What is the CAPPDT?
The CAPPDT was created to give dog obedience trainers and instructors the opportunity of belonging to a cohesive group of like-minded people; to provide a forum whereby professional pet dog trainers can be educated, exchange and generate ideas and network with other professionals. Since its inception, the CAPPDT has evolved into the organization it is today.

In 1993, a very small group of dog trainers gathered to discuss the feasibility of forming an Association. By mid-1994, an Executive was in place, a mandate was drawn up, by-laws to facilitate the running of day-to-day business of the Association were hammered out and a code of ethics for members was voted on and passed by the existing membership. By the end of 1997, the Association boasted a membership of almost 300. To date, membership has grown by 60%.

Our Mandate
We want to further the concept of dog-friendly and humane training techniques.
We endeavor to provide a single source of access to educational opportunities, peer networking, and event advertising of the highest quality.

How do we accomplish this?
We sponsor learning opportunities, provide on-line resources and increase public awareness of dog-friendly and humane training techniques by reaching out to stakeholder communities such as Veterinarians, Animal Health Technologists, shelters and dog owners.

Members hail from coast to coast and the U.S. Our membership comes in many flavours, from the professional who makes his/her living in the world of dog training to the hobbyist who runs classes once a week to the trainer who trains his/her own dogs for CKC / AKC obedience competition to the trainer who works with companion animals and their families.
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Items included in the forum are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Association, the Board or the editor.

Publication of advertisements should not in any way be considered an endorsement.

Articles or letters for submission must be signed and presented in a manner which is not libelous or slanderous to an individual or the CAPPDT.

The editor reserves the right to edit and/or verify all copy. All submissions become the property of the CAPPDT unless otherwise noted.

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QUOTABLE QUOTE
There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance; that principle is contempt prior to investigation.

Herbert Spencer
CHAIR’S MESSAGE

It certainly is summer weather out there as I type this! If you’re training/instructing outdoors be sure to see the article in these pages about heat related injuries.

I’m sorry to say that our Treasurer, Donna Truesdale has resigned her position. Her busy life has left her with time constraints that will not allow her to continue with her treasurer duties. We have done a mass mailing to our members to see if we have a member with bookkeeping experience that can be of assistance to us. We will keep you posted.

While our member discussion list has been quiet, the same cannot be said for our Facebook page. My goodness. Some very lively discussion going on there!

But let’s be clear. The opinions expressed are the opinions of the poster. This newsletter has a disclaimer; Items included in the forum are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Association, the Board or the editor. The same applies to any posting that you see on the member discussion list or the Facebook page. I think we all agree that we are here to train people to train their dogs. Regarding the posts, I received three e-mails.

In one, the writer expressed disgust at what she saw as trainer bashing, name calling and other association bashing and indicating that she would not be renewing her membership if these are the people who represent CAPPDT.

I expressed concern with other board members and received these replies; Why does every person in the club think that every other person in the club “represents the CAPPDT”? If Joe Nobody wants to argue with Frank SomeOtherGuy, that’s their prerogative. It isn’t the official word of the association!

Why can’t we just train dogs with the least amount of aversive/force needed to get the job done? If a clicker and cookie is all you need great, but if you need a leash correction okay, if you need a pinch collar to balance size and strength okay, if you need an e-collar to fix an issue okay.

We will never all agree. That’s a given. Debate is healthy. Debate makes us think. Debate makes us examine. Debate takes us out of our comfort zone. However, debate has rules.

I know we are all passionate about this thing we do. But let’s not take our eye off the ball. We are here to train dogs. Methods, cost, duration are the business of the client and the trainer/instructor. Our members are free to differ with each other but it is important to remember that neither party is espousing the official position of CAPPDT. All I would ask is that you re-read your response before posting. Offending our fellow trainers gets us nowhere.

Our new newsletter team should be ready to roll by December. My feeble attempt at producing a couple of publications so that we can all keep in touch has come to an end. And I thank those of you who contributed. Your input was invaluable.

Pat Renshaw

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Do you have an apprenticeship programme? Do you have a school that trains trainers?

CAPPDT receives several e-mails from across Canada from people asking where they can take courses or apprenticeships to become a dog trainer.

We send an information package and that package includes members who have indicated that they offer apprenticeships or courses.

To be equitable to all our members we keep a listing of facilities that offer the above and this is sent to people who e-mail for information. We include a disclaimer to the effect that “we are no way endorsing or recommending any facility beyond the fact that you are a member”.

If you wish to be included, please e-mail info@cappdt.ca with the following information;

1) that you have a facility that operates as a “school” – the name of your school, contact name, city/town, telephone number, e-mail address and website address (if applicable)

2) that you operate a facility that takes on apprentices – the name of your facility, contact name, city/town, telephone number, e-mail address and website address (if applicable)
Avoiding Heat Related Injuries in Dogs
by: Nate Baxter DVM (Lebanon, OH)

(Feel free to cross post, use in club newsletters, etc, without any further permission. The first thing that needs to be understood is that dogs and people are different enough that most of the information cannot cross lines. I do not profess to know the appropriate procedures for people other than what I learned in first aid.)

Dogs do not lose enough electrolytes through exercise to make a difference, but if the dog gets truly into heat stroke the physiology changes will make electrolytes necessary. BUT oral replacement at that point is futile; they need IV and lots of it.

Cooling: Evaporative cooling is the most efficient means of cooling. However, in a muggy environment, the moisture will not evaporate so cooling does not happen well. I cool with the coldest water I can find and will use ice depending on the situation. The best way is to run water over the dog, so there is always fresh water in contact. When you immerse a dog in a tub, the water trapped in the hair coat will get warm next to the dog, and act as an insulator against the cool water and cooling stops. If you can run water over the dog and place the dog in front of a fan, that is the best.

Misting the dog with water will only help if you are in a dry environment or in front of a fan. Just getting the dog wet is not the point; you want the water to be cool itself, or to evaporate.

For MOST situations all you will need to do is get the dog in a cooler environment, ie shade, or in the cab of the truck with the air conditioning on (driving around so the truck does not overheat and the AC is more efficient). Up to a couple of years ago, I was very concerned about my dogs getting too hot in the back of my black pickup with a black cap. New white truck fixed a lot of that problem. When I had one dog I just pulled the wire crate out of the car and put it in some shade and hopefully a breeze. But having 2 dogs and running from one stake to another, that was not feasible.

