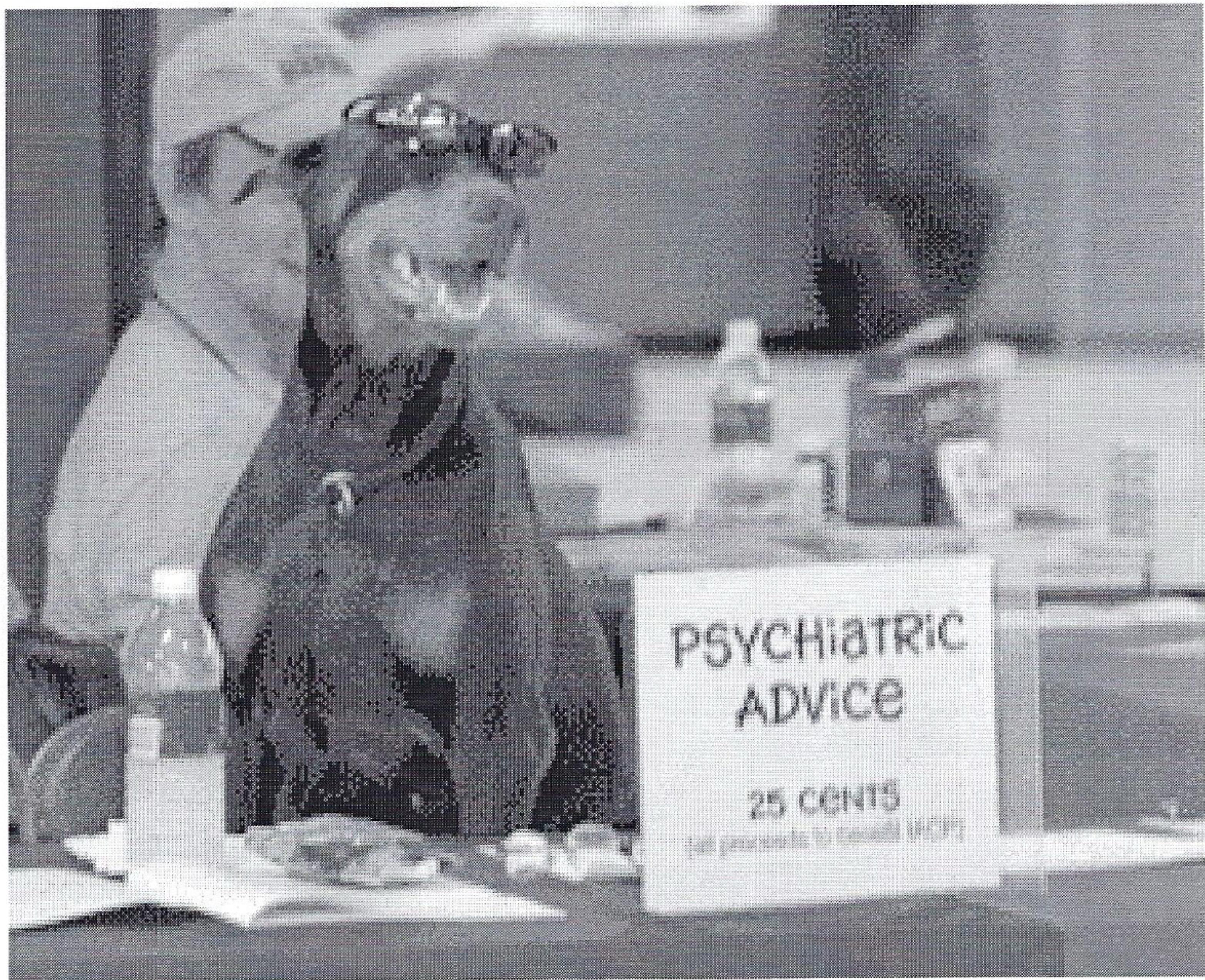


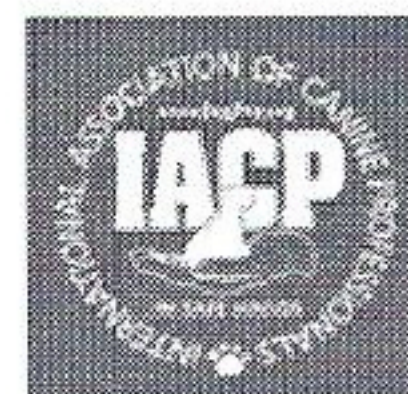
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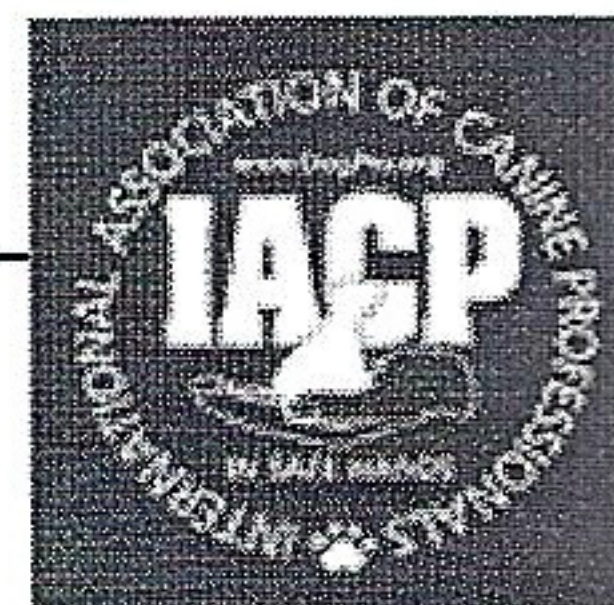


Sanity at Conference Photo by Janeen McMurtrie.

Safe Hands Journal



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Editor Marc Goldberg
Publisher Martin Deeley

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

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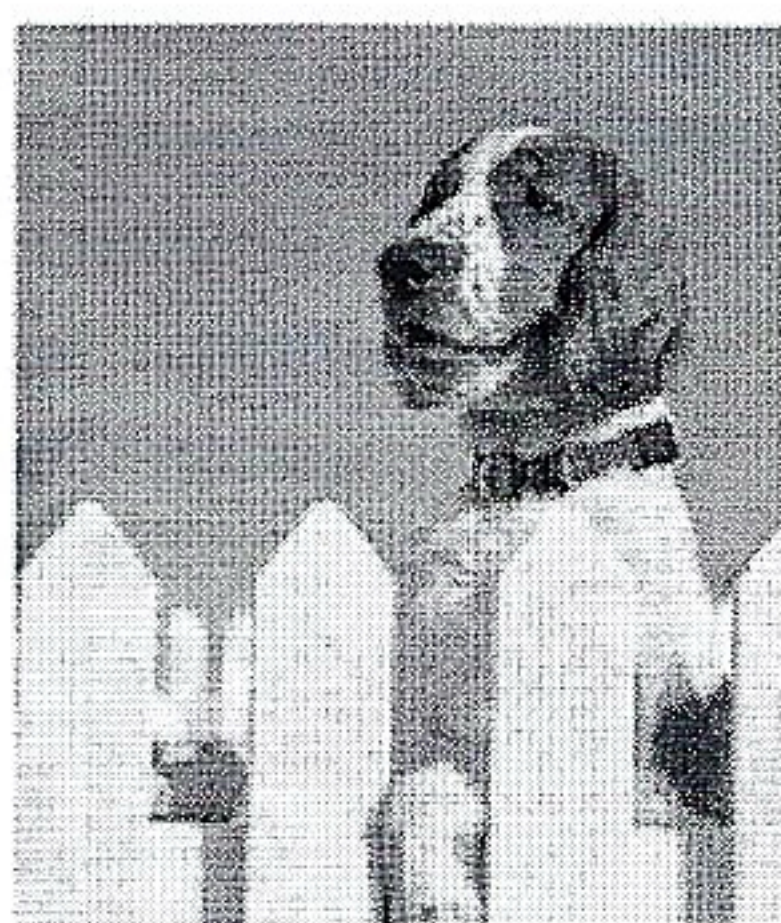
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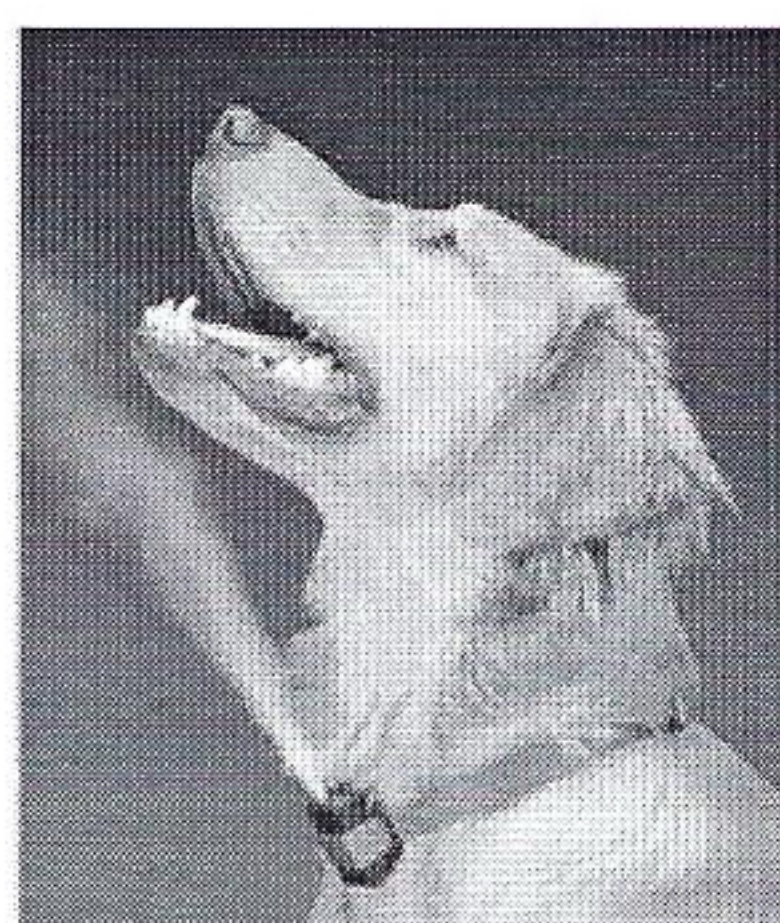
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From the President **It's a beautiful life**

by Marc Goldberg, CDT

There are very few photos which sum up a lifetime. Although they say a picture is worth a thousand words, a relationship is so complex, composed of so many little pieces that it is difficult for one picture to capture its essence. The picture on this page is of my dog Diablo and me. For me, this photo really shows the essence of our connection.

