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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS



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Safe Hands Journal

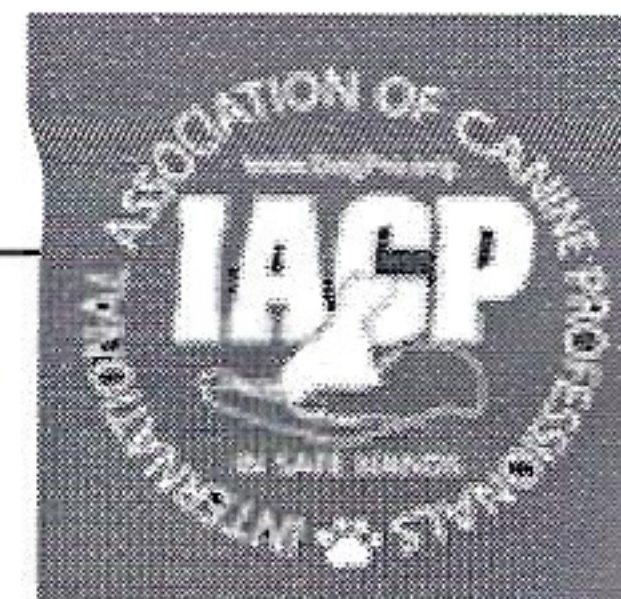


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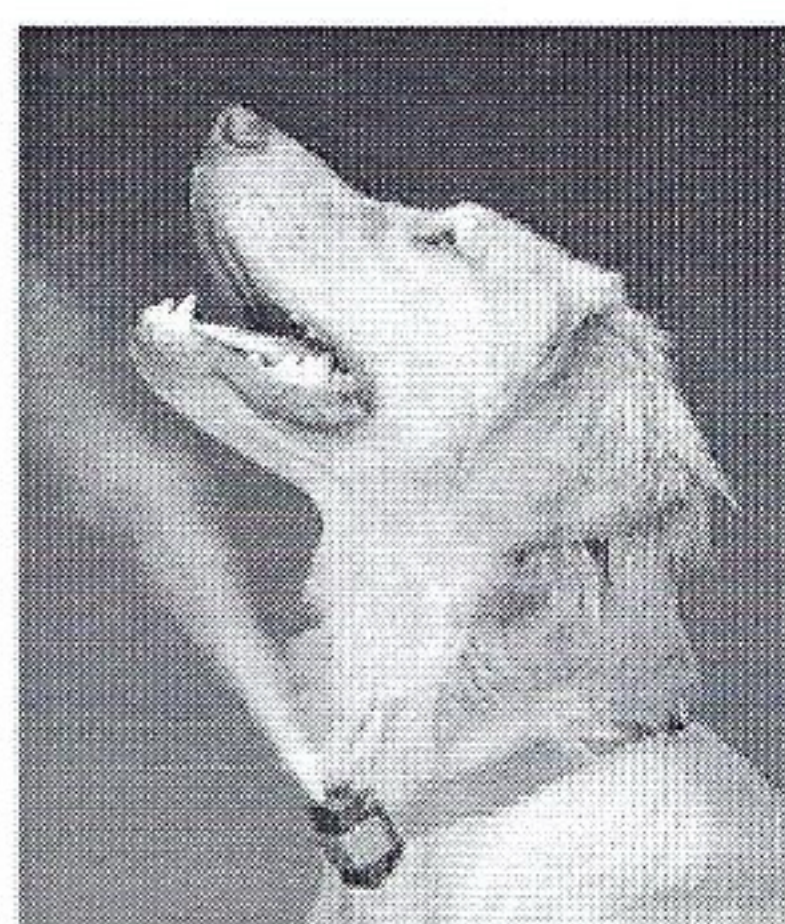
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From the President **See you at Conference!**

by Cyndy Douan, CDT

The New Year signals for us a time to start making plans to attend the Annual IACP Conference. Set aside June 5, 2008 to June 8, 2008 for your conference dates and begin making arrangements to see us all there. The conference is a great place for learning more about dogs. It is also a great place to find new contacts and friends within the profession and to visit with old friends that you may not get to see at other times during the year. I've never missed an IACP Conference and I have so many fond memories of the good times I've had there.

The conference is in Hutto, Texas at the Triple Crown Training Academy. If you are flying, you will buy a ticket to Austin, Texas. Members often share rental cars or shuttle back and forth picking each other up at the airport. The best place to stay to meet other members and get involved with after-hour activities is the Wingate Hotel in Round Rock. For those who prefer camping or have RV's, there is a great place to make your home right on the conference site at Triple Crown.

To get the most out of the conference, plan to come on Wednesday afternoon, June 4th, and you can help us set up and pack goodie bags for attendees. After a good night's rest, (or a short night's rest because you were too busy socializing with everyone), the pre-conference workshops begin on Thursday morning. It's a great bargain, because Thursday's are FREE attendance for IACP Members.

On Thursday evenings we always have a great "heavy appetizer" Welcome Reception at the Wingate where everyone can get together and get caught up with visiting and meeting other members. Friday starts the actual conference, which will run through midday on Sunday. We update our members on IACP News and Projects during the IACP Annual Member Meeting on Friday afternoon after the conference workshops. On Saturday night we put on a great banquet and awards presentation at the Wingate Hotel. Be assured that we will keep you busy the entire time you are with us! On Sunday, once the conference is over, you could make plans to leave on an early afternoon flight out and be home before work starts on Monday OR, as many more of us die hard IACP'ers do, you can stay a day longer, help us break down and pack, and then join us for the ever secretive (and ever rowdy) WHITSIT (What Happens in Texas Stays in Texas) Dinner! There are usually enough people leaving the Wingate on Monday morning that you can catch a ride

to the airport without a problem.

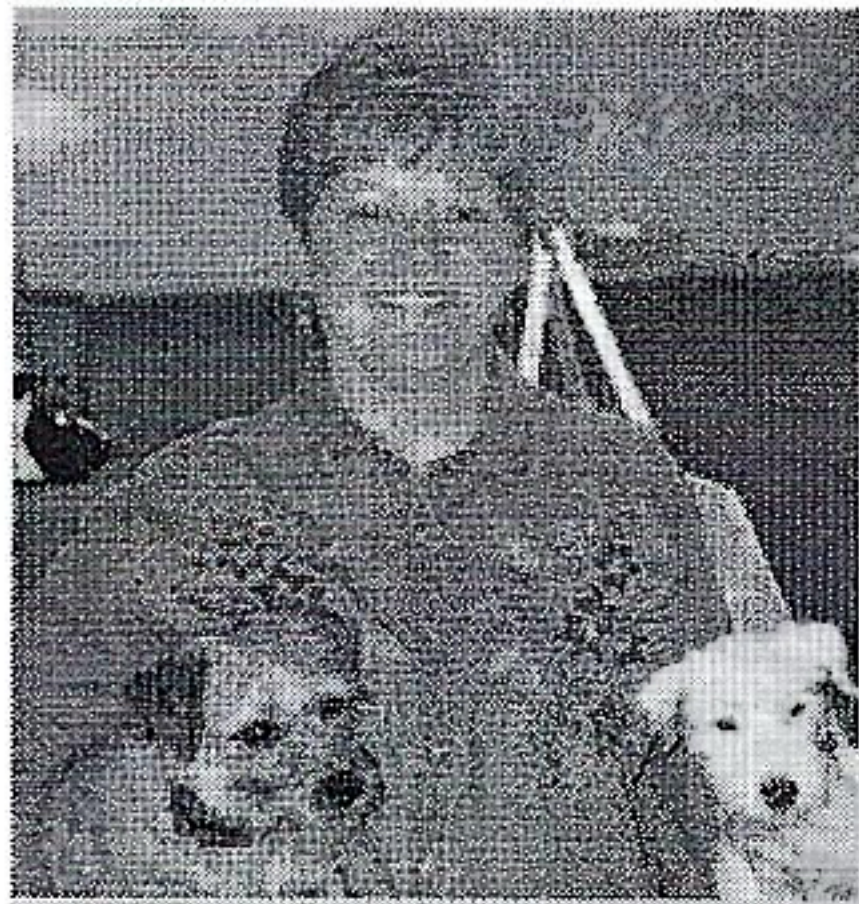
There will be much more detail forthcoming but, right now, I am hearing a buzz that this may be the best line up of conference speakers we have ever had! Just to give you a taste of what to look forward to, I'll share some names and topics with you now. Kayce Cover – Synalia, Aimee Sadler – Shelter Program, Howard Bayerle – flyball training, Pat Trichter-Deeley – Handling Skills, Brian Kilcommons – Building your own business, Jill Skorochod – How Adults Learn, Stanley Coren – Canine Information Processing, Brother Christopher of the Monks of New Skete, Brice Cavanaugh & Ivan Babalanov- Protection Training.

Now if I haven't made your head spin and you aren't scrambling to put together the funds to get to this conference, let me also mention that on top of all of this, we always have a huge silent auction filled with great dog related items, raffles for great prizes, and plenty of freebies and samples from our sponsors that we toss to the crowds during intermissions. We also have a great trade show with many booths full of great quality dog supplies and gifts for your shopping pleasure!

To top that off, if you can't get by without traveling with your own dog, we allow you to bring your dog to the conference with you. Dogs are allowed at the Wingate Hotel and they are also allowed at Triple Crown. The management at Triple Crown only asks that we clean up after our dogs and keep them on lead so as not to interfere with their dog training academy students who are responsible for training shelter dogs while the IACP Conference is being run.

Oh and remember too, that since this is an educational event, if you are running a business, you might check with your accountant and find the entire trip to Texas to be tax deductible for you!

What all this boils down to is that I want to see you at the IACP Conference in June. I'd love to shake the hand of every IACP Member and be able to tell you in person how much I appreciate your support and your membership in the best professional organization in the world of dogs! See you in June!



Training is Translating

by Mary Mazzeri, CDTI, CDT

Back in the fifties, my first dog-owning experience was a dismal failure. The dog didn't fail me, I failed her. 'Cinderella' was a medium-sized, black spaniel mix. She was a nice enough dog, but my family was not experienced as dog owners and, in the end, she was paper-trained so well to one place in the house, we couldn't get her to go outside. In addition to that, my parents didn't know about spaying or seasons, so there was an unwanted litter of puppies. Then one day I came home from school to find out my 'Cinder' gone. She had been returned to the shelter. I was devastated. (It took me a long time to forgive my mom) I vowed that I would never fail a dog again. I'd learn how to help my next dog to 'do everything right'. It was a vow made by a ten year old that was kept.