So I built a platform to put the wire crates on. This raises the dog up in the truck box where the air flow is better. Then I placed a 3 speed box fan in front blowing on the dogs with a foot of space to allow better airflow. I purchased a power inverter that connects to the battery and allows the 3 speed fan to run from the truck power. It has an automatic feature that prevents it from draining the battery. When I turned that fan on medium I would find that the dogs where asleep, breathing slowly and appeared very relaxed and comfortable in a matter of 20 minutes or less, even on very hot muggy days.

Alcohol: I do carry it for emergencies. It is very effective at cooling due to the rapid evaporation. It should be used when other methods are not working. You should be on your way to the veterinarian before you get to this point. We recommend using rubbing alcohol, which is isopropyl alcohol, not ethyl, for those of you not aware.

Alcohol should be used on the pads and lower feet area where there is little more than skin and blood vessels over the bones. Use a little bit and let it evaporate, you can use too much as some is absorbed through the skin. There are concerns about toxicity, but you have to get the temperature down.

UPDATE NOTE-alcohol has fallen out of favor with ER specialists. Use it only as a last ditch effort if nothing else works. I purchased those cooling pads, but found that the dogs would not lay on them. I would hold them on the back of a dog that just worked to get a quick cool, but have not used them for years. I also bought a pair of battery operated fans but found them pretty useless. Spend your money on the power inverter and get a real fan.

Watching temperature: If you feel your dog is in danger of heat injury, check its temperature and write it down. Keep checking the temperature every 3 minutes. I recommend getting a rectal glass thermometer. The digital ones, from the drug store, I have found to be very unreliable. Don't forget to shake it down completely each time. Sounds silly, but when you are worried about your companion, things tend to get mixed up.

This is VERY IMPORTANT ** once the temperature STARTS to drop, STOP ALL COOLING EFFORTS. The cooling process will continue even though you have stopped. If the temp starts at 106.5, and then next time it drops to 105.5, stop cooling the dog, dry it off, and continue monitoring. You will be amazed how it continues to go down. If you do not stop until the temp is 102, the temp will drop way too low. I cannot emphasize this point enough.

When the dog is so heated that it is panting severely, only let it have a few laps of water. Water in the stomach does not cool the dog; you just need to keep the mouth wet so the panting is more effective. Do not worry about hydration until the temp has started going down. A dog panting heavily taking in large amounts of water is at risk of bloat. Due to the heavy panting, they will swallow air; mixed with a large amount of water, they can bloat.

Once the temperature is going down and panting has slowed to more normal panting, allow water. The dog will re-hydrate itself after temperature is normal. If the dog has a serious problem - and even though you have gotten the temperature normal - get the dog to a vet,
as he can still need IV fluids and some medication. Also, a case of heat stroke can induce a case of hemorrhagic gastroenteritis (not parvo), with a ton of very bloody diarrhea and a lot of fluid and electrolyte loss. These cases need aggressive treatment. The best method of treatment is prevention. Learn to watch your dog, and see the changes in the size of the tongue, and how quickly it goes down.

Learn your dog’s response to the different environments, and be careful when you head south for an early season hunt test or trial. I have been to Nashville at the end of May, only 5 hours away, but the difference in temperature and humidity did effect the dogs as they were used to more spring weather in Ohio. Try different things in training to help the dog cool and learn what works better.

Another very important point - Do not swim your hot dog to cool it then put him in a box/tight crate. Remember, evaporation can not take place in a tight space, and the box will turn into a sauna and you will cook your dog. Carry a stake out chain, and let the dog cool and dry before putting it up. I know this is a bit long, but hopefully this is easy to understand and helps provide some useful information.

Remember: Prevention, learn your dog. It is worth the time and effort.

(While typing this, the temperature was averaging 90 degrees! While that is no longer the case, please keep this article in mind if you are going south this winter or out working with your dogs next summer.

Thank you to Grace MacDonald for sharing this information)

A Call for Balance in Dog Training
by Margie English, Port Chester OTC, New York

(Roger Hild originally posted this article on the CAPPDT member discussion list. One of those members asked that we publish this in the FORUM. Shared with permission. May be cross-posted, with Margie English’s name attached)

The use of a clicker or other bridging stimulus is a wonderful tool for training an animal with whom you have no social relationship. You can train a killer whale to pee in a cup. You can train a chicken to play tic-tac-toe. You can train a homicidal elephant to put his foot through a hole in his cage to have his hoof trimmed.

While the behavior of these animals has changed and made them more convenient to care for or exploit, the social relationship remains unchanged. The homicidal elephant will still kill anyone who enters his enclosure. The killer whale doesn't feel any different about you after he pees in your cup. And who knows what chickens feel?

None of these animals live in our homes. They are not our companions. When their trainers go home at the end of the day, the animals are on their own doing whatever they get to do when left to their own devices in captivity.

We expect much more from our dogs, and our clients expect much more from their dogs. Fortunately, we are blessed with an animal whose ancestors picked us out and figured out how to get along with us. (If you haven't already, please read THE COVENANT OF THE WILD by Stephen Budiansky on how domestication evolved in some species.)

Consider this: You can't herd dolphins. If you want to move dolphins from one tank to another, you can't just drop a net in there and shove them along. They'll panic and drown themselves before they'll yield to that net. You have to take the time to train them with R+ to move themselves from one tank to the next, or you'll drown some dolphins.

If you want to move sheep from one pen to the next, you send a Border Collie in there to act as a canine aversive net, and he'll get them shoved in in no time. Sheep are domestic animals and dolphins are not. When domestic animals evolved, one of the adaptations they made was a tolerance for informative aversive stimuli. IOW, they can learn from informative negative reinforcement. They learn quickly, and the lesson learned becomes self-reinforcing. When he beats the R-, he wins every time. Negatively reinforced behaviors are very sturdy and need very few reminders. Positively reinforced behaviors need lots of reminders. This is why they're harder to maintain and why everybody has so much trouble weaning dogs off food rewards for behaviors that don't come naturally to them.

Sue Cone and I put on the first seminar Karen Pryor ever gave for dog trainers. (It was a NADOI conference, BTW.) Back then, Karen was totally up front about not being a dog trainer. We didn't care. NADOI felt that dog trainers had a lot to learn from wild animal trainers at that time.

We had no idea then that the field of dog training would be taken over by people who thought dogs should be trained as if they were wild animals.

I don't think dogs want to be wild animals. They want to share our homes and our lives, and they're
programmed by domestication to learn the rules on how to do that—even if they include some informative aversives. They want all the information they can get.

I once attended a seminar featuring Ted Turner, the famous dolphin trainer. He was asked why dog trainers use aversives and he replied, "Because they can." Later he said, "Good trainers give more information than bad trainers."