I am clearly happy in this picture. My dog is close, he's licking my face, and yet, I'm distracted by my obligation to look at the photographer. But look at Diablo. He is focused on only one thing...me. He is not distracted by the photographer. He feels no obligation to attend anything in this moment other than me.

That was one beautiful dog.

Diablo was not the smartest dog I have ever owned, nor was he the least intelligent. However, he was among the most devoted, the most "good" and one of the closest to my heart.

During our time together, he unexpectedly saved my life. Then I saved his. The only thing harder than letting him go would have been not letting him go when it was time. Diablo taught me a lot about what is important in life. He never met a person who was not his friend. His basic assumption was that all peo-

ple and all dogs are friends unless and until they prove themselves otherwise. He was rarely disappointed.

I only hope I can be as good as him, to always see the best in people, to always find some pleasure in any job I must do, just as Diablo enjoyed training, as though the process was far more important than the results.

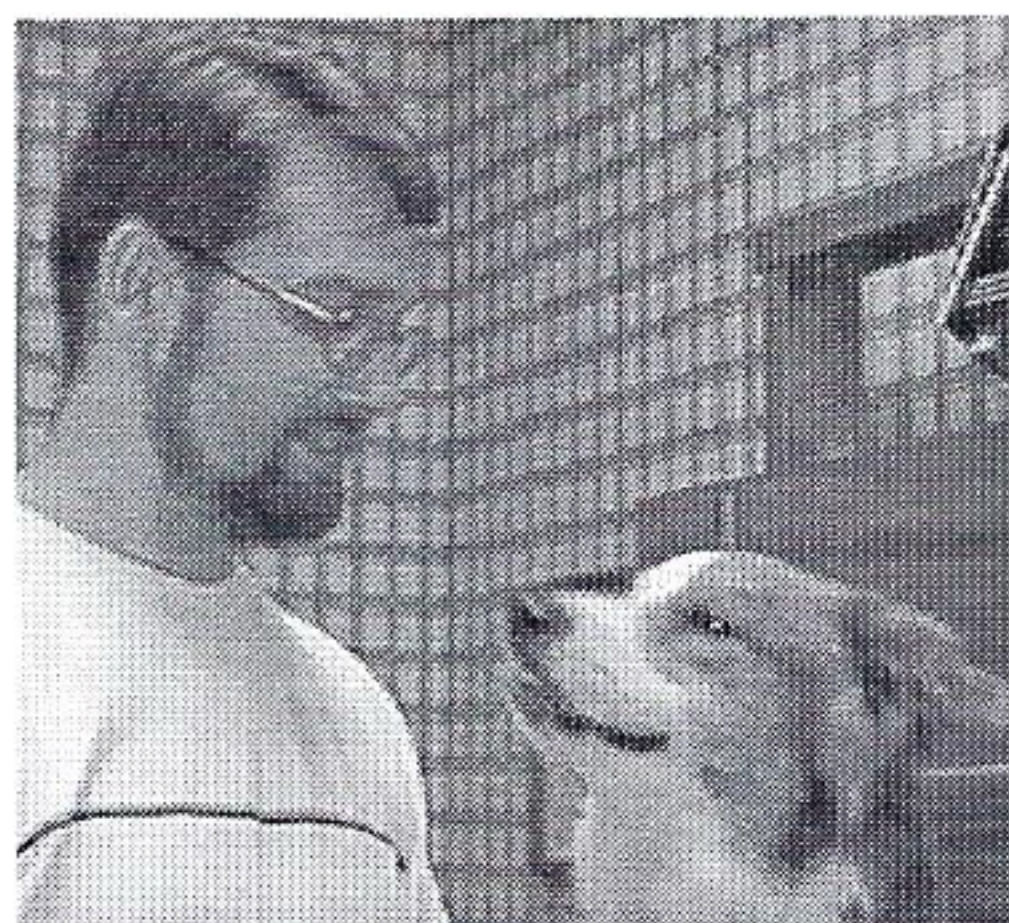
I took the job of IACP president when Cyndy Douan decided not to finish her latest term. I only hope that I can be as good as Cyndy during the time I babysit this job.

Take a moment to enjoy your dog. I know that I'm looking at Tippy and Scooter in a new way, as dogs with whom I'm sharing this process called Life, realizing that we're lucky to have one another even though we may occasionally have differences in terms of what we want from one another.

We had a terrific conference in Hutto. The weather was relatively temperate, the workshops were fantastic and the company was even better. The work that goes into pulling off a conference is extraordinary. But the memories last a lifetime. And as I'm learning, beautiful memories make for a beautiful life.

Marc Goldberg





After the Bite...

...what comes next?

by Chad Mackin

You are standing in middle of a public park, or a client's living room, or at your own training facility and you are bleeding... a lot.

You have just been bitten by a client's dog. What happens next? What do you do? What do you do with the dog? What do you say to the client? How do you handle your class? How do you handle yourself? It's a situation no trainer looks forward to and is one which we rarely plan for. The moment after you have been bitten is not the moment to formulate your plan. If you want to emerge looking like a professional, you had better have some idea in your mind of how to respond.

If you have never been bitten, there are some things you need to know. First, dog bites hurt. They hurt really bad. Even a relatively minor one can be painful. Dog teeth while pointed are actually pretty dull. Unlike most predators, whose teeth are designed for deep penetration, dog teeth are designed to grip and hold. So instead of effortlessly cutting through the skin, a dog's tooth bludgeons its way through. There is impact damage.

Next there are the actual punctures if one of the upper canines finds purchase in your flesh. Puncture wounds are dangerous because they are hard to clean. All the bacteria that was on your skin at the moment of impact will be pushed deep into your tissues by the penetrating tooth. To make matters worse, puncture wounds typically don't bleed fast, they bleed a lot, but they don't flow. Which means the blood won't be helping to push the bacteria away and flush it out.

Finally, there is the saliva. Saliva contains a digestive enzyme and is designed to begin breaking down food (protein) before it gets to the stomach. After a bite, you get a mess of that stuff under your skin, breaking down the proteins in your tissues. The net result? It hurts. It is not unbearable, but it is best not to be caught off guard.

The next thing that you may not be aware is that a bite

is a psychologically volatile event. When you get bit, you are being assaulted. It is a violent crime and unless you are mentally prepared for it, it will bring up all the same feelings of insecurity and confusion that an mugging might stir. In the moment, it will be very difficult to look for your own mistakes, to understand if the bite was "provoked" (which is was by the way, but more on that later). In the moment all you will know is that this creature, man's so-called best friend, just tore into your flesh with the intent to cause damage.

Dogs are predators and they are capable of doing damage and they WILL do so under the right conditions. Even if the bite is minor, you will (hopefully) get a sense of how strong even toy dog's jaws are, and how powerful they are pound for pound. Dogs will never again be just cute and cuddly. The very real and profound potential for injury will never again be an abstract; it will be a reality. For good or for ill, the first significant bite will change the way you see dogs from that point forward.

So the instant after the dog sinks his teeth into your skin, you will be faced with two enormous pieces of information. One is pain. The second is comprehension of the predatory nature of our close companions. Dogs are, at heart, killers, and this fact will never seem more clear, more immediate, more important then when you stand in shock looking at damage Fido just did.

If the damage is bad enough, your body will go into shock. Shock is your body's way of telling you "You really don't want to know what's going on down here!"

As you may well imagine, this is not the time to formulate a plan to handle the situation. That needs to be done well ahead of time. So let's begin.

If you travel to homes or parks or any other remote location, carry a first-aid kit with you. In addition to the items normally included in such kits, you should be sure to have an antiseptic scrub. Surgical scrub works fine,

and you may be able to get some from your vet. Antibiotic creams and salves are not going to be of much help when it comes to cleaning puncture wounds. You will need something more like a liquid to get deep inside the wound. Include gauze and bandages.

Hopefully, you will never need to use any of these things but if you do, it will be valuable to have them handy. Keep the first-aid kit in your car rather than in a bag you take into the client's house. Sure it would be easier to get to in the house with your other stuff, but if it is there, you miss an opportunity to compose yourself. If your kit is in your car, you can excuse yourself to go get it out of the car. This will give you the chance to compose yourself. Do whatever you have to do to deal with the pain, frustration, anger, fear, helplessness, or whatever else you feel in relative privacy. Of course some owners will insist on traveling with you, but if you can get away for a few moments, this would be the way to do it.

I am not going to what to do during the bite because it is too varied a topic to be handled in this little offering. But you should be working everyday to understand the mechanics and body language of a dog bite. You should be able to understand the difference between an attack and bite, as well as a bite and a snap, as well as a snap and startle/pain reaction. In other words, whether or not you deal with aggressive dogs, be able to read an aggressive dog because you will eventually meet one.

That said, I will offer one piece of advice for these situations. I offer it on the condition that the reader understands that it is not inviolable and dogmatic. "More often than not, the most useful thing you can do when a dog gets a hold of your flesh is to freeze." Don't move beyond breathing and most of the time, the dog will let go. Most of the time. When in doubt freeze. Odds are it will be the right thing to do. If you want more than that, you need to be able to read the situation and react accordingly as the situation changes. You must be able to have a conversation with the dog while he is hanging on to your flesh. If you can't do that, then freeze and shut up. Don't scream, don't yell, don't hit the dog, and for mercy's sake, don't pull away! Just stay motionless and silent and endure. It won't always work, but it will more often than not.

Next is our after bite protocol. *After the dog bites you have three immediate concerns: the dog, yourself, and your clients in that order.* Before you assess the damage to yourself, your first responsibility is to assess the ongoing

threat level the dog presents both to you and to anyone else who might be in the area. Once again I will defer the training discussion about what to do training wise, after the bite for another time. Yes, many trainers believe the dog must suffer immediate consequences for the assault. But that is only sometimes true.

There are two reasons that I am not addressing this problem from a training standpoint. The first is that what I would do in any situation depends entirely on what I was reading from the dog. All bites are different. Learn to read dog and those determinations will be much easier to make.

The second reason is that I have no idea what injuries the victim of the bite might sustain. If the trainer has lost a finger or two, she may not be capable of doing anything training wise and elevating the heart rate and blood pressure by further tangling with the dog will only make her bleed faster. Sometimes it is better to live to train another day.

So the first thing you must do is secure the dog. Ideally this would mean crating him, but that is not always necessary. Most bites happen and they are over. Once the dog walks away, he is done with it, and unless we push the issue, he will be happy to let it remain that way. However, if the dog is still hovering and growling, something else may need to be done. For safety's sake, this may mean simply getting everyone away from the dog. Once again, I know that this may set the teeth of some grinding, but I am not necessarily writing for those who are experienced with aggressive dogs, most of us who are, won't need to read this. Yes, it may be true that by getting everyone away we are reinforcing the biting behavior, but safety must come before training ... period.