In 1966, while working on my BA degree in Education, I researched breeds, read every dog training book I could find, went to dog shows, talked to responsible breeders, and eventually brought home a Rough-coated Collie. He was confident and intelligent -a very willing student. I trained him with some common sense and the Koehler book. I discovered a local dog training club in 1970 and put an AKC Utility degree on him within two years.

I was fascinated with the learning process and, as an educator, found myself evaluating the instructors' rationales

and teaching techniques. Some of my early instructors were not very inspiring. Their explanations and demonstrations were often ineffective. Some seemed 'bothered' to have to teach beginners. They were 'competition' handlers and tended to talk down impatiently to us 'peons'. I knew I could teach more effectively. I *wanted* to do it because I enjoyed the teaching/learning processes, loved dogs AND people and felt I could communicate with more enthusiasm, and in an understandable way. I realized that I needed to learn more about how the dogs were 'speaking' to their owners.

When I came to class with my first Irish Wolfhound, "Monday". The instructor shook his head from side to side with the condescending remark, "You can't expect much from a Wolfhound." HE challenged me to prove him wrong. Monday earned High hound in Trial at his very first AKC Obedience Trial and ultimately finished as the first UDT in the history of the breed. In the process that hound taught me more about dog training than my more accommodating Collie ever had. Monday began to evolve my training style. Since the collie and the first wolfhound, each dog I've trained has taught me something more about translating between 'human speak' and 'dog'.

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Dog Speak: Body Language

While dogs do yip, yike, howl, growl, bark, and whine, all good dog trainers know that the primary canine mode of communication is actually expressed through their body language. This language is a collection of eye contact (or not), ear, muzzle, and tail position, body posture and their general state of relaxation or tension. There are few good books written on the subject. Following the traditions of ethology (founded by Konrad Lorenz), Dr. Roger Abrantes researched and authored a well illustrated volume called: *Dog Language: An Encyclopedia of Canine Behavior*. It is filled with excellent and concise illustrations. A couple of other resources are: Aloff, Brenda. 2005. *Canine Body Language, A Photographic Guide*.

Rugaas, Turid. (1990s?) *Calming Signals: What Your Dog Tells You*. (video)

Even amongst these learned scholars you will note differences of opinion on the meanings of different signals. It is always interesting to interpret what a canid is 'thinking' by how it's acting.

There are schools and organizations that offer courses in behavior studies. I assume that there are seminars offered on the topic by Dr Pat McConnell; Dr Wayne Hunthausen; Trish King; and others. Ask fellow professionals for suggestions.

I recommend that you observe group and private classes where you are neither teaching nor handling, so you can uninterruptedly watch how various dogs interact with their humans and how they react to each others' body language. Dog language is subtle and precise, watch carefully. The other end of the leash is connected to a human. We are less subtle and concise and often you will see an inexperienced handler giving a dog inconsistent information between his/her voice and their body language. It really is pretty amazing that dogs learn anything at all from their humans—on the one hand, on the other hand, they don't usually have much to do in a given day, so they do have a lot of time on their paws to study and try to figure their 'humans' out, if it is worth it to them.

Verbal Commands: Human Speak

Various statisticians estimate that the human species is capable of speaking 2,000 words a day with gusts up to 4,000. —hermits and cloistered excluded. In any case we are undeniably conscious verbal communicators. People also use body language but are not as consciously aware of it. Our dogs pick up a great deal of information from this. It may conflict with what they 'hear' us saying in our body language. This spills over into our relationship with our dogs. We talk to them, we chide them, we praise them, in some cases we beg them, maybe even sing to them. It has been my observation that dogs pick up primarily on 'TONE of Voice'. Our tone, inflections —and that unconscious body

language —gives them more information than our actual words in many cases. It tells them where we are emotionally, e.g. if we are stable, calm, excited, upset, angry or exasperated; if we are in control or out of control, if they are even someone that they want to listen to.

Dogs that live with the average owner eventually learn to identify human voice patterns (words or phrases) and back chain them to human behavior patterns. i.e. "Marvin, do you want some Ice Cream?" followed by the trip to the refrigerator, and the presentation of the tasty treat. Eventually, the mere mention of "Ice Cream" evokes a hopeful trip to the refrigerator. They learn to associate "Ball" with the fun-to-fetch 'spherical fuzzy object' and a host of others. But what is it that actually *helps* the dog learn *Human Language*?

How do we improve the learning curve when we are actually *trying* to help them understand verbal commands? How do we help them understand that we want a response of some kind *from them* when we utter certain voice inflection and sound patterns? If we are trying to communicate *to* a dog, we must first translate into dog. We need to become aware of our own body language and what it is saying *to the* dog we are trying to communicate with.

Body Language: Visual Human to Dog Speak

The dog is less likely to engage with a human that seems unstable, inconsistent, irrational, impatient, solicitous, threatening, and the list goes on. The dog prefers the 'leader' that seems to have a plan that is somewhat predictable, a composed, self-confident director that is safe and fulfilling to follow. The very first element of communication is attention. The human has to create a desire in the *dog* to be an attentive follower. A dog will follow the person it considers to be its pack leader. A dog is all about space and movement.

Bill Koehler had it right when he started his basic training without human conversation —on a fifteen foot long training line. His training model was to get a dog's attention by replicating canine leadership, the kind of 'body language conversation' that amounted to walking in a straight line without asking the dog for permission to do so. The dog was attached to the line so at some point he found out that the most advantageous course to follow was the one set by the person on the other end of the line. Generally, within 3-5 minutes the dog will be walking with the handler and 'checking in' visually to see where the leader is. It's what dogs do. Even with an inept 'leader' the dog that is connected to one by a long line learns to follow. Moving away from a dog is more likely to '*draw* it' toward the moving person.

While moving away *draws* a dog, moving into a dog's space is more likely to '*drive* it' out of a person's 'space'. Dick Russell has it right. He teaches what he wisely terms



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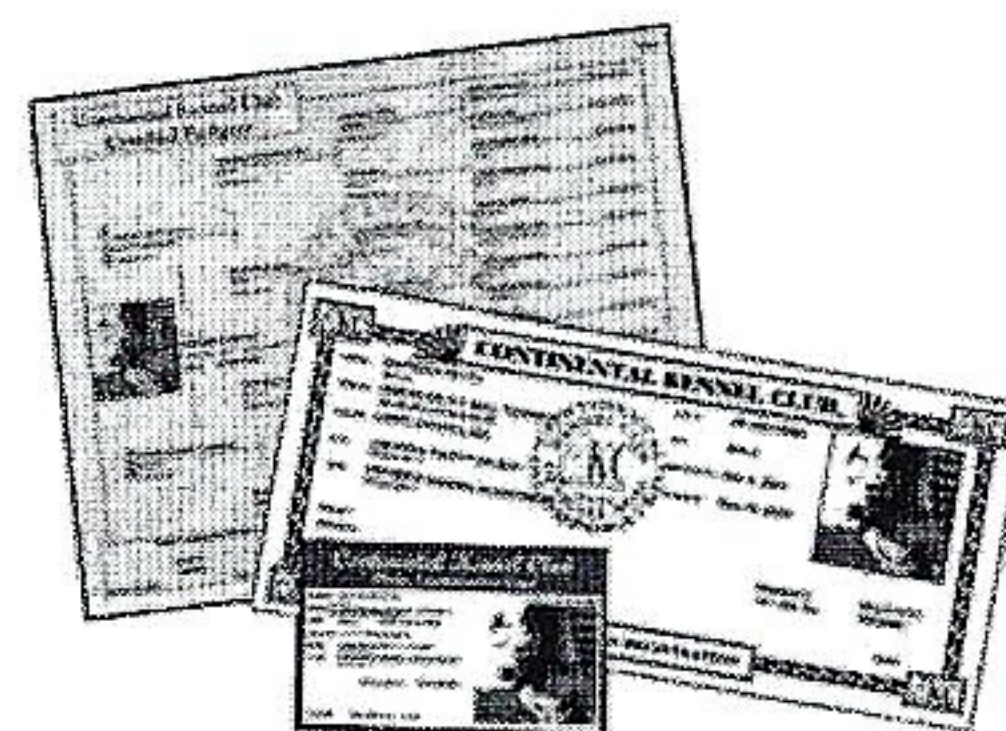
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'Yielding' or teaching a dog to move out of the way as you move about the house and yard. This is a simple, clear communication to a dog that you are claiming ownership of that space. Moving into a dog's space is also good 'Dog speak'. Taught properly the 'Heel' exercise is an exquisite language between dog and handler. Properly taught the "Heel" command has the language elements of drawing and driving a dog relationally as well as creating the elements of attention, position, a loose leash, —through to, eventually, attentive off leash heeling.

