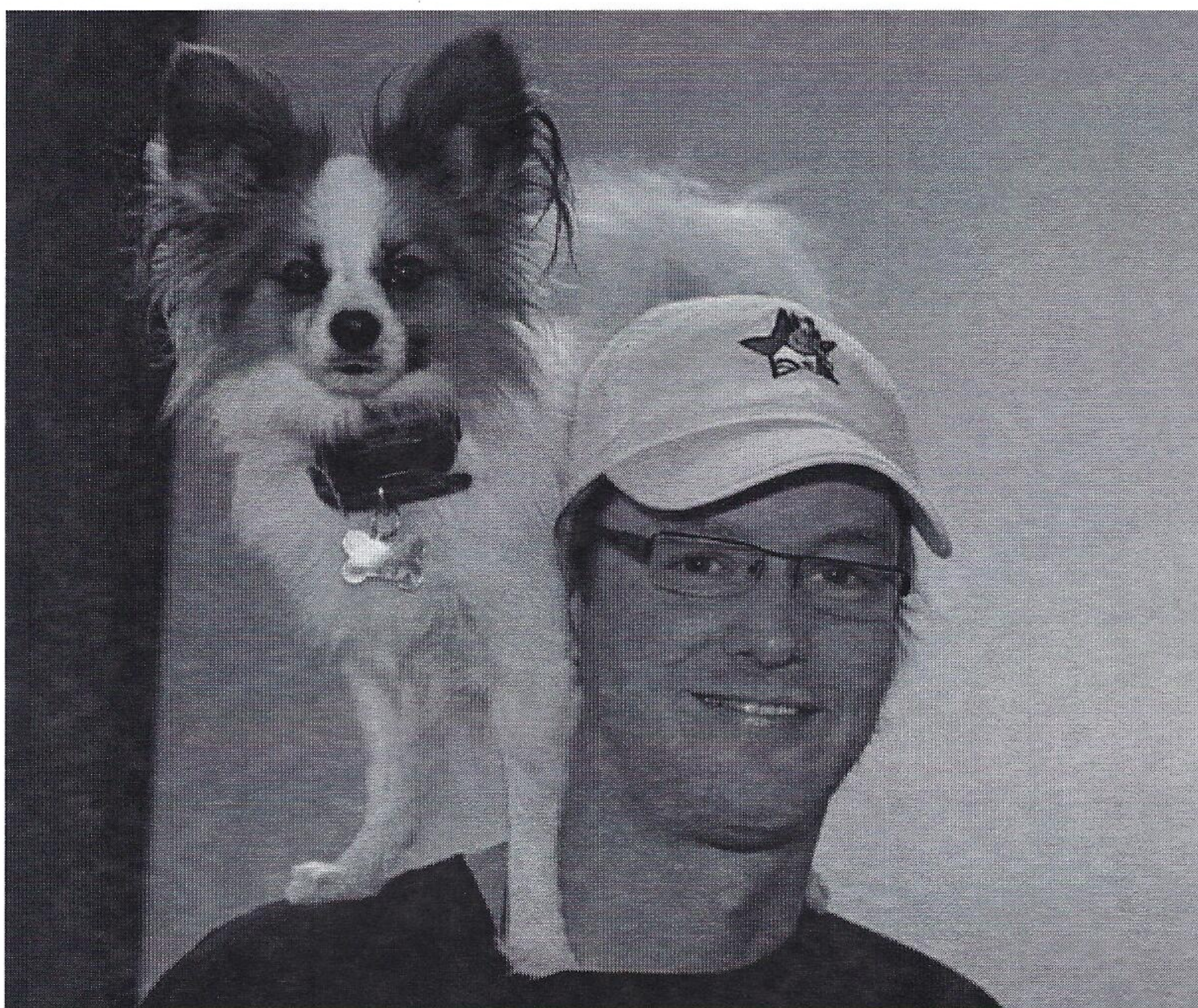


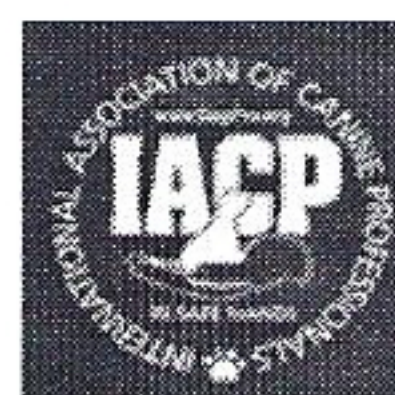
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Enjoying the Conference. Photo by Bob Maida

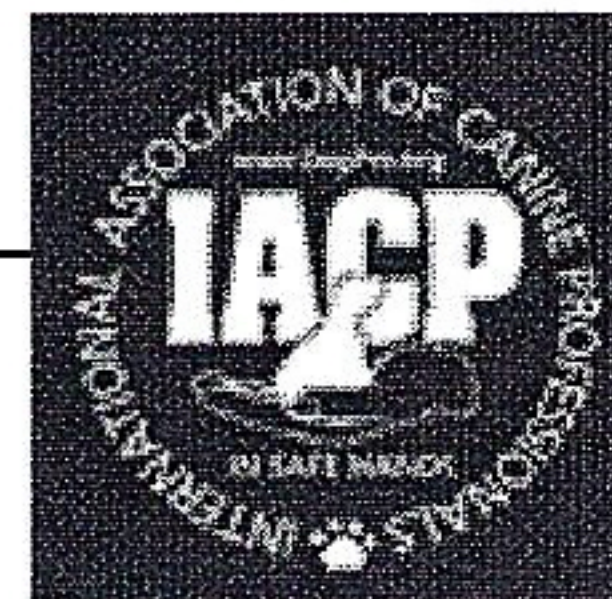
*Safe Hands Journal*



Volume 8  
Issue 2  
Spring 2007



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# *From the President* **A Great Gathering**

by Cyndy Douan

Wow! It seems a bit trite, but it's the first word that comes to mind as I return from the 2007 Conference.

From sage Brits, to Russian "Dog Wizards," to a venerated Monk, this year's Annual Conference packed a week's worth of great stuff into just 4 days. We learned so much from all the fantastic speakers—our best lineup to date, many have told me—and attendees such as Br Christopher from the Monks of New Skete. It was a wonderful weekend, and I have many people to thank for it:

First, our generous sponsors: PetSafe, Premier, Triple Crown, The Kong Company; National K-9, Continental Kennel Club, Genuine Dog Gear, Business Insurers of the Carolinas, and our newest sponsor, Invisible Fence. Thank you all for making this event possible.

I owe our line-up of speakers a huge commendation. Dr. Ian Dunbar really seemed to enjoy himself (both during his presentations and at the banquet), and we are wealthier for the knowledge he gave us, in a most entertaining and engaging way. (Paula McCollum, we are so proud of you and Jeb for *almost* acing the famous "Dunbar Sit Test"!)

Wendy Volhard returned this year with great information about one of her passions: nutrition. She expressed great thanks to IACP for inviting her back, and told us that we had rejuvenated and re-awakened her interest in dogs so much that she couldn't wait to return this year. She also deserves thanks for donating part of the proceeds of her dog food to the IACP.

A big hand to all of the other speakers: Vladae Roytapel, Dr. Tammie Hisatake Bumgarder, Jill Skorochood, Marc Goldberg, Barbara Bird, Jerry Bradshaw, Melissa Heeter, and Thom Somes ("The Pet Safety Guy"). All in all, it was a fabulous lineup.

I'd also like to congratulate the 2007 President's Award winners: Marc Goldberg, Robin MacFarlane, Dawn Geremia, Karen Palmer, George Hobson, Tawni McBee, Vivian Bregman, and Shirley Rodgers. Of course, I can't leave out Mr. Martin Deeley, voted Member of the Year. Way to go, everybody!



Our awards banquet is always a rollicking good time, but this year we were given a special treat: an eloquent speech from Brother Christopher of the Monks of New Skete (who became Hall of Fame inductees this year). Br Christopher seemed genuinely inspired and delighted by our group, and he was warmly welcomed as he shared much about life with the marvelous dogs of the monastery—including the spiritual aspects of raising and training these "messengers" and "angels." Thank you, Br Christopher.

I also want to extend a huge thank-you to Chad Mackin, who organized this year's conference so spectacularly, and to all the members who assisted him, including Bob Maida for the awesome photography. I can't forget to give a shout-out to Thom Somes for the great slideshow that wrapped up the end of the conference. What a great addition, and one I hope will continue.

Whew! I don't have room to thank everyone by name, but I really appreciate all the hard work that went into this year's event.

Since the beginnings of this organization, I have wanted it to be a place where canine professionals of all stripes could unite without boundaries or reservations. I envisioned a place where training methods and tools were not hotly and divisively debated, but could be discussed politely amongst true professionals—a place where sagacious veterans offered real assistance to "newbies." I desired a place where members truly embodied an organization "dedicated to the well-being of dogs."

At the 2007 Annual Conference, I experienced this organization. The camaraderie, the wealth of knowledge, the ease with which things seem to flow—all of these coalesced into four days I won't soon forget. I'm proud of what we have done, what we are doing, and what we will continue to do. Thank you.

**IACP**



# Conditioning Dogs

by George K. Hobson



Keeping our dogs healthy and well exercised is a concern to all owners, whether the dog is a house pet or a working dog. Exercise is necessary for a physically healthy dog, and a mentally healthy one as well. While some of the behavioral issues I see in dogs that are pets are connected to the lack of proper physical exercise, in hunting dogs that lack of exercise can be life threaten-

ing.

I recently went on an opening day dove hunt, and did not take a dog. It was ninety degrees and no shade was available: a

combination that was perilous to even a well-conditioned dog. The combination of high temperatures, humidity, and lack of frequent opportunity to cool down is a dangerous condition for working dogs, and a situation that should be considered by all owners.

A year-round conditioning program should be a part of every dog's life. Especially for the working dog, that means both exercise and acclimatization. Many owners of

hunting dogs keep them in-house, and I'm one who has done so in the past. Regardless of the reason for keeping an indoor dog, the effects on the dog's ability to handle the change to outside conditions must be recognized. In my discussions with veterinarians, there has been a consensus that as few as three hours a day in an air-conditioned home can adversely affect a dog's ability to deal with as little as a ten degree higher outside temperature. While this varies with breeds, and other aspects such as cloud cover, wind, and humidity, it has been my rule-of-thumb for a number of years.

Physical exercise programs must be orientated to the expected work. For upland dogs the daily ground to be covered is roughly at least four times that covered by the hunter. During most hunting the dog's line of travel

will more difficult than the hunters, and with some breeds the ground covered will be much more than four times the amount. It's not unusual to have the dogs working in cover that is more difficult than the hunter is experiencing, and thus more physically strenuous. I certainly have sent my dogs up the sides of steep hills and down into (and back out of) valleys while I took the easier path. Their four-



Photo by Summer Voth



wheel drive made it look easy, but it nonetheless was an increased level of physical stress during any give hunt. The weekend hikers that may jog for fitness with their canine companion during the week, need to consider similar aspects for their dog as well.

I use an ATV to accomplish some of the conditioning for dogs in my kennel. It's a good way to get a check on an individual dog's physical status as well as have a standard for evaluating a dog's level of conditioning. There are commercial rigs available for ATV conditioning of dogs, and I often see them advertised with a mount behind the driver. Having both a front and rear rig is most convenient in kennels with many dogs to condition, but I only run a front set up because I want to watch each dog individually.

The conditioning of a working dog's feet are just as important as other aspects of good health, and deserve special attention. Dogs that are exercised on soft ground may not develop the toughness of pad that is required for long periods on new ground that is rocky, or even a different soil type. Concrete floors in kennels, and homes with extensive hard-surface floors, are places where the dogs feet tend to result in wider spaces between the toes, and smooth pad surfaces. Since I tend to take a dog with me everywhere I go,

I'm also concerned about requiring the dog to walk on hot surfaces in the summer. An asphalt parking lot on a ninety-degree day will have a surface temperature well above that, and is a situation I either minimize or avoid. Recognition of the impact of the type of surface for kennel, home, and exercise will contribute to the development of a tight foot and a pad with a toughened exterior, and less chance of injury.

How effective is walking or jogging in exercising a dog? There is no single, clear answer for all dogs, but it is plain that all exercise is beneficial. What is adequate for a Boston Terrier is not equal to the needs of a Greyhound for even moderate physical exertion. The real question becomes, what is the exercise goal?

As with any athlete, or even would-be athlete, a thorough physical exam is a prudent prerequisite to a conditioning program. Our canine companions are sub-

ject to many of the same ailments of genetics and age as humans. Heart murmurs, arthritis, muscle and tendon injuries, and just plain being tired can all lead to exercise related health problems that can be avoided. Owners should have an exercise goal expressed in terms of their dog's health, and then discuss how to achieve it with a veterinarian. Discussing an anticipated exercise program can alert the owner to potential injury, and a thorough wellness exam can identify unknown problems that dictate health considerations.

Young dogs should not participate in jumping exercises until their joints are able to withstand the stress of take off and landing. Out of shape older dogs need a gradual introduction to even long walks, much less accompanying their master who is on a bike or jogging. Putting a dog into harness or engaging in pulling work

places strain on joints and ligaments that requires special attention to warm-up and conditioning work.

