his chin. In this position you can control the pup from getting up, struggling away and through finger pressure on the shoulder blades, chest and neck area, control the head. When he struggles apply pressure in the form of a squeeze to limit the movement and use finger pressure to reinforce this control. The moment he stops attempting to move release the pressure. If he attempts to bite press the head into your body with your right hand and again squeeze, the moment he stops release the pressure. This is firm but not painful pressure. Very quickly a

pup begins to interpret the pressure and realize that lying with you calmly is the way to go. Hand acceptance and confidence in your leadership is achieved very simply in this way while controlling biting and hyperactivity. Never let pup go while struggling - always wait until he has been calm for about ten seconds before releasing him. Interestingly I have found that when I do this the pup slowly moves away and then comes back to my body and arms.

Food time is something the dog will definitely look forward to and as such can be used as a training session. Teach the pup to sit before you put the food down for him to eat. Sometimes this can be achieved by just putting a slight pressure on his rear end while you say 'sit' and gradually building up the time he has to sit before you put the food down. Just holding the food bowl above the pups head and waiting until he sits either from frustration or as a reaction to puzzling out why you are not putting the dish down also often works. A quick 'sit' as he does this will teach the dog what is required and really he has taught himself what to do to get the reaction from you that he requires - food on the floor. Whilst the pup is eating occasionally take the food away and replace it so that he knows food will return. On occasions don't give the pup his full ration of food immediately but gradually add food to the required amount as he is eating so that he sees you as someone who is giving more, not threatening to take away. And again hands become friendly.

Feeding the pup by hand is always beneficial to accepting your presence and hands but make sure the pup takes the food gently and when told to. Use a command to let the pup know he can have the food. 'Eat it', 'Take it', 'It's yours' whatever you find comes easily to your lips. Also teach the pup not to take it, or leave the food

alone, 'Leave it' by offering the pup the food and then saying the command as you take it away or just tap his nose with your fingers. Do this gently so as to cause the minimum of concern and then give the pup the food with the command to take it.

Throughout all this handling and hand exercises we need to be calm, confident, and quiet and yet firm. In this way we show the pup that we have taken over the lead role, that he now can also be calm, confident, and look to us for guidance and most important that he is in Safe Hands.

Martin Deeley is the Executive Director and founding member of IACP. He is an award winning author and can be visited on the web at MartinDeeley.com.

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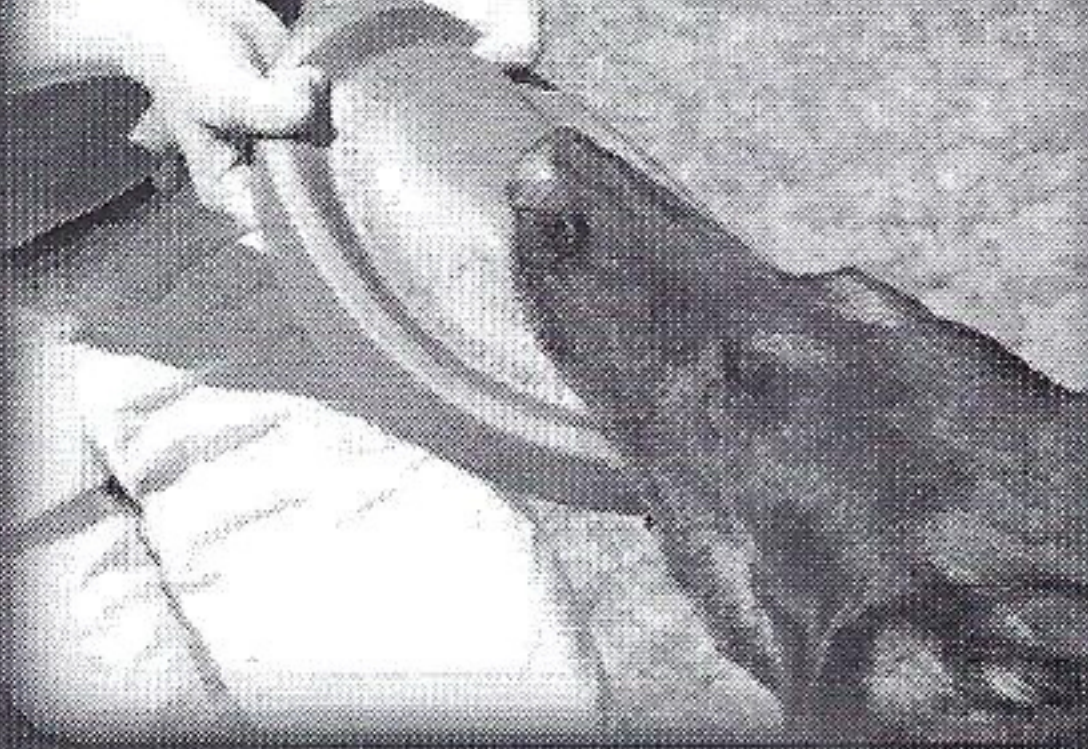
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SHY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

me. We had a grand celebration and he was VERY accurate on the jumps from that day forward, rarely taking the wrong jump.

Understanding Why and When to Correct

Diane Bauman in her book *Beyond Basic Dog Training* has some wonderful 'concept chapters' from which I created the following graph. Most dog trainers will identify a 'correction' as an action taken by the trainer to help the dog to be 'correct'. It may involve taking a step back and retraining confusion, using negative reinforcement to move a dog back into a desired behavior or using negative or positive punishment based on the dog's temperament and level of training for a given situation.

There are four basic reasons why a *healthy* dog does not respond to a given command. The approaches to getting your dog to respond appropriately depend entirely on the reason. When a problem in training arises, first determine *why* your dog is not responding, and then use the appropriate method of working out the problem. Studying your dog's body language—its facial expressions, ear, tail and body positions and knowing its personality is an important part of successfully training him.