The Leash: Tactile, Directional 'Human to Dog' Speak

And the leash, often a handle by which the dog owner is dragged down the road by an exuberant dog, is a wonderful tool by which to communicate *directional information* to a dog. Information can be conveyed more clearly to a dog with appropriate directional guidance. Precisely so with experienced handlers who combine it with complementary body language, but even with inexperienced handlers, the leash becomes a tool to convey which direction the handler wants his dog to move through space. Staying with the heel model, a dog can learn 'where' heel is by trial and error,

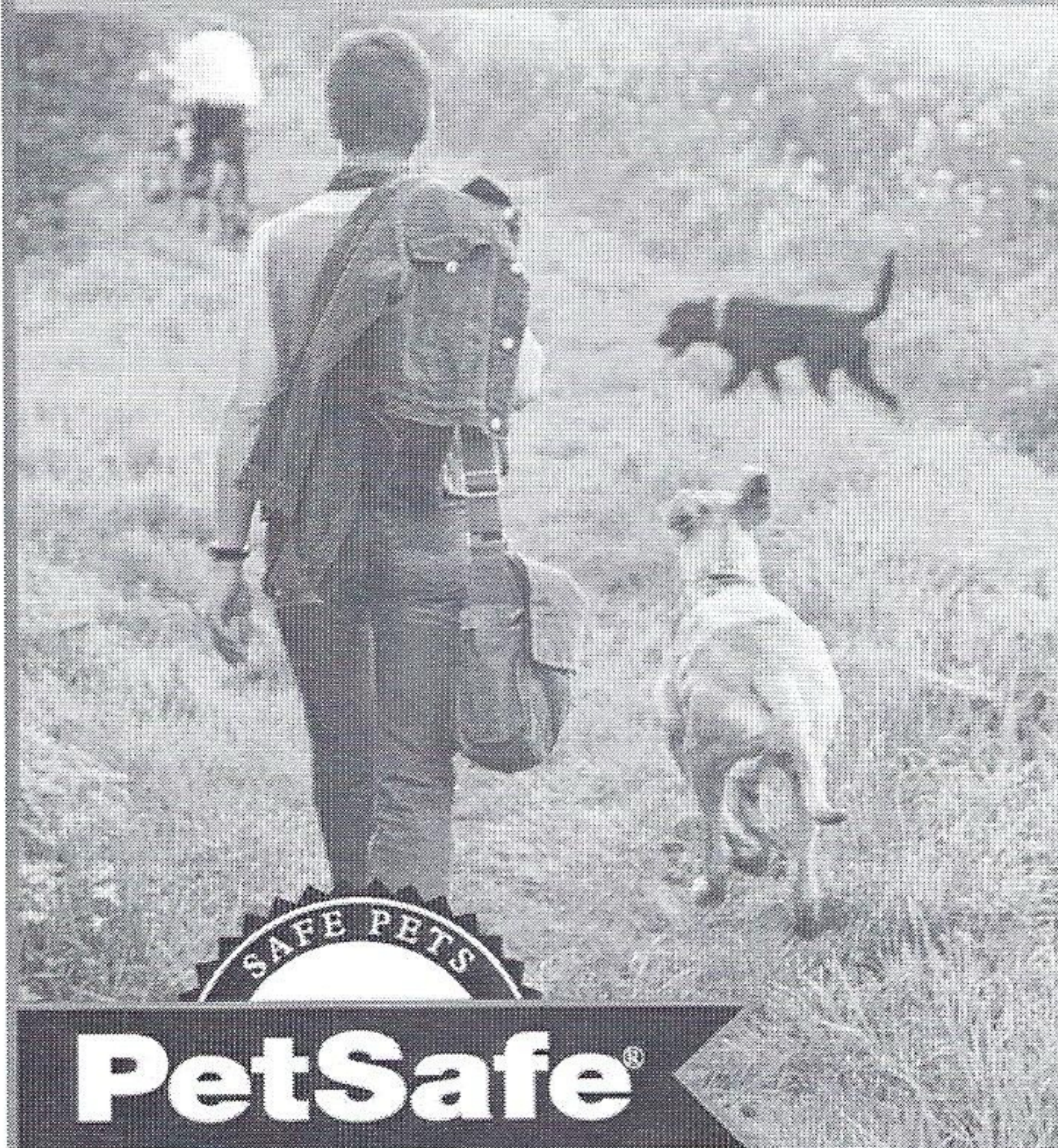
through discovering that there is a given space alongside a moving handler that is comfortable. This is achieved by having that be the place where the leash is relaxed and the handler says nice things to them.

The Voice: Auditory Human-to-Dog Speak

A typical goal in pet dog training is to have a dog understand and respond to spoken commands. Jill wants "Fluffy" to come when she's called. John wants "Buddy" to stay when he's told. Human words, 'instructions', mean little to a dog unless they are connected to some body language that the dog understands. Often the desired response is initially elicited from the dog with a spoken word used in conjunction with food/hand movement e.g. Luring a dog into a sitting position by moving the food into a location just above the dog's nose, or with a directional upward pull on the dog's collar or a combination of the two. Eventually the spoken word and/or the signal is recognized understood by the dog as a conditioned response and the food and leash are phased out.

The human voice can become a positive verbal 'marker,' a bridging sound, such as "Yes!" that tells the dog it is on

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the right track. This is especially important when a dog first attempts to decipher a new learning step in a behavior. The confirming sound means to the dog to 'keep on trying', that they are getting warmer, or "THAT'S IT!" depending on the tone of the voice. Like a clicker, the verbal marker captures a specific behavioral moment. Unlike a clicker, the marker encourages continuance in a behavior rather than ending it. The modulation in the voice pattern can give the dog additional information.

Praise is the other side of the command coin, the rewarding delightful sound made by a grateful pack leader when the behavior is delivered. Vocal nuance can be used to calmly sustain and steady a stay, or given more enthusiastically to encourage a fast recall. The leader's approval is a reward to the dog.

Release command: It is important for a dog to learn when a behavior ENDS. A release command/signal teaches a dog that it has completed a task. The choice of word is not as important as the manner in which it is delivered. Where praise implies 'Keep it up.', a release command tells them 'You're done.' Rightly, the timing and the tone of the release should not 'run together' with the praise. A good timing pattern is praise (-silent pause.....) release.

Remote Collar: Tactile Human to Dog Distance Language

I really appreciate the highly sophisticated, subtle remote training collars that have been developed in the last decade or so. Introduced and used gently and sensibly, they engaged a dog through its sense of touch. In addition to visual body language, auditory human speak, and directional leash guidance we add the tactile sensation of delicate electronic

'taps' on the neck. Tapping a dog with the collar when it is distracted is not unlike tapping someone's shoulder -when they are engrossed in watching the Super Bowl game, 4th quarter, 4th down, 10 yard line -to get their attention.

This multifaceted approach allows a dog to take in coordinated information that brings into play 3 of the 5 senses. Throw in a little strategic, random food reinforcement and you've captured them all. The more of the 'senses' that are involved in training, the quicker the training happens and the more internalized it becomes. The more information we can consistently plug into the dog's personal learning grid, the faster and easier they come to understand what it is we are trying to say to them, what we are asking of them or what we are trying to listen to them 'saying' to us.

I may have failed Cinderella, but I often thank her for giving me the determination to help the thousands of other dogs and their owners that have learned each other's language. They have learned how to translate between the species and communicate successfully.

By Mary Mazzeri © 2007

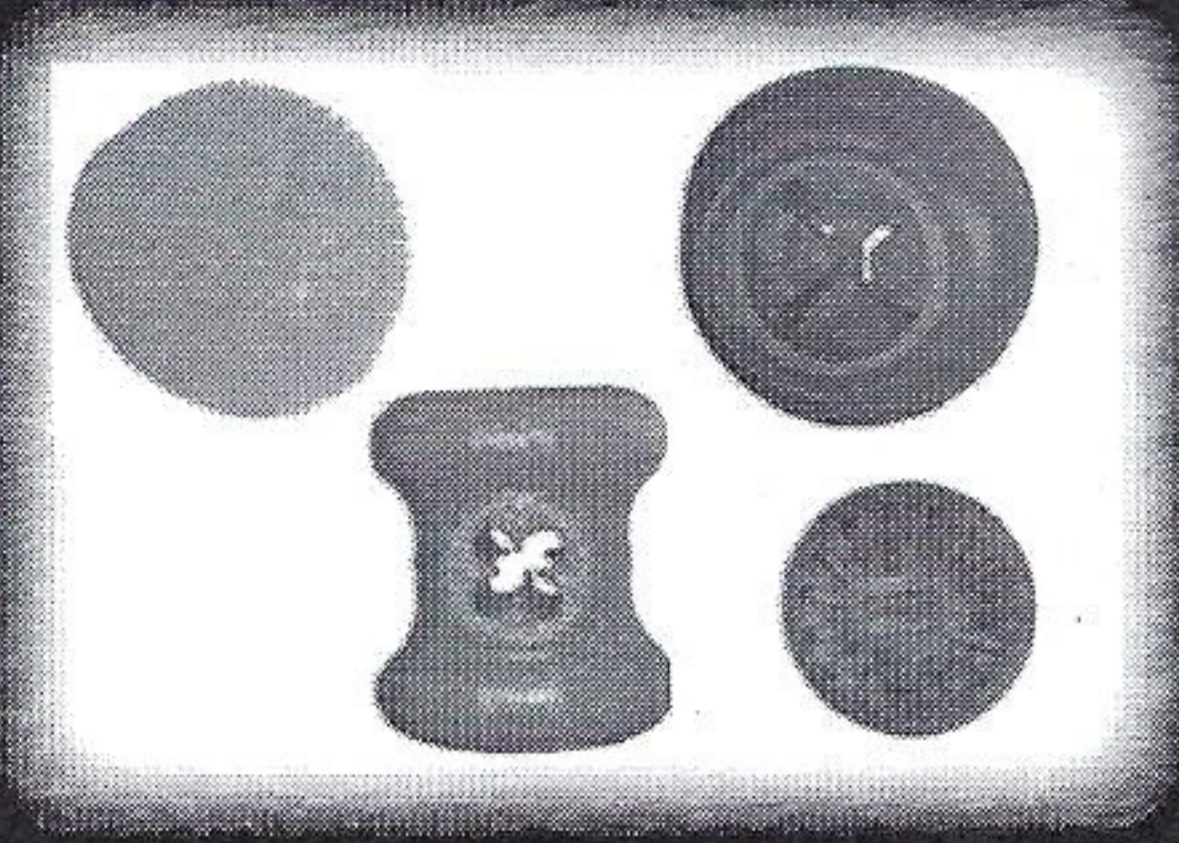
Mary Mazzeri is a founding member of the IACP. She has owner operated Care Dog Training since 1970. She's competed with 13 dogs of 6 different breeds to attain 36 titles in 3 Kennel Clubs. She loves educating dog owners. She is a member of NADOI, a lifetime member of CPAC and the IWCA. Mary enjoys singing, composing worship music and playing her guitar in her spare time.

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Puppies and Retrieving

by Martin Deeley, CDT

When I watch people fetch with their dog I always think how much fun it is for everyone and also what a great way it is not only to exercise your dog but also build a wonderful partnership and train with fun. I encourage natural retrieving with all dogs from a very early age and nothing amuses me more or gives me more enjoyment than playing with a pup of seven and eight weeks old and getting it to pick up a small retrieve object and willingly come back to me with it. Chasing, picking up and carrying should be a natural activity for dogs, although not all want to do it readily at the beginning. However by encouraging them at an early age and associating it with fun, retrieving can become a strong motivator and reward for most dogs. Through 'structured' and controlled retrieving and the real pleasure a dog can get from carrying **objects**, an owner has the opportunity to develop so many good habits, a strong relationship and even modify unwanted behavior. Once encouraged and seen as a reward by the pup, retrieving can lead to and support other fun dog games such as Frisbee, Obedience and Flyball. It can also help you to train your dog to do a variety of mind stretching tricks and games for the enjoyment and entertainment of both yourself and guests.