Our canine companions will give their all to please us. We need to consider their ability to do so, and ensure their safety and good health with a sound exercise program.

*George K. Hobson,  
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*The author is the  
owner and trainer at  
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*Eastwood's philosophy is that a well mannered dog is the one that will always be a pleasure to own, and that it will be as welcome in a hotel as at home or in the field. George is a member of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association, a Professional Member of the International Association of Canine Professionals, and has over 30 years experience in dog training. You can contact Eastwood Kennel by telephone at 1-573-442-1929, or via e-mail at ghobson@socket.net.*

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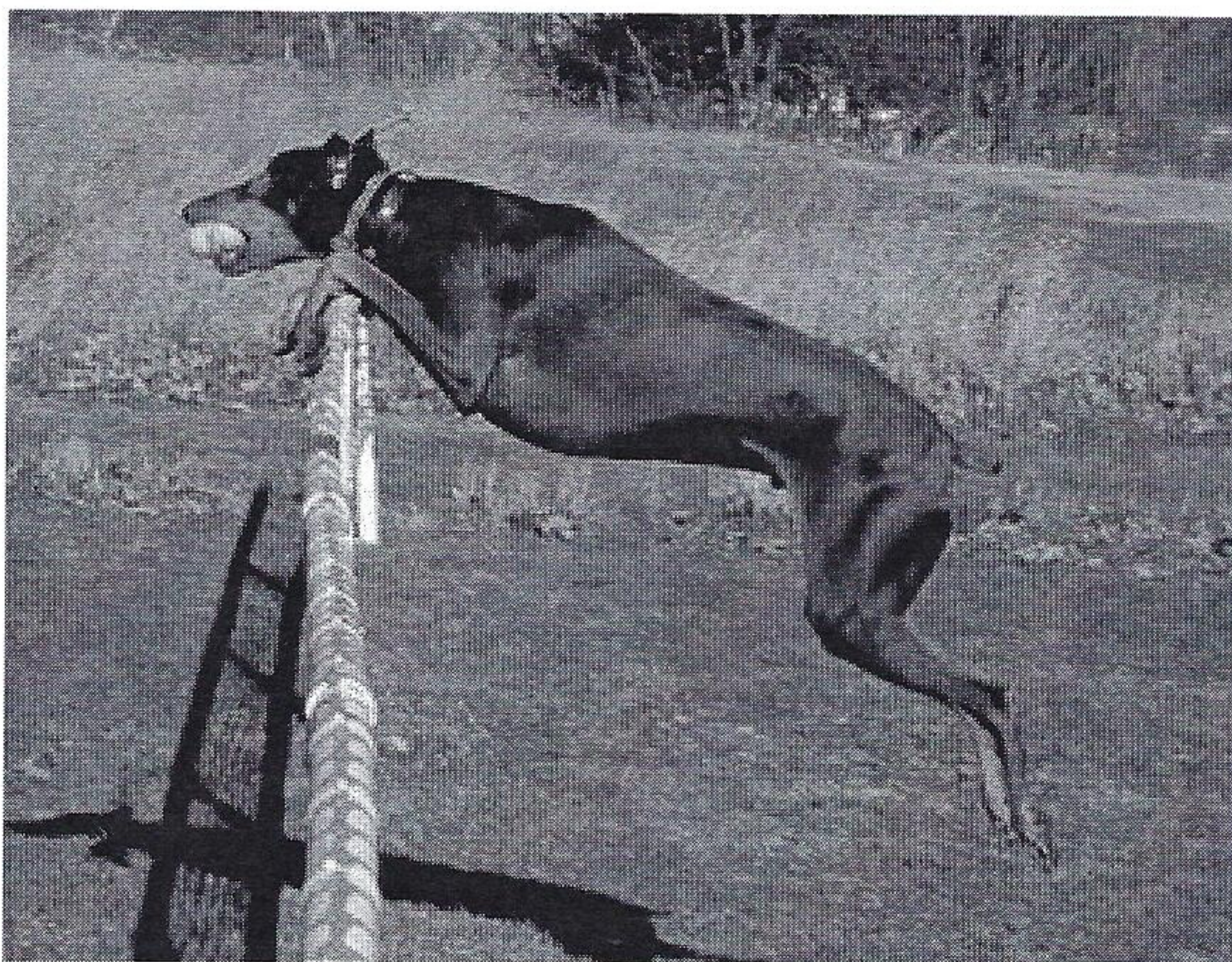


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# The Hare Method of Detector Dog Training

by Brice Cavanaugh

Every few years, we as K9 professionals are enlightened by new approaches or equipment that enhances our abilities to communicate with our K9 partners. Clear communication solidifies our training, and therefore increases accuracy in our deployment as a team, broadens our effectiveness and subsequently validates our courtroom presence. No exception to this is a new method of detector dog training developed by Randy Hare of Alpha K9, located in Jackson MS. Dogs trained with the Hare Method work under high distraction and, most importantly, are accurate in their location of the substances that

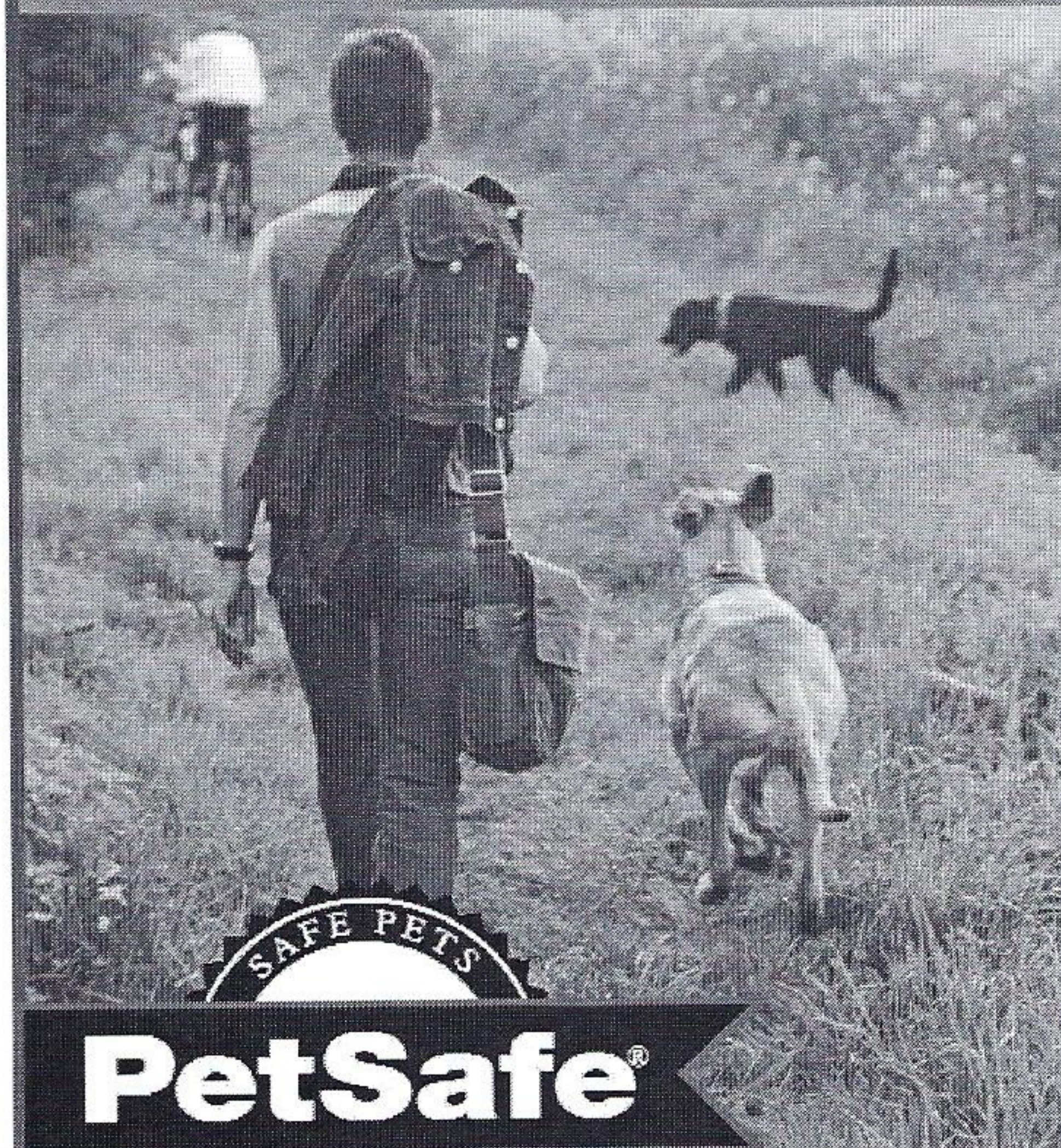
they are trained on.

So, what makes the Hare Method so unique and so effective? As we delve in to this, consider the common problems that we encounter as we train and deploy. Problems such as handler induced responses, false responses, fringe responses, loss of focus in a search, stamina and accuracy are all addressed and taken in to consideration in the training from the first session.

## Focused Drive

A key factor in having a dog team that is focused and

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accurate is drive. If the dog has little desire for whatever reward is being manipulated, then we cannot expect a dog to maintain the enthusiasm and accuracy thirty minutes in to the search as they would have had at the onset of a search. For this, we need drive. Too many handlers/trainers mistake frustration for drive, and have to really take the time to get a dog to the point of clarity before training can effectively begin. Just because a dog is pulling at the end of a leash to get a ball does not mean that it has drive, but it can be easily disguised as frustration. What does the dog do when it gets to the ball? Will he drop the ball to chase another ball? If there is no animation to the ball, does the dog lose interest? Will the dog hunt for the ball, or if it loses sight of it, does he come back to the handler looking for it? If he has the ball, will he prance around with it and ignore distractions, or is he more interested in bringing to the handler, or is he more curious about smells and motion away from the task at hand?

Randy has developed a test with six criteria to evaluate suitability for a detector dog prospect. With this test, he is evaluating speed, hunt, game (to be explained later), possessiveness, prey drive and environmental stability. This evaluation has been honed to the point that the selection process is streamlined, taking only a few minutes to get a really good overall picture of the dog's potential.

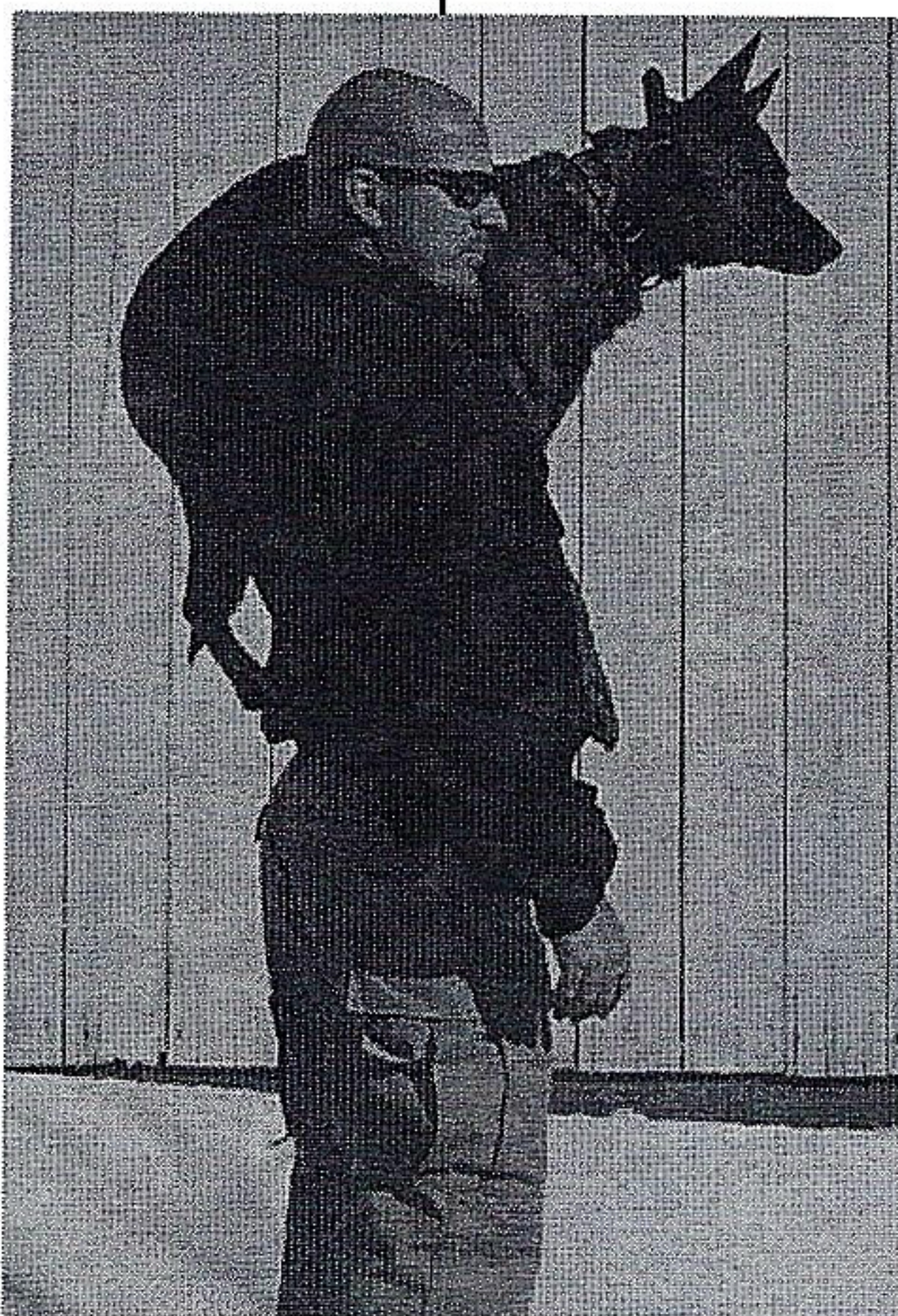
## Obedience to Odor

Another key to the Hare Method is what Randy calls "obedience to odor". If the dog is truly obedient to the target odor, then distractions mean little. If the dog is

obedient to odor, then he will respond when in odor, whether or not the dog has been formally put on a search. This can be simplified by saying that the dog has a clear understanding that the reward is only meaningful when delivered in the presence of odor. The dog should not come back to the handler for reward, but understand that the reward is forthcoming with the proper response or behavior while in odor.