Reasons a dog does not obey

1. Dog doesn't know the exercise,
2. Dog is confused
3. Dog is afraid

Your Response

No corrections! Back up a step or two. Set up a situation where your dog cannot make a mistake. Help it understand and succeed. Give lots of praise when your dog does it right. Break the exercise down into simple, smaller steps. Use more repetition! Help your dog succeed.

Reasons a dog does not obey

1. Dog knows exercise but is distracted
2. Dog feels he has a choice

Your Response

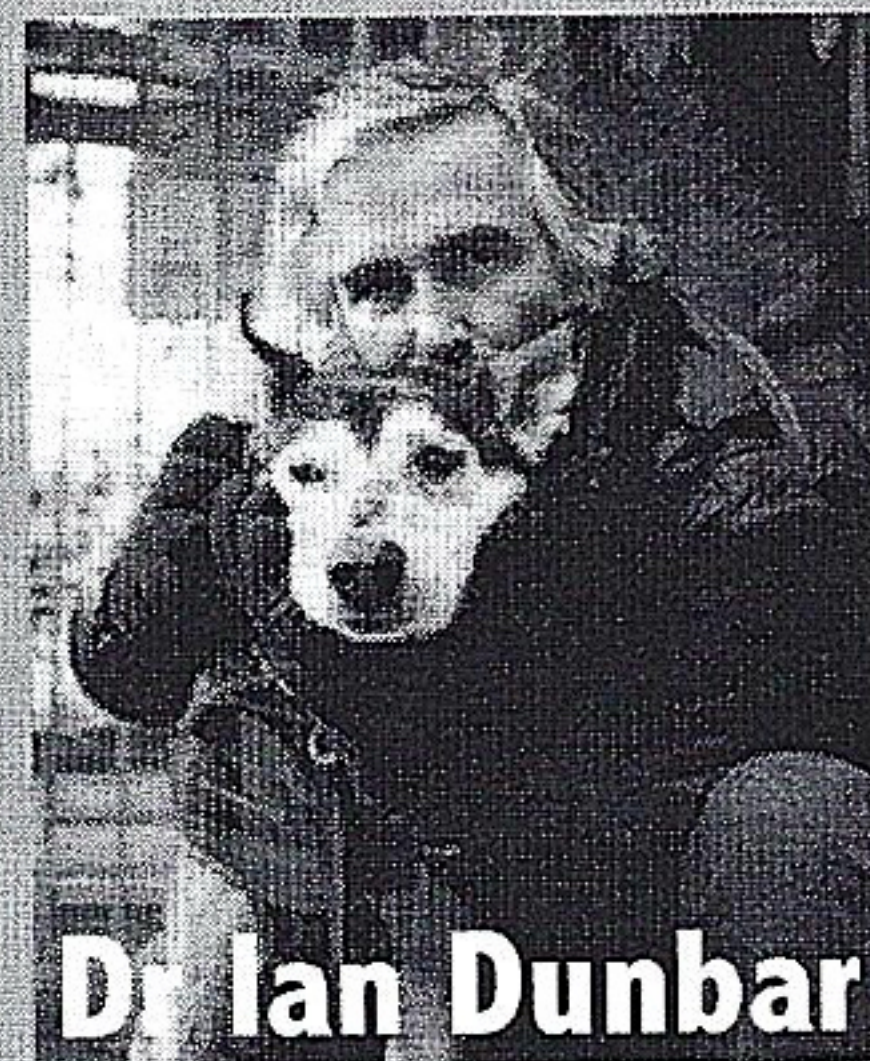
Correct! Move in calmly but swiftly. Set up distracting situations and correct. Set up the situation where your dog is likely to make the mistake and then make the correction. Repeat to give the dog a chance to make comparisons. Repeat the exercise in new situations. Give your dog a chance to show he understands.

Mary Mazzeri is a founding member of IACP, and a past Director. She owns and operates Care Dog Training in Carpentersville, IL. Mary can be visited on the web at CareDogTraining.com.

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Quick Control

A case study

by Eileen Tonick, MA and Mickey McGovern

Luke is a five year old, 150 pound St. Bernard. He's big and strong and lumbering. His owner, Kim, is a 50 year old woman who is 5 foot two and weighs 100 pounds. Ut oh. Can you see the scenario? I know you can. A previous client of mine recommended that Kim call me. After a detailed conversation I knew instantly what the problem was. "I can fix this", I told her.

I went to Kim's house and asked her to demonstrate how she walked Luke. It was embarrassing for Kim because it was Luke's walk. He took Kim wherever he wanted to go and Kim was along for the ride. He actually yanked her off her feet to go smell a bush. After the demonstration I asked Kim if she felt like she had control. Kim laughed and said, "Absolutely not!"

Kim and her husband Phil have another St. Bernard. He's an older dog in remission from cancer. He has a sweet disposition and everyone loves him. When they met Luke he was on his fifth family. No one could handle him so he got passed around which of course only added to his confusion. Luke had a habit of pushing people and mauling them with his big feet. He knocked people into walls and frightened them. Basically Luke is a good dog with a nice temperament. He doesn't know he creates fear. Kim and Phil tried everything they could think of to help Luke but nothing worked. One dog was the perfect family dog and the other dog was lovable but out of control Luke. It was emotionally draining and frustrating for Kim.