Retrieving looks so easy for a dog that enjoys doing it and has been trained to do so, but it is quite a complex task. The pup has got to want to work with you, it has to be stimulated by the movement of the object, it needs to watch the object being thrown and be able to see as far as you are throwing it, and judge where it falls. The pup has to run out to the object, and once it gets to the object pick it up and keep it in its mouth. It then has to return to you and finally give the object to you. If we then add other actions such as sitting and waiting calmly before being sent for the retrieve and again sitting when delivering nicely into your hand, it can be seen that retrieving is a series of small interlocking and sometimes complex tasks. In training we have to realize that we cannot get it all right at one time but need to work on very small changes and successes which will build up to the final complete exercise. Some dogs may not pick up the object, many may not

want to bring the retrieve back, and those that do often will not want to give it up to you. So watch each step and at each creatively think of ways of getting the final result you are looking for at that step while still maintaining the fun of the task and exercise being taught.

When I start playing with a young pup I have a preference for a knotted handkerchief or especially a 'parcel' of old smelly socks (they are particularly popular), "**anything**" which pup will want to pick up and carry can be used at first and it does not have to be specifically designed for the purpose. I really like using tennis balls once the pup is carrying a rolled up sock. Playing with a safe object which is interesting to him will make the pup realise that this is not only fun but pleases you. It is the start of a rewarding relationship. This retrieving 'toy' however is special in that it is only out when you are 'playing' with it and when not used for training, it is put away. At this stage I do not play retrieve with any other 'toys' unless the pup is having problems and I discover a toy (or something) the pup is particularly fond of carrying. Then that object becomes the 'special toy'. Some past forms of 'toy' - have been a squeaky plastic bear, an old slipper, a woolly hat, an old leather glove and even just a stick.

As I have already stated, some dogs are more interested in carrying than others, but **many owners do not take or recognize the opportunities available and choose to do nothing in the first few months of the pups life to even encourage their young pup to carry.** If anything they discourage because they are more intent on ensuring that the pup picks up nothing as this could be unsafe or cause damage to personal property. If pup picks up anything and carries it, encourage it to bring the object up to you and give it readily. Anything dangerous can then easily and safely be dealt with, should the need arise. Socks are one of the most popular objects, but why panic when pup has got one, its only a sock! Encourage pup up with it, take it slowly and gently and give it back to him for a few seconds while holding him, before taking it once more. If it is something which you don't want pup to have then put it

away where pup cannot get to it. Get the pup confident in coming to you with its 'prizes'. Socks and underwear are popular because they smell of the owner and are soft to carry. This really is a compliment from the pup, it is associating itself with its new partner - you. And the association in the pups mind should be that you 'smell' and taste friendly and comfortable. Don't chase, - walk away and encourage pup to follow, build confidence to come up and around you so that you can quietly crouch down, encourage pup up to you and take the object.

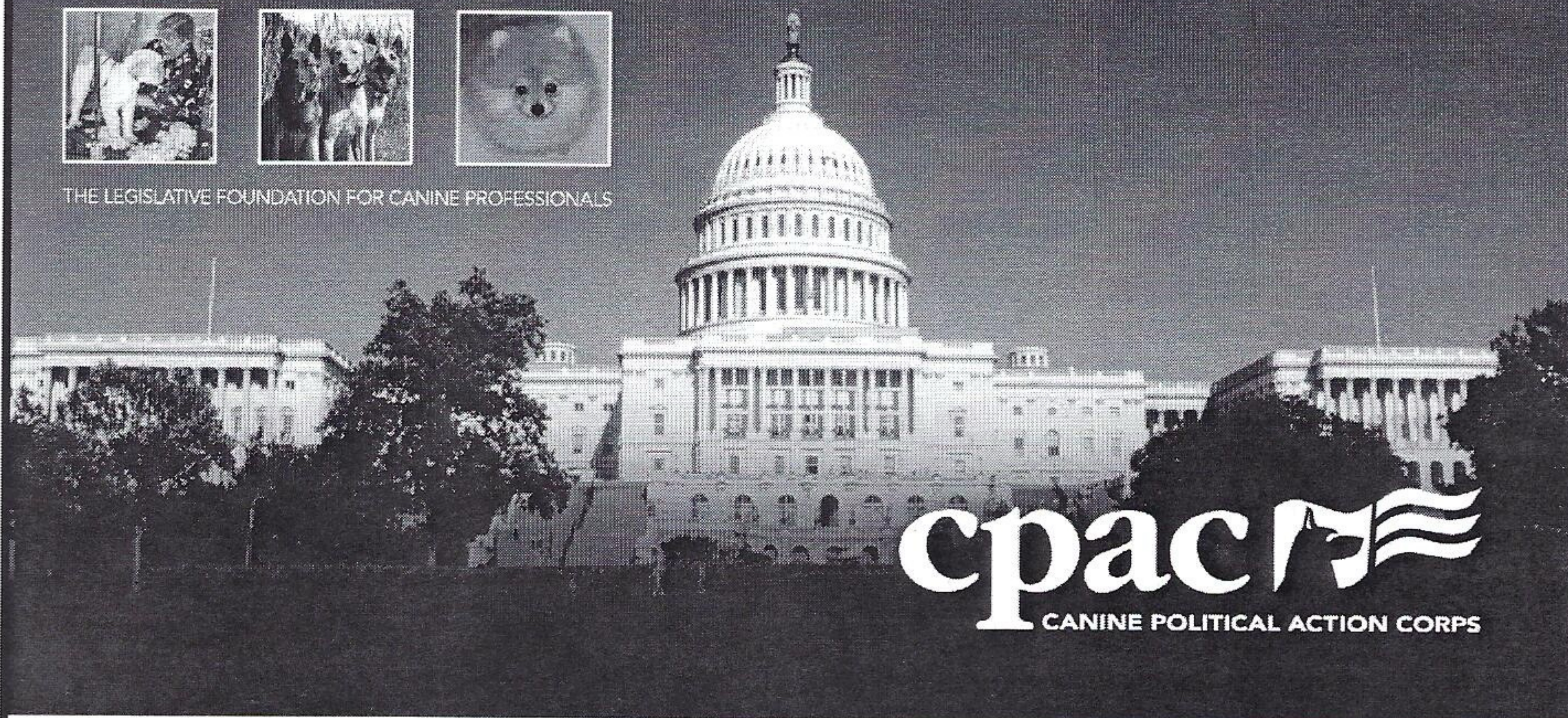
Initially to encourage the retrieving habit with a pup, sit on the floor - legs outstretched. With the pup between your legs tease it with the soft 'toy'. Let it hold the 'toy' and even take it but keep pup close to you during this play and gently take the 'toy' back for a few seconds before returning it to pup once more. In this way you are sharing a retrieve and the pup realizes that you are not going to steal this prize and becomes confident and happy to return right up into your hands and body. When pup is really interested throw it only a short distance, sometimes even a yard is too long. If

your legs are outstretched throw it just to where your feet are. Now pup picks it up and is guided back up to you with your legs. If it will pick up and parade around carrying the object for even a short time, you can praise and show how clever it is in your eyes. Encourage and wait for the pup to come up to your hands but do not reach for the pup or the 'toy'. With a reluctant returnee often having another 'toy' in your hand which you either bounce or throw in the air and catch can 'bait' pup back to you. Wait until pup is up against you and if you can just touch the pup and gently stroke down its back or under the chin on the chest, then do so. Stroking under the chin helps pup hold the object longer and lift his head. If pup walks away before you can work around to taking the 'toy', wait, encourage up and do again, this time just gently petting the pup and then holding him close so that you have control and can take the 'toy'. Praise calmly and quietly with your voice, enjoy the moment. **Do not chase or grab or take the 'toy' away immediately as this will create future problems** where the pup will keep away from you or encourage you to chase it.

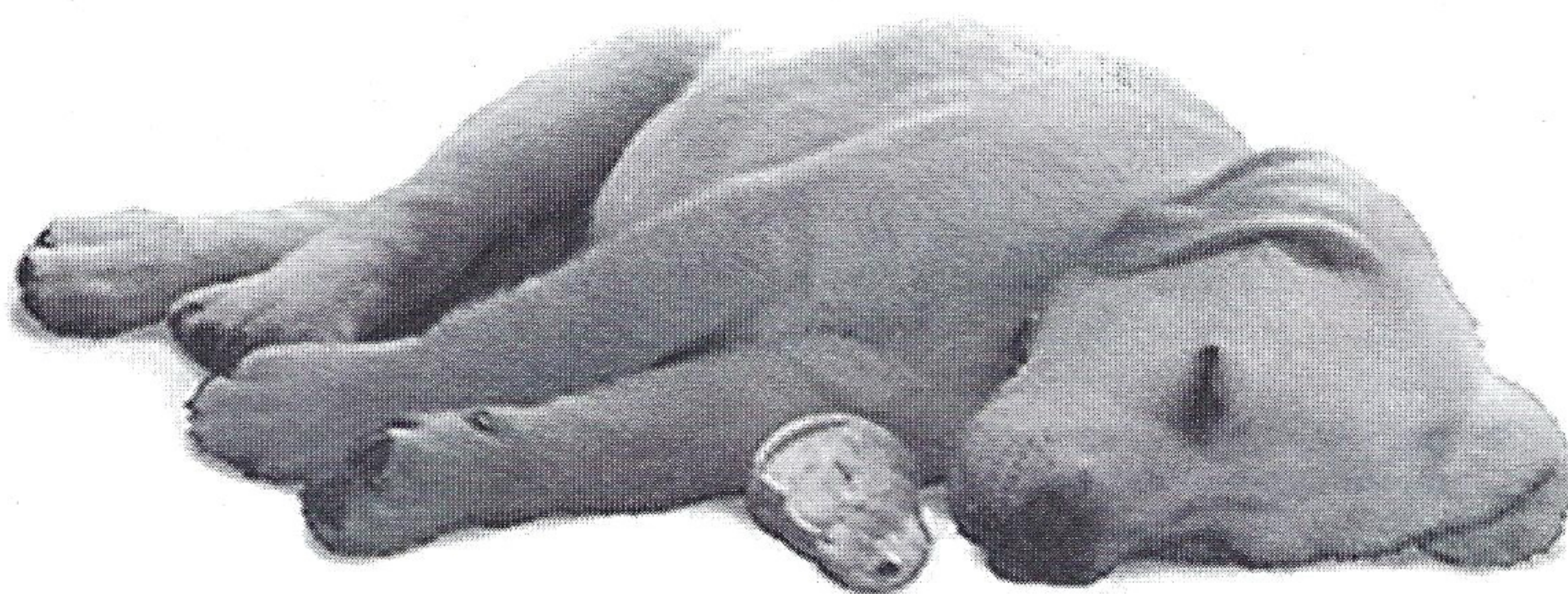
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Little tugs of war with a small object can encourage the pup to hold and carry, but be careful not to do this too much as the dog may refuse to let go when you need it to. I only do this with a dog that is not good at carrying and holding. Once pup is into your body and holding the 'toy', you can hold it close and praise it with your voice and hands and then **guide** the 'toy' out of its mouth. If pup is not willing to give it up gently squeeze behind the object with the palm of your hand under the dogs chin using the thumb on one side of the mouth and the index finger on the other, and pushing your finger and thumb **very gently** on the cheeks between the teeth. Take the object with your free hand giving the command "Drop". In these early days give the 'toy' back to the pup, while you are still cradling him against your body. Let it hold the toy for a short while and then take it again before throwing it once more. There is no need to rush, and no need to take the retrieve 'toy' immediately as the dog returns. Have patience (Boy, owners are the worst!), stay calm, unhurried, be gentle and quiet. Never loose your patience or try to do too much at any one time.