To achieve this, Randy takes the handler out of the training equation while laying the foundation work of scent recognition. By allowing the dog to focus only on odor and not paying attention to the handler, all "handler proofing" exercises are trained in the beginning, rather than at the end of training. The handler is treated more like a distraction than as a help to the dog. Much like bite work, where we

keep the dog in drive to build grips, and then add control, Randy avoids putting control in too early to maintain the enthusiasm that caught his eye in the evaluation process. The trainer is the key to timing and delivery of the reward, which is enabled by a scent box system that, unlike others on the market, allows the dog to see the reward in boxes that do not have the odor. The boxes also allow





# Dog Tough Interactive Toys

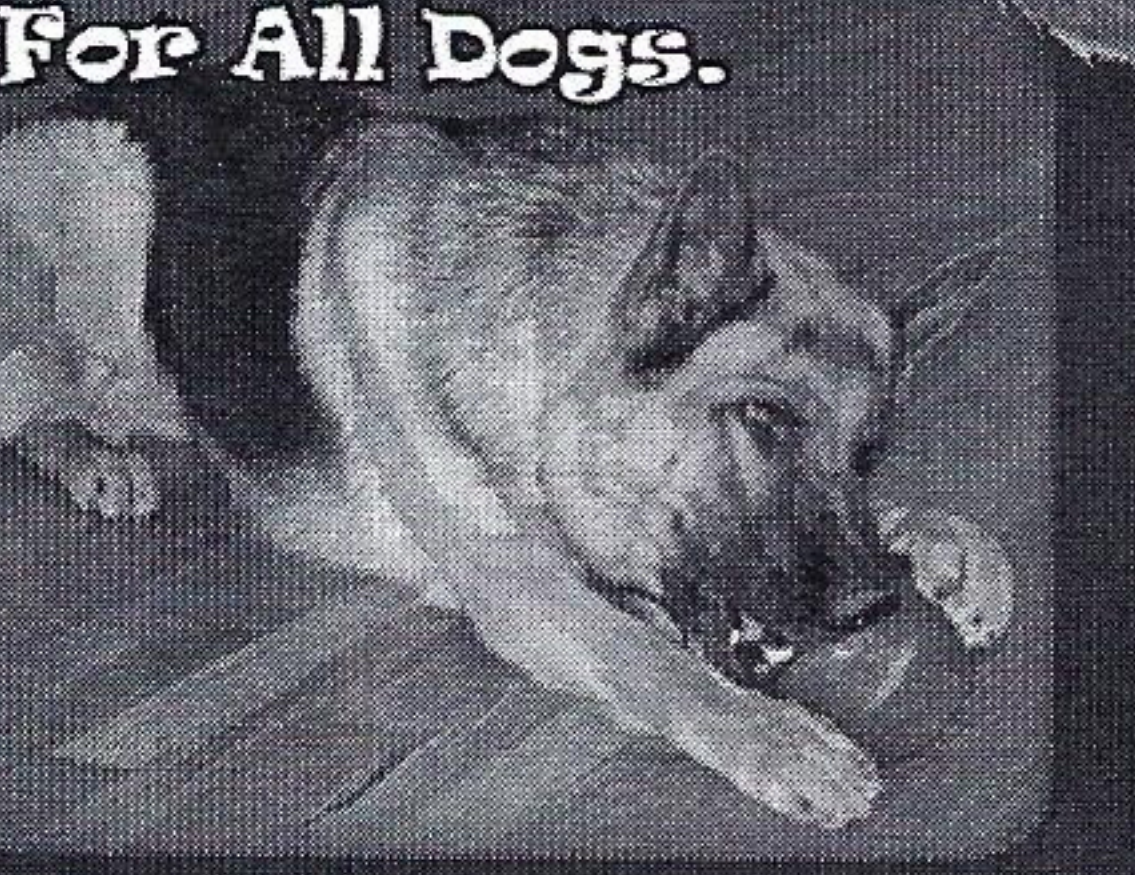
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timely delivery of the reward, and various manipulations of the reward, all without the handler present. This is used to teach the dog to trust his nose, not his eyes or ears, when doing scent work. When all is said and done, a dog that has a tennis ball as his primary reward can search for odor and have a bucket full of tennis balls dumped on him, paying little if any attention to them, seeing them only as distraction since the target odor is not yet present.

So, how does Randy get his dogs to this point? Self Discovery...

### Self Discovery

While it may not be the quickest initial way of training a dog, self discovered behaviors have the longest lasting effects. Sure, a person can force a dog in to a "sit", but force can bring about challenge and distrust, and therefore affect reliability. If the dog is lured in to a sit, and is subsequently rewarded, he will offer various behaviors again to get the reward, finally sit again, get rewarded, and starts figuring out what action he did to receive reward. The same is true of developing a final response with a detector dog. If the dog is giving every opportunity to explore its options, and figure out where the reward reliably comes from, he is less likely to give a false response. Why respond somewhere where he has never been reinforced? The only place the reward is delivered is at the point of odor and includes a fight illustrating the dog's game, therefore his consistent marker is odor, not location, not movement, nothing that the handler does. Through comparison, the dog learns.

### The Final Response

The Final Response is a two part indication by the dog when trained in the Hare Method. First, the desired response (scratch or sit, passive or active) and a nose poke or some indication that the dog knows that odor is present, is required. If the dog offers one without the other, it is easy for the handler to discern the validity of the response. This is shaped in the foundational phase of train-

ing, so it is present subsequently. Depending on what the dog offers, and what you desire, you can shape a Final Response that leaves no question as to the presence of target odor. Timing is critical in shaping behaviors, as well as finesse and understanding of how dogs learn. Once a reliable and distinct Final Response is developed, additional odors are added to the repertoire of the dog.

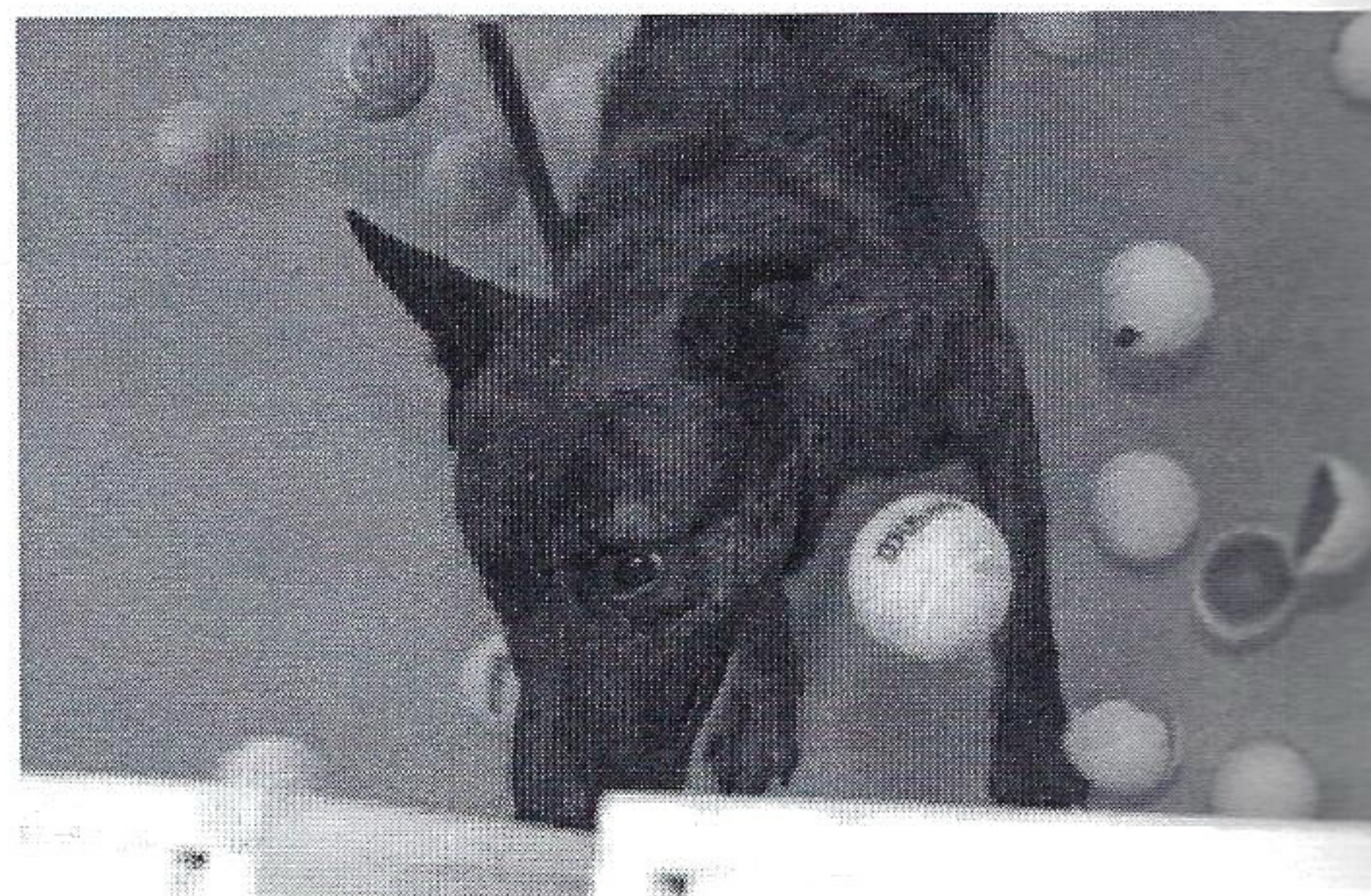
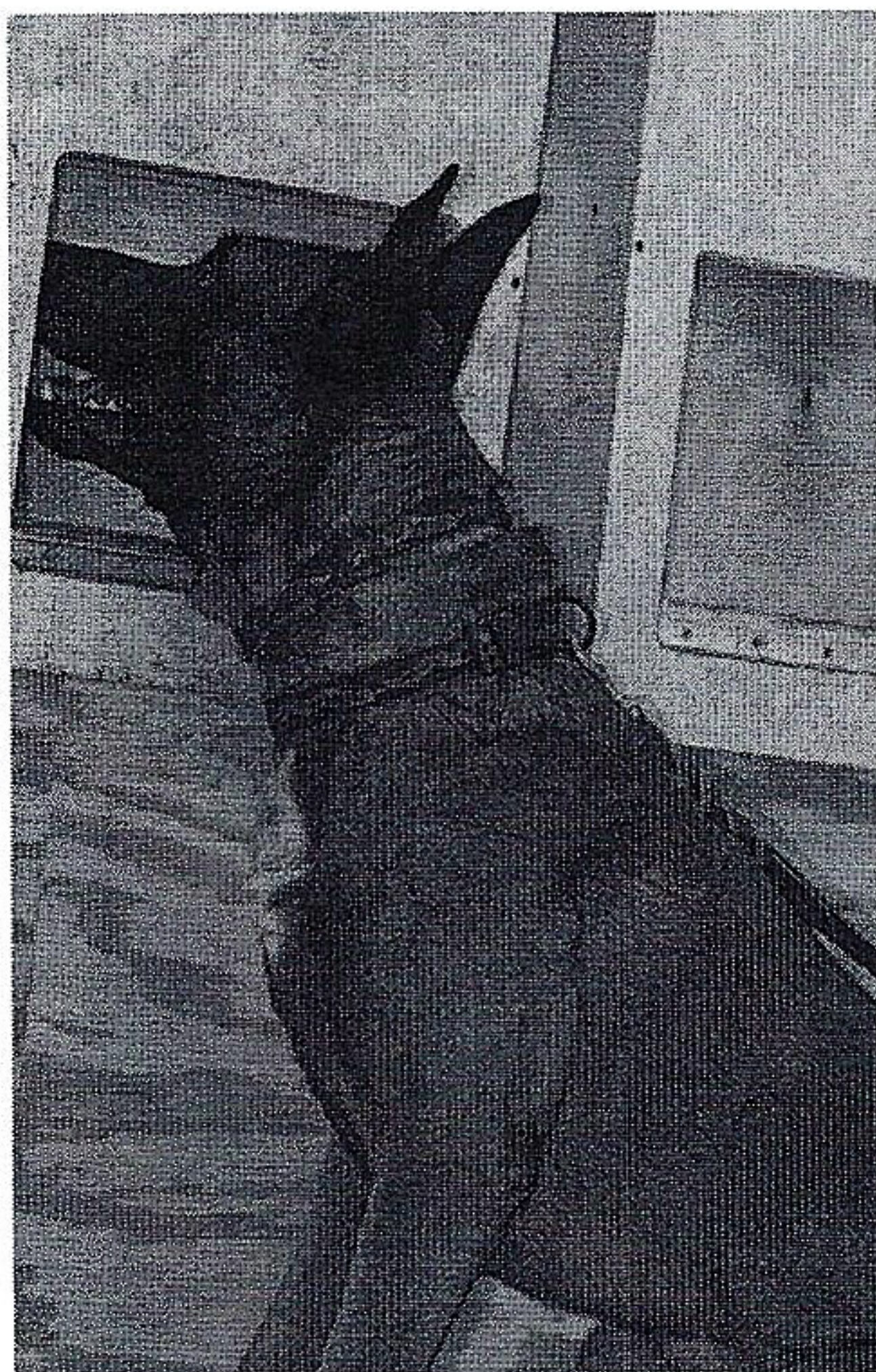
### Pattern Work

