



FEATURES

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What's the Name of the Game?

By Lauren Fox, CPDT-KA

From 'The Chronicle' APDT USA

Coming when called is one of the most important behaviors a family will want their dog to perform reliably and regardless of distraction. However, if you ask the family dog, coming back to their person (particularly during an unexpected romp) may not be at the top of the priority list.

In this installment of "What's the Name of the Game?" I will detail exciting and useful games that will reinforce, for both humans and their dogs, the life-saving skill of the recall! In these games in particular, make sure that you have a safe, enclosed environment to play in, or keep each canine student on a 20+ foot long line. Since most of these games are played off leash (or on a long line), also ensure that you know the sociability of each dog playing. As always, feel free to change the rules and be creative to fit the needs of your class and students.

Let the games begin!

Fastest Recall Race – This game is a good beginner game and can easily be played on a long line or off leash.

Supplies Needed: Four cones/long lines as needed.

- Decide which handler/dog teams will race against each other.
 - Place cones in a large rectangle, at least 10 feet apart horizontally (start line) and at least 20 feet apart vertically (finish line).
 - There are two handler/dog teams racing against each other at a time.
 - The handler/dog team must stay behind the first set of cones until you say "GO!"
 - Once you say "GO!" the handler races to the other set of cones and recalls the dog (handlers may put their dog in a wait or have an assistant hold their dog).
 - The dog that comes to the handler, sits and gets caught first wins that round.
- Repeat until everyone in the group has gone once, then repeat with the winners going against each other until there is one ultimate fastest recall

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apdtnz 2013

Conference

Waipuna Hotel Auckland,
1-3 November

Featuring from the USA:

Pia Silvani

and

Veronica Boutelle

*More information
coming soon!*

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winner!

Recall Relay – This is a fun team relay, working both waits and recalls.

Supplies Needed: Cones/long lines as needed.

- Place cones in a large rectangle, at least 10 feet apart horizontally (start line) and at least 20 feet apart vertically (finish line).
- Divide the group into two teams of at least three handlers/dogs per team.
- The first handler/dog pair from each team lines up behind the start line.
- When you signal “GO!” the handlers put their dogs in a wait and run down to the finish line.
- Once they cross the finish line, they recall their dogs. The dogs must come across the finish line, sit, and be caught. Then each handler taps his or her dog on the head.
- As soon the handler taps the dog on the head, it signals to the next handler in line, who puts his or her dog in a wait, runs down to the finish line, and recalls the dog.
- The dog must come across the finish line, sit, be caught and then tapped on the head.
- Again, the head tap signals the next pair to go. And so on and so on, until one team gets through all handler/dog pairs. The team to do that first is the winner!

Mine Field Recall – This is an individual timed event. The more creative you are with your distractions, the more fun for everyone (or at least that’s what I tell my human students).

Supplies: Four cones, distractions such as stuffed Kongs, bones, food bowls, stuffed toys, balls, humans, other dogs, animal pelts, horse poo, a plastic fire hydrant, an open can of food, potted plants, loose kibble or whatever else you can come up with for the “mine” field.

- This is a timed event.
- Place cones at least 10 feet part horizontally (start line) and at least 20 feet apart vertically (finish line).
- Place varied levels of distraction items throughout the 20+ feet of mine field. Make sure you place one fairly close to the starting cones and one close to the finish cones.
- Have the handler either place the dog in a wait or have an assistant hold the dog.
- The handler then walks down beyond the finish line.
- When you signal “GO!” the handler releases and recalls the dog. The time starts when the dog

crosses the start line.

- The handler may talk to the dog as he or she recalls them through the mine field.
 - The time stops when the dog crosses the finish line, sits and is caught.
- The dog with the fastest time in the group is the winner!

Red Rover Recall Game – This is an exhilarating and challenging game. Be prepared that it might take up the whole class time or be done in five minutes.