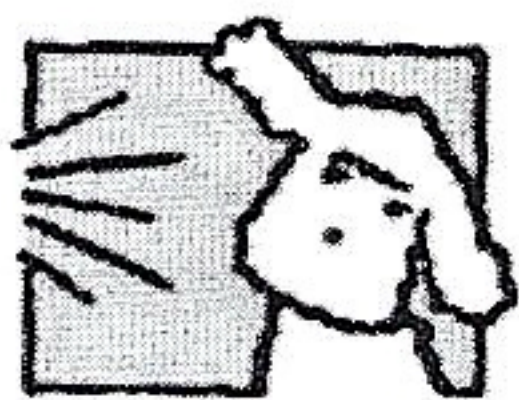
At this stage and throughout training with your dog judge what grade of retriever your pup is - is it a two

'Toy' retriever of a six 'Toy' retriever or how many? What I mean by this is that some dogs will get bored quickly, some will get over excited, some will loose their concentration. For instance, if after four retrieves pup begins to not retrieve or drop the toy or not bring it back then you should stop at four retrieves the next time, or even three and then build up as pup develops. Short sessions of training, three minutes here, five minutes there, ten minutes occasionally with good rest time in between and doing it when the pups brain is fresh, are the best. The training area should also be free of strong distractions and be familiar to the pup. Often using the same area in the beginning sessions is an advantage as pup quickly realizes and recognizes what is going to be done there and associates it with pleasure and, because of this, is confident working there. This form of training is by far the most effective with young pups - short spells of calm structured training, in a familiar environment with no distractions. Their brain is not able to concentrate or focus for long periods, so if you can make progress in a short time, stop while you are winning. Then the pup will remember, think about and be able to mentally build the next time on all the good work you have done together.

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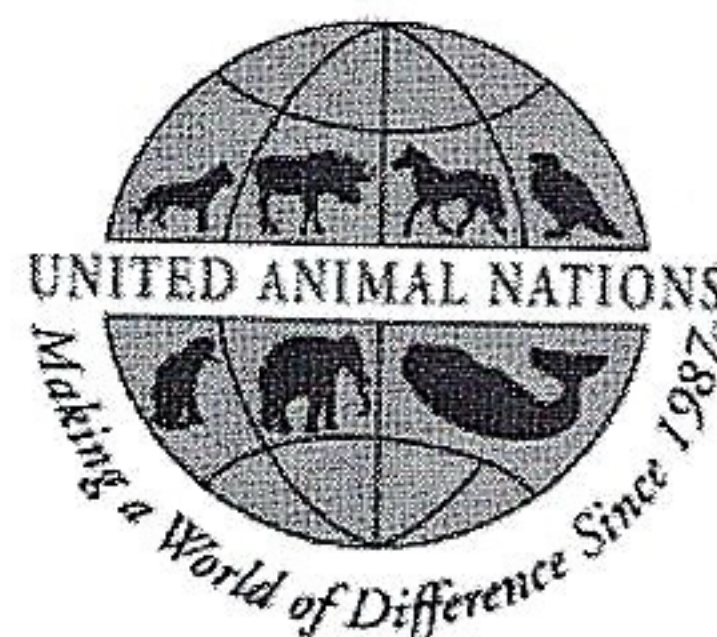
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In training your dog it is always good management to think through what you want to do and what you want to achieve. Try to put your pup in a position where it can do right and you can praise it rather than in a situation where it does things incorrectly and learns bad habits. So these early retrieves should be done in a restricted area. The narrow alley down the side of your yard or a hallway are ideal. Even the gap between a couch and the wall or a channel between two hedges will help guide pup back to you and avoid it 'escaping' and learning that it can get away from you with the 'prize'. To encourage a good retrieve right up to your body I have often found that a good place to get a puppy returning to, especially if it is carrying a 'prized possession' is its bed or place of security. With young pups I will often sit in their bed, on their bean bag or even in their kennel and play with retrieves there. Many times there are favored places that a dog will like to go to. The pup is much more likely to bring back a retrieve to this place than anywhere else. Once you have the pups confidence and the retrieving habit instilled you can move to new places gradually. Build up distance slowly only as the pup gains confidence in you and its own ability, and of course it's eyesight. By playing, encouraging and guiding a young pup to retrieve naturally from a very early age it is surprising how much the pup **sees this work as fun and a reward** to such an extent that *food treats are rarely required*. Retrieving as a reward in itself now begins to form a focus in the pup's training, helping to develop obedience, control and wonderful eye contact. In fact giving food treats can create problems if the pup becomes aware that you are giving a treat and begins to drop the retrieve to come in and get the treat.

Where pups are reluctant to retrieve or even just carry, try to look for the opportunities that present themselves whenever they may occur. Just holding a chew stick in your hand and letting the pup chew on it for say ten seconds, then taking it away, and giving it back helps create hand contact and familiarity with objects being taken away and returned. Sitting on the floor, throw the chew stick a *short distance* and then encourage it back to you for you to hold it once more. Once it is confident doing this, attach a rag to the chew stick and use the stick and rag together for the retrieve. Once the pup will bring chew stick and rag back to you, put the rag on a ball or other 'toy' and soon the progression to carrying anything is well under way. Although this may sound rather crude, I also put my scent on retrieve objects by spitting on them and rubbing the

spittle over them. Socks and underwear are popular with pup because they smell of you - therefore utilize this friendly smell to get pup wanting to carry other objects. The association in the pups mind can be used to your benefit.

A young pup needs time to develop the right actions, let alone physical and mental co-ordination so don't make an issue about retrieves which are not perfect or when you call the pup it may put down what it is carrying before returning to you. If it puts the 'toy' down, bump the toy a little distance with your foot or hand to make it interesting. Encourage the pup to 'fetch' the 'toy' once more and then praise and enthuse quietly as the pup picks it and comes to you. Sitting on the floor, getting down on your knees or into a crouching position will also encourage pup up to you. I've even laid down flat on my back or on all fours to encourage a pup up to me - if it works do it. Once you have created the enthusiasm then you can begin to stand more upright and throw retrieves increasing distances. Recognize with a pup that you are only at early play school not university, and pup needs time to learn what is required. Watch for situations where you can manage the actions of the pup, getting it to do exactly what you want and take the opportunity to praise. You will be surprised how quickly your pup can learn from these situations. **However lose your cool, put too much 'perfectionist' pressure on your dog, and do things which might frighten pup and you will not only be surprised how it learns this reaction from you, but also how it can remember this for the rest of it's life. Never punish pup while it is carrying an object in its mouth and never force a retrieve into its mouth if it drops it.**

Retrieving with a human partner is a complex sequence of tasks for a puppy but once you have got pup learning and enjoying it you can then begin to associate commands with this pleasurable activity. With time and patience, you can build on this basic puppy training to develop acceptance and obedience to commands, gradually increasing the difficulty of a retrieve so that you can develop the dog's skills and enjoyment of retrieving.

Martin Deeley is the Executive Director and founding member of IACP. He was named UK Gundog Trainer of the Year 2007 and is an award winning author. Martin can be visited on the web at MartinDeeley.com.

IACP



Leadership Program

by Marc Goldberg, CDT

This article is a handout created by the author, assembling a variety of tried and true techniques to assist clients in overcoming dog behavior problems. The author grants permission for any IACP member in good standing to reprint this article to give to their own clients. Please leave the author's biline and other information completely in place.

The Leadership Program is for people with dogs who rule the home and exhibit problem behaviors. This is a gentle and fair program designed to earn you more respect from your dog. If your dog is aggressive, please consult a professional dog trainer for solutions to specific problems. Aggression is dangerous and requires the services of a competent professional dog trainer. We would be please to assist you in the Chicagoland area. Otherwise, visit www.dogpro.org to find a local professional.

- ▶ Leadership is not about being harsh or unkind
- ▶ At first, Leadership may confuse your dog because it is new
- ▶ Before long, Leadership will make your dog happy
- ▶ Leaders make the rules: is that you or your dog?
- ▶ **Leadership is about controlling resources**

Resources are the "stuff of life," all the things your dog needs or wants.

We control resources for humans! So why not for dogs?

- ▶ If your two year old child wants to grab every candy bar off the shelf at the store, we do not permit her to do so. (*Controlling food.*)
- ▶ If your four year old child tries to run into the street, we stop him. (*Controlling space.*)
- ▶ If your eight year old child does not want to do homework, we insist that she does. (*Controlling time.*)

Here is a new word that will help you become a Leader, one who your dog not only loves but also re-

spects. The word is **NILIF**. It stands for:

Nothing

In

Life

Is

Free

Nothing is life is free? That's right. Nothing. Everything is the opposite of Nothing. For a period of time, we will control Everything. So what will we control for our dog? Resources! Before we define the term, remember that we control resources every day for our children. We do this as a *gift*, for their physical and psychological wellbeing. We can and must do the same for our dogs, at least those who exhibit symptoms of poor psychological adjustment.