To sum up: Dogs can tolerate and use more kinds of information than wild animals can. And they thrive on all the information they can get. Don't short change them.

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New Trainer Development  
by Andrew Perkins

One Dog Trainer's Bible

As reading fades from fashion and is replaced by scanning, browsing, watching videos, web-chatting, there's a risk some of the great body of knowledge that has brought us as far as today could begin to disappear with it. Some will be passed along in the internet-equivalent of oral history, by abbreviation, reinterpretation and representation in practical videos, but the source material, the original wisdom in all its detail, is an endangered species.

To do my part to avert such a tragedy, I present my list of the ancient writings that must be preserved. It's by no means complete, it isn't very ancient, and it will offend by its omissions every experienced trainer in our group who grew up on other resources. But this collection is a mix of what I started on and what I considered essential additions along the way, and I hope to give something back to it by calling for its preservation. These are the books of my "bible" of dog training.

**The Four Gospels:**

**The Book of Job** – or actually, of Job Michael Evans. He wrote lots of books alone and with the Monks of New Skete for use by dog owners, but his most important contribution for trainers was *The Evans Guide for Counseling Dog Owners*, 1985. From preparation to developing documentation for your dog training business to class structure to teaching techniques to understanding the personalities of your human clients, this book concisely readies the new trainer who is brimming with his fresh new dog training knowledge but needs to know how to serve customers.

**The Book of Jean** – Jean Donaldson. If you've seen her in seminar, you already know that Donaldson sees the world differently from everybody else – in her eyes, it is parsed, cut up into digestible pieces and then reassembled so that everything can be understood from a molecular level. She calls it "unpacking." I call it genius. If you want to look at everything you know or think you know about behaviour through completely fresh eyes (and if you're going to teach it to someone else, that's recommended), Donaldson will re-see it for you, then hand it back to you repackaged. Her first book, *The Culture Clash*, 1996, is revolutionary in the real sense of the word. Her second, a collection of behaviour Q&A from her website, was called *Dogs are from Neptune*. Pretty much the advanced application of the first book.

**The Book of Karen** – Karen Pryor, dolphin trainer, mother-trainer, and later dog-trainer trainer, wrote the definitive handbook of behaviour modification in *Don't Shoot the Dog! The New Art of Teaching and Training*, 1984. The paperback is 176 pages. You can read it in an afternoon. In simple, layperson's language you can use to reach your clients, *Don't Shoot the Dog!* explains the principles of operant conditioning and the laws of shaping, provides eight categories of methods to change behaviour and applies them each to 10 scenarios — only two of which are animal training! Addressing behaviour modification in situations from lazy husbands to surly bus drivers and your own unwanted behaviour patterns, this is not a dog training book but a tiny yet complete manual for changing your life and relationships, which is why, in spite of its title, you won't find it in the pet aisle of your bookstore but in the psychology section.

**The Book of Steven** – This one is heavier reading. Serious dog trainers should know and understand the history and the research that are behind all of the methods made popularly digestible by the likes of Dr. Ian Dunbar, Cesar Millan, Barbara Woodhouse and others who brought training to the masses. One way is to wade through the original research – a daunting if worthy prospect. The more accessible path is to read a compendium of all that work, skillfully presented by Steven R. Lindsay in the *Handbook of Applied Dog Behavior and Training*, 2000-2001. A two-volume textbook that will bring back the exam room nightmares you had in college, this is an excellent academic summary you should make yourself work through as a foundational piece of your education. Volume One: *Adaptation and Learning*, covers both theory and research on the origins and domestication of dogs, sensory abilities of the dog, classical and operant conditioning, and exceptions and behaviour problems.
Volume Two: *Etiology and Assessment of Behavior Problems*, offers a history of training’s evolution, then moves into practical tools of assessment, understanding and treatment of a long list of common and not-so-common problems, one at a time.

**The Old Testament**

The Book of the Monks - Okay, *How to Be Your Dog’s Best Friend: A Training Manual for Dog Owners*, 1978, is not exactly old. But if you’re a new trainer, it’s probably from before you were born, anyway. The Monks published a few books, the next most significant of which is probably *The Art of Raising a Puppy*, but to me *Best Friend* is the foundational tool. Job Michael Evans, the New Skete Monk who went on to write several books solo, later was reported to say he regretted some of the techniques he’d shared in this book, but there’s plenty of value here, and the Monks, who raised and trained German Shepherd Dogs, made some important observations about behaviour.

The Book of Ian – For a guide to puppy development and behaviour, to understanding canine communication by understanding social and sexual behaviour and development, and relating the evolution of the dog to the pet in your home, there’s no clearer textbook than *Dog Behavior: Why Dogs Do What They Do*, 1979, by Dr. Ian Dunbar. Dunbar’s own original work studying the social and sexual behaviour of dogs led him to a career of revolutionizing modern pet dog training in television series, lecture tours, videos and books. He opened a publishing business to expose and promote other great original thinkers such as Jean Donaldson, and, true to his habit of using the most modern methods to reach the masses, now hosts an internet TV series, all dedicated to making training pet dogs fun and accessible to families, and kind to the dog. *Dog Behavior* blends a summary of his initial study with the collective worldwide work that fit the philosophy his own work spawned.

**The New Testament**

The Book of Roger – *A Dog Is Listening: The Way Some of Our Closest Friends View Us*, 1992. Roger Caras, perhaps most known as the host of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, was a prolific contributor to the animal aisle for four decades, but I especially love the insight into sensory and physical abilities of dogs that this book offers. It is at once frank and sweet, and your understanding of behaviour can’t help but be enhanced by glimpsing the world through a dog’s eyes, ears and nose for a couple hundred pages.

The Book of Carol Lea – Another prolific writer, mostly to magazines but with a significant book and internet list, Carol Lea Benjamin produced *Dog Problems* in 1989. It’s consumer-friendly, concise and full of anecdotes that enliven while proving the text. Concise is a key word here – the reader is assumed to have basic command control, and if they’re lacking the foundations to apply to the solutions offered, they have to do the homework elsewhere. Personally I find this refreshing – we don’t need every book to rehash every step.

The Book of Bonnie – Of all my choices, this one is probably the least-known and least obvious. With most of her work in the service dog industry, Bonnie Bergin isn’t so well known among pet dog trainers. But her *Bonnie Bergin’s Guide to Bringing Out the Best in Your Dog* blends the skill-set you get in most training textbooks with a unique perspective, gained from her service dog work, on creating harmony in training and living with canines as companions. My favourite, most visual image that I come back to often is her “revolving wheel” of emotion and action, one of several neat concepts Bergin uses to convert insight into application for a better relationship.