Upon developing a solid Final Response, the handler goes from being a distraction, to helping the dog extend his search area and develop a pattern in accordance with the expected deployment of the dog. Much like any other form of building search time and pattern, successive approximation is key in maintaining drive and increasing stamina. In the initial phases, the sessions always end with the dog wanting more of the game that is built in to the search. Incrementally, this is lengthened, even at the foundation level. It is paramount for the handler and trainer to identify when the dog is losing focus, and adjust the sessions accordingly, either through time between hides or detail of the search.

### Closing

This article is meant to expose trainers to a solid and groundbreaking approach to detector dog training that alleviates many of the issues that we as handlers encounter. More information on the Hare Method of Detector Dog Training can be obtained by contacting the author. Also, Canine Training Systems has produced a three part video series entitled "On Target: Training Substance Detector Dogs with Randy Hare" which is available at [www.caninetrainingsystems.com](http://www.caninetrainingsystems.com). This DVD set has won multiple awards and is easy to follow.

*Brice Cavanaugh has been training detector dogs since 1993. He is responsible for establishing the Presidential Helicopter Squadron's (HMX-One) Explosives Detection Canine Unit. Brice now owns and operates CAVK9 (CAVK9.com), a full service working dog business, That's My Dog! Chicago (That'sMyDog.com), and is an Executive Director for NTPDA, the National Tactical Police Dog Association (TacticalCanine.com). He can be reached at 888.SIT.STAY or 888.SWAT.K9S. IACP*





# My dog Kim

by Martin Deeley

Recently a good friend told me he had a Harley Davidson and loved simply to ride it with the wind in his hair and the smell of freedom bringing a smile to half closed eyes. He asked, had I thought of getting one. Now I had motorcycles for many years and the two big loves in my life other than my wife and my daughter are dogs and motorcycles. A Harley? My mind cruised into overdrive. Always fancied a Road King or Soft Tail, even when I had a Triumph Bonneville. Slight problem now though; not sure if I can grow the ponytail!!

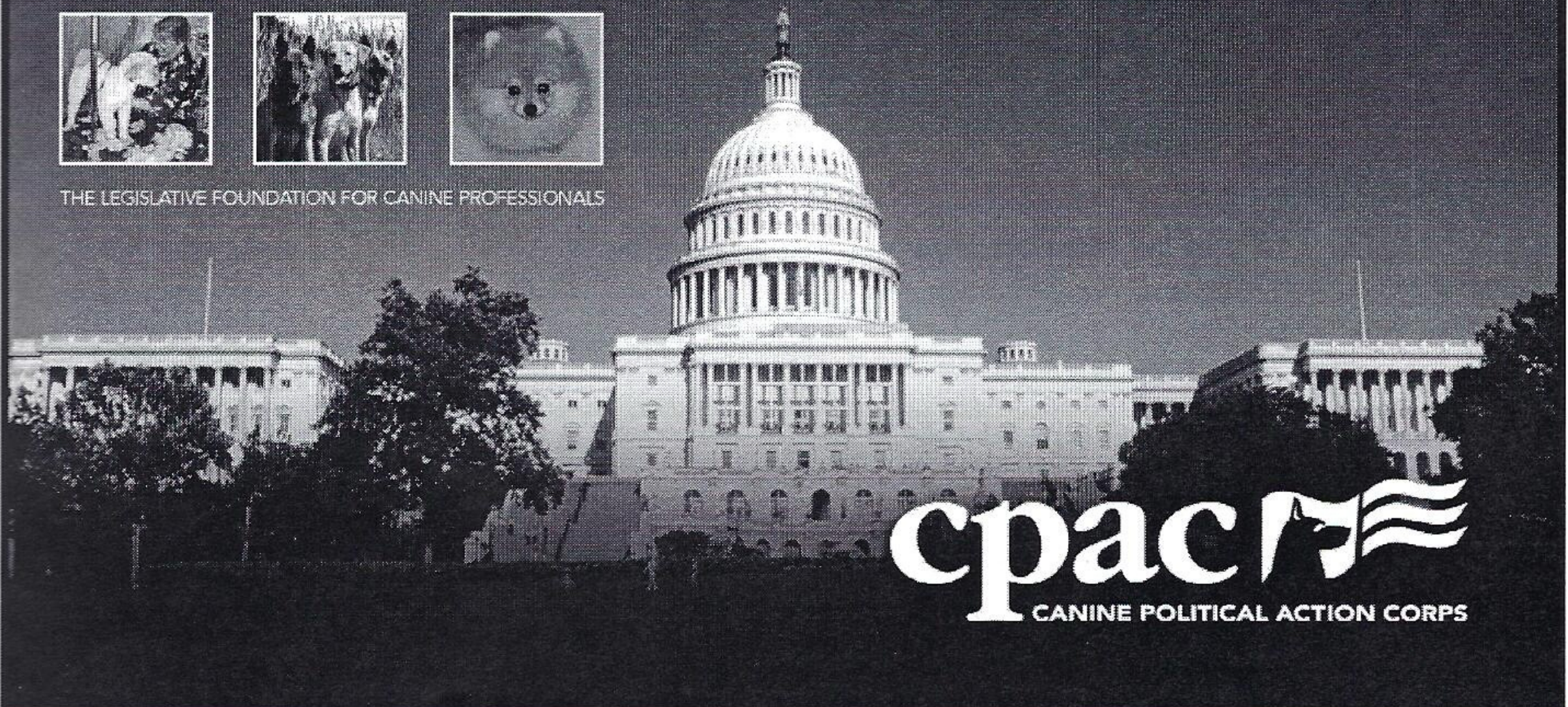
My memories of motorbikes take me back to my first dog and my first canine love, Kim. He would travel in my leather jacket on my motorcycle, and we went every-

where together. I had him when I was 11. And before motorcycles, it was on my bicycle we traveled together. To the beach, to the park, and on my paper round. Of course he slept under the covers over my feet every night, where else would a dog sleep in those days. I never remember ever training him, it just happened and he never needed a leash. Kim was a JR cross Cairn terrier; a good ratter, a great retriever and my best friend in a new world when my parents moved south and I missed old friends of 240 miles away. He was my Rin Tin Tin and Lassie all rolled into one. His picture still has a place in my present home – and he was the start of my life with dogs. When I think of this, my boyhood and Kim, I keep

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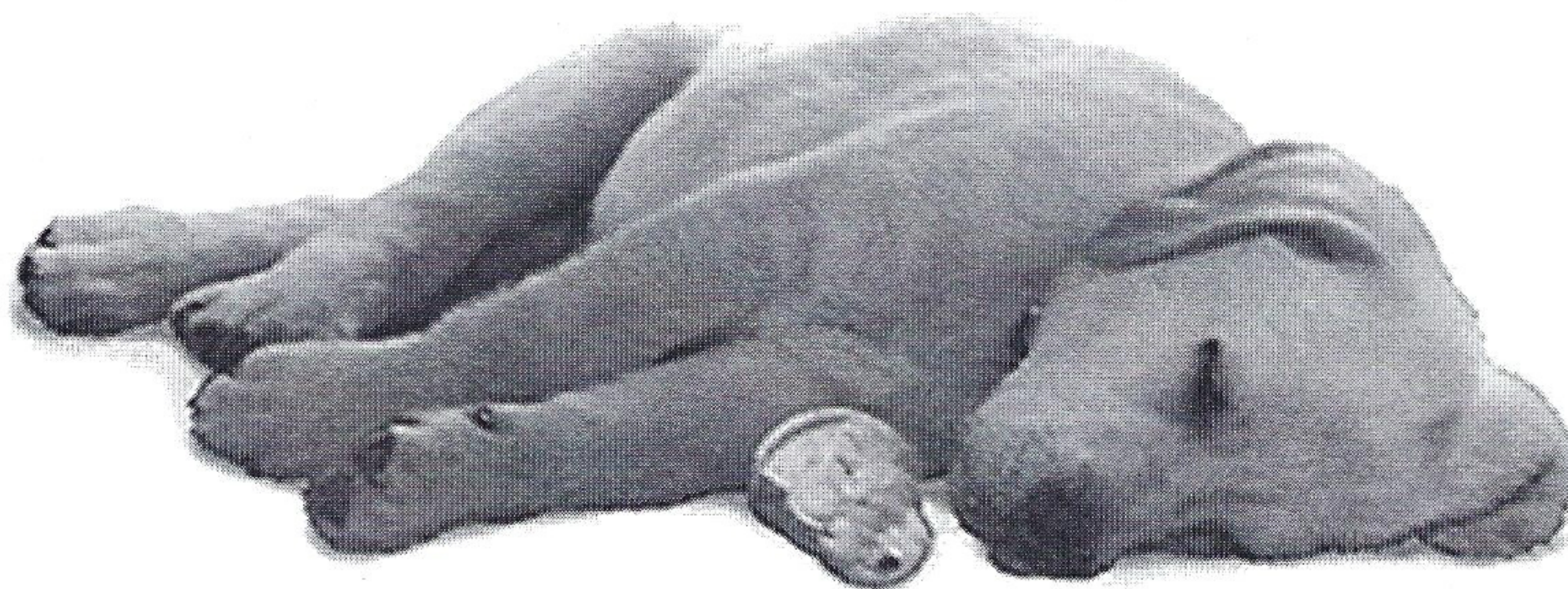


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asking the question, what has changed? We never needed to go to classes or learn dog training. I was taught to respect him as a dog, to let him eat his food without interrupting, to not be unfair with him in any of our play together, and of course not to disturb him when he was asleep. Always let sleeping dogs lie was drummed into me. As a puppy, I am sure we rubbed his nose in his pee if he had an accident – in fact I cannot remember this correction being a problem— hey, it worked in those days. Dog food was whatever was left after our dinner or a tin of no choice dog food (there was only one brand). And definitely I was not allowed to feed him from the table. There were no treats either except possibly a bit of something I was eating at the time. Walks were expected and a responsibility, as was looking after him and making sure he did no wrong. I never ever thought of avoiding these 'chores' because they were not chores. They were things Kim and I did and enjoyed together. For my parents he was a dog, for me he was more than a dog he was my mate and someone to talk to when times got tough. You know the times, when Mum or Dad gets on your case a little too much and you need someone to work out what it really was all about, and how we should try to make sure it did not happen again.

Kim and I were inseparable except when I was out of school. We went to the beach together, did a paper round together every day of the week and we played cowboys and Indians (yup even in England) with friends. He was my partner and we rode together on white horses into the sunset. In fact I am telling a little white lie there as we were always the baddies and we had to wear black hats and ride black horses – only the heroes wore white hats and rode white horses in those days.

With all these thoughts and the time machine ticking through my mind I began to ask myself whether today there are the same relationships between people and their dogs, especially children and their dogs? Somehow I do not see it. Has society changed so much that the simple

pleasures and values of the life I treasured and enjoyed, with, and through a dog, are no longer found? How do we bring responsibility and pleasure, yes pleasure in the simple sense back to dog ownership? Twice today I have had calls from people whose dogs have suddenly started to show aggression and they are asking me to help them find a good home for the dog. "Good home" is their way of removing the guilt, the concerns and the burden of responsibility from their lives. "He is such a good dog but unfortunately he has started biting the children." I can understand their concern but why was this not more prevalent a few years back - or was it and I am only seeing the sunshine of those days? In my younger days and even not that long ago a bite resulted in one action - the dog was not seen again. I can only remember this hap-

peneing once with a neighbor's dog - and believe me all our neighbors had dogs.

The second call came from a man who had two, four-month-old puppies.