Dogs who have clear Leadership from their owners are not unhappy, nervous, or aggressive. Deprived of Leadership, dogs may withhold affection from their owners at times, then *demand* affection at others. They may bark or growl at their owners, refuse to follow commands, or not permit grooming. In some cases, deprived of Leadership, dogs may bite their owners or others.

Dogs who growl at or bite their owners do so when they are afraid, or when they are attempting explain their rules to people who "just don't seem to listen."

If your dog bites you when you try to remove him from your bed, here is his message to you:

"This is my bed. I let you sleep here too, but it is my bed. You have no right to remove me from it. I have told you and told you by growling. Now I must show you by biting."

This is life in the Backwards Zone, where the dog is convinced that he owns the house and everything in it,

including the people. Yet, try as they might, most dogs do not make good Leaders. After all, they live in a confusing human world. To flip the situation around, you must employ good Leadership skills and NILIF. Before long, you will find your dog becoming more relaxed, more affectionate, more tolerant and much happier.

NILIF is about controlling resources.

Resources are:

- ▶ Food
- ▶ Water
- ▶ Toys
- ▶ Time
- ▶ Space
- ▶ Smells on the walk
- ▶ Affection

Your dog needs every one of these resources. If your dog, however, believes he gets all of these things because he was born a Special and Powerful puppy, into a home full of servants, he will appreciate none of them. So to

be perceived as a Leader, you must control resources, making it clear *that you are the fountain of all things good*, and that you are to be respected. Help your dog *earn* resources as *payment* for a job well done.

Here is how we control each resource.

Food: No more free feeding. Food is to be given at designated meal times only, not left on the floor all day. A very high percentage of problematic dogs are allowed to pick at food all day long. In nature, dogs must work hard to find food. The psychology of the dog depends on working for food. Feed your dog twice per day. Have him sit before you put the bowl down. Release him to the food. This is working for food. Remove what he doesn't eat within 10 minutes. Do not offer food again until the next meal time. Do this for the rest of your dog's life.

Treats, including bones, rawhide and pig's ears, are also a food resource. For the first two weeks of the NILIF program, do not feed treats. This will help your dog get on a regular meal schedule, and also shows you are no longer a servant. After two weeks, if you want to give your dog a treat, ask him to do a small series of jobs to earn it. Tell him to come, then sit. Use the treat as a reward, not as a bribe. (If your dog guards food or high value treats, consult your professional dog trainer for a special process to deal with food guarding behavior.)

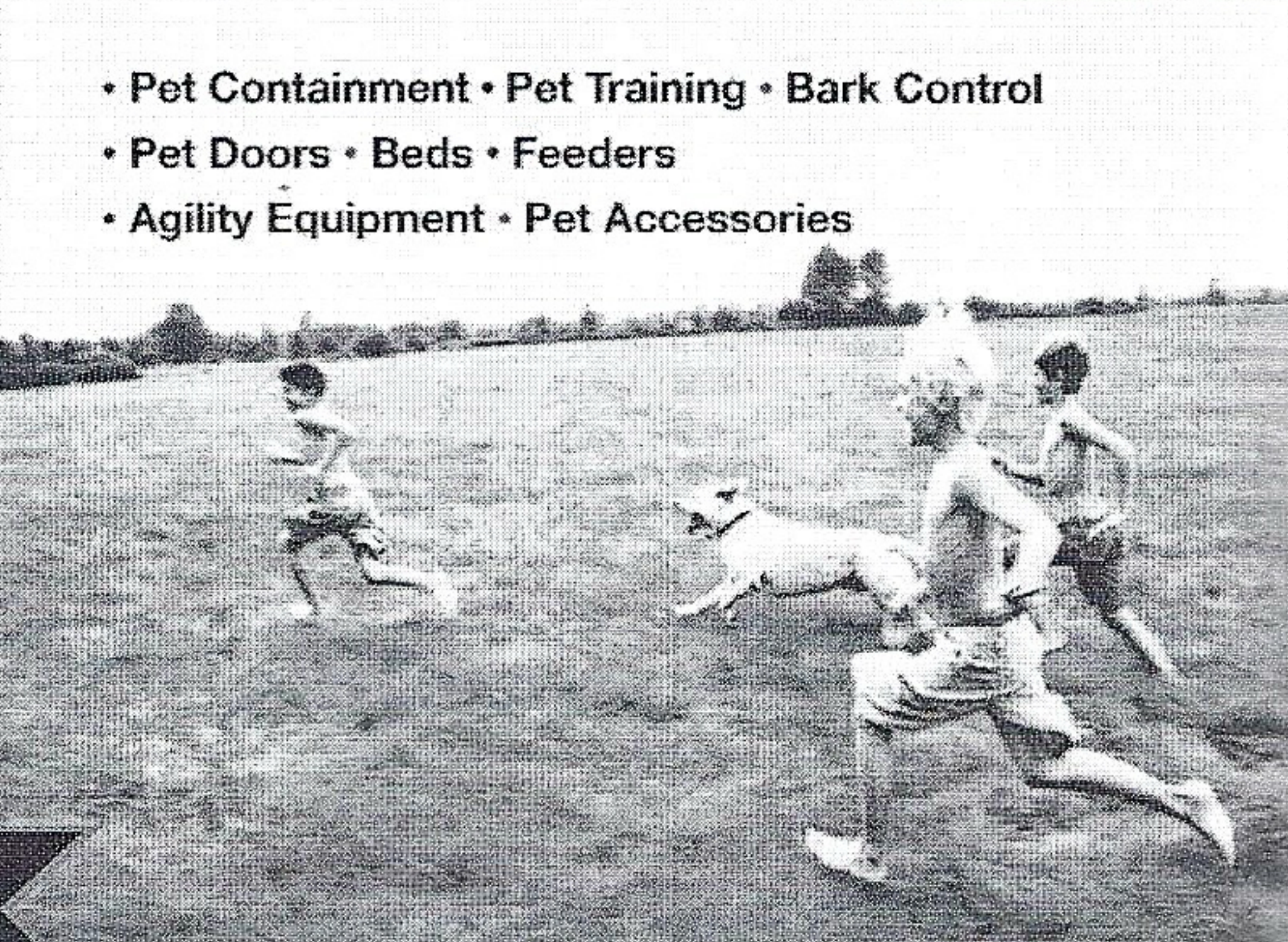
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Water: Dogs need frequent access to water, especially in hot weather, after exercise, or after eating dry food. Frequent access does not mean 24/7 access. When you're home, take up the water bowl. Offer it when your dog needs water. Sit your dog, put the water down, and release your dog to the bowl. If he doesn't want to drink, put the bowl away and try again a bit later. Do this for the next two weeks.

Toys: If you have toys all around the house, pick them up, put them in a box and put the box in a closet. When you think your dog would enjoy playing with a toy, *you* select one from the box and give it to your dog. Ask your dog to sit or down before giving the toy. Do not play tug of war with your dog for 30 days. (If he has bitten, never play tug of war with your dog again.)

Allow your dog to play with the toy, or play with him. Periodically remove the toy from the dog. Ask him to sit, and then give it back, or replace it with a different toy. When *you* decide playtime is over, once again, put away all the toys. Do this for the next 30 days. (If your dog guards toys or objects, consult your professional dog trainer for a special process to deal with guarding behavior.)

Time: *You* are the one who decides what you and your dog will do at any given moment. We make an exception for those times when your dogs asks to go outside for potty. However, do not respond to your dog's demands to do anything else specific. You set the timetable. For example, if you have decided that your dog should lay quietly by your side for a few moments, do not respond to his attempts to distract you from that goal. Merely place your dog on leash, hold the leash and gently prevent him from leaving the area, barking or soliciting play. Eventually, he will settle and lay down all on his own. This is

called tethering. Do this several times per day for five to ten minutes, and do it for 30 days.

Space: *You* get to decide where your dog will put his body. A very high percentage of dogs with problem behaviors sleep in their owner's bed. If your dog has bitten when on a human bed, your dog should never again be permitted on a bed, or even in your bedroom. Simply close the bedroom doors. If your dog has bitten, do this for life. Your dog should sleep in a room other than a bedroom. If your dog has not bitten, do this for the next 30 days.

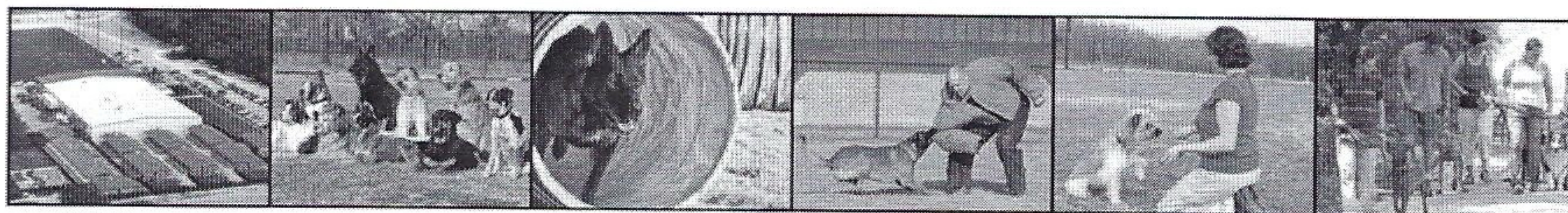
Getting up on furniture also sends the wrong message to dogs with problem behaviors. It tells them they are your equal, and that you are not the Leader. If your dog has bitten, then have him drag a 10 to 20 foot line in the home *when you are observing him* so he doesn't tangle and choke. If he should get up on furniture, do not say anything or even look at your dog. Simply take the end of the line, turn your back, and walk away from the furniture, impersonally removing your dog. Be persistent, and eventually your dog will learn to stay off furniture. If your dog has bitten, furniture is banned for life. If your dog has not bitten, do this for 30 days if you don't mind your dog on furniture. If you *do* mind, do this for life.