Once the threat of the dog is removed, the trainer should then try to assess his injuries. How severe is the bite? My rule of thumb is "When in doubt, seek medical attention." For the most part, a bite and release situation, while painful, is not immediately life threatening. I would still recommend getting medical attention as soon as is reasonably possible, if for no other reason than to receive antibiotics. Also, depending on the size of the dog, there may be some broken or chipped bones which can cause real problems down the line if they aren't dealt with quickly. If the dog grabs and shakes, then it is almost a certainty that you will need more skilled medical attention.

Whatever the case, if there is broken skin, it is wise to



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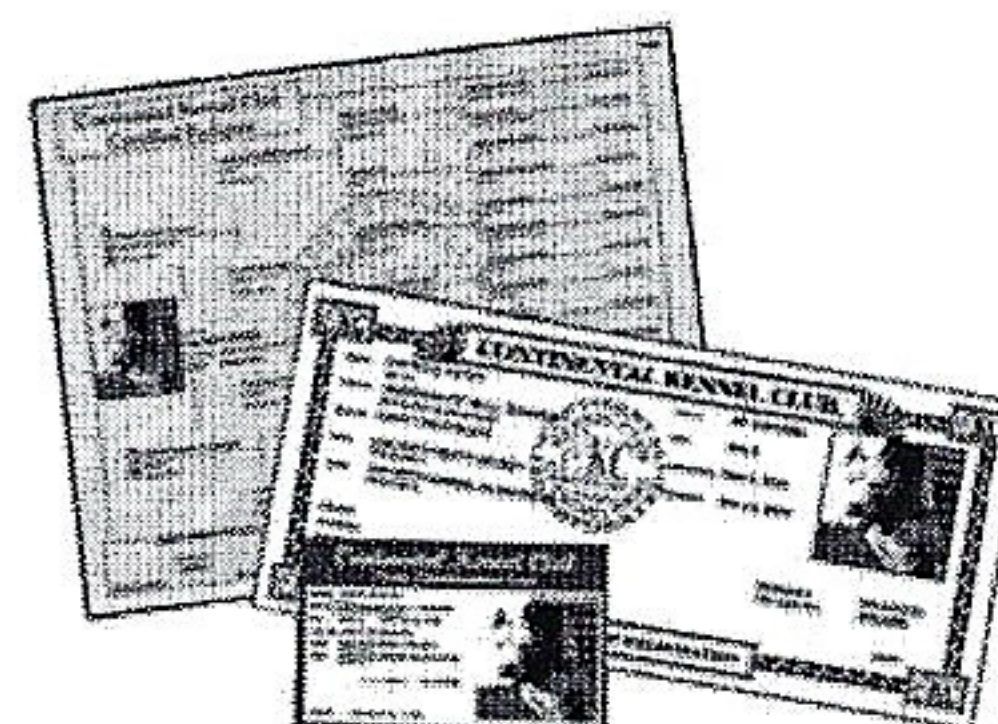
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thoroughly clean the bite area right away. In the case of a puncture that means getting your antiseptic scrub deep in the wound and flushing it with water. Scrub the outside and as deep into the wound as you can get thoroughly for at least five minutes. It will be painful, but in the long run much better than an infection. For surface wounds, rips and tears, one should still be thorough, but the scrubbing will be less painful and the risk of infection is significantly less.

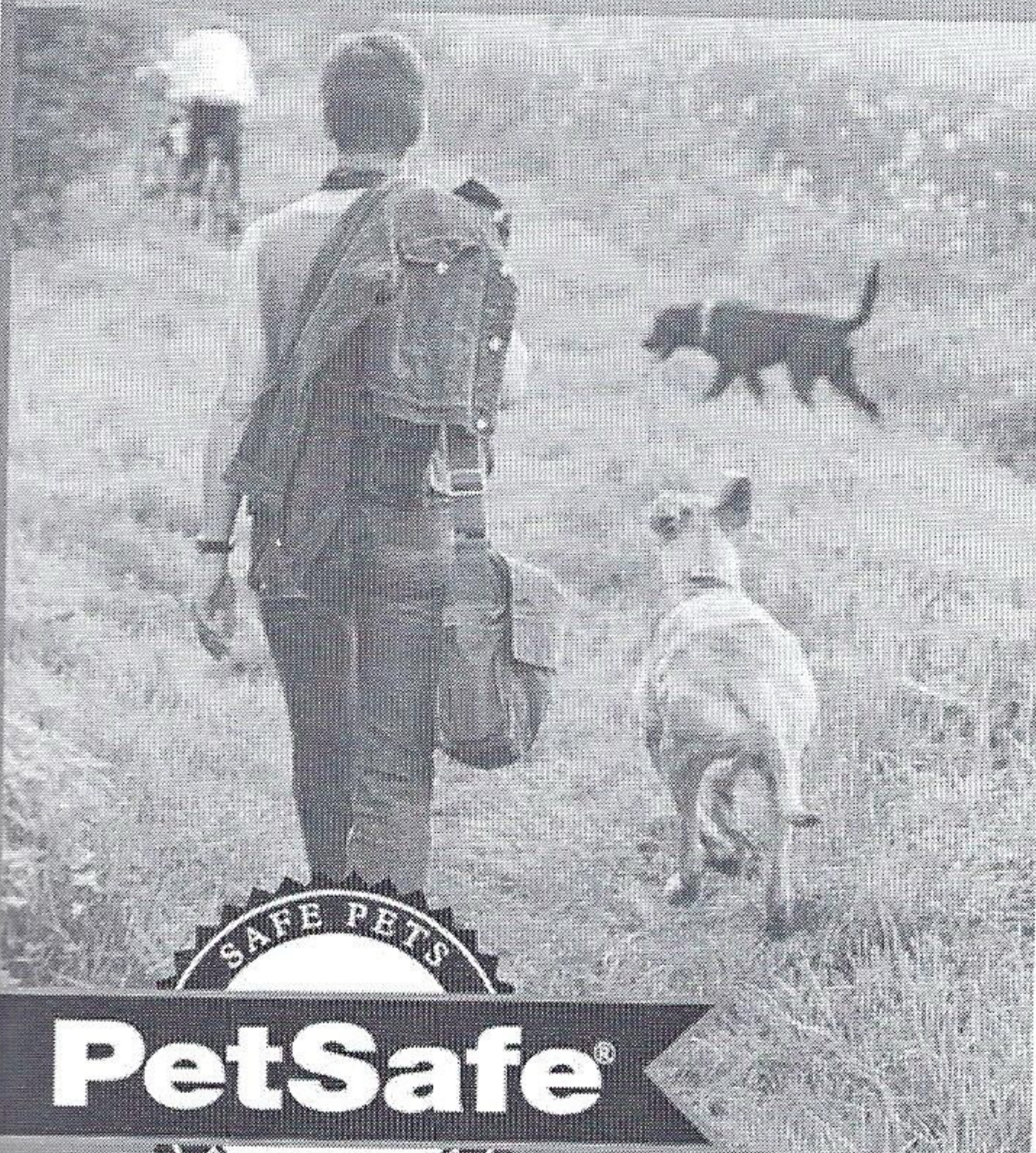
I will leave it to the individual to assess their own injury level. I am in no way qualified to write a medical treatise on wound assessment. I will leave that to more educated folks. I will say this though. Dog bites are nothing to play with, shock is a sneaky fellow and you rarely know that you are in shock. If you are uncertain get someone else to drive you to the nearest medical facility.

Now that the dog is secure and your wounds have been assessed, you need to turn your attention to you clients.

You should have remained calm and in control until this point, if you have not, now is the time to concentrate on presenting them with clear and strong leadership. If the bite is very serious you should explain that the dog should be ignored for at least an hour and that you will contact them either later that day, or the next about continuing the dog's training. If the bite is not serious, have that conversation right then and there.

Before you begin the discussion, we must establish a few facts. First you must understand before you say a word to the client about the dog is that it is your fault you got bit. "Wait a minute! What about a case where....?" Yup, your fault. No exceptions. None. You got bit because you missed something, you pushed when you should have backed away, you missed or ignored warning signs, you failed to establish adequate safety protocols, you forgot that every single dog is a bite threat, you trusted the owner's assessment rather than reading the dog, or you just weren't capable of reading that particular dog accurately.

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Regardless, you are the only one responsible for ensuring your safety when working with a dog. No one else. I don't care if the owner lied to you, I don't care if they signed 150 documents stating in 150 ways that the dog has never put tooth to a human being, it is still your fault you got bit. It is not the dog's fault, it is not the owner's fault, it is not your equipment's fault, it is not your assistant's fault. The buck stops with you. Understanding that right away will save you a lot of hardship in the future.

I have heard of dog trainers suing their clients because they got bit in the line of duty. This, to me, is one of the most unprofessional and myopic things I have ever heard of. Not only does it say "I can't be expected to handle aggressive dogs." But it also says "If you call a dog trainer for your aggressive dog, you might end up with nothing more but another bite on your dog's record and a lawsuit on your hands." Simply put, that sort of behavior discourages dog owners from seeking help with their dangerous dogs. Even if the owner lies to you, you should be savvy enough to read the situation and recognize the warning signs of an imminent bite. No one is perfect however. I work with a lot of biting dogs and I could fill volumes with examples of the times I have misread the situation and put myself and or others in danger. Thankfully, I have nearly always been able to get control of and diffuse the situation without injury. But every dog bite I have sustained has been entirely my fault. It is just plain wrong to blame the dog's owner. So before you begin the conversation with the owner,

keep that in mind. Your first concern is dealing with their fears and frustrations. It can be very tempting to recommend euthanasia right then and there, especially if you, as trainer, have no clear plan at the moment for proceeding. The moment after you get bit is the wrong time to make such an important decision. Everyone will be emotionally charged and raw. Such decisions should be made with a clear head.

It is important in these moments to calm the immediate fears of the dog's owner, let them off the hook because you can bet that they are feeling guilty about their dog's behavior, they may also be embarrassed by it. They should feel neither. They sought professional help because they had a problem, they did the right thing and they need to know that. They also need to know that you won't be holding them financially responsible for your injuries. I wouldn't make a big deal of it, but it should be mentioned that this is an occupational hazard and you assumed that risk when you walked in their door. Above all, do not show anger towards them or the dog. This may be hard because you will likely be very angry, but you are supposed to be a professional.

The key to professionalism at this point is to be calm and in control of yourself and the situation. Act rationally and reasonably. There is nothing wrong with admitting that you aren't sure how to proceed with the dog and that you need some time to think. Of course it is better if you can present the dog's owners with a clear plan for the future but it isn't necessary. Best case scenario, you can

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tell the owner's exactly why the lesson went bad and how you intend to fix it, but if you can't, admit that, explain that you will be consulting with colleagues and you will have a plan, or a referral for them in a few days.