They were digging holes in his garden and beginning to get into trouble. I talked for a while about ways he could overcome the problems and he then told me, he did not have time, he was selling

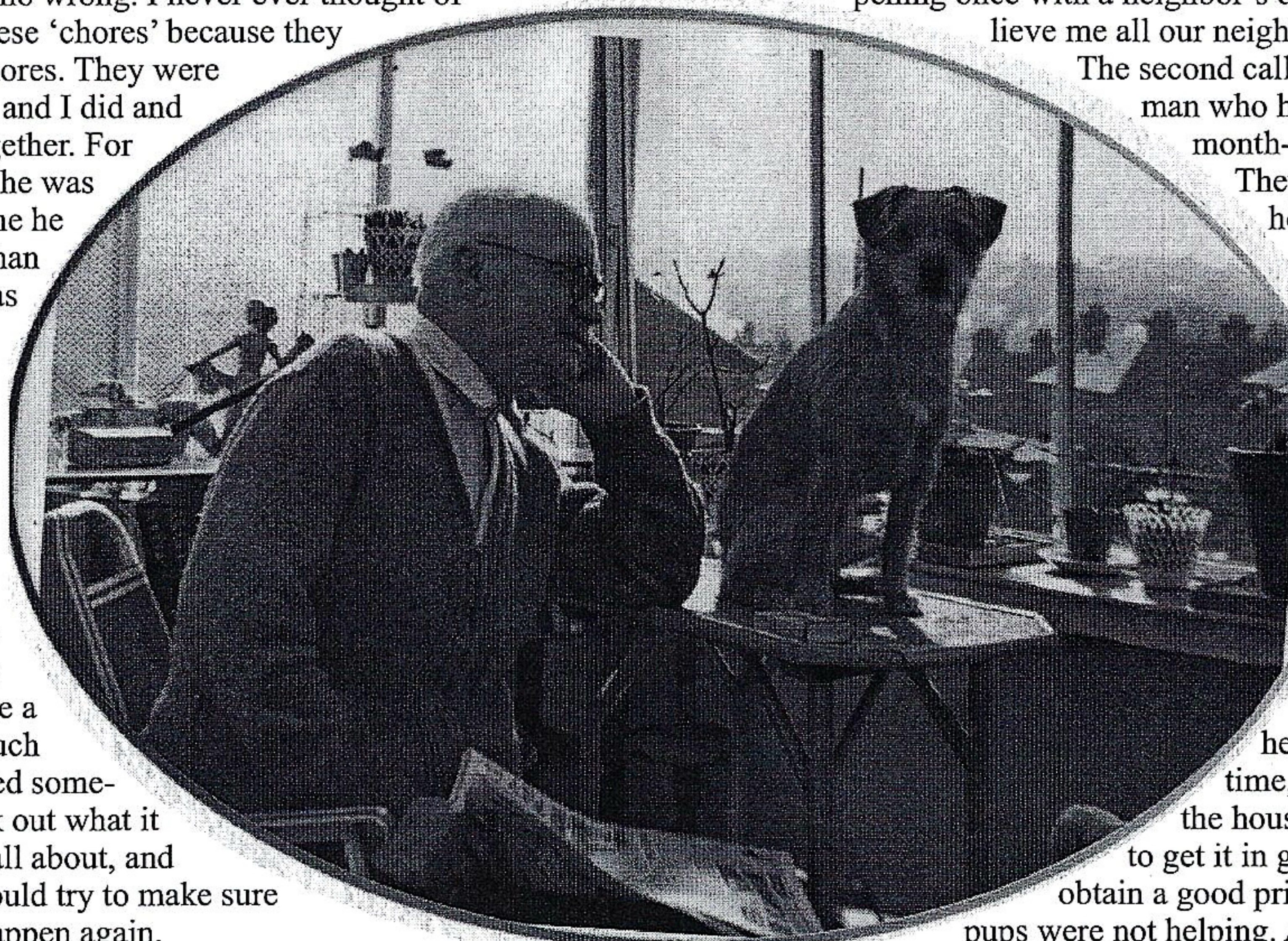
the house and wanted to get it in good order to obtain a good price and the

pups were not helping. At this statement my tact and diplomacy went slightly out of the window. Responsibility, commitment, common sense

and all associated qualities could not be found anywhere in this man's personality.

We have more help and more products and more support and more expertise than we have ever had and yet we have more problems than ever. Business is good, very good and there is so much pleasure in helping clients enjoy their lives with their dogs but what is missing today that was there yesterday? And, if we could find it again, would it help us keep dogs in their families for a lifetime. By the way my memories are of dogs and families in England.

To be honest that is why I am so proud of the members



Martin Deeley's first dog, Kim, with his grandfather, Ernest Turner.



of the IACP because in my experience they do everything in their power to help people enjoy their dogs and keep them within their families. The services we as professionals provide these days are invaluable to the safety, harmony and happiness of families. However, I occasionally get the thoughts I have mentioned above. I know it is a sign of the times, changing mindsets and a result of many different factors that impact our lives. I also do know that we cannot turn back the pages of time. But wouldn't it be nice if somehow we could develop a more responsible, caring, understanding, educated mindset towards dog ownership. Dog ownership and especially the times I spent with Kim made me what I am today, and a day does not go by that I do not thank him and smile as he chases the tennis ball in my mind; — and yes he still rides and always will ride within my leather jacket.

Kim went over the rainbow when I entered my first semester at University. I always journeyed home at weekends, to see and be with him but he was taken suddenly ill in the week while I was at College and he made his final retrieve before I could get home. I can still remember walking around wet Portsmouth streets that night totally crushed emotionally and asking so many times, as we all do when a loved one leaves us, — why? In his short life he taught me a skill and an intuitiveness with dogs that has provided me with a life full of canine joy. I never realized he was doing it, he was so subtle and gentle in his teaching. He was my first canine mentor. There have been many others since. Dog owners and their children can gain so much from the relationships with their dogs, a relationship that is not simply rewarding but also character developing. My underlying purpose as a professional is to help them not only have an obedient well behaved dog but also to realize the value of these relationships and assist them find their own canine mentor. In Kim's day owners did not need others to help them do this. Today we as professionals find ourselves fulfilling this role and we have to realize the immense value of it and the importance of the services we do provide. We are not simply dog trainer, groomers, kennel owner or any other section of the profession we are the 'catalyst' that helps people, young and old, develop into good citizens through their dogs.

A little convoluted this writing? I suppose it is. Memories of dogs and their role in my life often come flooding back. It always starts with a little flick of a brain cell such as the one that was opened by the thought of riding a motorcycle again, where, as always, Kim's ears are flying in the wind either side of my neck. Should I ever get another motorbike — I know Kim will be riding with me again.

*Martin Deeley is the founding member and Executive Director of IACP.*

**IACP**

## IACP Hall of Fame

*At the 2007 Conference, Will Judy and the Monks of New Skete were inducted into the Hall of Fame.*



### **WILL JUDY** Dog Fancier Will

Judy was born in rural Somerset County in 1891. Beginning a life-long attachment to Juniata College, he earned his bachelor's degree there in 1911. Following heroic service in World War I, Captain Will Judy returned to the States and took up the practice of law. He became a book publisher in 1921 and a magazine publisher in 1923 when he bought Dog World. He continued his highly-esteemed involvement with the world of show dogs and obedience training for the rest of his life, retiring in 1960. Will Judy died

in Chicago in 1973. At Judy's passing, Juniata College said it "lost a most faithful and generous friend." Dog World magazine called him "an icon in the sport" of dog shows. Many dog breeders speak proudly to this day of winning the Will Judy Award, the distinction given to dogs who earn at least 195 out of 200 points at three high level obedience competitions during a single season.



### **MONKS OF NEW SKETE**

The Monks of New Skete began in 1966 with a small group of monks. Having originally been members of the Byzantine-Rite Franciscans, the first brothers sought to live a more explicitly monastic life within the Eastern Christian tradition. To do this, they left the Franciscans and established New Skete as a separate monastic community.

For over 35 years, New Skete's German Shepherd breeding program has dedicated itself to providing the best possible companion dogs. All the German Shepherds live right in the monastery, with each monk responsible for the training and care of a female or male dog. The books and videos (The Art of Raising a Puppy, How To Be Your Dog's Best Friend and I & Dog, ) from The Monks of New Skete have formed the foundation for many trainers and the dog owning public providing detailed information that describes and illustrates their distinctive approach. It is this teaching and their legacy to training that has earned the Monks of New Skete this Honor.

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# Training Is Not My Religion

*A philosophical commentary by a shelter trainer*

by Aimee Sadler

Training is not my religion. It is neither my science nor my faith. I suppose I could safely say that it is my passion. I have arrived at this conclusion from studying the definitions. I have been inspired to analyze my beliefs by fellow trainers, for whom I have tremendous respect. More importantly, I have been motivated to question my reasoning on behalf of the animals that have been entrusted to my care.

The truth is that I tend to fall off the politically correct wagon in my Training and Behavior Modification Program for Shelter Animals. This is not something I choose to do consciously. This is something I end up doing reactively. My goal is to avoid training with a preconceived notion. I prefer responding to what the animals dictate they might need in the way of support. As per the definition [**religion**: Anything that elicits devotion, zeal, dedication, etc...], I should not vacillate between training principles if I am to categorize my approach as religious.

For example, if I handle fearful dogs in our shelter religiously, I will have a specific protocol to follow. Typically, this might be a resource-controlling program where I could take weeks to counter-condition this type of dog with the hope that its *perception of the environment and association with people would change*. It is important to acknowledge that the effectiveness of this approach relies upon a level of deprivation by withholding food for hand-feeding and by keeping the dog confined to its run. If I were to decide that this type of dog might benefit more from being 'flooded,' then I might opt to leash the dog to get it out of its kennel, despite its fear.

Initially the process might be stressful but would not require further deprivation. The environment of a shelter, in and of itself, is lacking enough. The hope would be that its *perception of the environment and association with people would change* if the experience outside of the facility proved to ultimately be positive for the dog. The goals would be the same, but the approaches would differ. Conclusively, I cannot claim to be religious in my approach when I utilize opposing

techniques for fearful dogs.

Those who know me, both personally and professionally, would contend that I have some work to do in my zealous responses to certain situations. To remedy this, I strive to be more analytical and pensive in my work. For a time I was convinced that taking the more scientific approach to training would serve the animals best. Based upon the definition [**science**: Knowledge as of facts, gained and verified by exact observation, organized experiment and analysis], I am hard-pressed to claim that training is supported by scientific validation.

This is not to say that I don't relish the progressive approaches that have been introduced to our field through scientific studies. I am a fan of operant conditioning and utilize all four quadrants in my training protocols. Science shows the effectiveness of both reinforcement and punishment in training. On the other hand, the effects on an animal's behavior by its relationship to a person have not been scientifically verified. Especially for shelter animals, where relationship is less likely to be a pervasive component in an animal's behavioral displays, it is crucial to recognize the scientific restrictions when making life and death decisions. It is prudent for shelters to consider current studies pertaining to animal behavior and evaluations. As a shelter trainer, it is my duty to remain cognizant of science while preserving a sensitivity to an animal's response to its environment and circumstances.

Tying it all together, I could begin to conclude that training might be a matter of faith. Although, according to the definition [**faith**: Belief without evidence], approaching training through the conviction of faith might prove to be dangerous to animals. If I proceed with the confidence that I can predict their future behavior unequivocally, then I fear I have crossed the line of self-proclaimed omnipotence.

Frankly, the longer I work with animals (especially in shelters), the less comfortable I am in making concrete claims about their behavior. It is, at times, my responsibility to do so, and I do not take that



responsibility lightly. There have been too many pleasant and unpleasant surprises in my nineteen years of working with multiple species in varying venues to have undying certainty in my read of an animal. Many dogs pop into mind as examples. They showed all of the signs that they were willing and able to bite, maybe even explosively: pursed lips, whale eye, furrowed brow, tense and frozen body posture, tail tucked so firmly between their legs it was almost down their throat, to name a few.

Over and over again, in complete disregard of the many 'how to read animal body language' type manuals, I would follow my intuition and reach for that dog as if it was NOT going to bite. In contrast, I have experienced a few close calls where I was almost nailed by a dog that did not convey to me that it had the gumption to follow through aggressively, even out of defense. Worth consideration is the information we give a potentially defensive animal when we position ourselves defensively, in the name of safe handling. Reading and handling animals is as much of an art as it is a science. Despite my years of experience, I could boldly state that I have as much faith in my potential for error as I do in my potential for being correct.

When a dog at our shelter is deemed "at risk" it is my responsibility to attend to that animal passionately [**passion**: Fervent devotion]. Centaur is a most recent example. He is a gorgeous, 74#, jet-black lab/x that was too much dog for our volunteers initially (even though he did well on our behavior evaluation). The kennel environment took its toll on Centaur and he was threatening to deteriorate behaviorally. He was incredibly barrier aggressive and reactive to other dogs on-leash even though he played beautifully in morning groups (with up to 20 other dogs, male and female, intact and neutered). I read his aggressive displays as defensive in nature, despite the intensity. Through diverse training methods and consistent handling by our attentive volunteers, we were able to teach Centaur alternative behaviors that have earned him the prestigious honor of becoming a Search and Rescue trainee for a FEMA handler in Ohio.