When he moved into Kim and Phil's home Luke immediately took the alpha dog role away from their family pet. This bothered them. It especially bothered Phil. I

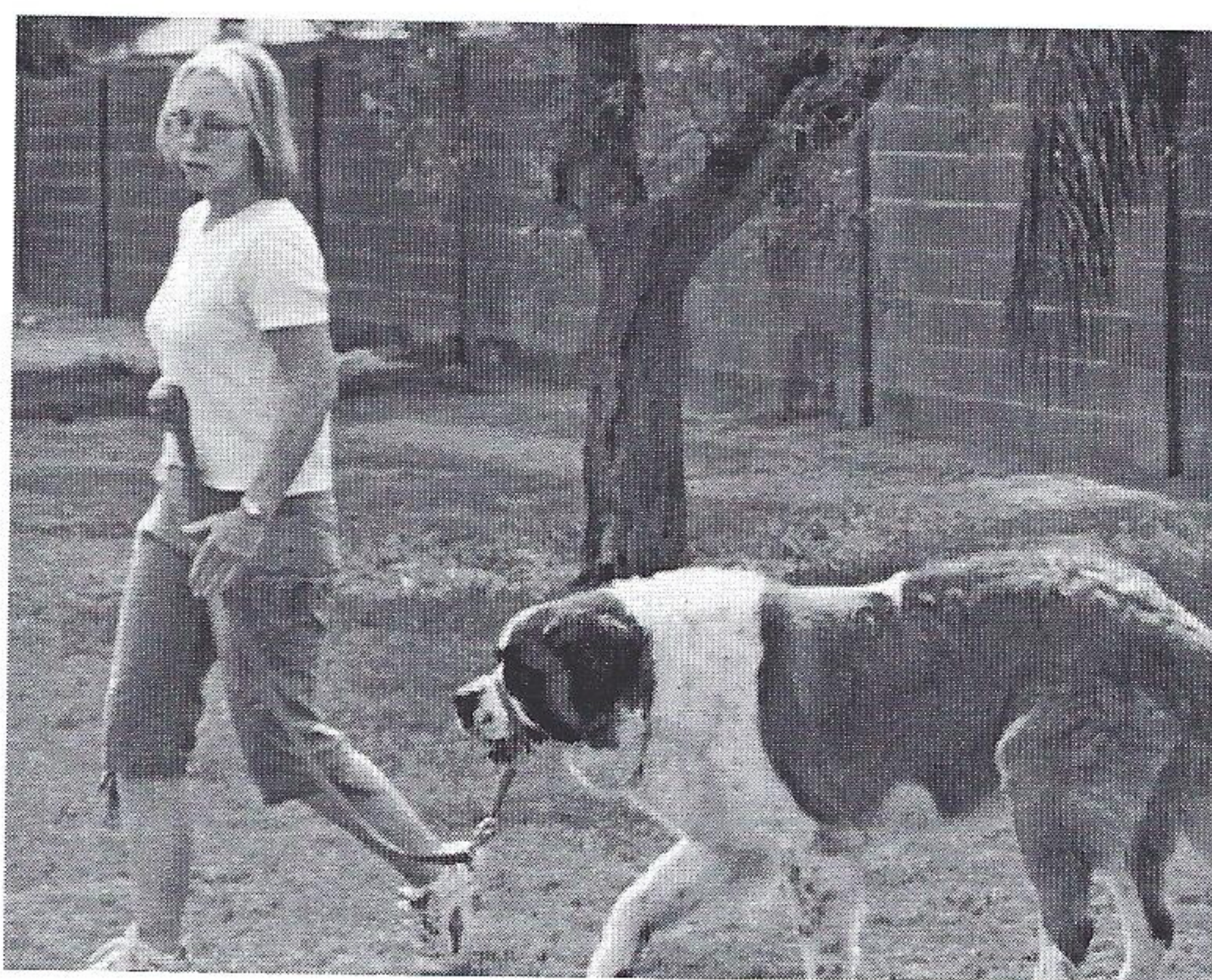
explained to them how pack mentality works. The strongest dog will always take the lead and if Luke isn't fighting with the other dog or hurting him they should just let them be. It is a natural thing. I assured them that both dogs are okay with it. However Kim and Phil and any other human living in the house are the pack leaders over Luke. No question, always. We discussed pack mentality and what would be needed to gain control of

Luke. Luke knows Phil is a pack leader but when it came to Kim or her daughter and her friends Luke was in charge.

I asked Kim if it was okay if I used a "head halter". This is my favorite tool for hard to control dogs. I especially choose this tool for Kim because she is not tall and weighs about 100 pounds. I knew this training device would put Luke in a submissive calm state. He would then focus on Kim and what she needed. She would take the assertive calm position.

I also talked about how a mother dog picks up their pups by the scruff of the neck and how they put their mouths over their pup's nose to discipline. The head halter goes over a dog's nose and around the back of his neck. It feels natural and familiar to him. Kim agreed so I demonstrated how to use the head halter and showed her how to heel Luke. Luke was very cooperative and in no time he was walking at my side and was completely calm. After a few moments Kim took over and was surprised how easy it was to walk Luke. Luke did not drag her to the bushes and from that day forward Kim has enjoyed long walks throughout her neighborhood with him.

Once Luke was paying attention the next step was to bring harmony inside the home. For awhile Kim kept the head halter on Luke. She left a drag leash on him as well. If he started to act like a big shot she would step on



The author and Luke.

the leash and bring him back under control. When company comes to call Kim puts the halter on Luke and she keeps him with her on a leash or hands him over to Phil. Luke is being trained to behave like a good host. In a very short time Kim and Phil had control of Luke. The next step was to teach him commands and hand signals.

I met Kim and Phil at a local park recently for our last lesson. I watched Kim walk down the street toward me with Luke. He stayed by her even though there are lots of bushes. Cars whizzed by but they didn't distract him. She enjoys walking with him. He enjoys his outings with her. I think he feels proud. He sure looks proud. They look good together, the little lady and the huge dog. I felt happy that I could make that happen.