Numerous other authors have enhanced my understanding or my ability to communicate to my clients. Pamela Reid’s *Excel-erated Learning* is probably the tightest retelling of the principles of learning theory you’ll ever find, *Citizen Canine*, by Kathryn Harvey and Gillian Ridgeway ingeniously uses a theme of movie analogies to communicate the rules of successfully living with dogs; Gary Wilkes’ *A Behavior Sampler* and Mordecai Segal’s and Matthew Margolis’ *When Good Dogs Do Bad Things* are great references for problem solving; and I routinely recommend *Childproofing Your Dog* by Brian Kilcommons and Sarah Wilson to clients getting ready to add a baby to the family. I could keep going with the honourable mentions from my early training, before even getting to the host of great books to emerge since my training middle age.

The point is this: DVDs and the internet and experience and apprenticeship are all important to your development – and to mine – as a trainer. But in that mix, it’s easy to see the old faithful book as a dying breed, a tragedy that must be averted. For the modern-minded, many of these are available for your e-reader.

Andrew Perkins is a founding member of CAPPDT serving on the Board and as newsletter editor for many years. Andrew instructs at Dealing With Dogs as well as being active in private consultations.
The Four Quadrants; what are they?
by Grace McDonald

One of the major advantages to a one-on-one, in-home tutorial practice, is the capacity of cost to screen my clients for me. A great percentage of those who can afford my lessons are well educated. Their level of education affords me an opportunity to provide them with the scientific basis for what I will be asking them to do with their pet. I find that historical relevancy also helps them understand the difference between what I teach and what they have heard from other instructors. Many clients come to the process with so many misconceptions that I find that the science and history helps to make my approach more understandable.

I always explain that for approximately 70 years, we humans loved to believe that dogs worked for our praise which, of course, raises many questions like: Why were we strangling them with a choke chain? Why won’t we work for our boss’ praise? How did human praise help a dog survive? Why won’t we work for a dog’s praise?

Initially, the use of food conditioning, as I lived it, was that in the early 80’s, we recognized that working, herding, and sporting dogs were more inclined to work for the jerk and praise method. Terriers and hounds, who initially fed themselves by killing rats, foxes and raccoons, were less inclined to work for praise and, therefore, were not seen as good candidates in our sport of competition obedience.

We therefore came to more correctly equate the responses we got to the food we provided; rather than our praise. “Good” had become their conditioned reinforcer or pay cheque. We set out to have a wider diversity of breeds in competition by putting the food right up front with a sound. Then we weaned off the food and were left with the sound - a click, the word “good” and, eventually, the word “ready” as their pay cheque, (a promissory note for food at meal times or C.R.).

This led to a great swing in dog training towards pure food training - bribing our dogs, rewarding our dogs, and buying our dogs compliance. Dog trainers were very happy that we no longer had to choke and pinch our dogs, or throw bean bags, noise makers or penny cans at them. After all, we bought them to love them, so it was just so nice not to have to frighten them or hurt them. We could be Mr. and Mrs. Nice Guy all the time. We felt consequential learning was in the past. (How many people know someone who really doesn’t want to be their kid’s parent - they want to be their friend? We know how that often works out! Pet owners often don’t want to be their dog’s authority figure - they want to be their friend.)

After a few years I, like some of the other “born again” dog trainers, came to believe that we had three problems with what initially was called “click and treat training” and subsequently became known as pure positive training.

The #1 problem was feeding our dogs regular daily meals. If a dog is chasing a rabbit under a train at 8:00 PM and you yell, “come”, your dog is dead if his responses are dependant on hunger drive and you killed his hunger by feeding him out of a bowl at 6:00 PM.

The #2 problem was not feeding our dogs regular daily meals but using their food for training purposes. If a dog is chasing a rabbit under a train at 8:00 PM and you didn’t feed him at 6:00 PM because you are a pure positive trainer and you plan to use his supper to train him at 9:00 PM, he is very, very hungry. Although you may have all his supper kibble in your pockets, he still may not come because the rabbit (cat, squirrel, deer, etc.) that he is chasing is supper.

Therefore, dependence on food is a lose-lose situation. Either your dog doesn’t come because he isn’t hungry due to the fact that you’ve fed him or he doesn’t come because he is hungry and what he is chasing is food.

The #3 problem with pure food training is the reason I personally left the ranks of the pure positive trainers. A large percentage of my clients have fearful, insecure, anxious, biting dogs.

Dogs tend to be defensive when they don’t have an authority figure to be their defender. Buying a dog’s compliance with food does nothing to set one up as much of an authority figure. The example I give my clients is that of a child that refuses to attend school. In desperation the parents pay the child to attend. This means that if the child is bullied at school he/she isn’t inclined to think of Mom and Dad as the authority figures that will come and sort things out with the teacher. After all, their Mom and Dad are such wimps they pay him/her to go to school. Therefore, without an authority figure to defend them, the youngster is stuck getting into school yard brawls!! We all have clients with dogs that feel a need to take on every dog that comes towards them on the side walk. Perhaps the dog doesn’t have enough respect for the owner to trust that he will be defended.

Some of the born-again dog trainers, not willing to go back to the jerk and praise method alone, combined the old and the new. We tend to do food training (R+), just as the pure positive trainers do, for operant
behaviours like sit, down, stay, come, kennel, and go to your mat. We then follow up the food training (how to) with compulsion training (have to) with the jerk and praise collar methods (R-). At the same time, we are using consequent learning with many strategically placed treat dishes/throw cans (R+/P+). We reinforce (strengthen) the new operant behaviours that are incompatible with inappropriate ones and punish (weaken) those behaviours our clients simply can not, or will not, live with in the meantime. While holding the middle ground we became known as the four tools, four quadrants, or balanced trainers. (We humans do love labels!!) Hopefully we took the best of both and came out with a good compromise.

To explain the four quadrants, or four tools to my clients, I must first explain the proper use of the terms positive and negative. There is just so much confusion when talking dog training that the last thing we need is misunderstood semantics.

Many of my clients are throwing the terms good and bad, positive and negative at me before I am in the door. This means I must clearly define for them exactly what these terms mean to me. First, and foremost, I make it clear that I do not believe that a dog can be either good or bad. Since I believe that dogs are not moral beings who can decide right from wrong, I make it clear from the outset that I consider a dog simply a reflection of the environment provided by their owners. Therefore, if there are any moral judgments to be made, they'd best get a mirror.