Supplies: None

- Spilt the group into two teams, A and B (evenly if possible).
- Space teams A and B at least 20 feet apart and line pairs up like they are doing a sit/stay obedience exercise (before the handlers have left their dogs).
- Flip a coin to see which team goes first.
- The team who wins the coin toss, gets to decide who from the other team they would like to “come over.”
- Once decided, the team (let’s use Team A as the first team) says “Red Rover, Red Rover, send [insert dogs name, let’s use H] right over.”
- H’s handler (on Team B) puts H in a wait, walks over to the other team and slightly behind their line and recalls H (diagram 1).
- If H comes all the way past the other dogs and sits to be caught, then H’s handler gets to pick another handler/dog pair to go back and join him on his original team, Team B. (diagram two – H has brought dog F and his handler onto Team B).
- Next, Team B gets to pick a dog that they would like to “come over.”
- Once decided, Team B says “Red Rover, Red Rover, send [let’s use G] right over.”
- G’s handler (on Team A) puts G in a wait, walks over to the other team and slightly behind their line and recalls G.
- If G does not recall, sniffs the ground excessively, goes to visit one or more other dogs or in some way blows his handler off, then the opposing team (in this case, Team B) gets G on their side now (diagrams three and four). This continues until everyone is on the same team!

Look for the last installment of “What’s the Name of the Game?” in the next issue, where I will outline some of my all time favorite games that focus on multiple skills and just good old plain fun! Until then **PLAY ON!**

Lauren Fox, CPDT-KA, has been the Executive Director of All Breed Rescue & Training in Colorado Springs, CO since 1998.

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She presented on "Outdoor Adventure: Leaving Tracks All Over The Country" and "The Spice of Life: Keeping Clients Coming Back" at the 2010 APDT conference in Louisville, KY. She is happy to be contacted at fox711711@msn.com.

The APDTNZ
Newsletter—a great
read



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New Tricks for a Stick

By Pat Miller, CPDT-KA, CBCC-KA

Does your dog know how to target? If not, the two of you may be missing out on one of the most versatile behaviors to come along since the rise in popularity of the positive dog training philosophy.

Targeting simply means teaching your dog to touch a designated body part to a designated spot – the end of a commercially-produced target stick, your hand, an object, a location, or anything at all. While much targeting is done with the dog's nose, as the designated body part, you can actually teach your dog to touch with a front or hind foot, his hip, his shoulder, ear, or any other moveable piece of his anatomy.

We teach nose targeting in my Basic Adult and Puppy classes. Whenever I introduce the exercise to a new group I get puzzled stares from most of the humans in the class. I can just see them thinking, "Why on earth would I want to teach my dog to do that?!" – proof that the concept of targeting still has miles to go before gaining familiarity and acceptance in the mainstream pet dog community.

The list of reasons why you want to teach your dog to touch is as long as your arm, and then some. From the serious to the sublime, targeting is useful and fun for canines and humans alike.

You can use targeting to teach good manners behaviors such as "Go to your place," and help your dog learn polite leash walking. "Touch the target" can be used as an emergency recall, or your dog's cue to ask to go outside.

It also has widespread application for a number of service dog behaviors, can be used to teach agility dogs to hit the contact zones, and give search dogs a tool to communicate that they've located

sign of the missing person (or pet). Finally, targeting can come into play with an endless variety of entertaining tricks and games. There's something for everyone.

Getting Ready

It's almost imperative that you use a reward marker – the click! Of a clicker or some other quick, sharp sound or word – for fast and effective target training. The "touch" behavior happens so quickly that it's difficult for the dog to understand what he's being reinforced for absent a conditioned sound that marks the instant of rewardable behavior. If you have not already done so, start by "charging" your clicker – teaching your dog that "click!" (or whatever sound you choose to use) – means he just earned a reward.

Note: If you want to use a verbal marker instead of a clicker, I suggest *not* using the word "Good." We frequently tell our dogs they're good just because we love them. Your reward marker needs to have a very specific meaning: "That behavior just earned a treat!" You don't want to have to feed your dog a treat every time you tell him he's a good dog! I suggest using the word "Yes!" or even the word "Click!" as verbal markers.

Charging the clicker is one of the easiest things you'll ever do with your dog. It's classic Pavlov (classical conditioning) – simply giving the dog a strong positive association between the click or other marker, and yummy food. So, assuming you use a clicker, just "click!" a half-dozen to a dozen times, following each click with a tasty treat, and you'll soon be good to go. To test if the clicker is "charged," wait for your dog to look away from you and click the clicker once. His head should swivel back to you in anticipation of the treat. If it doesn't supply yourself with treats that are more irresistible, and click and treat a few more times.