The client will be feeling a lot of conflicting emotions at this time, and part of your job is to keep them as close to rational as you can. Remember this is your area of expertise, not theirs. You are their guide through this dangerous situation and they must have faith in you. Your behavior, will determine whether this faith is strengthened or destroyed in the moments following the bite. It may be that their faith is shaken when you get bit, that is understandable, but your professionalism can turn that shaken faith into rock-solid confidence. Remember that professionalism isn't about never making mistakes, we all make them, get over that fear now. Professionalism is about how we handle mistakes.

So be resolute. Even if your resolution is to not make any determinations right then and there. Simply reassure the owner that the dog is no more dangerous than when you arrived and that your opinion about the dog's trainability has not changed. Admit (if necessary) that you may be in over your head, and that you may need to refer them to someone else, but you will take a day or two to do some consulting and will get back to them. If they ask for a euthanasia answer, I would refuse to make a recommendation at that moment. If you decide in a few days that this is truly the best solution, then by all means be honest with them, but as I said before, the moment after you get bit isn't the time to make that determination. That will come later.

The first few minutes after the bite will be critical for everyone involved. The safety and emotional well-being of all parties will ultimately be in your hands, and there won't be much time to make decisions. Consider that you will have to accomplish all of the above in less time than it has taken you to read this article. I hope that you will never have to need your plan, but if you ever do, you will be glad you took the time to think about these things before hand.

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.

iACP

Midnight Blue

© 2008 Maryna Ozzina

*The ground, blue pearl,
the dogs, like wave shadows,
lapping the arroyo's shore.
By moonlight, all is liquid,
ground, dogs, sky, mountains,
shades of luna blue,
the whole world muted,
softened by moon's blue cream,
a feel, neither velvet, nor silk,
but textured, tangible.
Somewhere, there are wines like this,
that drape the palette,
sides, back, top,
the finish, round and clean.
These are nights of blue wine,
the mesquites etched midnight,
like that ink, so close to black
we thought the teachers wouldn't know.
We felt elusive, and daring.
I feel elusive and daring again,
as I walk this familiar curl of trail
in night's shimmering embrace,
dogs ahead in a v,
the world hunkering down softly,
like a dog going to pillow,
round and round,
then with a sigh,
bones soften and collapse.
The earth by moonlight does the same.
The mountains sigh and nestle in,
their snow capped visage
draped with silken scarves
of fleeting white clouds,
casually placed,
a Parisian's nonchalant, insouciant chic.
Winter's blue runway,
the dogs and I,
and light, like blue wine,
lapping at my cheeks and toes.*



To Pack or not to Pack!

Why all the fuss over the nature of dogs?

by Marc Goldberg, CDT

What's all the fuss about the social nature of man's best friend? Dogs are not solitary hunters, drawn together only during the mating process. Unlike canines, tigers are solo hunters. They protect their territory from others of their own kind and join up temporarily to breed. African Wild Dogs, on the other hand migrate, hunt and live their entire lives within the structured group environment of the pack.

Canis lupus familiaris is the technical name for our beloved domestic dog. He is not an African Wild Dog. Nor is he a wolf any longer. However, he is a subspecies

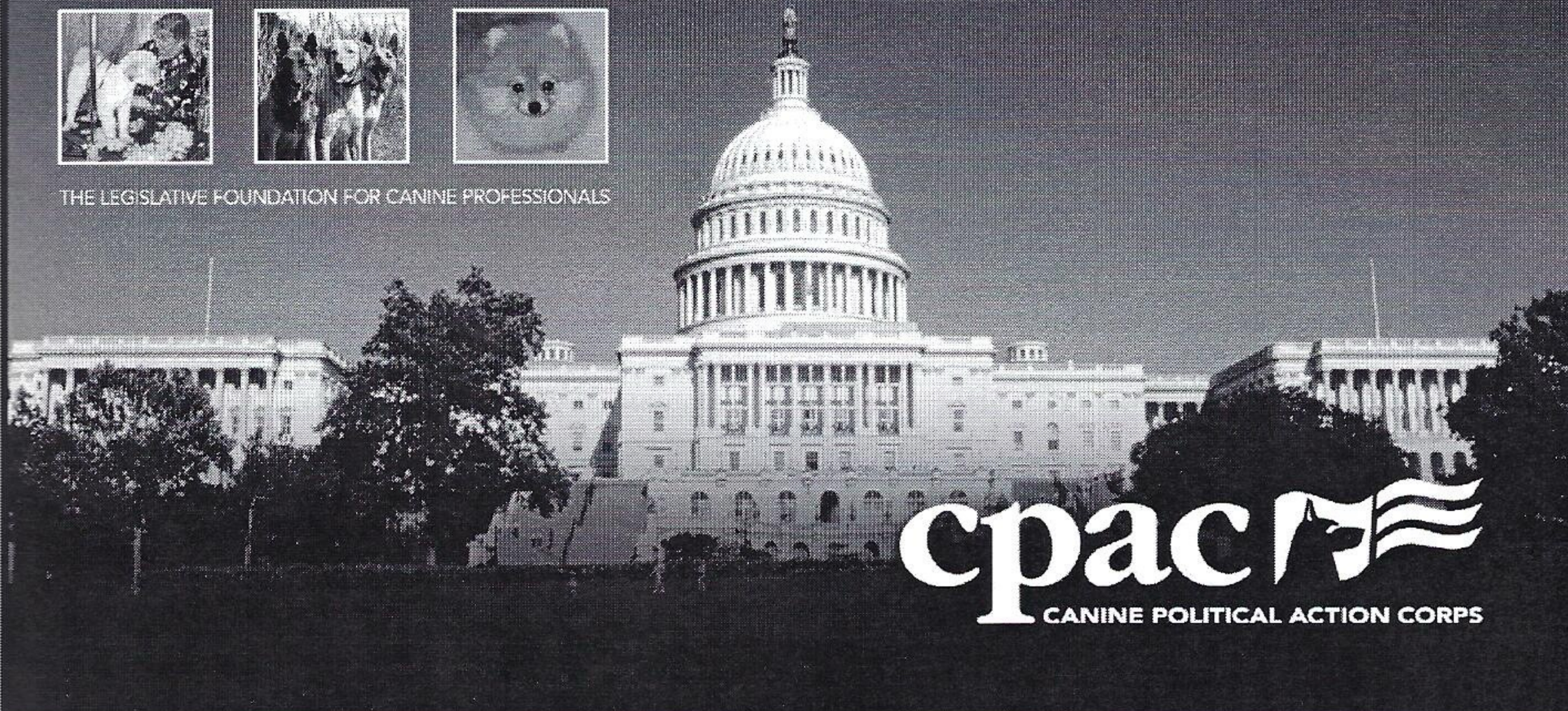
of the gray wolf (*canis lupus*) according to a 1993 classification by both the Smithsonian Institution and the American Society of Mammalogists. DNA evidence shows that our dog's ancestors began to split off from other wolves 100,000 years ago. It is from those forebears that today's dog began to form about 15,000 years ago.

Are dogs pack animals? Of course they are. To understand why there is even a shred of controversy on the matter we must examine the politicization of the pack concept.

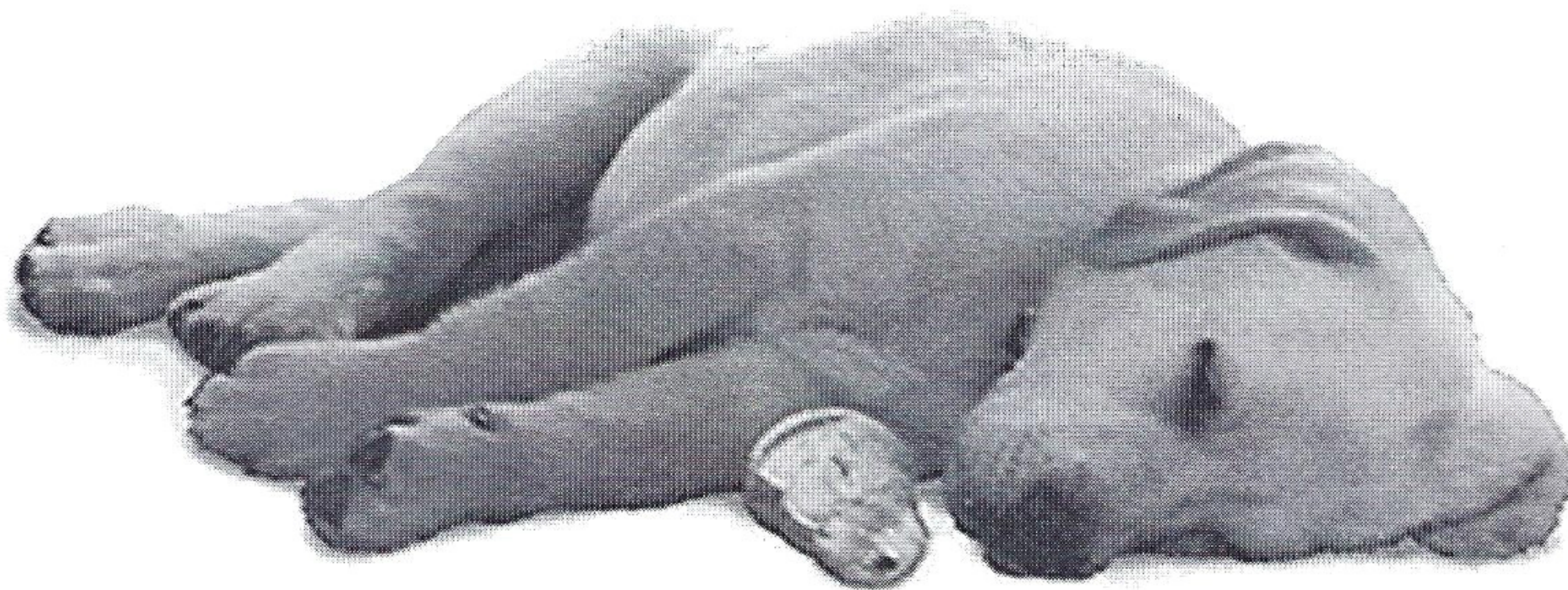
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Animal rights activists—the same folks who want to change you from *owner* to *guardian*—would tell us the dog is a domesticated animal, far from its wolf roots, and no longer a pack oriented animal. This reasoning is intended less to describe what the dog *is*, and designed more to avoid a preconceived notion of pack structure. There is a political movement afoot, entirely human, which believes that the concept of pack hierarchy means a simple dominant/subordinate relationship among pack members. If this is true, then animal rightists believe that translating pack structure into human/dog relationships would necessarily create a master/slave construct.