When walking through tight spaces, such as through doorways, *always* walk through *before* your dog. Simply use your body to block the openings until you have walked through first. If your dog has bitten when guarding space, consult your professional dog trainer for a solution before trying this approach. Do this for life.

Crate training is very healthy for the dog's state of mind. Dog's are born in calm, quiet space such as a whelping box. Instinctively, they can learn how to enjoy

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this private space. A dog who calmly permits you to crate him periodically respects your authority. To help your dog learn to enjoy the crate, never place him in it as punishment. Instead, toss a treat into the crate, and allow your dog to enjoy his treat in his very own master bedroom. Remember, the crate should not be placed in your bedroom. Your dog will learn to enjoy his space faster if you feed him his meals in the crate.

Smells on the walk: Sniffing interesting smells when on the walk is part of being a dog. But it is also a resource. When your dog stops to smell in the first few moments of the walk, keep going and deny your dog this resource. After your dog is walking attentively, grant this resource by allowing him the occasional stop to sniff. (If your dog exhibits aggression to dogs or people on the walk, or if he pulls uncontrollably, consult your professional dog trainer for solutions.) Do this for life.

Affection: This is the hardest resource for humans to control, yet it is one of the most important. The one who decides when you show affection to your dog will control the relationship. Affection can be defined as: talking to your dog, touching your dog, and giving eye contact to your dog.

Do not give affection when your dog demands it. Instead, help him earn your affection by doing a come, a sit or a down. Then use affection as a reward for a job well done. If your dog has not bitten, give only the skimpiest amount affection for two weeks. If your dog has bitten, consult your professional dog trainer for solutions, and give only the skimpiest affection, as *reward for a job well done only*, for 30 days.

Here is a secret known to all professional dog trainers: Dogs are easy; people are not. I will not spend a lot of time trying to convince you to use the Leadership Program. I will simply tell you that I train many dogs with problem behaviors. This program works for the vast majority of them. After a short period of confusion due to the changes, the dogs become far happier than they were before the program. That is because dogs do not want you to be their mother. They want you to be their Leader.

Give your dog the gift of Leadership, and you'll both be far happier.

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Top 10 Situations Requiring Veterinary Care!

by Thom Somes, "The Pet Safety Guy™"

As vital as knowing the skills and techniques of pet first aid & CPR, it is equally important to know when a situation is outside the scope of your skill level and when your situation requires veterinary care. According to the American Animal Hospital Association, one out of four pets would be saved if just ONE pet first aid technique was applied before getting them to veterinary care. Pet First Aid can be the initial actions one takes in the event of a medical emergency prior to getting veterinary treatment.

Following are the "Top 10 Situations Requiring Veterinary Care." Although it would be nice if we could make this like a David Letterman Top Ten List ending with most severe or funny, it is not to be. Each of the conditions listed below may quickly become a "life or death" situation and should be considered serious and must be responded to promptly.

1. Trauma to the head, chest and/or abdomen

Dogs and cats will initially try and mask their injuries from you and those around them for several reasons. First, by presenting injury they are showing weakness and they could move from being predator to being prey. Second, they will hide their injury so they don't lose their position in the hierarchy of their pack (you and other pets in the household). Trauma to the head, chest and/or abdominal area is most likely caused by falls, being hit by a car, or other forms of sudden blunt force. Although no outward signs of injury may be evident, the pet may be suffering from an internal injury. Internal injuries can be identified by our Snout-To-Tail Assessment but the severity of the injury is best diagnosed with lab tests such as x-rays, blood tests, sonograms, urine tests and a physical exam by a veterinarian.

2. Seizures if prolonged or for the very first time

Seizures can be caused by injury, drugs, poisoning or the pet may have an organic problem or disorder of the brain. Seizures are also referred to as convulsions, epilepsy or as a fit. If a pet has a history of having

seizures, then it is best to keep a diary as to the quality and character of those episodes. If you know what is a "normal" seizure for your pet, then you will know when they have one that is prolonged or different than what is "normal" for them. If a pet has a seizure for the very first time, then it is best to run the protocols that we teach for seizure and transport to the veterinarian as quickly and safely as possible. First time seizures are especially dangerous because they may be the beginning of a history of seizures or, most likely, they are caused by something external like poisoning or head trauma. Dogs are much more likely to have seizures than cats.

3. Arterial Bleeding

Squirting blood is never a good thing! Although the bleeding protocols we teach in our classes will be effective in the short term for the pet with arterial bleeding, this type of injury needs immediate veterinary care. Veterinary care can assist with supportive therapies for excessive blood loss, care of the wound (cleaning, stitching) that will assist with healing and reduce the risk of infection at the wound site and throughout the body. Bleeding of this magnitude can be accompanied by the next item on our list.

4. Fractures

Knowing the skills and techniques of restraint & muzzling, bleeding management, shock and immobilization of an injury are crucial in treating broken bones. Broken bones are usually caused by falls, being hit by a car and other sudden blunt force trauma. Pets will try to move away from danger even when they have a broken limb. This can cause further pain, suffering, increase the risk of disability, prolong the recovery time and make getting the pet quickly and safely to a veterinarian more difficult.

5. Poisoning

Poisons are any liquid, solid or gas that can harm or cause death when ingested, inhaled, absorbed or injected into your pet. Owner error; careless handling or storing

of potentially toxic substances is the number one cause of poisoning for pets. Dogs and cats are susceptible to poisoning by walking through insecticides, cleaning agents, antifreeze or petroleum products then licking their paws. Treatment for poisoning requires quick first aid treatment, identification of the suspected substance and prompt veterinarian care.

6. Shock

Shock can range from mild to severe resulting in collapse, coma and even death. Shock, by definition, is the lack of adequate oxygen to the cells of the pet's body. Shock can be caused by many things and usually accompanies many of the items listed here. In severe cases of shock, veterinarian care is vital for the survival of the pet. The risk for cats is more severe and will most likely need supportive therapy for shock because of their delicate metabolic system.

7. Respiratory Distress

A veterinarian should see any pet that has choked or has challenges breathing to the point where they are in distress. Injury to the airway can cause complications that are best diagnosed by your veterinarian. Choking on food, toys, bones and rawhides is the number one preventable cause of Respiratory Distress. Respiratory Distress can also be caused by allergic reactions, contagions in the air, smoke, fires, fumes and chemicals. Respiratory Distress can lead to the necessity of Rescue Breathing being administered. Respiratory Arrest can quickly lead to Cardiac Arrest, from which the survival rate is very low, even when CPR is performed.

8. Inability to walk

Any time a pet has difficulty walking, going up or down stairs or getting on or off furniture it is a warning sign that something is not right. This could be a sign of some neurological problem or internal injury or disease. As a general rule, if they have difficulty going down stairs, the problem is usually in the shoulder; if they have difficulty going up stairs, then the problem is probably in the hips.

9. Bloat (this was covered in the previous issue)

The medical term for bloat or torsion is Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus (GDV). GDV occurs primarily in large barrel-chested dogs i.e. Boxers, German Shepherds, Irish Setters, Great Danes and the like. Although the precise cause of GDV is still under research and discussion, the primary risk factor is breed, mixed with gulping food

and/or water or arduous exercise before/after eating. GDV can become life threatening in a very short time. Immediate medical intervention is necessary to relieve the pressure in the stomach or the pet will die.

10. Unconsciousness

Any time a pet goes unconscious or even regains consciousness, it is vital to get them to a veterinarian. There is something going on and that can best be identified with lab tests and a physical exam. Always be prepared for your pet to regain consciousness and possibly bite.

Paramount in all situations is rescuer safety! One of our Pet Tech mantra's is "Don't allow one accident to become two." What we mean by that is do not put yourself in a dangerous position and get hurt in trying to rescue or render aid to your pet. If you cannot safely get to your pet because of traffic or environmental conditions, then get assistance to help your pet. Unfortunately, you can't save every pet in every situation. In conclusion, you do the best you can and always "use your head, be careful with your hands because you have a heart." This is one list that I wish you and all your pets and clients stay off of!

Pet Tech, P.O. Box 2285, Carlsbad, California, 92018. Our phone number is (760) 930-0309 and our web site is www.PetTech.net. We now have available Pet Tech clothing for people and pets! Wearing one of our shirts that say, "Pet First Aid Trained" is an awesome conversation starter at the local dog park. Be sure to have business cards when wearing this shirt! Just go to our web site and click on the dog with the shirt on that says, "My Owner Know Mouth-To-Snout!"

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

IACP



Let the Dogs Do the Hard Part

by Chad Mackin

I remember when Oscar came to see me for an evaluation. His owner was concerned that he was a potential fear biter. He had not yet broken the skin, but he had nipped the vet, and had been increasingly aggressive in setting his boundaries around both people and dogs.