A small percentage of dogs are afraid of the sound of the clicker. When you first introduce it, click it inside a pocket to muffle the sound a bit. If at any time you notice an adverse reaction to the clicker from your dog, change and use a verbal marker instead.

Basic Nose Targeting

The easiest body part to start with is the nose or a front paw, since dogs use those two body parts almost exclusively to explore their world. My preference is nose targeting – the one we teach in our beginner classes – because it's easy to elicit the behavior, and it doesn't reinforce dogs who might already be a little *too* free with the use of their paws. Foot is my second choice for an easy and useful targeting behavior.

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You can capture targeting to your hand, which means getting the complete “touch” behavior, clicking and treating when he does – or you can shape it – which means clocking and treating from “successive approximations” of moving his nose closer and closer to your hand.

Dogs tend to naturally sniff an offered hand, so to “capture” a touch, offer your open palm to your dog at nose level, fingers pointed toward the ground. If your dog thinks this is an invitation to “Shake,” offer your closed fist instead.

When he sniffs your offered hand, mark the desired behavior with the click! of your clicker – or your verbal marker – and give the dog a treat. Repeat until you see him deliberately bump his nose into your hand because he’s figured out he can make you click and treat by touching you. Then add your verbal cue (for example, “Touch!”) just *before* his nose touches. In short order you’ll be able to prompt him to target to your hand.

Of course, it’s not always quite that easy. Your dog may sniff the hand a few times and then stop, either because your hand is no longer interesting to him, or because he’s just focusing on the source of the treats. If he needs a jump start, rub something tasty on your hand and offer it for a sniff or a lick. You’re on your way!

Once you’ve established the targeting behavior to your hand, you can transfer it to another object. Hold the target object in your hand, cue the behavior, and give him a click and treat when he touches the target. Fade the presence of your hand by gradually moving it away from the target object until he’ll touch it by itself.

Practice targeting to enough different objects, and your dog will happily touch any object you indicate, the first time you ask. You can even name several objects and teach him to touch different ones on cue, a behavior called target discrimination.

Any time you want to add a new cue for a behavior, use the new cue, followed by the old one. When you name an object, you’re really just giving that specific object a new cue.

For example, if you set a gallon water jug on the floor and say “Touch!” your dog touches it. Now say “Jug, touch!” After enough repetitions (“enough” will vary from one dog to the next, depending on the dog and how touch-savvy he is), you can drop the “Touch” cue and just say “Jug!” to get your dog to touch the water bottle.

Applied Targeting

Ready to start making use of your dog’s new behavior? Try these:

Polite leash walking. This is one of the most useful applications of targeting. When your dog starts to lag or move too far ahead of you, position your target hand or the end of the target stick where you’d like the dog to be (traditionally at your left side) and ask him to “Touch!” Click and treat when he’s in position.

To keep him there, give your “Touch” cue more frequently at first, then less so as he gets better at polite walking. If you have a small dog and don’t want to bend over for him to touch your hand, teach him to touch a target stick and offer that as you walk, instead.

Close a door/drawer. Teach your dog to target to a plastic disc (like a cottage cheese container lid) in your hand. Then stick the lid to a cupboard door or drawer with rubber glue or double-sided tape at your dog’s nose level, and ask him to touch it there.

You may need to have your hand near the lid at first, and fade the presence of your hand – or not, if your dog is really adept at targeting. When he’ll consistently touch the lid on cue, shape for harder touches by only clicking the ones that move the door, at least a little. Eventually he’ll close the door all the way. If you don’t want a plastic lid on your cupboard forever, fade its presence by cutting it into increasingly smaller circles, until there’s no lid left and your dog has transferred the “touch” to the door itself.

Turn on/off a lamp. Gotta love those touch on/touch off lamps; they’re perfect for target training! Show your dog the lamp and ask him to “Touch!” If your dog still needs some assistance, put your hand behind the lamp to prompt him to touch it, and gradually fade the presence of your hand.

Be careful with this one! I had a friend whose husband accused her of not leaving the light on for him when she went to bed before he did – until they realized their Sheltie was turning off the light after her mistress fell asleep.