I use the head halter and training techniques that encompass basic obedience such as Sit/Stay and Down/Stay. I use these two commands to refocus the dog's mind into a calm submissive state. I maintain the assertive calm position to help gain control of a dog that is out of control. My client, Darlene, wrote an evaluation of my training methods, she said, "We were at the point of possibly parting with Bella but after just one session with Eileen. What a difference! She is a different dog. I love the calm and professional manner in which she trains. Actually she trained us as well. She is simply the best! She far exceeded our expectations."

In the 1990's 17 million dogs were killed each year mainly because their owners no longer wanted them, now that number is down to two million because of activists, vets and trainers. We're working every day to make that number zero. One way to do that is to get dogs under control as quickly as possible. Some people are too busy and too impatient to work at it for long. You need quick results to encourage them to stay with it. Then everyone can have the kind of relationship that Kim has with Luke or Darlene has with Bella, a relationship that is based in family and enjoyment.

Head collars:

Read the booklet and review the disk that comes with the head collar. It is very useful.

Adjust it properly. Make sure you have the correct size.

Realize that some dogs will adjust to the head collar easily and some won't.

For the dogs who struggle, fit the head collar and then instead of hooking the leash to the head collar, hook it to the dog's flat collar until he becomes accustomed to it.



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Do this for one to three days.

Have the dog wear the head collar all day with supervision. You can give the dog breaks from the head collar during the day. Remember to praise and encourage the dog through the process.

If the dog struggles with the head collar during your walk I'd suggest starting with ten minute walks twice a day for the first three days.

You can also have the dog do a Sit/Stay until he or she goes into a calm submissive state then proceed with the walk.

I use an encouraging voice to motivate and soothe a dog.

An occasional treat to encourage forward movement is a good idea. Cheerios work.

If the dog pulls give a slight backward pressure with the leash to get their attention then release it as soon as they are in the heeling position.

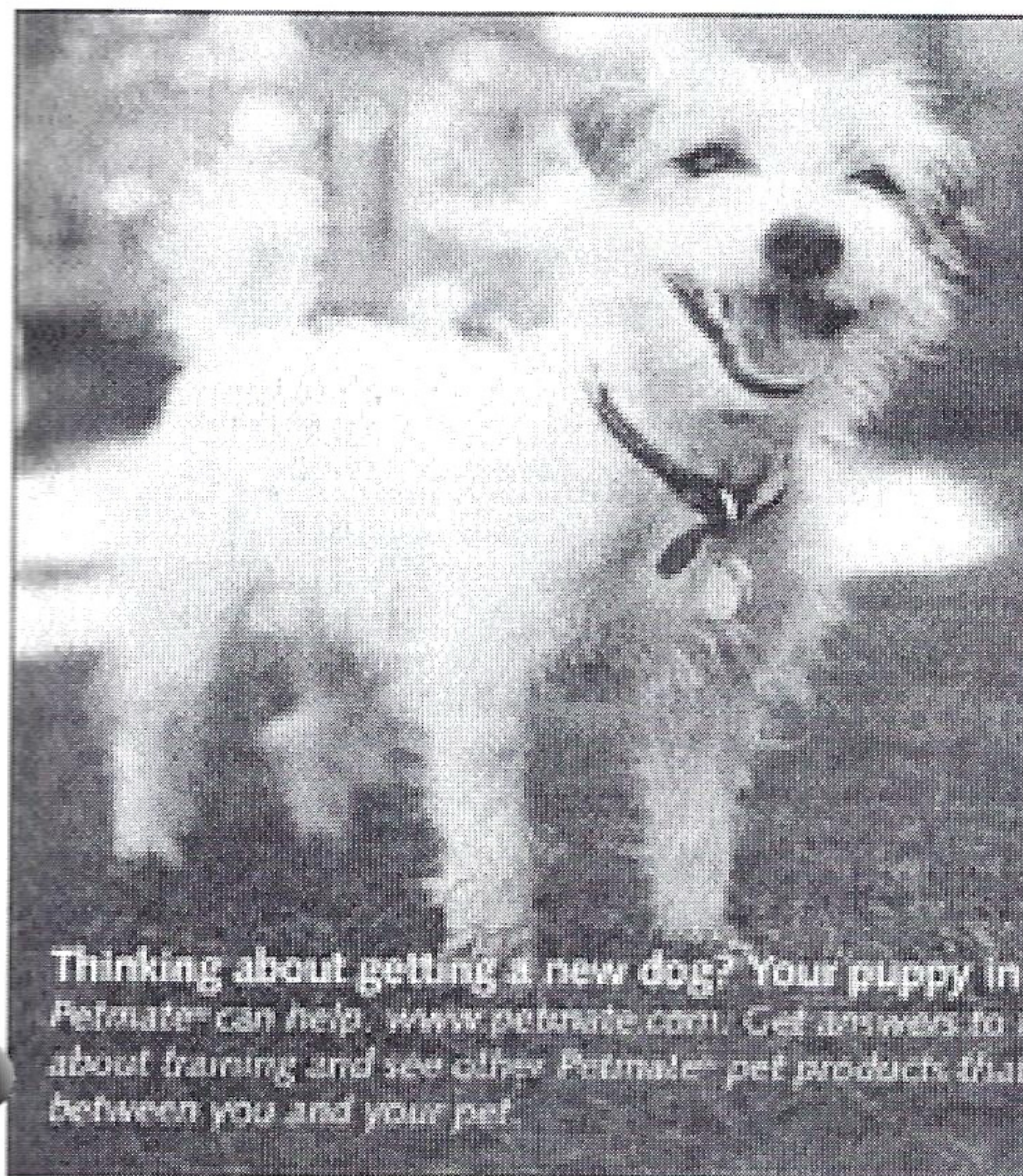
If the dog lunges forward just stand there, the head collar will do the rest. It will turn the dog's head back to you. When the dog has completed his turn walk forward

and have the dog catch up to your heeling side.