Unfortunately, this is not an accurate assessment of what pack structure among dogs really is. Yes, at times there is dominance. Yes, at other times there is submission. But mostly what dogs do is coexist, communicate their needs to one another, and negotiate who gets resources, according not to a simple, slavish devotion, but a complex expression of who needs or wants that resource most.

Let me define my term. What dogs want and need can best be described as resources. Resources consist of anything which a dog desires at any given moment. Food, water, toys, smells, activity, space, even affection are

each resources which all dogs need or want. If you watch your dogs, or any group of dogs, you will note first that they are drawn together. Second, you will see that they sometimes have common desires. Third, you will realize that division of resources does not always follow a simple “pecking order.” Dogs are not chickens, and although they are intended for group living, they are also created for more complex social order.

We humans tend to view nature through the filter of our own intellectual ideas and political agendas. That is part of our nature. If you are a person, like me, who does not believe in rough training of dogs, you may be tempted to deny the pack concept simply because it has been infused with the concept of dominance. “Dominance,” as a concept, has long been used as an excuse by trainers to physically force dogs to comply with human desires. The overuse and uneducated application of the so-called “alpha wolf roll” by humans has probably done more damage to the pack concept than anything before or since. So the intellectual human may reject the entire pack concept because it has been oversimplified by some people to justify a master/slave relationship between dogs and humans.

This position throws the baby out with the bath water.



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Pack structure and hierarchy *do* exist. It is not simple. It is not brutal. It does not diminish or demean the dog, and it most certainly does not mean that the dog is a slavish creature to be dominated or overpowered by a human being to obtain desired behaviors.

Still, some people are so committed to their concepts that they will search far and wide to produce a reason that seems to justify their anti-pack argument. Let's examine one such statement here. I've heard the following scenario used to shore up the notion that dogs are not social pack animals:

We all know that in order for an animal to be considered a "pack animal" they must be able to live in groups and work together. Yet some breeds, Fox Terriers, and Pitbulls come to mind, can't live in packs without killing each other. Obviously dogs like this would never be able to maintain the group cohesion needed to hunt and protect each other since a group (i.e., pack) can't exist with dogs that want to kill each other. Dogs like these can't be considered pack animals which means that the long held belief that dogs are pack animals is a dubious claim.

Here's the problem with that statement. It is wrong. It is incorrect because it is based on flawed logic. The individual making such a statement would be more correct to say that they have not personally *seen* Fox Terriers or Pitbulls live in groups without killing one another. And that may be quite correct. Not many people have seen it. But I have.

Some breeds have been specifically designed by humans to have the trait of gameness, feistiness, and in some cases, to be effective fighters of their own kind. Yet the platform or chassis on which those traits were constructed is still *canis lupus familiaris*, or the domestic dog...a pack animal. So to have such a group of dogs living successfully together requires a much stronger, more effective human pack leader than it takes to combine a group of Labrador Retrievers. Many, if not most humans, are not up to the task. Therefore, rather than own up to their own failings as owners or trainers, they take the easiest possible escape route. They blame the dog.

Yet it can be done! Fox Terriers can live together. Pitbulls, even formerly aggressive Pitbulls can live together. And I have seen exactly that. I had the unique opportunity to visit Cesar Millan's Dog Psychology Center in

Los Angeles. When I arrived at the Center, Cesar was not even on the premises. However, a skilled dog handler was on the property. I was announced by a pack of approximately thirty dogs composed of the following breeds: Pitbulls, Rottweilers, German Shepherds, terriers of various sorts, a Pug, a Chihuahua, a Chinese Crested, and mixed breeds.

I had an appointment and was admitted through the gates. The dogs behaved much like a school of fish, grouping together as one on this open multi-acre property, and flowing as a unit. As I strode through the midst of them, they parted for me like the Red Sea, closed in behind me, and followed us as the dog handler brought me to the door of a building.

The sensation was quite peaceful. No squabbles. No scuffles. No barking after I was admitted. Many of the dogs were not only of challenging breeds, but had been rehabilitated after suffering from various forms of aggression, including dog aggression. The care and handling by Cesar (who came later) and his staff was immaculate and the dogs responded by maintaining peace and order.

I do not dispute that some breeds and even some individuals are more (or less) socially adept than others. This occurs because mankind has played a strong role in designing breed temperaments. And sometimes we fail to comprehend how we might accidentally damage a dog's social skills with overly permissive, or overly controlling handling.

Among dogs, pack structure is maintained as a rich and complex system of negotiation that preserves order, and at its best, permits each dog in the pack to obtain his share of resources. In fact, by recognizing this system, and by participating in it, we humans can rocket ahead in our relationship with our own dogs. To participate, however, we must understand how dogs within the pack relate to one another. And as I said, it's all about resources: those tangible and intangible elements which dogs want.

So what happens when two or more dogs want the same resource at the same time? Does the so-called "alpha" dog always use his authority to get and control each resource? And what role does the human play in the pack? Can humans and dogs enjoy *partnership* as opposed to relationship based strictly on authority? To speak to this issue, let's first examine how dogs relate in the pack.

In observing my own three dogs as they live with one another I have come to some conclusions about this matter. My Doberman is the pack leader. Either of the other two will yield to him on any issue he chooses. The Border Collie mix is next in line. He does not challenge the Dobe on any issue of importance. Yet, he does demand this same respect from the Rat Terrier, who will yield to either of them if they demand.

Does this mean that simple pecking order is clear, and ever present? Yes and no. Many a time have I seen the Rat Terrier playfully grab my tolerant Dobe by the throat, or bite his rear hock as he's walking away. She'll also steal a bone right out from under him if he's not careful.

How can this happen and how does the structure of the dog pack permit such acts of defiance? Simple. The Dobe only puts his foot down on matters which truly concern him. From her body language, he realizes that the terrier isn't seriously challenging him when she bites at him. So the Dobe responds playfully if he's in the mood. Or he stops the terrier with a hard look if he's not. He does the same with the Border Collie, and so forth down the line.

And up the line. No superior pack member can or will force a subordinate to play if the subordinate does not wish. Each has a certain control over his own life and the lives of the others. No one is enslaved.

In my opinion, there is little serious discipline to be practiced precisely because the pack structure is well understood by each of the dogs. I represent a critical aspect of the hierarchy. Just as all members of my dog pack understand that the Doberman is their canine pack leader, they also understand that I outrank even their dog leader. There is an unassailable law which applies to the entire pack, whether they are acting as individuals or as a group. They must each obey me, both individually and as a pack. I have the right to place any of their bodies where I wish them to go. I have the right to take or reassign each of their resources. And I have the right to reinforce known rules upon any member.

It is this clarity of authority which allows the pack to function as a partnership. Partnership allows for many individual freedoms, but partnership does not mean democracy either. There is always a senior partner who will make decisions when necessary. Even so, lower ranking members feel comfortable demanding their share of re-

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PM **Pete Fischer** E-collars: Past, Present and Future
NIGHT **Sunset Cruise**

SATURDAY, SEPT. 20TH
AM **Robin MacFarlane** Breakthrough: How to get the message across to your most difficult clients
PM **George Cockrell** Teaching Tricks For Profit
NIGHT **Steak Dinner** and Party

SUNDAY, SEPT. 21ST
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sources, whether it be jockeying for my touch, dividing bones, or sleeping space on the dog beds. I am quite sure that there would be a great deal more negotiation if my presence was not foremost in the dogs' minds. As a human leader to the pack, I have deliberately structured their lives into a combination of work, rest and play.

These concepts have been deeply instilled into each of my dogs. Therefore, the abundant use of obvious authority is not necessary anywhere within the food chain. It is not often that my Dobe must fix the terrier with a hard glare. And it is not often that I must shoot one at him. That's because I have rigged their lives with such a high degree of structure that each knows his place relative to the other, and to me. My dogs are under specific obedience commands only occasionally, when necessary. Life is relatively peaceful, and power is shared most of the time.

Such structure is only possible due to the pack mentality of dogs. I have tried in vain to apply similar concepts with my cats. With their more solitary, independent nature, they simply ignore most of my desires. The dogs, however, are deeply satisfied by a lifestyle that appeals to the core of their essence.

Want to think of dogs as relatively simple minded creatures with only primitive social drives? Prefer to think of them as unrelated to wolves? Would you rather reject the fact that dogs are pack animals merely because the idea conflicts with your political agenda? To go there, you'll have to ignore DNA evidence, scientific classifications and the observations of millions of dog lovers around the world. Saddest of all, you'll underestimate your own dog's communication skills.

Pack animal does not mean slave. With the right leader, dog pack membership means participating in a complex social order in which each member negotiates for and obtains resources according to his needs and wants. Dogs do not repel one another. Rather, they are drawn together. They are also drawn toward people, both physically and psychologically, probably because we domesticated and shaped them for thousands of years. The dog's pack mentality not only allows him to survive, but also to flourish side by side with mankind.

Marc Goldberg, CDT is president of IACP. He trains dogs in the Chicagoland area. He teaches workshops in his ForceFree Method. Information is available at <http://www.chicagodogtrainer.com/id31.html>. IACP