Centaur has been an inspiration to me and has enlivened our staff and volunteers. He exemplifies why I have chosen not to embrace training methods from a predominantly religious, scientific or faith-based approach. For a dog like Centaur to thrive in a shelter environment, his behavioral issues needed to be addressed with flexibility and balance.

We, as trainers, are in the business of saving animals' lives while remaining responsible to our com-

munities. As shelter trainers, we contribute by placing behaviorally sound animals into homes. As private trainers, we contribute by teaching families to be responsible and attentive pet owners. In shelters we face the daily challenge of weighing 'nature vs. nurture' when determining the temperament of an animal. In the private sector we strive to bring owners closer to a realistic understanding of their animal's behavior and the contributions they make, or do not make, in bringing out the best in their pets. We face different obstacles although we juggle similar issues in our work. We tackle these issues with varying techniques but with consistent goals, and yet we are often times painfully at odds with one another in the name of...what?...a notion that training should be like a religion? According to the definitions, approaching training as an absolute is ultimately limiting. The animals can sometimes pay the price of such limitations with their lives.

I have had the privilege of being schooled in many different training techniques by numerous mentors. Many contradict one another. I cannot bring myself to be more loyal to one over another as they have all moved me. Just when I believe to be convinced that I have "seen the light" when learning a new training method, along comes an animal that does not flourish through this method. If I am to remain steadfast in my goal to "do no harm" while the animals I attend to are in a potentially fatal situation, I must remain focused on results. With the resources our shelter has, if I cannot provide the animals with the environmental enrichment, socialization and training that will support their ability to cope and thrive, then I am potentially "doing harm." It has been my experience that the process is most painful when hands are tied by dedications to any one training method.

My hope is that we trainers begin to unite our diverse talents and expertise to serve animals and people through our training programs with *passion*. In doing so, as a profession, we would train animals from a more complete philosophical perspective. Ideally, no stone would be left unturned in bringing people and animals closer together in an effort to save animal lives.

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*Aimee Sadler is Training & Behavior Coordinator at Longmont Humane Society, Longmont, CO, 303-772-1232 work, 303-775-5491 cell, longmonthumane.org.*

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# The Contrary Dog Trainer

## Majik Moves

by Dick Russell

*Author's Note: Folks, here's a shorty. Majik, by the way, is not misspelt. Misspelt is, but Majik ain't.*

Want to teach your dog to stay? First teach him to move out of your way. Like to teach him to heel with precision? First teach him to move out of your way. Just want your pup to grow up to be an easy to live with pet? Then teach him to move out of your way.

The very first thing that I teach a new puppy to do when she comes to live at my house is to get out of my way when I ask her to. It's the first thing that students in my training classes learn to teach their dogs to do.

It is called, Yielding - the dog yields space to the human. It is a leadership exercise that I have been teaching for about the past fifteen years. The beauty of Yielding is that it makes everything else that one will ever want to teach a dog easier to teach. The economy of Yielding is that it makes all of the old dominance exercises - always go through doors before the dog, never feed the dog before you eat, don't let the dog sleep on your bed - completely unnecessary. Yielding instantly and permanently orders the relationship between dog and human so that the dog perceives the human as the leader.

Yielding does this because dogs are group dwelling animals. All group dwelling animals are born hard wired to understand that whoever controls space has leadership

status. You can witness this when a band of horses, a herd of cows or a flock of sheep approach fresh water. One, without violence, with no more than the force of her personality, will cause every other individual to withdraw from her place of choice. You'll see the same thing as hens approach the mash feeder. If you work in a large

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building and are riding the elevator, you will do the same thing. When your boss boards the elevator, you will move toward the back, giving him the space near the door.

Yielding is a universally understood deference to leadership.

I teach a dog to Yield using negative reinforcement. When training with positive reinforcement, something appetitive is given to the dog as he does what is required. With negative reinforcement, something aversive is removed as the dog does what is required. When teaching Yielding, the aversive that you will remove is your forward motion.

Stand directly in front of your dog. Have the dog on a leash. Let the leash be loose. The leash's purpose is not to move the dog, but rather to keep him in your immediate vicinity. Say to the dog, "move, move, move," as you step directly at him. If the dog is small, you may have to shuffle your feet as you go forward. As he makes an effort to get out of your way, quit moving forward. At first, any effort by the dog to move out of your way, stops your forward motion. Your motion ceasing is the reinforcer. It is what teaches him to Yield.

Repeat the exercise three or four times. That's enough for the day.

The next morning, have your dog move out of your way three or four times. Any effort by your dog to get out of your way stops your forward motion. That afternoon, repeat the morning's lesson.

The next day you will start to increase the distance your dog must move to stop your forward motion. A step, then two, then three. Should your dog move laterally out of your way, do not turn to follow him. Continue walking straight ahead. Moving to the side is the easiest way for the dog to Yield space to you. That's the lesson that you want him to learn.

Yielding practice works best if you do not drill it after the third day. When teaching most things a succession of quick repetitions seems to drive the lesson home best. Yielding, and the respect that it engenders, is best learned by lessons at random times during the day. Eight or ten times every day, for no particular reason, plot your path through your house through your dog. Cause him to move and go on about what you were doing.

The major difference between masterful dog trainers and mediocre ones is that masterful dog trainers do not assume that a dog knows something until after the trainer has taught it.

(That sentence was supposed to be the first sentence of the following paragraph. Having typed it, I realize that it is the most important thought in this discourse. I think I'll just let it sit out there all by itself. Maybe someone will cogitate upon it.)

I never assume that a dog can move out of my path

from whichever way I approach him until I have taught him to move out of my way from whichever way that I approach him. The first week, I teach him to move as I approach from directly (more or less) straight ahead. The second week, I alter my approach so that I am coming from in front of him, but am aiming at his shoulder. In other words, approaching him from about forty five degrees. I teach so that he moves from both left and right shoulders. The next week, I teach him to move as I come at him perpendicularly aiming at mid body. And, yes, I teach both sides individually. The next week, I approach from his rear, at an about forty five degree angle. My target is his hip. And finally, I teach him to move out of my way when I approach him from dead astern.

A quick count tells us that I spend five weeks teaching the dog something as simple as not hindering my forward motion. Could I teach it quicker? With most dogs, definitely yes. Should I? Let me answer that question with another question. Why?

The dog is going to be around for the next fifteen years. I don't see that we are under any major time constraints. I see no reason to rush the job, to train fast - or even half-fast (which is what fast usually becomes). There is nothing else - absolutely nothing - that a trainer will ever teach a dog that is quite as important to the overall relationship between the dog and the trainer. Slow trained dogs, slow cook food and slow loved women are three of the life's great treasures.

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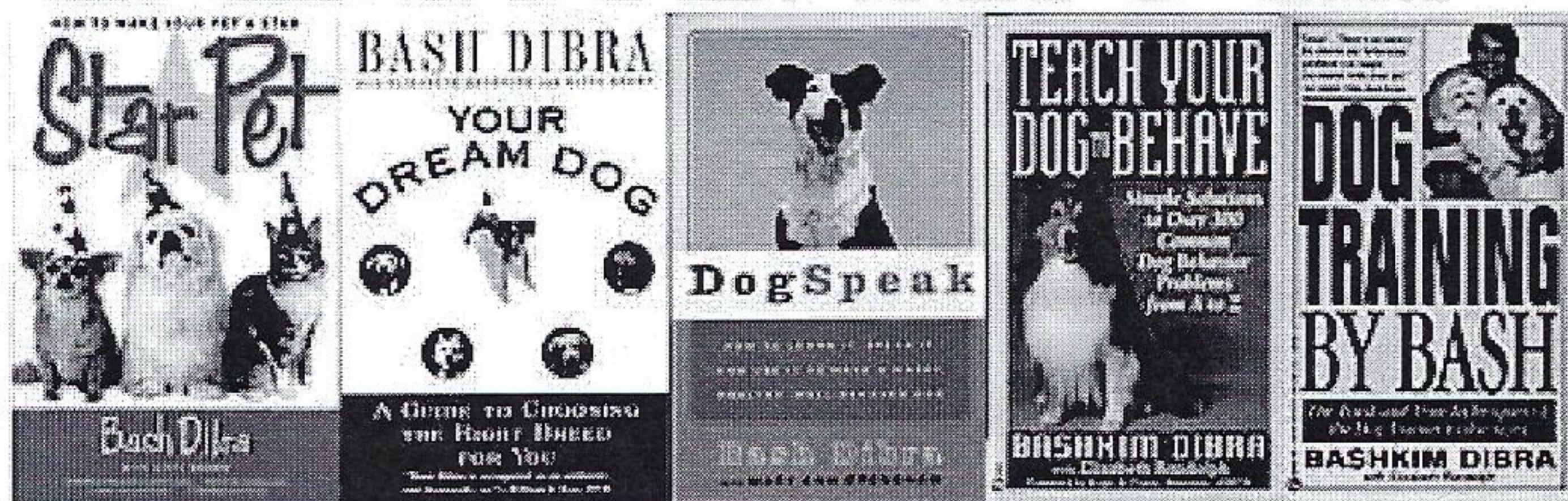


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# Socialization

## *What is it, really?*

by Jill Skorocho

Socialization. New puppy owners hear the word from trainers over and over again, as in "it's important to socialize your puppy." What is sometimes added, either implied or directly, is the warning "or else." But what does socialization really mean?

The Canadian Oxford Dictionary's definition of "socialize" is to "1. act in a sociable manner, or 2. prepare for life in society." To prepare for life in society is what most people think of when they hear about the importance of socialization; we help clients achieve that by training their dog to "act in a sociable manner."

But what does that really mean? It's often helpful to explain to clients what a sociable manner is not. It is NOT allowing their dog to:

1. jump on another dog's head by way of greeting
2. run up quickly, and directly in the face of, every dog they encounter invade personal space without first going through ritual introductions fail to observe boundaries, real or imagined, once they have been demonstrated.

3. assume every dog they encounter wants to play.

We must help our clients teach their puppies that the above behaviours are not the appropriate way to interact with other dogs, are not welcome, and will be corrected in the language the dog has available to him – through growls, air snaps, nips, scruff shakes, and other, perfectly acceptable, dog communication tools.

So if we tell our clients that wild and uncontrollable behaviour is not considered a "sociable manner," then we can also define what socialization is not. Socialization is not: a wild free-for-all of dogs of all shapes, sizes and temperaments climbing, jumping and bouncing all over each other an unsupervised, uninterrupted occasion, left to the attitude

of "the dogs will work it out themselves" a dog-human event: socialization cannot occur if an owner insists on constantly interrupting, removing their sweet puppy from any interaction that involves noise, teeth, or correction walking down the same streets, and going to the same dog park, to play with the same dogs, each and every day.

In the dog-human relationship, owners have accepted the responsibility of being their dog's leader. That title comes with all the duties being a leader requires: clients must show their dogs the proper way to play, and the appropriate way to say hello. If a client's dog is incapable of controlling himself, insisting instead on jumping on every dog in sight, then it is our job as trainers to ensure he is not rewarded with playtime or saying hello.

As a leader, owners must also walk the fine line of allowing their dogs to discover things for themselves. If a puppy, lost in the rambunctious world of play, smashes into an older dog who isn't interested in the game, then that puppy deserves to be corrected by the offended dog, often with a loud snarl and perhaps a show of teeth. Our clients must learn that this is normal, and expected, and that it does nobody any good – not older dog, not puppy, and not their respective owners – for the puppy owner to swoop in, accusing the other owner of having a "vicious dog." We must help our clients trust the process, and respect the integrity of their dogs, by explaining the different things they can expect to see in the learning process, which can be helped along through proper socialization.

So what does proper socialization entail? It is structured interaction that includes, but is certainly not limited to: Exposing a new puppy to as many sounds, sights, smells, people, animals and locations as possible, beginning as soon as the dog arrives in



his new home. Suggestions for your clients include taking their dog to the vet, to the park, to the pet store, to the school yard (when children are playing), on public transit, in the car, in an elevator, on an escalator, on busy streets, outside when the garbage truck goes by, near bicycles and skateboards, around people of all shapes, sizes, colours, ages, and abilities – the list goes on. The more new things a puppy sees in their early days, the easier it will be for them to adjust to new things as they age.

Attending local classes or playgroups for puppies, to allow dogs to play and learn with other puppies. Consider offering clients a low-cost Puppy Playdate as a loss leader for your business.

Gradually introducing puppies to adult dogs. You can bring your own adult dogs to your Puppy Playdate; this will allow the pups to interact with an adult, and will act as a living testimonial for the quality of your training.