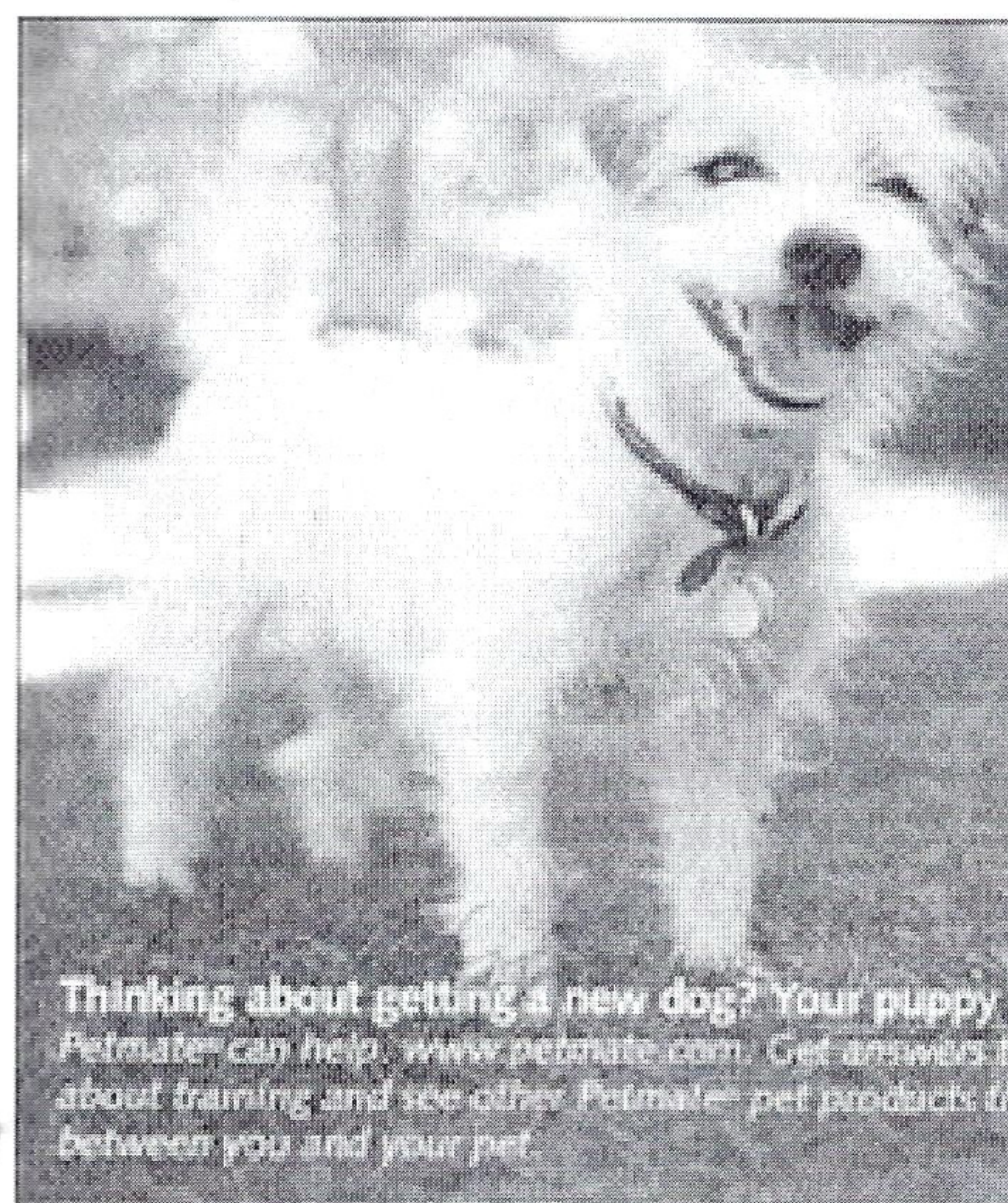
Oscar walked in and immediately started rapidly flashing what Turid Rugaas calls "Calming signals". They are often referred to as "cut off signals" in wolves. Neither name seems quite appropriate to me though both describe aspects of the behavior. These are body language cues that communicate a wide array of ideas, but all share the goal making an unpleasant situation better. The message may simply be, "I don't want any trouble today." Or it may be, "I can see that you are uncomfortable, I understand." The thing that is universal is that they always communicate goodwill.

Many people think that these behaviors are submissive. They are not. The fact is that dominant dogs offer these behaviors in what has every appearance of being a form of re-

assurance.

There are many lists compiled of these behaviors, but I find the most common ones are looking away, flashing the tongue, yawning, and moving in circles. Any of these things can mean other things, as with all language context is everything. Turid Rugaas' On Talking Terms With Dogs: Calming Signals is probably the most accessible definitive source for detailed descriptions.

I sat down and started answering each calming signal with one of my own while I asked his owner some questions. Whenever Oscar would flash his tongue, or avert his head, or yawn, I would slightly shift my gaze away from him for a second or two. The conversation was so subtle, my movement so slight, that Oscar's owner didn't notice any of it. However, within three minutes Oscar was lying on the floor less than two feet away from me. Relaxed and calm. He stayed that way as long as I didn't make any big movements. When I did move big he would sit up quickly,



**Sit.
Stay.
Kennel...
Fetch?
Roll over, please?
Okay, now what?**

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assess my intentions and slowly relax again.

I told his owner that Oscar was desperately trying to communicate and that he would do just about anything to avoid a confrontation. I told her that we had the solution for that problem and that it wouldn't cost her a cent. She was interested and agreed to bring him that night for a Pack to Basics™ socialization class. Unfortunately, on the way out, he got loose and charged across the parking lot after another dog. No blood, but a lot of nips.

She showed up that night for my Pack to Basics class. I was glad to see that. I hoped that she would have the faith in my judgment even after the incident in the parking lot. She did.

Pack to Basics is an advanced socialization program that is designed to *eliminate* all fear based forms of dog to dog aggression. It is designed specifically for the sorts of dogs that doggie day cares and other socialization classes refuse to take. The instructor interferes only when absolutely necessary for the safety of the dogs. Nips, snarls, growls, stand-overs, stare downs, and alpha rolls are all permitted in most contexts. Laying tooth to flesh with the intention to injure is not. In fact that is the only thing they are not allowed to do. Pack to Basics is about letting the natural conflict resolution capabilities of the dogs do what they were designed to do without human interference. Human interference is often a large part of the anti-social dog's problem.

Remove the humans, and lo and behold, you remove most of the problem. Of course it is not that simple. Running a Pack to Basics class successfully requires a good understanding of canine communication and movement. It also requires exceptional judgment. Not all dogs are permitted right away. Some need to be pre-trained. A balance between the number of dogs and the amount of unoccupied real estate needs to be maintained. Too little of either can mean disaster. The class is run entirely without leashes. Running a class like this should only be done by someone thoroughly skilled at reading dogs and understanding group dynamics. This is not a class to be taught by a hobbyist.

It is not a revolutionary idea, dogs have been doing it for centuries, but for many trainers it seems not only new, but dangerous and insane. Done right, it is neither. The foundation principles are simple.

To begin with, we must recognize that true dog-to-dog aggression hardly exists at all outside of the battle-bred dogs. What we describe as dog-to-dog aggression is typically the result of uncertainty, fear, or just plain bad manners, all of which are caused, at least in part, by limited or improper socialization. True dog-to-dog aggression looks very different from what we normally see and label as dog-to-dog aggression. Growling, snarling, snapping and raised hackles are all efforts to avoid a fight, not start one. True dog aggression does not start with a loading process: square, set and go. In fourteen years of training dogs full-

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time, I have seen only one dog that was truly dog aggressive. If you see it one time, you will never mistake the one for the other. These dogs are not suitable for a Pack to Basics class. But these dogs rarely are presented to professional dog trainers for rehabilitation.

The next thing we must recognize is that leashes make dogs more aggressive. When frightened dogs have three options: Fight, Flight or Freeze. For most dogs, flight is the preferred choice. However, when we put them on a leash we remove that option, leaving them if freeze and fight. Freezing only works for so long, when the threat isn't removed, or worse yet, gets closer, the dog is then left with only the option of fight.

Finally, we must understand that most dogs, like most people, just want to get through the day with as little conflict as possible. If they can avoid a fight, for the most part, they will.

What we provide in a Pack to Basics class is an opportunity for dogs to learn how to interact with other dogs properly. We allow them to set boundaries. In fact, we encourage it and when necessary, enforce their boundaries. They learn not only that they can say "no", but that other dogs, by and large, will respect those boundaries. Suddenly other dogs are not so scary or unpredictable.

The benefits go far beyond just improving their social skills though. Through the classes they learn bite inhibition, bite control, better language skill, better stress management skills and improved confidence. These things reach every aspect of the dog's life.

There are three elements required to safely run a Pack to Basics class. The first is adequate space. There must be enough room for any dog to retreat to a safe distance when he feels the need. How much space is needed is largely dictated by the personalities of the dogs in the class. Large Field Socialization discovered by David Klein of Spain is the predecessor or Pack to Basics, as the name implies it is done in a large field, on acreage. I was told by one of North America's leading promoters of Klein's system that it couldn't be done indoors or in a small area. He was wrong. I am doing both successfully and have been for years now. Of course some changes have had to be made. There is way to do this successfully and safely in a relatively small area. But the space needs to be watched closely.

The next thing that is necessary is an adequate number of dogs. We want to create a situation where there are so many dogs that it is difficult for the biter to choose who he wants to bite. He simply can't fight every one of them. When fighting fails as a response (because he is overwhelmed by potential adversaries) he must choose a different one.

The final critical element needed is a skilled referee. Without someone to keep things running smoothly this sort of thing would be quite dangerous. There is much more to it than just throwing a bunch of dogs together. It can't be said enough, "The success and safety of a Pack to Basics

Class is entirely dependent on the skill of the person running the class."

All that theory is nice, but does it work? Read on.

Within ten seconds of being released Oscar nipped at three different dogs. This is not all that uncommon. I wasn't concerned but I stayed close to Oscar to be sure. I didn't correct Oscar for his inappropriate behavior. His nips, while unpleasant were not dangerous. The other dogs didn't correct him either. They didn't feel the need to. What they did was refine their approach until he was willing to accept their presence. They recognized that he was uncomfortable and rather than taking his behavior as an insult, they sought to ease his concerns.

I watched as Oscar explored the subtlety of his own body language and as he began to understand respect the other dogs gave him. By the end of the session he was allowing other dogs to sniff him and was sniffing them. He ran towards one dog as if to solicit play, but then backed down at the last moment. He was ranging much further from his owner and staying away for longer periods of time.

Oscar was afraid of other dogs. He had learned to drive them away by acting aggressively. The rest of the dogs taught him he didn't have to do this. They respected his boundaries once he established them. Once he realized that a slight change in his head elevation or the angle of his shoulder would get other dogs to back off, he understood that they weren't a threat. He began to relax because he knew he could create space whenever he wanted to. He stopped shouting and began "talking".

He never showed the slightest irritation or fear towards any of the people there (they had been given strict instructions not to interact with him at all).

This sort of convergent conditioning isn't usually a quick fix, but sometimes, it is. At the end of class, Oscar was back on leash along with all the other dogs. He was calm and relaxed showing no signs of stress about the proximity of other dogs.

Oscar was not "fixed" yet, but he was capable of doing something he was not capable of doing the day before. Over the next few weeks, Oscar returned for class several times. Before long, he was playing with other dogs and helping the more frightened dogs find their way into the play groups. He was for all intents and purposes completely rehabilitated.

But it isn't my success... The dogs teach the class, I only referee.

Chad Mackin has been a professional dog trainer since 1993. He is the founder of the Pack to Basics™ program for reclaiming dog aggressive dogs. In addition to training dogs and writing articles, Chad spends a lot of his time helping other trainers start their own Pack to Basics courses, through email, telephone and workshops. Chad currently sits on the Board of Directors of the IACP. He lives and works in Webster TX.

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