Go to your place. Get out another cottage cheese lid (since you cut up the last one) and stick it where you want your dog’s “place” to be. Ask him to target to the lid from increasing distances, until you can send him to his spot from across the room, and eventually even from another room.

When he’s targeting to his spot easily, start asking him to lie down when he gets there. Then change his cue for the behavior to “Place!” – or whatever cue you prefer – by using the new cue first, followed by the old cue, or “Place! – Touch!” Eventually you can drop the “touch” and he’ll go to his

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spot and lie down when you say "Place!"

You can teach him that one particular place is his spot, or you can generalize the behavior and teach him that anywhere you stick a cottage cheese lid – or his "place" mat – is his spot.

Play ball. Teach your dog to push a large ball with his nose – one he can't pick up in his mouth. The hard plastic Jolly Ball is perfect for this, and comes in a variety of sizes, from small to very large. When he's learned this one you can sit on the floor across from him and the two of you can roll the ball back and forth – a great game to play when your dog needs exercise and it's too cold or stormy to go outside. This behavior can also turn your dog into a great babysitter – as long as you remember that dogs and small children must always be under direct supervision. Or you can sue it to start playing Treibball!

Be brave. This is another application of classical conditioning – helping your dog develop an association between two different things. Most dogs love targeting once they've learned it. What's not to love? You're like a treat ending machine – your dog pushes the button (your hand), he gets a treat. He pushes the button, he gets a treat. As a result he has a very positive association – a "Yay!" feeling – when you ask him to touch.

Now, say you're walking down the street with your dog on leash and you have to pass a garbage collection truck. As you approach, the worker drops a metal garbage can, sending it clattering across the sidewalk 25 feet in front of you. Your dog happens to be a little fearful of loud noises and is now afraid to walk past the can, even after the garbage truck is long gone.

You offer your hand and ask your dog to touch. His brain goes "Yay! Targeting!" and he takes a step forward to touch your hand. You target him past the garbage can, and since he can't be happy about the target and afraid of the can at the same time, and because his association with targeting is so positive, not only do you get him past the can, but the positive association has rubbed off, and now he thinks garbage cans are pretty cool, too.

Paw Targeting

Some behaviors work better as paw targets than nose targets, especially things that require a little more "oomph" behind the touch – turning appliances on and off, for example. Others work equally well either way, and if you teach your dog both, you can choose which one to ask for.

For dogs who are naturally "pawsy," paw targeting is a breeze. Put something on the floor, and when your dog paws at it, click and treat. When he's pawing at it regularly, add a verbal cue. Be sure to

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use a different cue from the one you use for his nose! I use "Foot!" to ask my dogs to target with a paw, and "Touch!" for the nose.

If your dog's not a paw-natural, you can "shape" a foot touch. Start by clicking any foot movement of one paw while your dog stands or sits in front of you. Pick just one paw, or you could end up shaping a tap-dance!

At first you might just get tiny paw movements, but when your dog figures out what you're clicking for, his paw movements will become more deliberate and more expansive. When he's doing significant paw movement, add your "Foot" cue, then place an object on the floor. At first click if his paw lands anywhere near the object, then eventually only if it actually touches the object. Finally, if you want specificity, add a new cue for the specific object you're asking him to touch with his paw.

Some paw-touch applications include:

Playing soccer. You already taught him to push a ball with his nose. Now use a different cue for paw-soccer, and you've got another good energy-eating game. (Don't do this one if you have plans to play Treibball – dog sin that sport are not supposed to push the ball with their paws)

Playing a keyboard. This is a great crowd-pleaser for my Scottie, Dubhy; he sits up on a chair and plays and electronic keyboard with his paws. He actually started with a nose-touch on a plastic kiddie piano, and eventually graduated to paws on the keyboard.

Five more minutes. Pushing the snooze button on the alarm – an obvious application, but don't let him make you late for work!

Go to your place. Instead of a lid on the wall, teach him to target with his paws to a mat or rug on the floor.

Turning off the TV remote. For an additional challenge, teach him to do this *only* after you fall asleep watching TV!