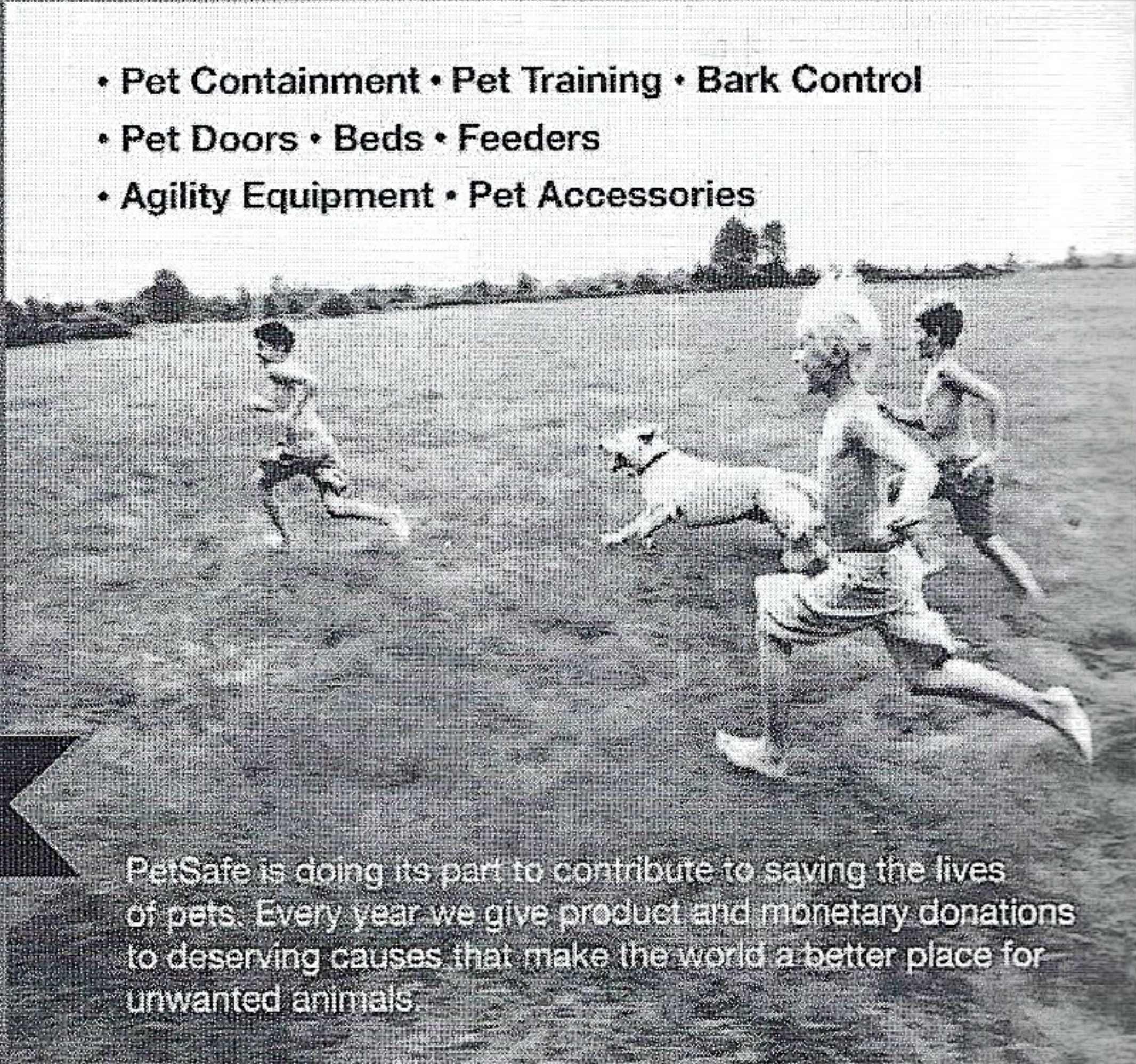
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Leader of the Pack

by Martin Deeley, CDT

Whatever advice you get on training a dog there is always some mention of becoming the leader of the 'pack'. I often feel that 'Leader' is too harsh a word as I am looking for a 'partnership' but there is no doubt your dog has to look to you for leadership, instruction and guidance. It has to obey your command and when under control situations obey it without question. It all sounds so easy but establishing yourself in this role is not as simple as many think.

Like any animal every dog is different and have differing personalities and character, some will be totally submissive whilst at the other end of the spectrum others may be very dominant, add to this other characteristics such as boldness, sensitivity, nervousness and all of a sudden the combinations grow. Many professional trainers like a sensitive type of dog that has a willingness to please. The 'sensitivity' often results in the dog needing very little in the form of chastisement, and with structured training generally learns quickly if you reinforce it's good work with praise. With such a dog, becoming the leader isn't difficult and in fact the dog may never challenge

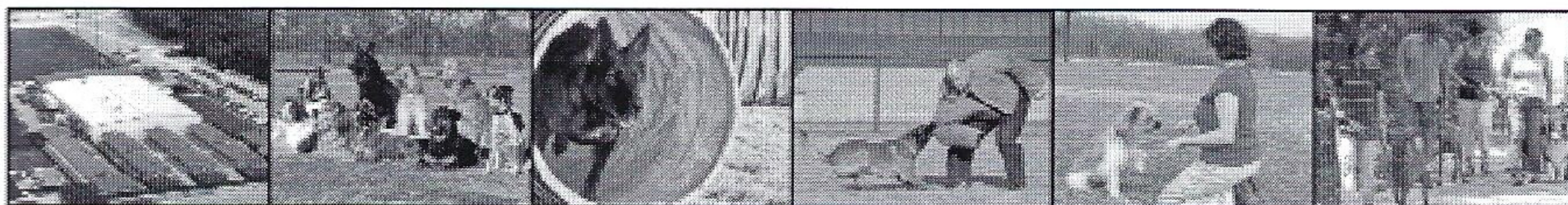
you for leadership particularly if it is a female and that is often the reason many people prefer them

Rarely however are matters that straight forward. Your dog is born into a pack, the first seven or more weeks are spent in a pack situation and many of it's natural instincts emanate from being such an animal. With this in mind I would always advise new owners to take their pup at about seven to eight weeks of age before a 'pack' pattern establishes itself from being within the litter too long. At seven weeks the pup is old enough to leave the mother and young enough to adapt easily to a new environment and a human pack. When you take your young pup therefore, you and your family become it's new pack and the dog will need to adapt to your pack rules.

There is no doubt then when you watch a young litter of pups you will notice that each pup will have adopted a role, and in picking your pup you may have gone for any one of the characters they had displayed. Advice from others or your own specific preferences will have determined your choice. Now

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that pup has to fit in with your pack and all their characteristics and routines. They have to learn their place in the household, what they are allowed and not allowed to do and generally build a security of mind through knowing where they fit into the pack order. As a human with more intelligence you have an advantage psychologically, physically and mentally over a young dog and as such should make sure that you always remain on top. Normally a puppy is easy to lead but to do so you must spend time with it and without harshness, show it what you want. In doing so you will exert your 'leadership' without pup or yourself even really knowing it.

Although punishment should not be ruled out, you must realize that your pup does not know anything and unless it understands what you require cannot be punished because it does not know it is doing wrong. Put the pup in a position where it does right and then you can reward. This will create a far better relationship with the pup than constantly reprimanding and nagging it. So guide, encourage and reward acceptable behavior. Avoid situations which encourage incorrect behavior and at times even ignore unwanted behavior if you are not in a position to put it right.

Simple commands such as catching the pups attention with it's name, and encouraging it to come 'HERE'; saying 'kennel' and guiding the pup into it; teaching it to sit and even to urinate and defecate on command are all parts of exerting your 'leadership' on the dog. To do all this you have to play a part which will get the desired results and your eyes, hands and voice are very instrumental in this. A high pitched, sweet voice to call and praise, a gruff sound to scold is obvious but also use your hands and your eyes. Your eyes can speak volumes to a dog. Large and staring are menacing and 'punishing', soft half closed and smiling are encouraging.

But your hands are positive direct contacts with your dog. Stroking, shaking, scratching, massaging, holding are all ways in which you can use your hands and impart messages of leadership. I spend a lot of time with young pups getting them to accept being with me and not being afraid of my hands. In future I will want them to see my hands as friends not to afraid of so I am careful how I use them.

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When I have pups I like to spend time with them and we regularly have a play on the lawn.

All pups like to have a bite either at my hands or any part of me they can get their teeth into. Most of the time this is not too drastic but occasionally they get carried away and those little needle teeth can be more than fun. If they do nip a little more than I like, a quick 'ouch' and light tap on the nose can do the trick of making them desist. I then let them sniff my hand again and am delighted if they nuzzle or lick it instead of biting. Sometimes I will just nip their lips or nose as they are biting my fingers, in this way they do not see it as me punishing them but as something that happens when they bite and don't do it as readily.

A friend of mine has obedience border collies and she tells me that they tend to bite noses - yours, so she feeds them small pieces of cheese from her mouth and in this way they don't look to bite at the face but look for pleasure. This is also a good way to develop eye contact. If a puppy runs away and ignores me when I call I will endeavor to catch its attention and get it to obey so that I can praise it. Running away, sitting on the floor, waving an enticing piece of rag or a toy are all techniques I use to get the dog to come to me.

Your pup must know where it is allowed to go in the house and must also have a place of security. A crate or a kennel area in the house is ideal for this. It is taught that crate or kennel means exactly that and it must stay there until allowed to leave. The crate or kennel however must never be considered as or used as punishment. Train pup to go there willingly. This is its 'Den', its own room.

The important feature of a crate or kennel area is that in there the pup cannot do wrong, it is not learning bad habits and when out with you this time can be quality learning time where you can teach pup what you want it to know. Short periods of training, no more than twenty minutes at a time, three to four times a day are far more productive than long brain tiring sessions.. When you go through doors make the dog wait while you go first and teach your dog basic

politeness. In the house a lot of this can be done very easily through repetitive training in simple stages showing the dog the social graces that you expect from someone within your pack.

If you do this, the challenge to your leadership may not arise but watch out if it does, and sometimes it isn't blatant. The defiance or lack of response when you give an instruction, the pulling on the leash to get through a door are just obvious illustrations. But look also for the dog that barks to tell you it is time for a tidbit or a walk, or the scratching at the door to let it come in or go out without any real reason, The guarding of food or a belonging even in play and the impatience to get to food when it is placed on the floor are all signs of a dog that is taking control.

Some dogs will even do it almost fun like and play the fool to get the results required from you, their leadership comes from manipulation. If you do find yourself with a very dominant dog then the answer is to not only train it to a high degree but to ensure that it complies every time with your commands and probably one of the most important commands around the home is to make it lie down, in this way it assumes naturally subservient position to you.

As pack leader you should have a dog looking to you, respecting you and wanting to do things that will please you but always watch out for that challenge. If you know your dog you will realize when it is trying to please and when it is pleasing itself, and when that happens make sure the dog knows you know and demand consistent obedience. Look for ways to show leadership; they can help you develop a true partner that looks to you for guidance.

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.

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Optimal Wellness for Pets

By Thom Some, "The Pet Safety Guy™"

National Pet First Aid Awareness Month, in its ninth year, continues to be a focal point for pet owners and Pet Care Professionals to learn how to better care for their pets. Our primary message, as always will highlight the importance of learning the necessary skills and techniques of CPR, first aid and care for our four-legged, furry, family members. Knowing the skills and techniques of pet first aid can mean the difference between life and death; temporary and permanent disability; and expensive veterinarian bills and reasonable home care. According to the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) one-out-of-four more pets could be saved if just one basic pet first aid skill or technique was applied prior to receiving veterinary care.

In addition to our on-going message, this year during National Pet First Aid Awareness Month, April 1-30, 2008, the focus is on being proactive in the Optimal Wellness for Pets. The five elements for optimal wellness and staying healthy include the Human-Animal Bond, Knowing Your Pet's Health, Proper Nutrition, Quality Supplementation and Exercise.

Follow these tips and techniques and adopt a healthy lifestyle for you and your pets today!