It's fun to walk your dog. It's fun for them and its fun for you unless of course your dog is pulling your arms out of their sockets while they drag you around behind them. It's also a bit frightening to have your dog strangling himself on his collar while he strains against it. Teaching a dog how to walk with the aide of a head collar is quick. I find it to be especially effective when you have a large dog, like Luke, an excitable dog or a young pup who needs socializing.

Eileen Tonick has a Master's Degree in Human Psychology. She has trained Guide Dogs for the Blind. A local service dog training group has hired Eileen to teach their Club Members AKC Canine Good Citizens skills. She is a Delta Society Evaluator, an AKC Canine Good Citizen Evaluation, and a member of the International Association of Canine Professionals. She has developed a program to help dog owners become a pet partner team with their dog to do therapy work in hospitals, retirement homes, and child crisis units. Eileen's approach to training a dog is very much like her approach to life. She believes that you get better results with education, consistency, confidence, patience, kindness and humor. Visit her on the web at angeldogstraining.net.

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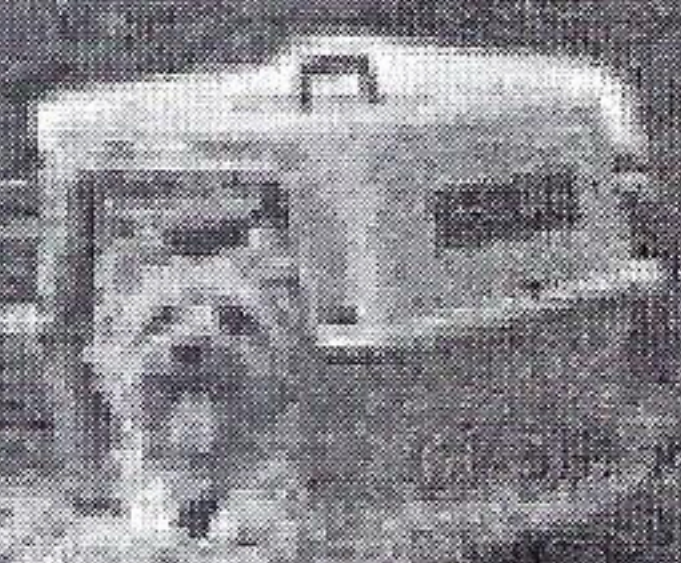


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What is in a Pet First Aid Class

by Thom Some, "The Pet Safety Guy"™

Learning the skills and techniques of pet first aid are best learned by lecture, demonstration and hands-on skill practice. The skills and techniques of pet first aid are, generally, very similar to human first aid. This makes sense, since we are all mammals. The key differences are size, anatomy and communication. The differences of size, anatomy and communication come in to play when safely assessing and properly applying the skills and techniques of pet first aid.

Pet First Aid is the immediate care given to a pet that has been injured or suddenly taken ill. The first and most important principle of pet first aid is scene safety. The very same danger that was present that injured your pet could potentially pose a risk for you the rescuer. A true story that still gives me goose bumps is about a woman in my class who was in her front yard with her dog. Something she had done thousands of times. However, this time, for some reason, her dog ran across the road and was hit by a passing car. This woman seeing this happen had only concern for her dog. She dropped everything and went running straight out to her dog lying in the middle of the road. At which point, another car came along, slammed on its brakes and stopped a scant 18 inches from her face. If that car had hit this woman, would she have been able to help her pet? Being properly trained in how to safely respond in an emergency situation can prevent one accident from becoming two.

As soon as you have a safe approach to the emergency situation, the next potential danger you have to face is the pet itself! This is the first difference you will notice between human and pet first aid. In human first aid, you can communicate to the patient. You can tell them that you are "medically trained" and that you will take care of them. The human patient can respond by telling what happened and what their injuries are.

Pets on the other hand, have a much different psychology at work here. Dogs and cats are predators. Dogs have a pack mentality. Dogs and cats will usually mask their symptoms so they don't show weakness because they want to keep from possibly becoming prey themselves. Also, "any pet that is in pain or you are going to move them into pain, can and will bite." This is purely reactionary and not to be taken personally but professionally. You must be trained in how to safely and quickly restrain and muzzle dogs and cats.

The type of restraint will depend on the situation, the size and behavior of your pet, the injury and if you are alone or if you have help. As a general rule, the least amount of restraint is preferred because it can keep the situation from escalating, conserve your energy and make your pet more cooperative. Use caution, even when it is your dog or cat. Move slowly and use a calm, reassuring, soothing voice. Warning signs of potential biting include; growling/hissing, barring its teeth, wide-eyed look and/or if their ears are laid back. As a general rule, the more open the mouth of an animal, the greater the risk of being bitten.

Muzzling your pet helps keep you from being bitten and from causing further injury to it self. Muzzling works with

your dog's natural instincts and social systems by displaying dominance at two points: behind the neck and across the bridge of the nose. Muzzling is a skill, that when properly trained, you can practice with your pet.

And, it doesn't matter if you are a doctor, a veterinarian or somebody walking down the street there are only three situations you will ever have in a medical emergency. The first and most common situation you may experience is when an injured pet needs first aid care; the second and more serious is when the injured pet requires Rescue Breathing and the third and most serious is when the injured pet needs CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation).

The Primary Pet Assessment is a first aid skill that will allow you to assess the pet's condition with a physical and visual exam. Within the first 15-25 seconds of your assessment you will be able to identify the severity of the situation, the injuries that are present and the protocols of care you should follow.

An injured pet that has a heartbeat and is breathing needs first aid care. Your pet could be conscious or unconscious. Injuries that would require first aid care include: heat injuries (first, second and third degree burns or heat stroke), cold injuries (frostbite or frost nip - no puns intended), bleeding,

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shock, bee sting, snake bite and /or poisoning to name a few. Pets that do not receive immediate first aid care tend to get worse, not better. Once you begin to administer first aid care, you must stay with the pet and continue to monitor their condition until you can contact your veterinarian.