I explain that I try to use the science of applied operant conditioning to teach people how to better live with their dogs. In the sciences, the words positive and negative do not mean good or bad; those are value judgments better left in the arts. In the sciences, positive means add and negative means subtract. The four quadrants, or four tools, referred to by these labels, when applied to the middle of the road trainers, are positive reinforcement (R+), negative reinforcement (R-), positive punishment (P+), and negative punishment (P-).

I honestly do not know why the abbreviations are reversed. Instead of positive reinforcement being +R, it is abbreviated R+, or reinforcement positive?? The scientists do like to make life confusing for we lay people. R+ and P- are used by pure positive trainers. The giving of food is positive reinforcement (add to strengthen), while the withholding of the food is negative punishment (subtract to weaken). R- is used by jerk and praise trainers. The subtraction of collar discomfort is negative reinforcement (subtract to strengthen).

Positive Reinforcement (R+) (add something pleasant to strengthen)

I find that since all of my clients were parented and many have, or are currently parenting, that drawing analogies between dog training and parenting skills helps them to better understand what I am teaching.

I explain that if they say to their daughter, "If you make your bed every day this week, without me nagging, we will go for a pizza on Saturday." They are adding a pizza to strengthen bed making behaviours. (R+)

We add food to strengthen not only the act of performing a response but the passive behaviour of continuing to perform the response. We use treats as little as possible. Instead, we simply use the dog's regular daily ration of kibble for training in order to both work with a hungry dog and to develop a provider bond between dog and owner.

Most dog obedience cues require behaviour chains, i.e. "sit" means sit and remain seated, "down" means down and remain down, "kennel" means go in and remain in. There are two parts to many of the chains, the active part (doing it) and the passive part (continuing to do it). Most pet owners don't realize that, having said "sit", if they immediately give their dog a treat for responding, they are teaching that "sit" means sit then get up immediately. I never pay a dog for performing a response. I pay a dog for performing a response and continuing to do so.

The process of continuing to do it is defined by counting out loud, prior to saying “ready” and sometimes giving a piece of his/her own regular daily ration of kibble (a variable interval of reinforcement). (The importance of counting out loud will be explained under P-) This makes the dog a gambler as to how long is he required to continue to do something. We give a piece of kibble only some of the time but not all of the time (a variable schedule of reinforcement). This makes the dog a gambler as to how many responses he/she has to do before perhaps getting a piece of kibble.

We use treats as little as possible. At intervals throughout the day we simply use the dog's regular daily ration of kibble for training purposes to develop a provider bond between dog and owner. I usually get a laugh when I ask my clients to tell me how many things they do between pay cheques. I explain that their boss has them on a widely variable schedule of reinforcement. Once their dogs are on a very wide schedule, which will be well within three months, the food is pretty much gone and "ready" is simply used like a pay cheque to be cashed in at meal times.
Positive reinforcement is the most complex to explain because of the use of the two different types of responses (active and passive) and the two different types of variable reinforcement (interval and schedule).

Negative Reinforcement (R-) (subtract something unpleasant to strengthen)

The human equivalent is simple. If one tells one’s son he must remain in his room until it is tidy, once the room is tidy, the unpleasant incarceration is subtracted.

After 28 days of using kibble for training, we return to providing regular meals. Now, when we say “sit”, the dog isn’t necessarily hungry. We test to make certain the dog’s food conditioning has been sufficient holding a high level reinforcer in our hands. Then we make it a point to have no food in our hands and to create a high level distraction, i.e. a spouse coming in the door with a friend or two strange, leashed dogs in the yard.

We find a good percentage of the time, when you remove hunger and the potential of food, and provide a distraction, the dog will fail to access the food conditioned response. When we do get a response, the dog is considered a good candidate for further pure positive training and may be referred to a group pure positive school.

If we don’t get a response, we “pop” on his training collar to cause him to seek out the food conditioned operant response in the back of his brain and use it to have the unpleasantness subtracted (escape). This subtracts the discomfort of the collar pop to reinforce, or strengthen, the potential that the next time he is told to “sit”, whether he is hungry or not, whether we have food in our hand or not, whether a high level distraction is occurring or not, he will sit (avoid), because the last time doing so made the unpleasantness get subtracted (R-).

Positive Punishment (P+) (add something unpleasant to weaken)

My mother’s unpleasant additions of choice were a wooden spoon to my clothed butt and soap to my mouth for a certain four letter “F” word, which she didn’t like spoken in her home. Strange, I don’t feel like an abused child. To this day, the chances of me swearing at my husband during a “heated” discussion are relatively good, but I would never, ever, swear at my mother!!

Beside each of the dozen treat dishes, for good consequences (R+), which are strategically placed about the home, there are penny throw cans made of cardboard i.e. Pringles Chip cans or Tetley Tea cans, with 12 pennies inside, which are used for bad consequences (P+). We squish the cans turning them from cardboard to paper and wrap tape around them to keep the lids on and pennies inside. The cans have become like paper but they still have a metal bottom so the pennies make a noise when thrown to hit a dog’s shoulder or butt. We never use them as a noise interrupter as then they become a cue to cease inappropriate behaviour and will be needed over the life of the dog. We want them to hit and hurt to extinguish behaviour. If the conditioned punisher “ach” caused the behaviour to cease, then the can must still be thrown to keep value in the C.P. but hits the floor. If it hit the dog it would punish cessation of the behaviour. If it isn’t thrown it would devalue “ach” so that it became as benign and impotent as “no”. I always tell my clients I will use things that hurt, as hurt teaches. but never that harm or damage, as the vets refuse to pay me a commission!

Clients are clearly instructed to refrain from socializing outside Safeway and WalMart, in order to have 100 people a week pat their dogs, until they have put a stop to the jumping on people at home. It isn’t socially acceptable to be tossing cans at your dog outside Safeway. People will be reaching for their cells to call the SPCA.

With the Can Gods, it usually takes a maximum of six to eight days to stop jumping behaviours. Since the dog is attached to the owner for twenty-eight days with an umbilical leash while learning behaviours incompatible with barking out windows and jumping on people, furniture, and counters, (i.e. lying on a mat and coming when called), the need for the Can Gods is minimal as the dog is set up to successfully avoid inappropriate behaviours and the owners are set up to be consistent. If inappropriate behaviours occur they do so within six feet because of the umbilical leash and, with twelve cans logistically positioned, there is usually one within easy reach.