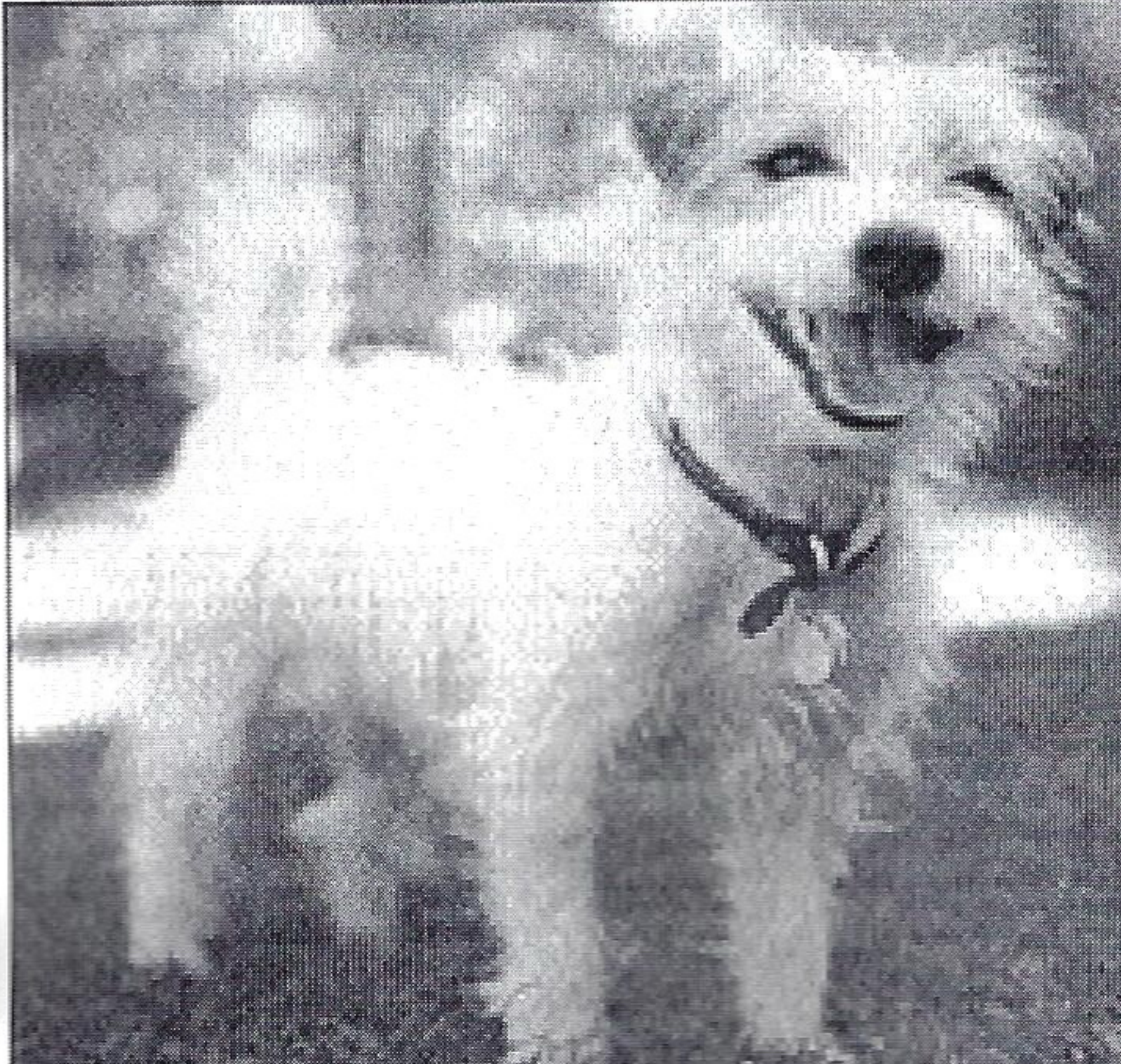
Consistently changing the type and quality of social interaction. Be sure to offer structure in your Playdates; you can include lots of breaks, handling by strangers, putting puppies under a blanket or box

and allowing them to problem solve as they figure their way out. The Playdates are also an opportunity to educate owners – talk about dog park etiquette, the proper way to say hello on leash, and the important things to look for in dog body language.

There are many ways for your clients to socialize their dogs, and there is a training opportunity every time you see a young pup on the street. Prepare a 30-second explanation of what socialization is – as well as what it's not. Hand them a business card, tell them about the Puppy Playdates you offer, and how you're just the person to help them as they socialize their pup.

*Jill Skorochod is an IACP Director, and the owner of Time and Patience Dog Training in Toronto, Canada. She tells her clients "There are only two things you'll ever need to train your dog...Time and Patience," and offers private lessons, group classes, and weekly Puppy Playdates with the help of her three Bullmastiffs, Ruby, Ginger and Smudge. Her website is available at [www.timeandpatience.com](http://www.timeandpatience.com).*

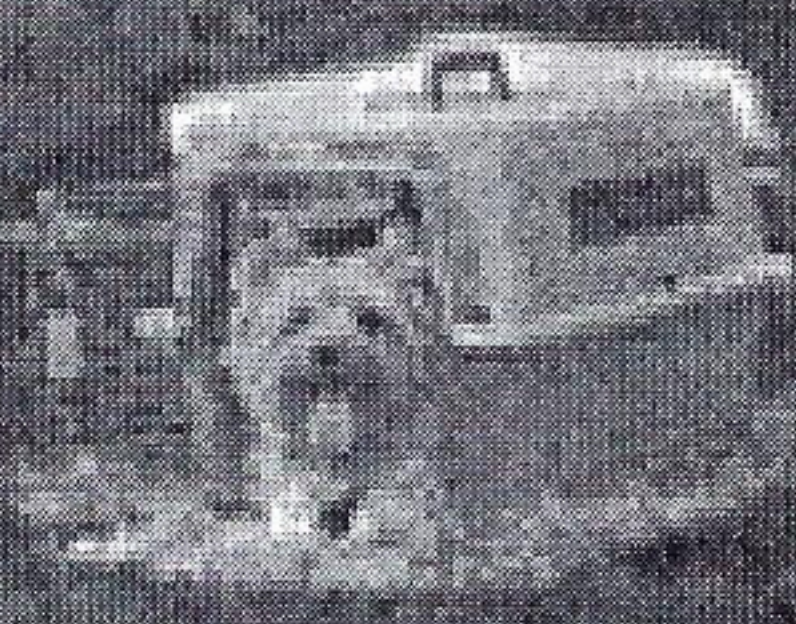
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# Spiders and Ticks and Bees, Part I

## *...oh my!*

by Thom Some, "The Pet Safety Guy"™

Dorothy and Toto had lions and tigers and bears and a very green witch to contend with on their very long pet walk down the yellow brick road. For today's urban Pet Care Professional, there is no Emerald City or Wizard to protect them from biting and stinging insects. As always, prevention is best but being prepared for the worst is key to you and your pet surviving in the best possible way from these potentially life-threatening medical emergencies. In this article, I will focus on Identification, Signs, Actions For Survival and Veterinarian Care that may be required for bites and stings from spiders, and ticks and bees [Oh My!].

Spiders are probably the most feared insect of all the biting and stinging "bugs". As a special side note, I thought you might like to know that the most poisonous of all the spiders in your home is the one called "Daddy Long-legs". However, the Daddy Long-legs has a mouth so small that they can not bite through our skin or our pets' skin and they have a very small reserve of venom which is not enough to pose any real threat to humans or pets. The two types of spiders we should be most concerned with in the United States are the Black Widow and the Brown Spider Family.

The Brown Spider Family (Fiddleback, Brown Recluse, Arizona Brown) is normally nonaggressive and has a "violin-shaped" marking on its body with the neck of the violin pointing toward the abdomen. Brown Spiders are normally found in the lower half of the United States in places like attics, firewood piles, under houses and in any other places with dry wood. The Black Widow is found throughout the United States and Canada and is well known for its red "hourglass-shaped" marking.

### **Signs: Spider Bite**

The pets scratching, licking or chewing at the injury site may be the only initial outward sign of a spider bite.

Upon closer examination you will find the classic "bulls-eye" lesion. Depending on the type of spider and the amount of venom injected, a resulting ulcer will spread into the surrounding tissue over the next several days.

The Black Widow bite can cause outward signs in our pets. Dogs can present increased pain at the injury site, muscle pain and intense excitability. Cats are very sensitive to the Black Widow venom and can quickly present paralysis, diarrhea, salivation and vomiting. Within the first 24 hours, cats can lose up to 20% of their body weight. This weight loss can put your cat into a downward spiral that requires veterinary treatment.

With a Black Widow bite, antivenin is available and should be administered as soon as possible by your Veterinarian.

### **Actions For Survival: Spider Bite**

Keep the spider if possible, as identification of the spider may be necessary to determine the proper course of Veterinary treatment.

Reduce the level of activity and keep the pets from scratching, licking or chewing the bite site, as this can push the venom into surrounding tissue and further into the body.

An ice pack can be used to slow the venom and help with pain management. Note: do not use for extended periods of time.

Do not give them anything to eat or drink.

Contact your veterinarian or nearest Animal Hospital for further assistance.

### **Veterinarian Care: Spider Bite**

Identification of the spider is vital as the treatments are different.

There is no antidote for the Brown Spider Family bite. Treatment involves basic wound care with antibiotic treatment.

Veterinary care, support and treatment of the Black Widow bite for both dogs and cats include antivenin, pain management and ongoing monitoring.

Ticks have eight-legs with a small head and large dark body that range in size from a pea to a pinhead which may be too small to see. They live in woods, fields, shrubbery and tall-

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grassy areas. Ticks are opportunistic creatures that attach to your pets as they brush past them in the outdoors. Ticks then relocate to a warm moist area on your pets (or possibly to you!) and bury their head into the skin and begin to suck blood. Ticks are dangerous to us and our pets, not because of their bite but because of their ability to carry and transmit diseases. Ticks can carry Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Encephalitis and Lyme disease. Ticks are usually found during grooming or during Pet Tech's Snout-To-Tail Assessment. We recommend that you do the Snout-To-Tail Assessment at least 3 times a week and after any "field trip" with your pets. Ticks can suck blood from their host for up to one week. At this point, they will look like a bloated "reddish" pea. Look for ticks around the head, ears, and in the pits of their legs. Symptoms progress slowly over several days as the tick feeds on your pets.

#### **Signs: Tick Bite**

The pets scratching, licking or chewing at the bite site may be the only initial outward sign of a tick bite.

Look for redness or a rash starting at the bite location.

Dogs' voices can change to a croaky husky bark.

Paralysis around the bite site can develop and progress to other parts of your pets' body.

Symptoms of the diseases ticks can carry include: muscle aches, stiffness, weakness, fever and swollen lymph nodes.

#### **Actions For Survival: Tick Bite**

Firmly hold the body as close to the head with your fingers (use latex gloves) or tweezers, then with firm gentle pressure, slowly pull the tick out. Do not twist. If all the parts of the tick are not removed, seek Veterinary help.

Clean the area with antibacterial soap.

Put a dab of antibacterial ointment over the break in the skin.

Save the tick in a jar or small plastic bag and put the date on it. Keep the tick for at least the next two weeks. That way the tick can be tested if any signs present themselves in you or your pets during that time.

Contact your Veterinarian for further assistance.

Do not use a match or heat to try and get the tick out. You may burn yourself and/or your pets.

#### **Veterinary Care: Tick Bite**

Veterinary care would be necessary if any part of the tick is not fully removed.

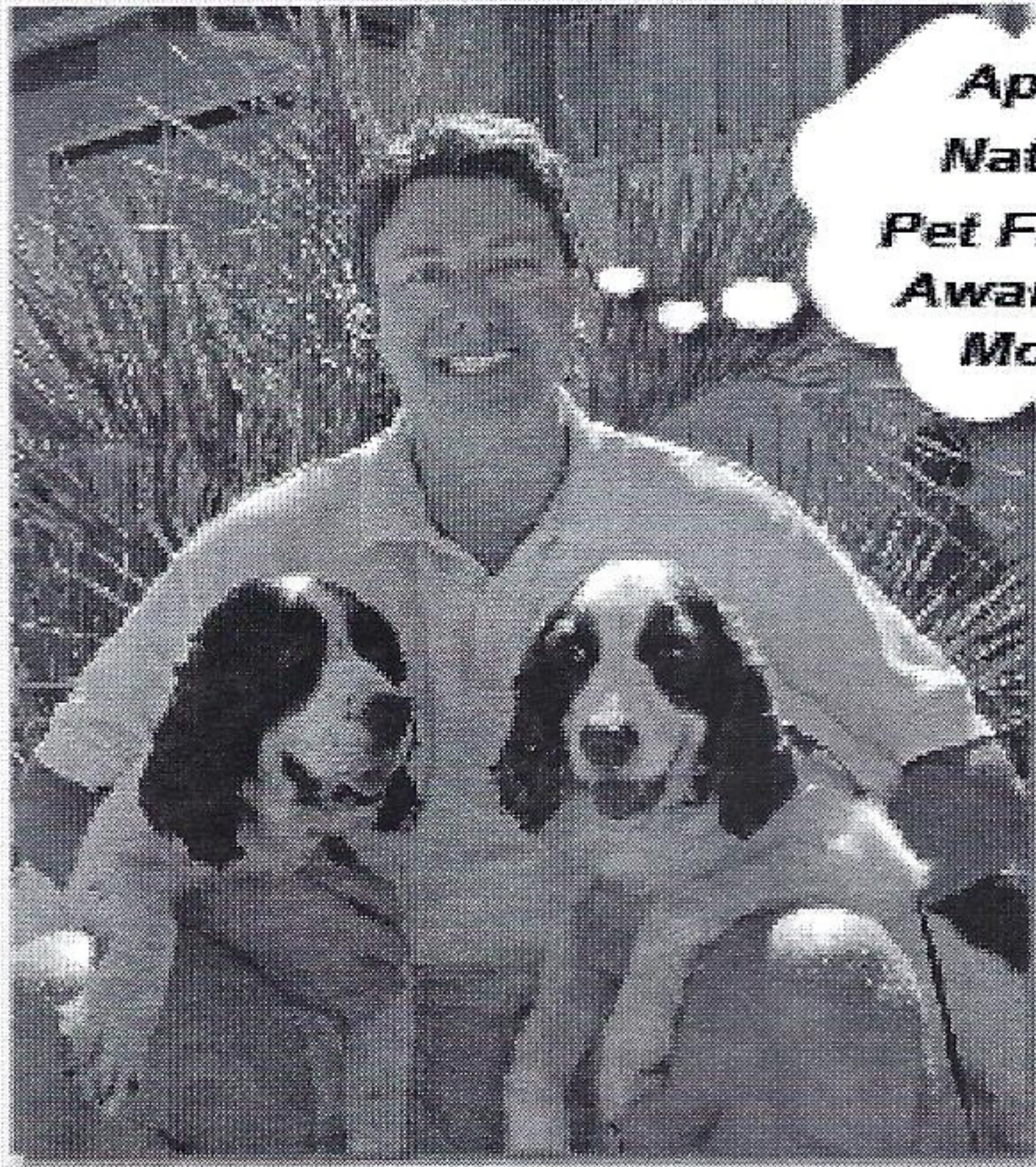
Veterinary care would be necessary if any lack of body function or limb function is observed after finding a tick.