Some of my favorite targeting applications are the ones taught just for fun. At our shaping camp we teach our dogs to turn on a smiley-face push light just because it's cute. A client of mine did one better, however. Matt Conaty, owner of the high-energy, bright Jack Russell Terrier, Bally, discovered a great target object at a chain office supply store – a little push-button gadget. Now when Bally pushes the button a recorded voice says, "That was easy!" Indeed, it was. And fun, too!

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Teach your dog basic targeting with nose and paw and apply them to his basic good manners training.

2. Consider targeting as an alternative tool for solving training challenges that have proven difficult with other techniques, such as pulling on leash.

Demonstrate the joys of targeting to your dog-owning friends; get together for targeting parties!

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Ask The Trainers: Solutions For Classroom Challenges

Ask ten trainers a question and you'll get ten different answers!

This month's challenge is as follows:

I teach a basic manners class and my students use clickers. One of my students was having difficulty holding the leash, using the clicker to mark her dog's behavior and delivering treats to her dog in a timely fashion. Her dog was very distracted. When I went over to help her she told me she suffered from arthritis, especially in her fingers. I asked her to choose and use a verbal marker instead of a clicker. Using a verbal marker made things easier for her but she still had trouble delivering treats to her dog. What can I do to help her in the class and at home on her own when working with her dog?

Viviane Arzoumanian

In a class or at home there are three alternate ways to hold the leash that will free up the handler's hands; 1) a waist/hip belt to hold the leash, 2) a tether point on a wall, 3) by attaching the leash to a heavy piece of furniture. Of course the client must be strong enough to withstand occasional tugs on the leash by the dog if a waist/hip belt is used. Wearing the belt low on the hips gives the handler a better center of gravity to remain bal-

anced should the dog tug. A very simple hip belt can be made out of two large size nylon clip collars attached to each other, and with a carabiner clip on one of the loops to attach the dog's leash to the belt.

A food tube (available from camping supply stores and www.petexpertise.com) to deliver reinforcement (present open end to dog to lick) or use of baby food directly from the jar or in a small yogurt cup can be useful when treat delivery is an issue. All the handler has to do is let the dog take a quick lick from these delivery devices, taking fumbling for tiny bits of treat from a pouch out of the equation. Another idea in this category is to use a wooden or metal spoon with a long handle and put peanut butter or cream cheese on the spoon — again the dog gets a lick as reinforcement for the desired behavior. A Kong could work for this too, though depending on the dog it might require too much refilling to be used efficiently.

Another treat delivery idea, which I once found gross but now use, is to hold small pieces of human food in my mouth and spit them to the dog. While this is probably too disgusting for most people, I discovered that I don't mind doing it with mozzarella string cheese or occasionally pieces of chicken, and I can mostly keep from eating the food myself. This is a great tool for getting amazing sustained eye contact from a dog; I often do it when I'm walking two of my dogs at once. My dogs happen to have very good eye-mouth coordination and catch most of the treats mid-air. Delivering the treats to the ground will work too as long as the training exercise is one in which moving out of position to get the treat is okay.

When using a clicker is the problem, either be-

cause it's too much equipment to handle, or it's hard to click, a verbal marker like "yes" can be used. I have also had good luck with the i-Click clickers available from www.clickertraining.com. They are easier to use with their raised yellow button, and if finger movement or placement is difficult they can be attached to a badge holder or wrist holder and then pressed against hand or hip to get the click — no need for precise finger placement or pressure. I have also experimented with holding the clicker in my armpit and clicking, though the sound is quite muffled and the chance of clicking by mistake increases.

A.M. Collins

I had a similar lady in class. We also used a verbal marker. I had her pick treats that retained their shape but had flavor, which may help the dog's attention (turkey bacon or Natural Balance Rolls); these were cut into small but uniform pieces, M&M size. We used a bait bag with a plastic cup and she practiced at first putting the treat from her bait bag into another cup. Once that was fluid she held 10 pieces in her hand and dispensed them into the cup. When that was easier we graduated to the dog. If the dog is smaller, place him on a platform so his head is at the client's elbow height for awhile. It took a bit longer but she managed to get her dog into advanced obedience.