Of course no Can Gods are allowed when the evil teacher is there because the dog will associate it with my presence and I’ll have to move in. By that time my clients have definitely figured out they don’t want that to happen. If they yell “ACH” (conditioned punisher) loud enough and throw the can effectively, the dog will be too traumatized to learn during our lesson time. Most important, if they are throwing cans at lesson two, twenty-one days from lesson one, we know that no can throwing took place during home practice or it would all have been over within six to eight days.

Negative Punishment (P-) (subtract something pleasant to weaken a behaviour)

Parents who have instructed there be no cell phone after 9 P.M. on a school night who come upon a youngster chatting at 11 P.M. will subtract the cell phone.
I don’t feel dog’s understand the subtraction of a toy or social interaction. I know many people who have tried time outs in the kennel with little success. In fact, frustration energizes behaviour. Therefore, if I want my dog to do a better job of retrieving, I simply subtract the ball/bird then immediately have it reappear and be thrown. Rather than weakening retrieve drive by subtracting the pleasant object, it energizes the behaviour.

What one can subtract to punish or weaken a dog’s behaviour is the potential of the food. We do so by ceasing the audible count used to create a variable interval. If I cue down and want to count to ten for a five second down but the dog sits at four, I simply stop counting. The dog will often very quickly return to the down position to train that stupid human to count again. I wouldn’t start at one again as the dog has demonstrated readiness for only a two second down. I will start at five and count very quickly to ten setting my dog up to successfully remain seated for two seconds and perhaps earn a piece of his kibble.

Here again, I take the opportunity to remind my clients that we always set our dogs up to be successful. This stresses the importance of the umbilical leash.

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<tr>
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<td>Add Kibble</td>
<td>Subtract collar pop</td>
<td>Add Penny throw can</td>
<td>Subtract count</td>
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I hope I have answered not only the question, “what are the four quadrants?”, but also how we came to teach them, who teaches them, why we teach them, and what we hope to accomplish by teaching them.

I would like to acknowledge those to whom I am indebted for my desire to understand and use the four quadrants; Dr. Ian Dunbar, Ted Aranda, Karen Pryor, Gary Wilkes, and Wayne Bellingham.

Grace McDonald is a long-time member of CAPPDT residing in Dugald, MB. Grace is the owner of Dog Owners Guidance Service.
**Clicker – Unraveling Some of the Mystery Behind the Magic About Time!(ing)**

by Tammy Brooks, CPDT-KA, KPA-CTP

**Clicker Myth: You can only train with a clicker if you have good timing.**

In reality the question we should be asking is not about clicker, but about training in general. Doesn’t good timing make all training more effective? Yes! Do you have to have good timing to be a good trainer? It definitely helps!

What is “good timing”? “Timing” is our ability to follow a student’s behaviour with a consequence efficiently enough so that the student (dog) associates the consequence with that behaviour.

Traditionally this means we correct or reward the dog after the dog does a behaviour; the idea being that punishment will decrease a behaviour, reward will increase a behaviour. Either can be effective IF the dog understands which behaviour you are punishing for, or paying for. There is great potential for fallout if the dog does not understand which behaviour caused the consequence (the consequence was poorly timed).

Why is it difficult to effectively reward a dog without the “click”? As soon as the trainer starts to focus on the reward rather than the behaviour, the dog’s behaviour changes! Try it!

Reach for a cookie, or the ball, while your dog is doing the behaviour you want. Even if the dog holds the desired behaviour (stays), the focus has changed from behaving to getting rewarded. The “timing” is wrong because the reward happens during the excitement phase of “here comes the reward” rather than while the dog is focused on performing the desired behaviour. It doesn’t mean a dog can't/won't learn this way; it’s just not as effective as being able to tell the dog “right!” during the performance of the desired behaviour and before the reward is presented.

In clicker training, the “click” actually improves the trainer’s chances of connecting the student’s behaviour with the consequence (reward). It is fast, clear, and easy to make the “click” happen while the behaviour is happening (good timing). The “click” sound only has one meaning to the dog (a food reward is coming) so the dog wants to make the “click” happen (tries to offer the right behaviour).

Trainers who use corrections, have experienced well-timed corrections being more effective to teach a new behaviour than food/play reward. Just as the “click” can take place during a desired behaviour, a short/crisp correction can happen during an undesired behaviour. Consequences happening during behaviour (good timing) make it easier for the student (dog) to associate the consequence with that behaviour. A well-timed correction will, therefore, make a behaviour less likely to occur again. The dog will not offer “wrong” behaviours because it wants to avoid the punishment, so is more likely to offer the right behaviour.

In fact, many trainers have simply practiced correcting effectively far more than they have practiced effective reward marking/delivery. It makes sense, then, that it is going to feel like we have better timing using corrections (and therefore more effective training) than we do when training with rewards, if that is what we have the most experience with. Crossover trainers (trainers who used largely correction-based methods and now use reward-based methods) often make great clicker trainers because they already have excellent timing. They are already skilled at observing behaviour in their students so that they can effectively make a connection between the behaviour and the consequence. When switching to clicker training, trainers watch for behaviours they want the student to repeat, rather than for behaviours they want the student to cease. Their good timing becomes an invaluable skill in teaching the student what TO do rather than what not to do.

How do you improve your timing? Practice! Practice! Practice!!

Start with practicing your observation skills. Watch your dog or a family member and record on a sheet of paper how many times they perform a specific behaviour: i.e. watch your dog playing with another dog – how many times does he/she play bow during a 3 minute session? Or how many times does your dog’s tail lift higher than their bum during a 3 minute play session? Or how many times does your dog freeze? Just pick one behaviour to watch for, set the timer and go! If you are observing a family member you can observe how many times they smile, or look away, or toss their hair (or any behaviour you find observable).

Next, practice your clicker skills (timing). With your clicker in your non-dominant hand (greater dexterity is required to deliver rewards then to squeeze a clicker so keep your dominant hand free for reward delivery) stay still and on every breath, click just as you start to exhale. Have a family member bounce a ball and click each time the ball hits the floor. While watching television or listening to the radio, choose a behaviour or a phrase to click for: i.e. while watching...
hockey, click every time the puck crosses a blue line – while watching Oprah, click every time Oprah interrupts someone – while listening to the radio click whenever you hear a specific word or phrase.

Now practice your reward delivery skills. Keep your hands still until after you click. Sit at the table with one empty bowl and one bowl of something easy to handle (M&M’s, buttons, Cheerios, etc.) and practice “clicking” (non-dominant hand) followed by transferring one item from the full bowl to the empty bowl (dominant hand). Try it while you stand up. Now repeat using whatever edible reward you plan to reward your dog with.