Antibiotics and basic wound care is necessary.

If you bring the tick in, your Veterinarian may have the body analyzed or tested.

*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 national training center dedicated to Pet First Aid & 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 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](http://www.PetTech.net), contact us by phone at (760) 930-0309 or e-mail [iacp@pettech.net](mailto:iacp@pettech.net).*

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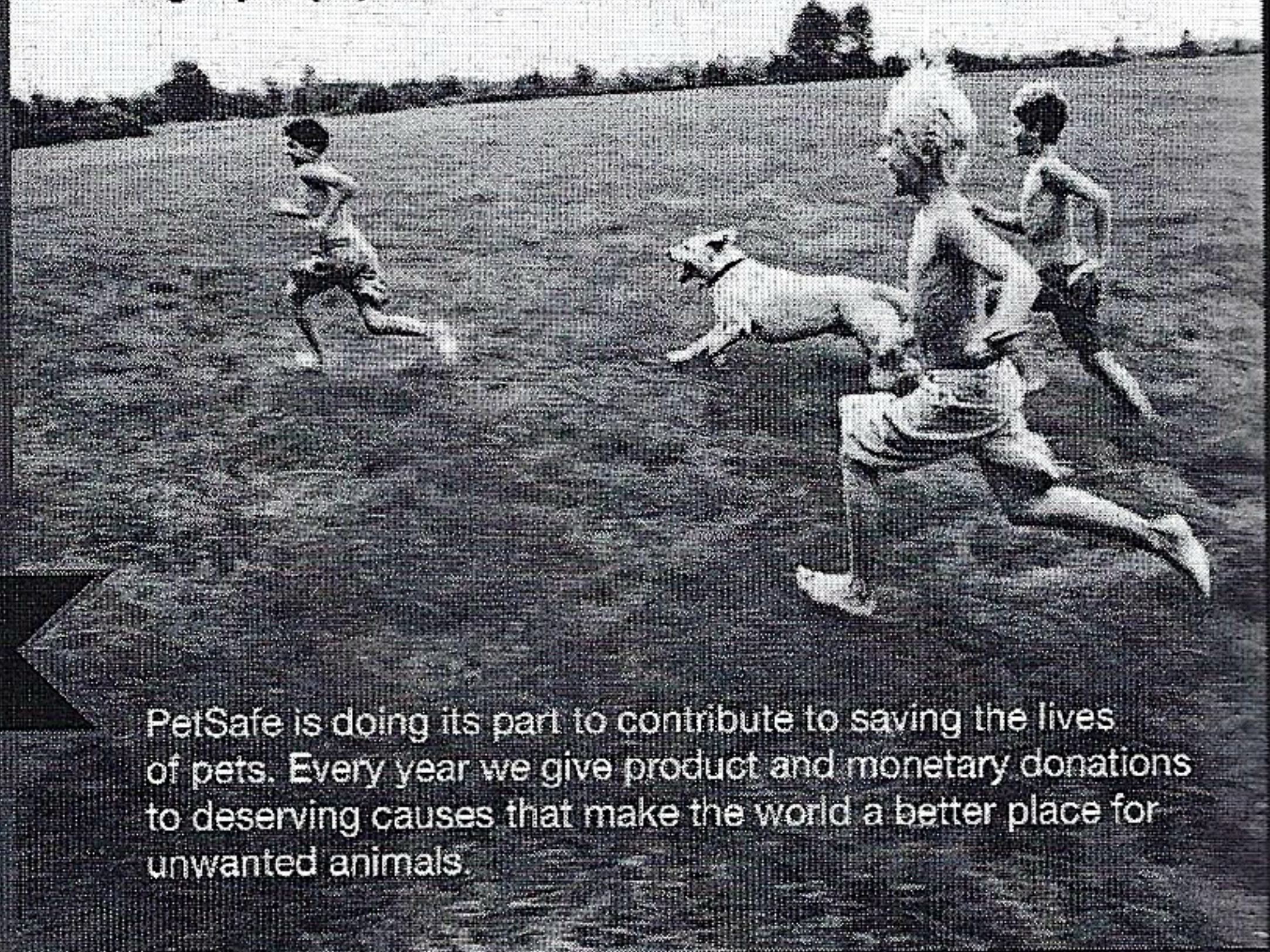
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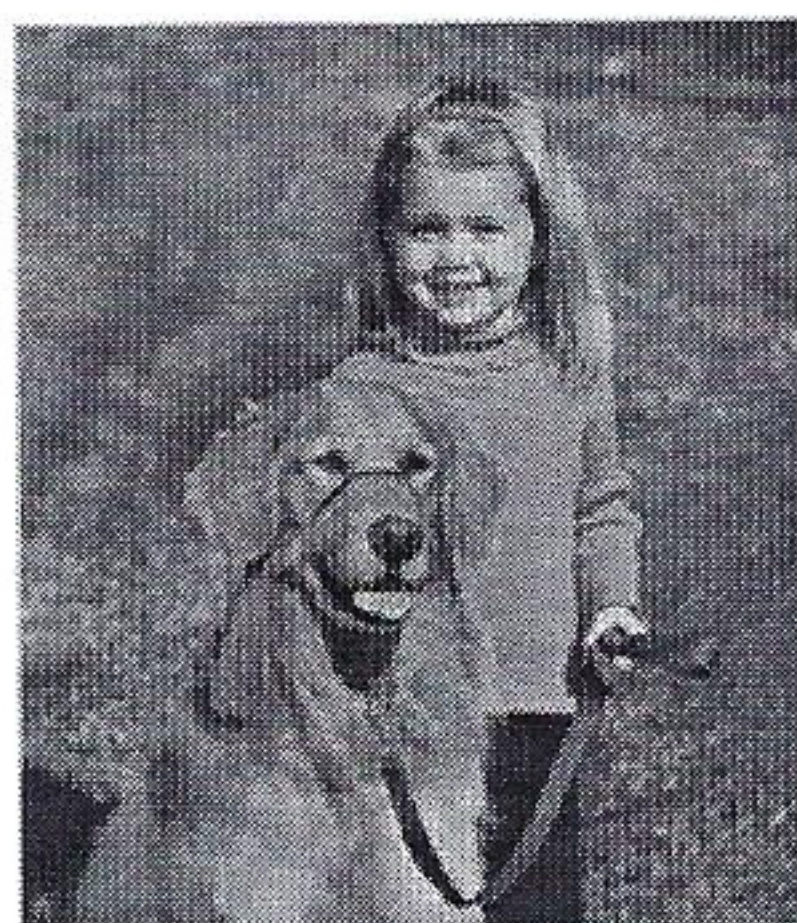
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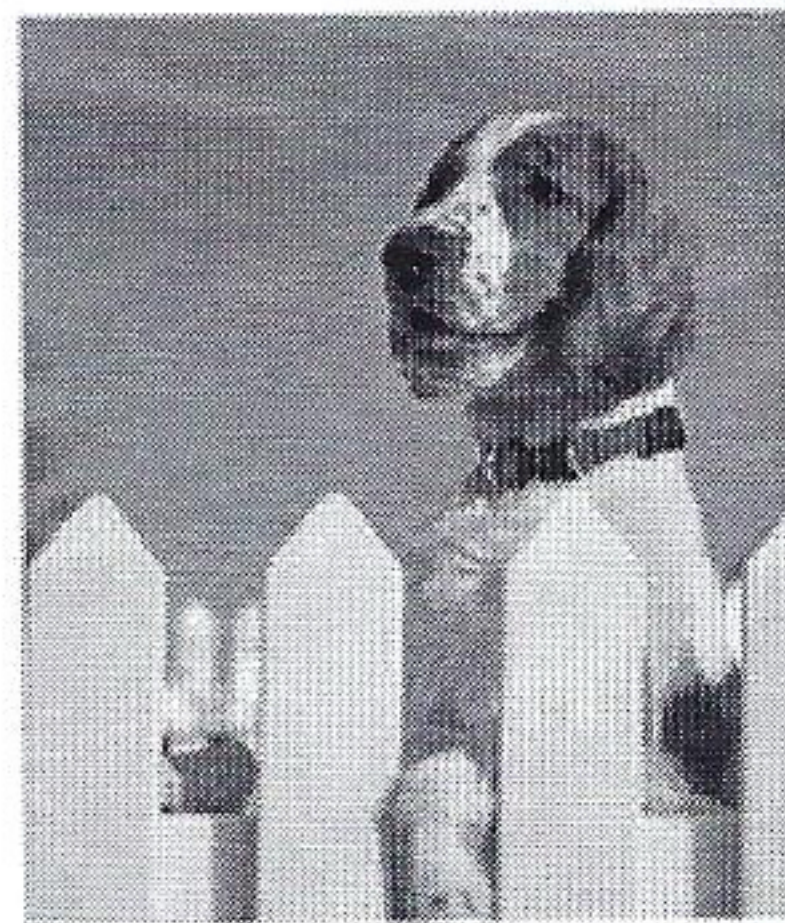
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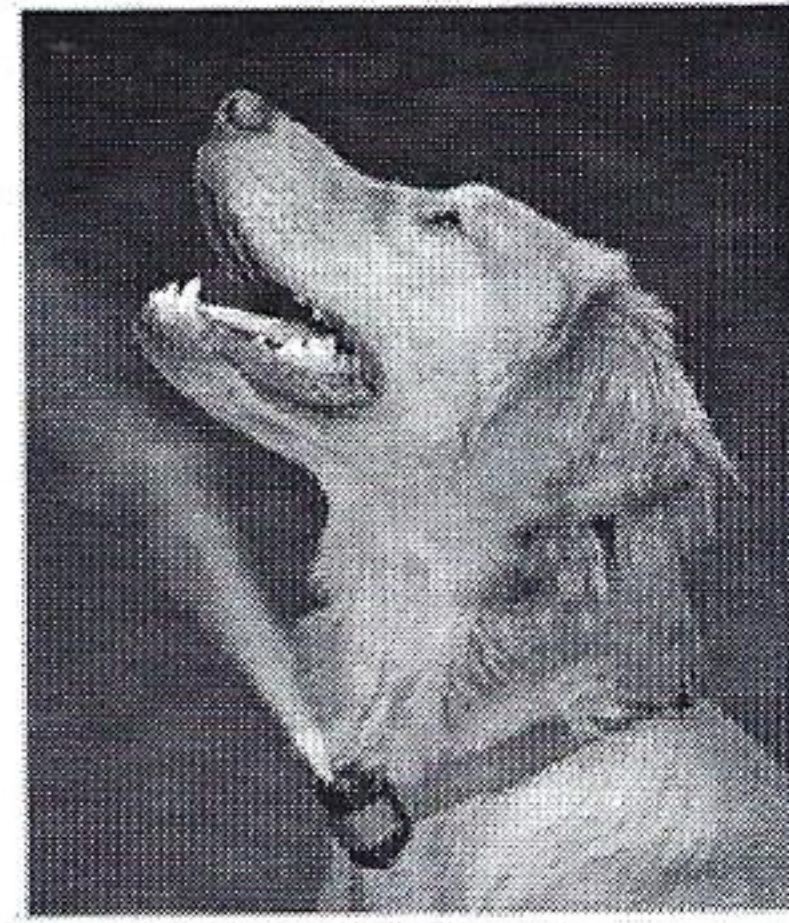
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