Diane Abbott

Perhaps the client can try using peanut butter or liverwurst smeared on a paint stick or spatula. She could present a quick lick, versus trying to hold and deliver treats. A food tube is another option if squeezing a tube is possible. The Lickety Stik by Premier might also be part of her treat arsenal.

Cindy Sanford

I recently found out about Premier's Clik-R Duo, a battery operated clicker that has two tones to it. I don't know if they have a single version. The buttons on it are much easier to click; I have a client who has little strength in the fingers and can use this clicker when the i-Click is too hard to use. If there is a helper at home/class, the student could use this clicker and have the helper deliver treats. For single person, bridging and naming the task will keep it fresh in the dog's mind while the treat is being retrieved/delivered. If talk is kept to a minimum during a training session, this bridging works

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well.

Tena Parker

This is a problem I encounter periodically and it can be quite challenging depending on the student, but I've had really good success by being creative with treats and delivery systems. If the dogs are able to eat dairy products, I've suggested students using string cheese as a reward. They simply unwrap a portion as they go and present the open end to the pup for a nibble. If a dog likes fruits, there are now pouches of applesauce (and other "sauces" fruits) for kids that have a "spout" that the dogs can lick for a reward. My two dogs LOVE these but it largely depends on the dog and whether they love applesauce.

What I really like to suggest is using some type of food delivery system. Some of my favorites are food tubes (a commercially available food dispensing item), Kongs stuffed with something yummy, or peanut butter smeared onto a wooden spoon.

The food tube is a great option that I use and suggest frequently. I often fill it with high quality canned dog food — fish-based is super stinky and a big favorite with the dogs. All the handler has to do is lower the tube to the dog's mouth for a lick or two out of the tube as a reward (as it becomes empty the handler does have to squeeze a bit). Along the same basic idea is using a stuffed Kong to reward the dog — just lower it to the dog's nose for a lick. I've found a lightly frozen Kong works best — too frozen and it's hard for the dog to get a lick, and completely unfrozen can allow some stuffing items to just fall out.

Lastly I'll suggest the student bring a jar of peanut butter and lightly smear peanut butter onto a wooden spoon. You want the peanut butter to be lightly smeared on the spoon so the dogs have to lick the spoon, not just bite off a mouthful (and spend five minutes licking it off the roof of their mouths!). This isn't my favorite, but for people reluctant to try the food tube or Kong, it's an option.

With manners training, I only really use these items when teaching brand new behaviors where the timing is critical. Once the dog knows the behaviors reasonably well, the slow rewards from the handler aren't the end of the world (I like to get the food dispensing items out of regular play relatively quickly so the dogs don't get stuck on needing to see the dispensing item in order to comply).

Therese McClain

I have found it helpful to give clients who have trouble using their fingers to deliver treats a wooden spoon loaded with peanut butter or squeeze cheese. All they have to do to deliver treats is to lower their arm/hand and let the dog have a few licks. This is also helpful for older folks who have trouble bending over to deliver treats to small dogs...

Paula Nowak

Having the dog's leash under her foot can help reduce the challenge of holding onto too many things. If there is a class assistant, another option would be for the assistant to hold the leash. In regards to treat delivery she could fill a Kong with peanut butter to allow the dog to lick one or two times as a reward. Another idea would be to have her preload a treat in her cupped hand and then after the click to let the dog eat from there rather than using her fingers or having to dig for the treat in a pouch.

A more costly idea would be the Manners Minder. She could deliver treats with a click of the button. This topic really got me thinking about an actual student I had who had some mobility issues. She has major arthritis in much of her body and started out doing private lessons with the trainer I work for. When she came to group class it took time for her to get treat delivery, among other skills, down. I encouraged her to figure out what worked best for her mechanically. I think it's important to note that just because the student has challenges, we don't always need to "fix" them, but rather discuss to see if they want an alternative. In her case, her dog was so in tune with her it wasn't necessary to change her delivery.

Katherine Ostiguy KPA CTP

I would start by taking a look at this client's equipment. I would consider suggesting a thinner leash depending on the size and strength of her dog. More importantly, I would make sure she has a treat bag she can easily reach into that is filled with appropriately sized treats, not too big and not too small! I would encourage this student to try a Lickety Stik roller delivery treat or food-stuffed refillable squeeze tube, or even peanut butter on a spoon, to see if either of those things interested her dog and were easier for her to handle.