The Human-Animal Bond: Over 130 million dogs and cats in the United States have become an integral part of our daily lives. In the last century, they moved from the fields, to our yards, and into our hearts and homes. The medical and veterinary communities have just recently started to quantify what pet owners and pet care professionals have known for years, that pets provide many physical, emotional and psychological benefits. According to the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) survey, 82% of pet owners greet their pet before they greet their spouse. If you don't have a close bond or connection with your pet, you won't do the four other components.

Knowing Your Pet's Health: Pets can't tell us when they aren't feeling well. As responsible and caring pet owners, it is important to understand what is normal for our pets, so we can quickly recognize when they are presenting symptoms that are "not normal." The two most important skills in Knowing Your Pet's Health are the Snout-To-Tail

Assessment and Assessing Your Pet's Vitals. The Snout-To-Tail Assessment is a systematic and deliberate method for evaluating your pet from their snout to their tail. In order to get a clear picture of your pet's underlying health, you will also need to know how to Assess Your Pet's Vitals which includes heart rate, breathing rate, mucous membrane color, capillary refill time and temperature. Statistically, less than 1% of pet owners know how to do all five of the following skills:

Assessing Pulse: The easiest and least invasive place to check your pet's pulse is at the femoral artery. The femoral artery is located on the inside of the thigh of either back leg. Slide your middle two fingers inside the upper thigh, feeling for a slight depression. Once you've located the pulse, use a watch and count the beats for six seconds. Add a zero to that number and you will have beats per minute.

Assessing Breathing: You can visually or manually check your pet's breathing. Place your hand on the side of the chest and feel or watch for the rise and fall of the chest. Count the breaths (1 breath = rise + fall) for 30 seconds and double to get breathing rate (breaths per minute).

Assessing Gum & Mucous Membrane Color: Gum and mucous membrane tissue color can assist you in determining the immediate underlying health of your pet. As a general rule: bubble gum pink is normal, pale/white can mean anemia, yellow can indicate jaundice, and blue/gray can indicate shock (lack of oxygen in the cells).

Assessing Capillary Refill Time (CRT): Lift the upper lip and press the thumb against the gum area above upper teeth for a few seconds or until the gum turns white. Remove thumb and color should return within 1-2 seconds. Always use caution when putting your fingers in the mouth of a conscious pet.

Assessing Your Pet's Temperature: It is important to know what your pet's normal temperature is because it can vary by breed and size. Digital thermometers are more accurate and safer to use for pets. If you are unsure of how to take your pet's temperature, ask your veterinarian or take a Pet First Aid course.

Role of Quality Nutrition & H2O for Your Pets: Just like you, your pet needs vitamins, minerals and antioxidants in its diet for proper growth and development. Expecting your pet to achieve optimal health just by eating "out of a bag" is much like a human expecting to be thin, trim and healthy by eating only at fast food restaurants! The same goes for tap water. Your pet needs a constant supply of cool, fresh clean (filtered) water. Water is second only to oxygen as a nutrient needed for optimal health and function.

Supplementation for Your Pet's Health: With the active lifestyle pets are leading today, it is a must to add supplements to their diet. Supplements aid your pet's body in doing what it does naturally, supporting good health and combating the damaging effects of oxidative stress.

Exercise & Your Pet's Health: Exercise is good for you and it is good for your pets. Study after study has proven the physical health benefits of exercising. The greatest benefit of exercise is acquired cumulatively! The bonus of having your pet, as your exercise partner is that you will develop a closer bond, feel better and live longer. And, they don't cancel on you at the last minute!

In conclusion, make it a professional goal to take a Pet First Aid & CPR Training. Then you will be more prepared to react in the event of a medical emergency involv-

ing your pets. Then make a lifelong commitment to be proactive in the wellness of your pet by learning more about the 5 Components of optimal wellness. I think you will discover that if you do 3 of the 5; you will get good results. When you do 4 of the 5; you will see great results in your pet. But when you do all 5 components you get incredible results! By knowing your pet's health, you will be in the top echelon of your profession.

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.Pet-Tech.net, contact us by phone at (760) 930-0309 or e-mail iacp@pettech.net. Remember to ask for your IACP discount.

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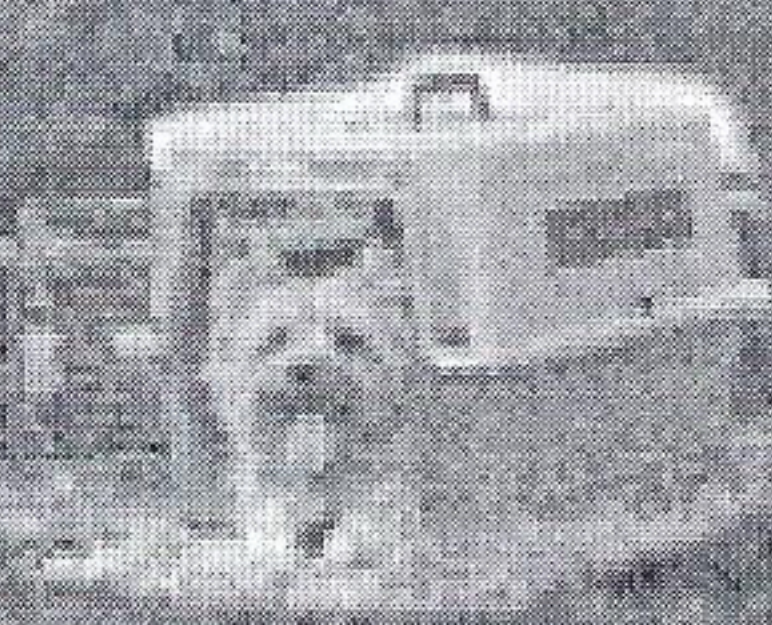