Lastly, practice with your dog. Practice your skills of clicking and rewarding first. It is important to have good timing when clicking and THEN rewarding, prior to click/reward for a behaviour. Have your dog on leash and place the handle of the leash under one of your feet so that the dog cannot leave. Sit (small dog) or stand (tall dog) somewhere quiet, hands close to your body, rewards within reach, clicker in your non-dominant hand. It’s important to keep BOTH of your hands still until after you click. If your dog is noise sensitive then it is wise to put your clicker hand in a pocket (to soften the noise). “Click”, then give a reward to your dog (rewards should be soft, moist and easy for your dog to quickly ingest). Repeat. If your rewards are rewarding to your dog, you will not lose your dog’s interest. Remember you are NOT rewarding your dog for doing anything – you are practicing YOUR skills. How fast do you need to be? You need to be able to “click” and then reward your dog without losing your dog’s interest. If you click and, by the time you get a reward ready to deliver, your dog is at the end of his/her leash, back to you, then you either need better rewards (higher value) or you need to speed your delivery up a little. When you can “click” while you stay still, then deliver a reward to your dog, with your dog expectantly watching you for 5–10 repetitions, you are ready to start observing a behaviour to click for.

Start with something easy! Place a food reward on the floor for your dog, the dog eats the reward and when the dog’s nose comes off the floor (he finishes eating), “click” and place another food reward in the same spot (allow the dog to immediately eat the reward), wait, when the dog’s nose points up toward you, “click” then place a reward on the floor... repeat 5-10 times. Take a break and then try again. When you do it the second time, toss the food reward a little further away from you and see if your dog immediately turns toward you after ingesting it. When you can see the top of his/her nose, “click”, then toss a reward and repeat. Look at you go!! Your “good timing” is helping your dog learn that looking toward you is a rewarding behaviour, worth repeating!

If your dog is unable to work with you because of distractions, start in a less distracting environment, use better rewards, or shorten your training sessions.

If your dog stares at the floor when he hears the “click” you are most likely clicking and treating at the same time. “Click” while the dog’s nose is pointing at you and while he is still looking at you, (quickly) put the reward on the floor for him to eat. “Click” WHILE the dog is performing the behaviour you want him to repeat (nose toward handler). You want the dog to be clear about what you are rewarding him/her for (good timing). If the dog is unclear (i.e. you click when the dog stops the behaviour) or if you are uncertain of the order in which you are performing the steps needed to effectively train (i.e. you treat and then click), the training will be frustrating and ineffective for both of you. There are no corrections for “wrong” behaviour when you are training this way because you are focusing on what you can reward the dog for doing right.

Practice! Practice! Practice without, as well as with, your dog. Good timing = good training!

Tammy Brooks is a former long-time member and supporter of CAPPDT, was conference chair for two CAPPDT conferences and the founder of Sit Happens! based in Calgary.

Canine “Personality”

We all like to describe our dog’s personality or temperament. We say our four legged wonders are excitable, playful, reactive, fearful, aggressive, or dominant. What do these terms really mean? How does an excitable dog act? How I describe an excitable dog may be very different from your description.

Characteristics such as these are an expression of a dog’s temperament or personality. Temperament refers to behavioral consistency – how a dog is likely to react to the same or similar events over time.

A research study by Dr. James Serpell and his colleagues provides some insight into canine
temperament traits. Drs. Serpell (author of In The Company of Animals, and editor of The Domestic Dog) and Yuying Hsu from the University of Pennsylvania gave almost 2000 dog owners a 152 item questionnaire pertaining to their dogs’ behavior.

People were asked what their dogs did in various situations, including encountering familiar or unfamiliar dogs and people; startling noises; when left alone or separated from their owners; squirrels, cats or other small animals; and during play, to name just some examples.

Using statistical analyses, the researchers identified which behaviors clustered with each other, but not with other behaviors. This cluster of behaviors that go together represents a temperament trait. Scientists studying human personality use the same research method.

Examples of related behaviors that formed a cluster labeled “excitability” included the dog becoming excited when playing, greeting a family member, when the doorbell rings, or before being taken for a walk.

Owners were given explanations of behavioral signs to assist them when scoring their dogs. For example when scoring aggressive responses, moderate signs of aggression were defined as barking, growling and baring teeth.

The study identified 11 traits, 10 of which were shown to be statistically reliable, meaning that the behavioral reactions that clustered into these traits were highly correlated with each other. Behaviors associated with pain sensitivity were not highly correlated with each other.

The validity of the factors – meaning the factors actually described behavioral traits – was also demonstrated. The sample included 200 dogs with behavior problems presented to behavior specialists (we were one of seven consultants who assisted in this phase). The factor or trait scores for these dogs matched the behavioral diagnoses given independently by the specialist. For example, a dog diagnosed with separation anxiety scored high on those behaviors that clustered into the separation-related behavior factor.

The results of this study are similar to one conducted several years ago by Drs. Linda Goodloe and Peter Borchelt. These studies are important because they provide an objective, concrete and replicable way to describe temperament traits in dogs. These results allow us to move past labels popularly applied to dogs, such as having high “prey drive” or being “high strung”. Such terms contribute little to our understanding of canine temperament traits, because they are subject to individual interpretation and haven’t been substantiated by independent research.

If you’d like a copy of Dr. Serpell’s questionnaire, contact him at the Department of Clinical Studies, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6010.

WANTED

We have a new member who is just beginning his journey as a trainer. His goal is to eventually train Psychiatric Assistance Dogs.

Do we have any members who would be willing to answer questions regarding this type of work? Or any other “assistance” work?

If you would be willing to be a mentor, please contact info@cappdt.ca and I'll pass along the contact info to you.

Thank you for being willing to help!
The following is an excerpt of a letter received from CCPDT (Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers) plus their Position Statement. As many of our members are writing the CCPDT certification exam(s) the following is provided for our members information.

September 27, 2011

The Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT) has spent the last year reviewing and updating our policies, procedures, and position statements. Because we continually strive to be the premier organization for independent credentialing of dog trainers and behaviourists, we felt it was our obligation to identify our definition of what constitutes humane treatment during the training process. As such, we have recently adopted the attached Position Statement entitled Application of the Humane Hierarchy.

As you are probably aware, an individual who is a member of your organization is entitled to receive a discount of $50 off the candidate fee to take one of our examinations. We are now making it a requirement that an organization must sign that they are in agreement with our Humane Hierarchy in order for their members to continue to receive this discount. We feel that the organizations which we support by way of a discount should also support our policies, especially when it comes to something as important as the humane treatment of animals.