Jamie McKay

This trainer's challenge was one I encountered in my group training classes. The client had limited use of her hands as a result of arthritis. Her dog was a five month-old English Setter she had adopted from a breed rescue. She was familiar with the breed but it had been awhile since she had a puppy. The first thing I did was to have her switch to a verbal marker. She was having too much trouble in class managing the clicker, treats and puppy on a leash. I reassured her that it was normal for her dog to be distracted in class, especially since he was transitioning from puppy class where he had been allowed to interact with other dogs. After we switched to a verbal marker, I had her sit in a chair. I then had her step on his leash so she did not have to worry about holding it or about falling herself. I could also have tried using a training leash to secure it around her waist. I gave them a little more distance from the other teams in the room to decrease distractions. She brought a mat to class so that he would come to learn to recognize this as his working station. I usually don't have students drop treats on the floor but for this client it made it easier for her to drop the treat right in front of him for certain exercises rather than delivering to his mouth. She wore gloves with the end tips cut off to keep her hands and joints of her fingers warmer. We began to teach him to catch a treat. I had them take frequent breaks in class as he was easily distracted. We employed toys and treats interchangeably to keep things interesting for him. We used treats she could hold easily and he could nibble at or lick, as well as tiny cut up treats. I gave her a Ziploc bag that contained deer urine scent and that really engaged him. We used that when working on recalls.

She wanted to continue using a clicker but we opted to use that at home. When training at home she sat at a desk with treats in an open container that she could easily reach into. She kept the dog on a leash for training. Sessions were kept very short,

no more than two minutes at a time.

Samantha L. Copus

Perhaps there is a way to make the treats more manageable by placing them in a different container, possibly in a small cup or bowl instead of a pouch. I have seen some treat bags that when you squeeze them they will dispense a few treats. Changing the size or shape of the treat might help (larger and thinner or smaller and thicker). She could make her own treats in whatever size/shape is good for her hands. You could use another form of motivation besides food. Maybe she could deliver a ball, toy, or belly rub more quickly. That can be just as efficient if the reward will still keep the dog motivated.

Abby Harrison

I suggest they use something like little cat treats (higher fat, smells more and does not need to be refrigerated) and keep them in little dishes around the house so they can be easily grabbed when the dog does something right.

As part of my instructions, I tell them to practice 15 times, 15 treats for 3 days, 15 times 10 treats for 2 days, 15 times 5 treats (all 3 times a day) so there is a definitive phasing out of the treats by the time the next class rolls around. I also suggest strongly that they place the number of treats out on a counter or ledge. This translates as easy to grab and, actually more importantly, gets the food out of the hands. Slow treat delivery is not good but holding onto the food is probably more common and harder to get rid of.

FOUNDING STATEMENT

The aim of the APDTNZ is to give credibility to affiliated members and confidence to the public for all dog related issues by encouraging and supporting the continuing education of members.



The Emotional Life of You and Your Dog: A Glass Half Empty or a Glass Half Full?

Patricia B. McConnell

Want to start a spirited discussion at a dinner party? Just bring up the topic of emotions in companion animals. If you do, be ready to protect yourself with your dinner plate—the issue can be so contentious that you might end up in a food fight.

The metaphorical equivalent of that happened to me recently, after I elicited an intense response from a veterinarian after a presentation to the National Institute of Health. I had suggested that anger is a primal emotion in mammals, and that it was reasonable to suggest that companion animals like dogs and cats can experience something akin to human versions of fear, happiness and anger. She responded, with no small amount of anger in her own voice, that “anger is a human construct” and I was doing irreparable harm to the public by anthropomorphizing the emotional life of our pets. Although the extremity of her objection was notable, it’s hardly the first time someone has expressed discomfort with equating human emotions to those in our dogs.