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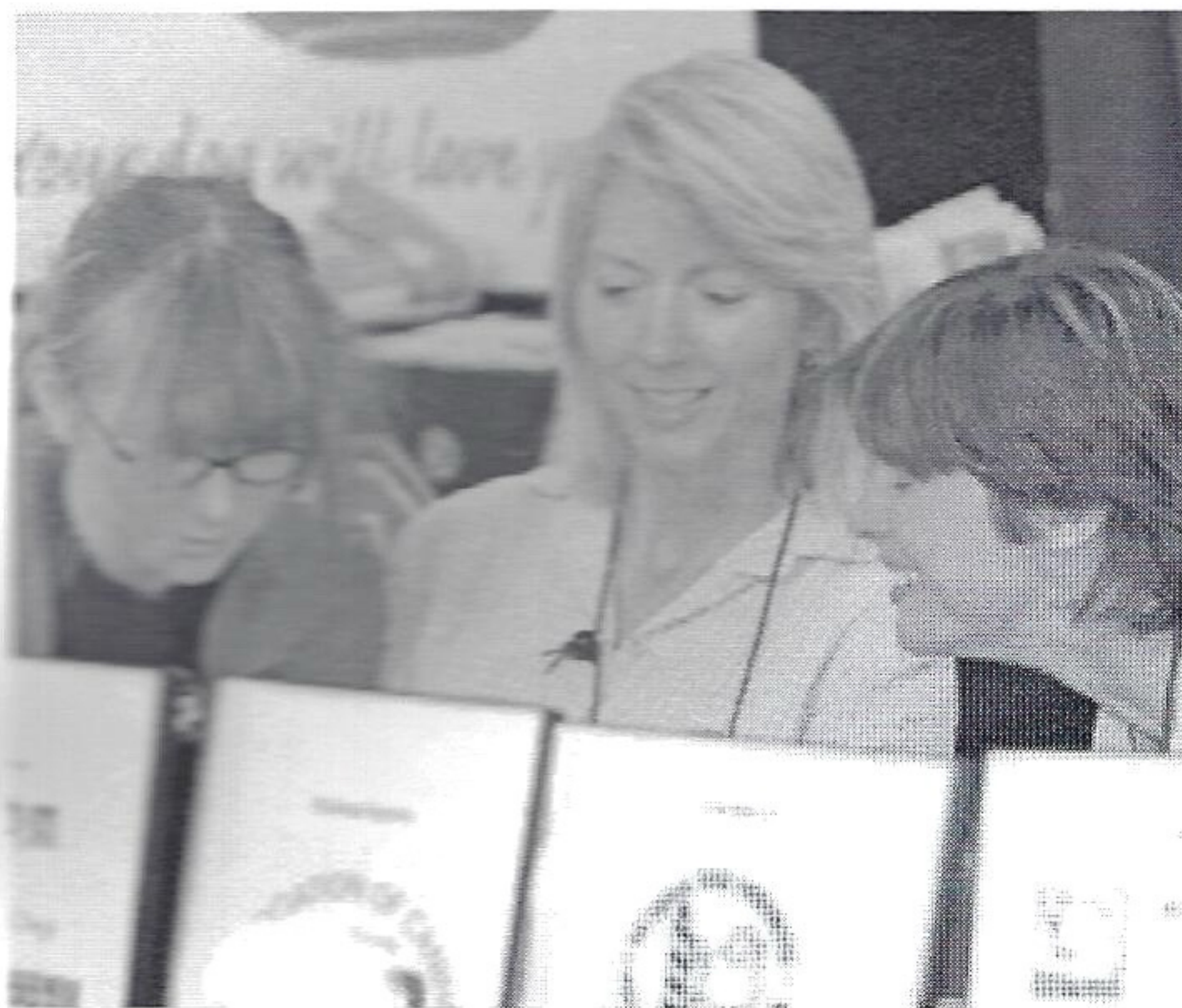
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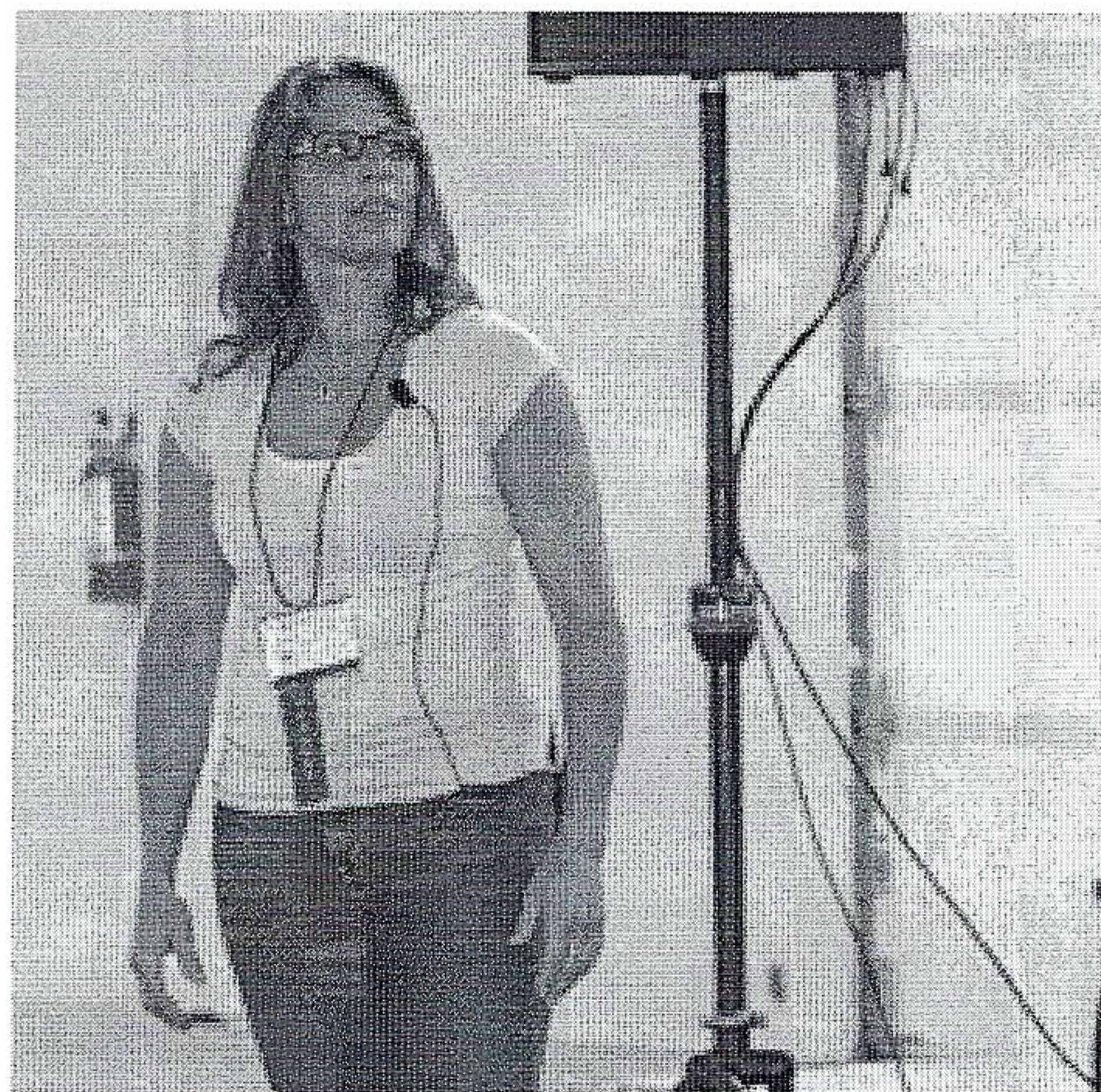
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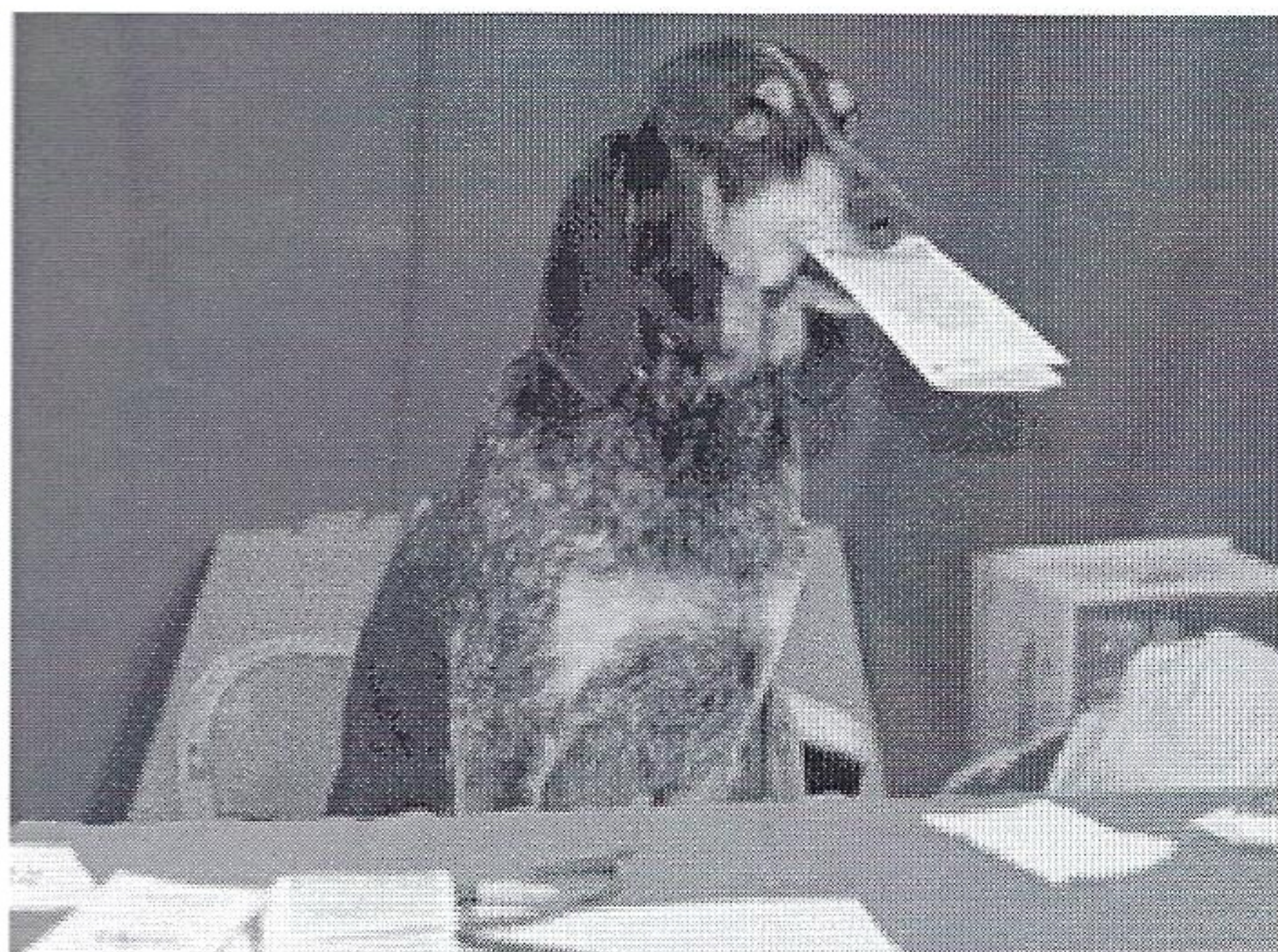
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Maddie, Robin and Renee work the desk.



Aimee Sadler speaks.



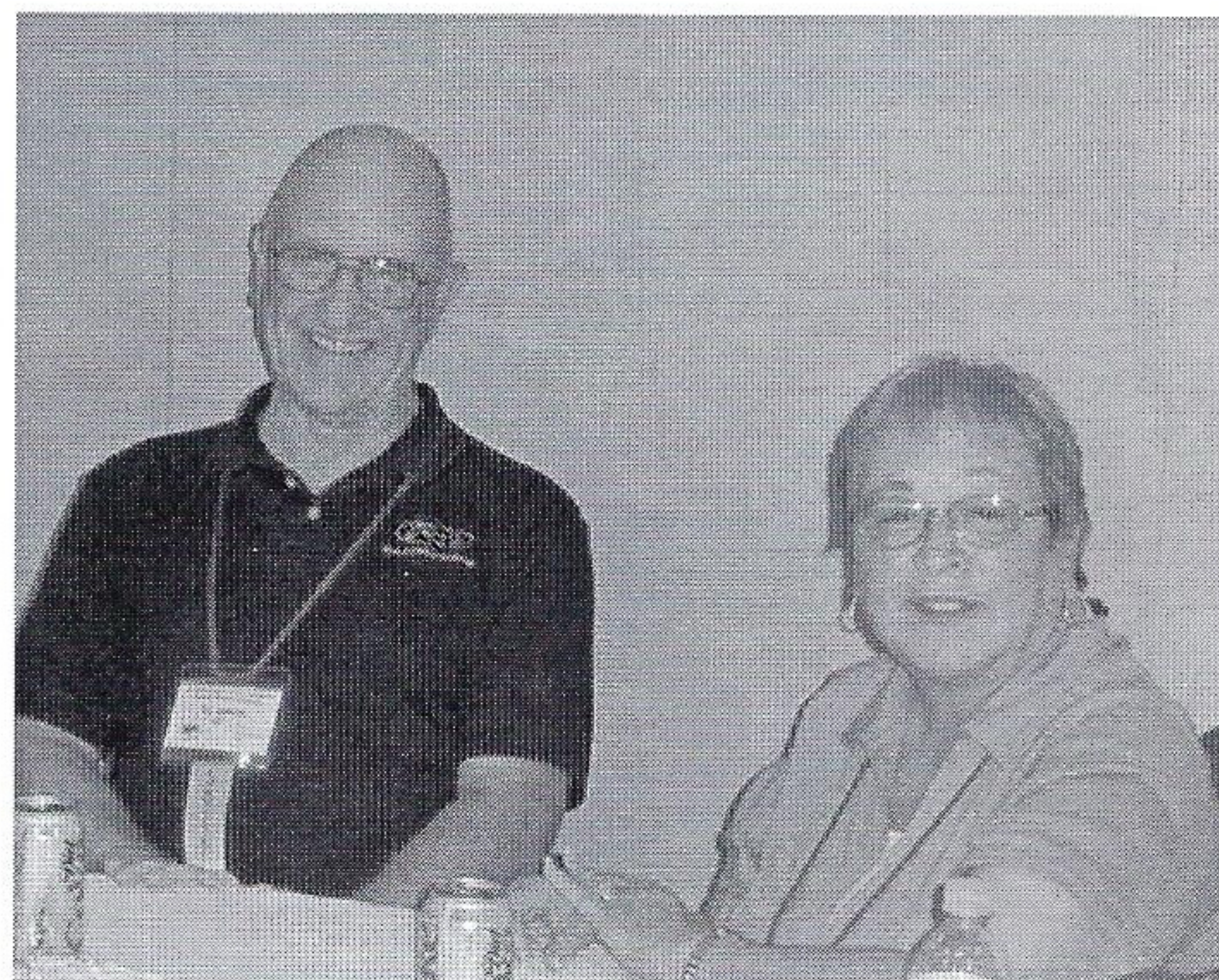
Jeb gets in some volunteer time.



Brian Kilcommons, Wendy Volhard and Stan Coren.



Kayce Cover works with a dog



Al and Maddie Marx



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