If your injured pet is NOT breathing and has a pulse, you would need to begin Rescue Breathing. This makes sense because your pet has a heartbeat, but it's just not breathing, so you will rescue it by breathing for it. Your pet will be unconscious except for conscious choking. Your pet could NOT be breathing and have a heart beat because of sudden blunt trauma to the head and/or the chest (hit by a car, a fall or being thrown in or out of a vehicle); accidental shock from an electrical source (this is very common in puppies that chew on electrical wires); prolonged confinement in an unventilated space (such as a hot car on a hot day); near drowning, accidental poisoning, an allergic reaction or suffocation.

Pets that are NOT breathing and have NO heartbeat would need CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation). Clinically speaking this condition is defined as dead. However, in the medical world we have two types of dead, clinical and biological. Clinical death is where your primary pet assessment indicates they have no heart beat, and they are not breathing, yet the cells of the brain and heart are still alive and viable. Biological death is where the cells of the brain and heart have gone so long without an oxygen-rich, nutrient-rich blood supply that they are dead or no longer viable. This is an extremely time sensitive situation. Dr. Frankenstein is true only in the movies; we can't bring the dead heart and brain cells back to life. However, other than in extreme cases such as morbidity, decapitation or extreme exposure you can not tell the difference

between clinical or biological death. Therefore, if your pet is NOT breathing and has NO heartbeat, it is best to begin CPR.

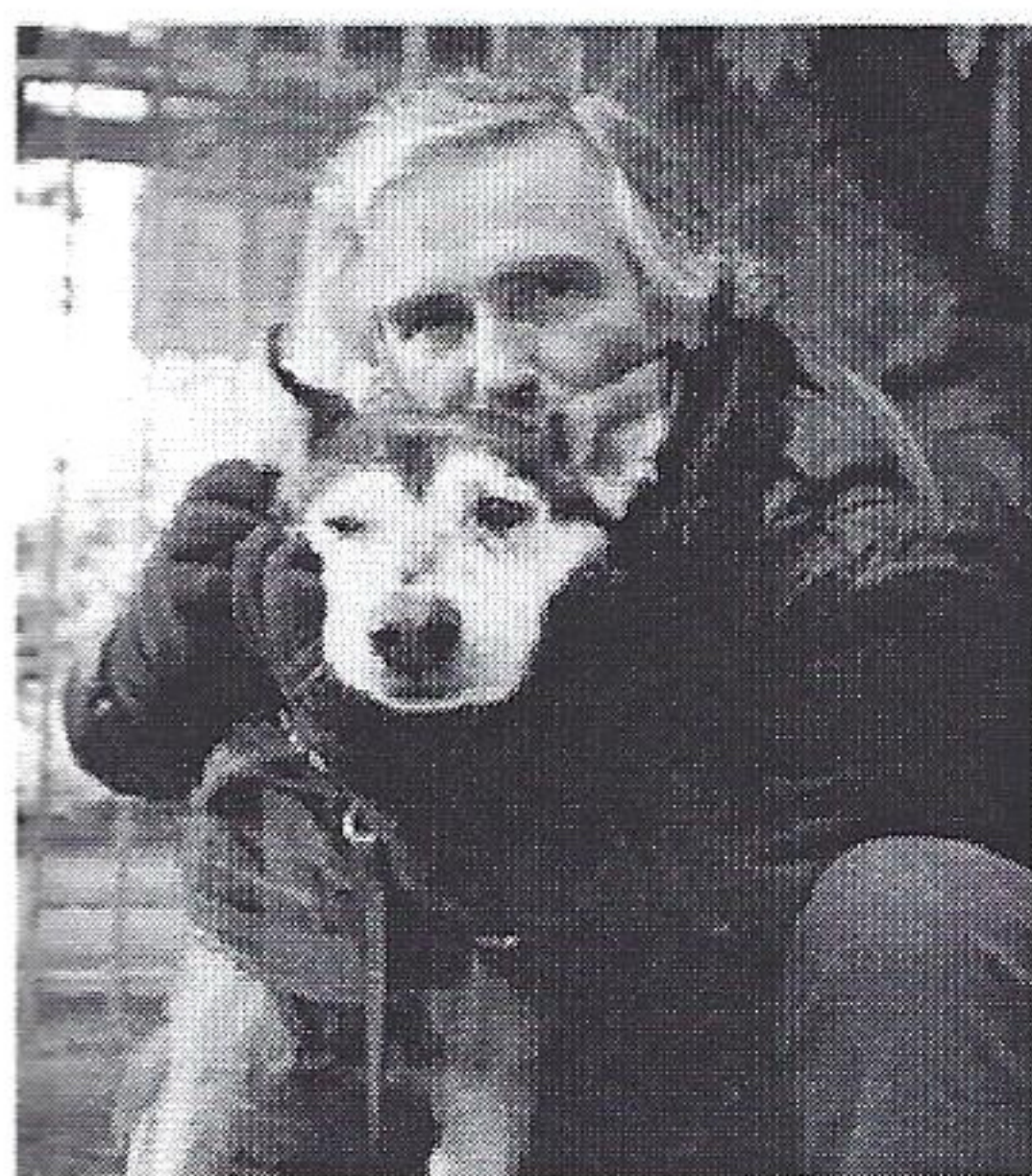
Most importantly, in any emergency situation you encounter, do the best you can with the resources you have. And, always remember, prevention is best; being prepared is the key; education and training are a must; and quick intervention is necessary for saving the lives of our beloved four-legged, furry family members!