Please sign the attached form indicating your organization’s agreement with our Humane Hierarchy policy ……

Board of Directors
Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers

Position Statement

Application of the Humane Hierarchy

Purpose: This position statement serves to guide certificants of the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT) in the decision making process during dog training and behavior modification. Additionally, it will assist dog owners and dog care professionals in understanding the standard of care to be applied in the dog training industry in determining training practices and methodologies and the order of implementation for applying those training practices and methodologies.

Position of the CCPDT: The standard of care for CCPDT certificants is that the Humane Hierarchy be used when making decisions regarding training protocols and behavior interventions. This use should occur regardless of whether the certificant is performing the training or setting up a protocol for the dog owner or another professional to implement.
The Humane Hierarchy, is adopted by the CCPDT as follows:

**Hierarchy of Procedures for Humane and Effective Practices**

1. **Health, nutritional, and physical factors:** The certificant should ensure that any indicators for possible medical, nutritional, or health factors are addressed by a licensed veterinarian. The certificant should also ensure that potential factors in the physical environment are addressed.

   Adapted from: *WHAT’S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? EFFECTIVENESS IS NOT ENOUGH*, Susan G. Friedman, Ph.D., Good Bird ™ Magazine, Vol 4-4; Winter 2008. (adopted July 8, 2009)

2. **Antecedents:** The certificant should redesign setting events, change motivations, and add or remove discriminative stimuli (cues) for the problem behavior.

3. **Positive Reinforcement:** The certificant should employ approaches that contingently deliver a consequence to increase the probability that the right behavior will occur, which is more reinforcing than the problem behavior.

4. **Differential Reinforcement of Alternate Behavior:** The certificant should reinforce an acceptable replacement behavior and remove the maintaining reinforcer for the problem behavior.

5. **Negative Punishment, Negative Reinforcement, or Extinction (these are not listed in any order of preference);**

   a) **Negative Punishment** – the certificant should contingently withdraw a positive reinforcer to reduce the probability that the problem behavior will occur.

   b) **Negative Reinforcement** – The certificant should contingently withdraw an aversive antecedent stimulus to increase the probability that the right behavior will occur.

   b) **Extinction** – the certificant should permanently remove the maintaining reinforcer to suppress the behavior or reduce it to baseline levels.

5. **Positive Punishment:** The certificant should contingently deliver an aversive consequence to reduce the probability that the problem behavior will occur.

The Board of Directors of CAPPDT has signed their agreement to this Humane Hierarchy and returned it to the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT).
MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Pat Renshaw

As at September 30, 2011, the following have applied for membership with CAPPDT.

Heather Barron – Victoria, BC
Rachelle Buckle – Pefferlaw, ON
Jeff Calvin – Qualicum Beach, BC
Shelley Cork – Calgary, AB
Joyce Craig – Howick, QC
Lisa Davies – Pitt Meadows, BC
Angele Gemme – South Porcupine, ON
Karey Grisdale – Pefferlaw, ON
Krista Head – Cornerbrook, NF
Amy Hofmans – Hornby, ON
Doug Joinson – Chilliwack, BC
Joanna Kreuzer – Ottawa, ON
Rhonda Lemoine – Edmonton, AB
Marilyne Lizotte – Laval, QC
Claire Lomas – Vancouver, BC

Bev Maahs – Cobble Hill, BC
Andrea McGill – Havelock, ON
Andy O’Gorman – Calgary, AB
Jeannette Reynolds – Musquodoboit Harbour, NS
Scott Richer – Aylmer, ON
Andrea Ruddy – Stoney Creek, ON
Olivia Sabo – Vaughan, ON
Heather Schaefer – Toronto, ON
Lisa Slough – Oakville, ON
Jan Soule – Hawkestone, ON
Susan Sullivan – Toronto, ON
Sabrina Thieme – Red Deer, AB
Lisa Wagner – Vancouver, BC
Dawn Wieck – Allegan, MI

MEMBERSHIP REPORT at September 30, 2011

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2011 Membership Breakdown by Province:

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New book from Grisha Stewart

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Title: Behavior Adjustment Training - BAT for Fear, Frustration, and Aggression in Dogs

Price: $17.95 Binding: Paperback, 7" x 10", 224 pgs, 83 B&W photos and illustrations, Index


Contact: Kristy Allen, kristya@dogwise.com, 800-776-2665 x124, fax 509-662-7233

Think “functional” to solve your dog’s reactivity issues

Behavior Adjustment Training (BAT) was developed by author Grisha Stewart to rehabilitate and prevent dog reactivity. BAT looks at the function of growling, lunging, or fleeing and helps dogs learn socially acceptable behaviors that serve that same function. In a nutshell, BAT builds confidence by giving dogs a chance to learn to control their environment through peaceful means. That makes BAT very empowering to your dog or puppy, in a good way. It’s also empowering for you, as you learn how to understand your dog and help him learn to safely get along with people, dogs, and other “triggers.”

You will learn about:
• How to encourage or shape a “replacement behavior” that provides your dog the same “functional reward” as reactivity.
• Why it is important to keep your dog calm in the presence of a trigger while teaching him to make good choices.
• Step-by-step instructions needed to stage BAT set-ups to work with your dog in a controlled environment.
• Practical ways to keep your dog from being pushed into a reactive state in and around your home and on walks.
• How to use BAT preventively for puppy socialization.

What experts are saying about Behavior Adjustment Training

Every trainer should have the methods described in BAT in their tool box. There’d be a lot more happy dogs and happy owners if they did!

Patricia McConnell, Ph.D., author The Other End of the Leash
Every trainer who works with dogs that aren’t completely bombproof should have both the technical skills of BAT and the learning theory behind it in their toolbox. Grisha Stewart presents a thoughtful, reader-friendly protocol that is appropriate for both professionals and laypeople. Both scientific and entertaining, this book will skilfully guide you through a sticky subject.

Leslie McDevitt, MLA, CPDT-KA, CDBC, author Control Unleashed: Creating a Focused and Confident Dog
Behavior Adjustment Training is an excellent resource for people who have reactive dogs, and the professional trainers who help them. Grisha Stewart’s instruction is easy to understand, enhanced by wonderful illustrations, and she includes the “technical jargon” for pros who crave the science!

Grisha Stewart’s DVDs on BAT training have made her a popular seminar presenter all over the world. She is the owner of Ahimsa Dog Training in Seattle, which offers a wide range of dog and puppy classes and an online store.