Please send any specific questions or scenarios to IACP@PetTech.net and I will try to address them in future issues. Pet Tech's PetSaver™ Training is the premier pet first aid, CPR and care training in North America. Make it a personal and professional goal to attend Pet Tech's PetSaver™ Program with one of our Instructors or host a Pet Tech Instructor & PetSaver™ Training in your area in 2007/2008 (see ad) and assist us in our mission to "Improve the Quality of Pets Lives, One Pet Owner at a Time."™

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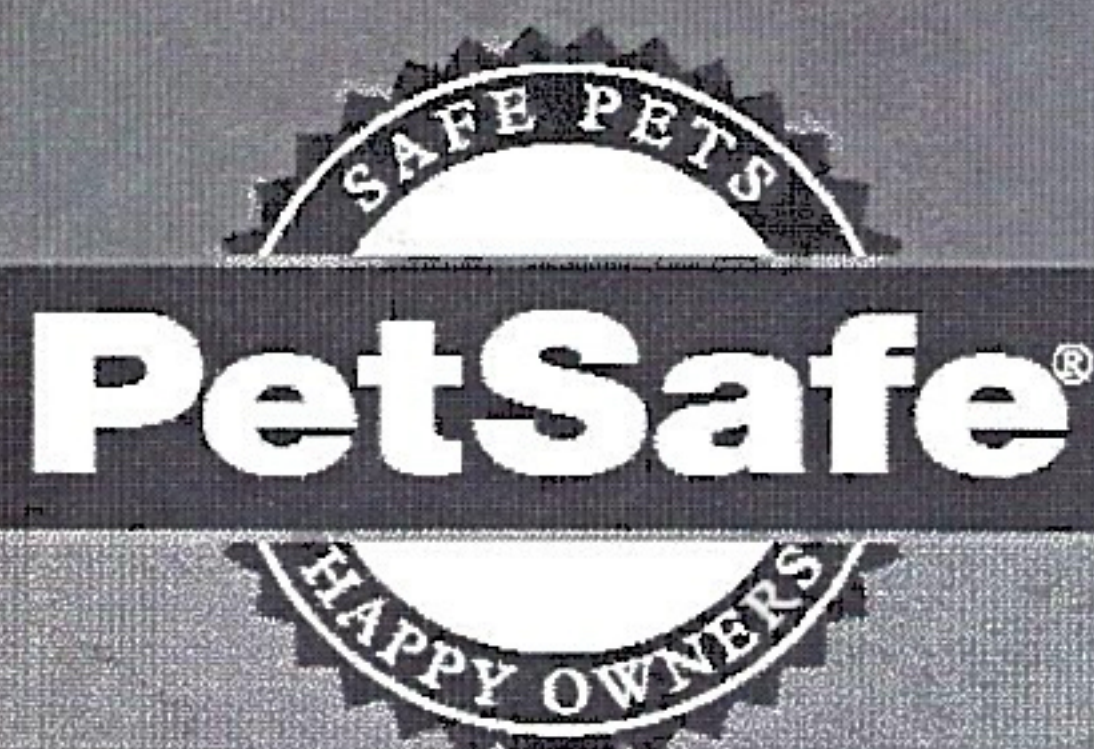
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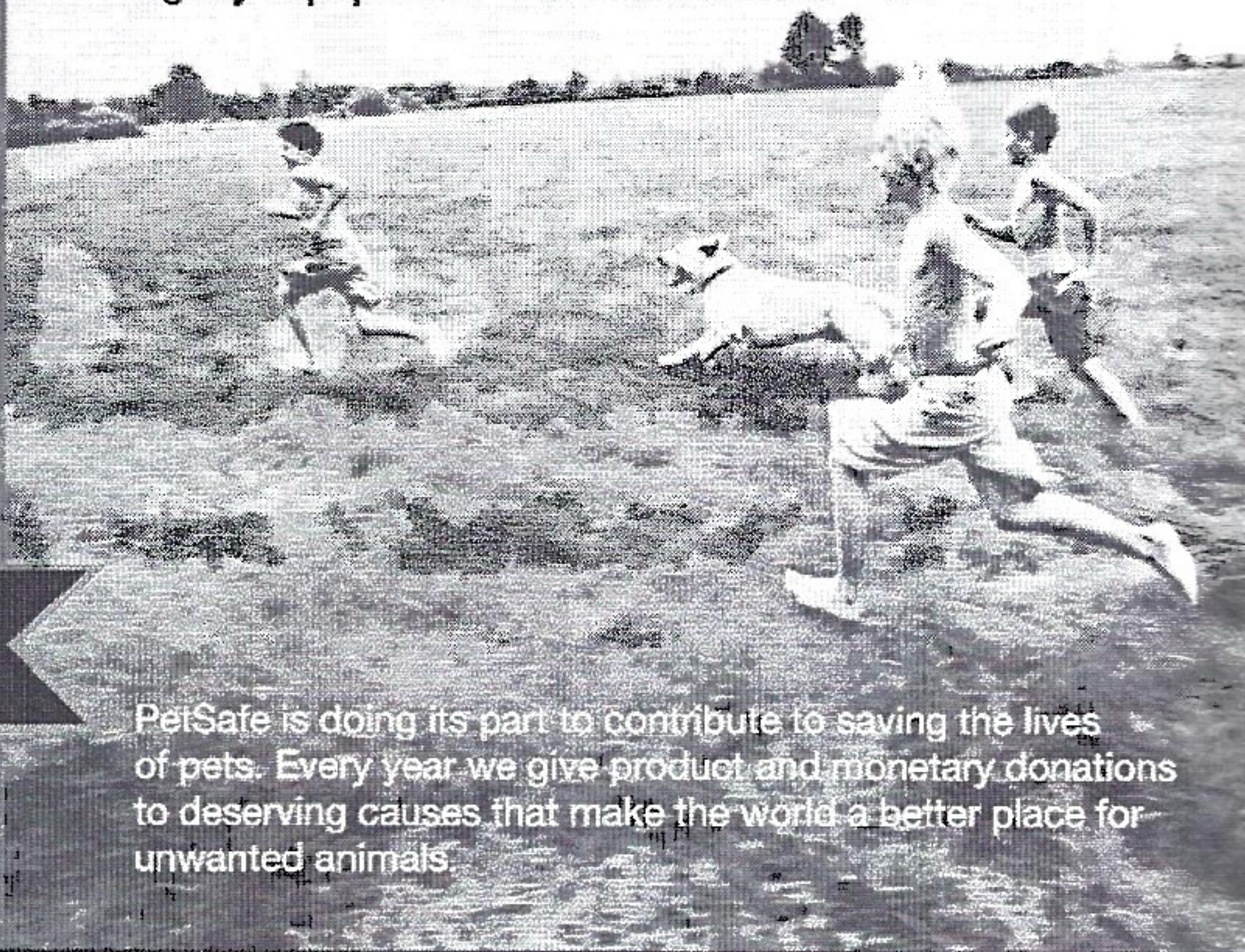
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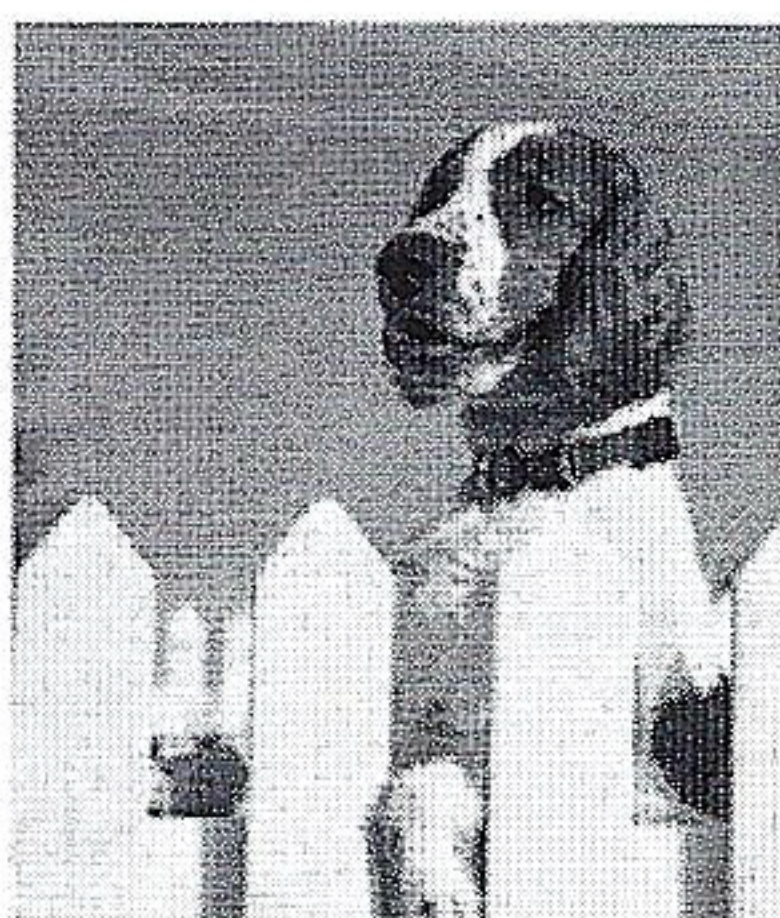
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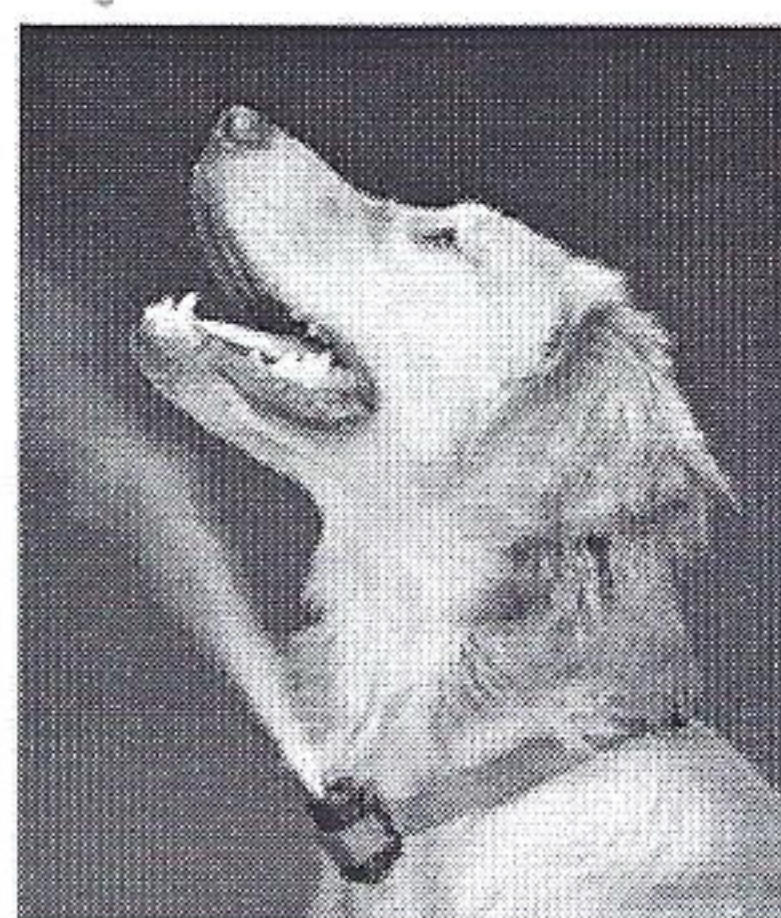
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