People often become downright emotional when we start talking about the emotional life of non-human animals. And yet, surely most dog lovers would agree that much of what connects us to dogs is our shared experience of happiness, joy and love—and yes, sometimes fear and anger. Does that mean that our emotional life is exactly like that of our dogs? Of course not—that convoluted cortex of ours creates thoughts and feelings that couldn’t possibly be replicated in a dog. That’s the “glass half empty” referred to in the subtitle. But surely the “glass half full” deserves equal attention. I would argue that it’s impossible to have the relationship that most of us want with our dogs without understanding how emotions are expressed and perceived in our four-legged friends. For example, I can’t imagine being a good trainer without being able to observe signs of anxiety or fear in a dog who is learning something new. Think too about how easily your dog’s expression tells you that you’ve found the right reinforcement. Of course, we can get into trouble making misattribu-

tions about what’s going on in a dog’s head—all the more reason to educate ourselves about what we currently know about emotions in people and dogs.

Emotions Defined

We all know what emotions are . . . until we are asked to define them! Imagine trying to explain an emotion to someone who doesn’t have any. As integral as emotions are to our experience, they are slippery things—hard to define and until recently, difficult to study scientifically. However, recent advances in neurobiology have allowed us to learn an astounding amount about emotions, and the results make it clear that the “core emotions,” like fear, anger and joy, are shared by all mammals.

That is because emotions are generated in primitive areas of the mammalian brain, areas that are relatively similar in a dog’s brain to those of our own. Emotions are the bridge between the environment around us and the muscles and bones of our bodies. It’s your emotions that tell you and your dog how to respond to your environment: when to run, when to play and when to do what someone asks of you (or not!). As defined by neurobiologist Antonio Damasio, emotions include three things: 1) internal changes in the body (your heart races when you see your dog run toward the road), 2) external changes of expression (your eyes widen and your mouth opens in what’s called a “fear gri-

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APDTNZ Advertising Policy

- APDTA will not advertise training services or courses.
- All material in the newsletter must be in line with the APDTNZ Vision and Mission Statements and the Code of Ethics
- Placement of material in the newsletter is at the discretion of the Editor and the Committee
- No paid advertising is accepted
- Members may place merchandise ads free of charge in the newsletter, but must include a discount for members
- Events may be advertised in a maximum of 5 lines
- Positioning of ads is at the discretion of the Editor and Committee
- The publication of any advertising material does not constitute the endorsement of the APDTA for the event of merchandise.

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mace”), and 3) the thoughts and feelings that accompany those changes (you think: “Oh no, my dog could be killed.”)

Of course, the thoughts that we generate around core emotions may be very different from those of our dogs, who aren’t worried about traffic as they chase a squirrel across the street. However, that doesn’t mean that the primal feelings you experience aren’t something that you share with your dog. Surely understanding more about what emotions really are, and how they can affect your dog will enhance your relationship. For the rest of the article I’ll focus on five primal emotions that most affect our relationship with our dogs: fear, anger, happiness, love and what neurobiologist Jaak Panskepp calls “seeking.”

Fear

Of all the emotions that we share with our dogs, fear is the least controversial. Few people argue that dogs can’t feel fear, and rightly so, given that fear is surely one of a mammal’s most primitive emotions. Fear is the fuel that keeps animals alive in the wild, and it is perceived and processed in similar ways in the brains of all mammals. If anything, dogs feel fear more intensely than humans, because they have less ability to moderate their feelings with abstract, rational thoughts.

Being able to read subtle signs of fear in a dog is perhaps one of our most important skills as dog trainers. How else would we know that the tongue flick we just saw suggested that the Cocker we’re working with needs a break? What about the dog barking her head off in class, with her commissure pulled back to her ears in a fear grimace? Think about how often you use subtle signs of concern on a dog’s face as a window on her emotional state, and therefore as the key to what to do next during training.

However, that skill is not common in the general public. Although most dog owners have no trouble agreeing that dogs can feel fear, the most ardent of dog lovers often miss even blatant signs of it. “Oh, he’s just fine,” they’ll say. “He loves strangers,” they add, while their Sheltie leans away from an outreached hand, ears flat and tail tucked. How many tens of thousands of tongue-flicking, head-averting, tail-tucking dogs have been forced

to sit beside a potentially aggressive dog for a photograph? Even some professional trainers insist on attributing a dog’s disobedience on “dominance issues” or a stubborn nature, when the dog in question is radiating fear.

A lack of attention to the expressions of fear is common, even though the facial expressions of fear are remarkably similar in people and dogs—there must be something about black noses and floppy ears that distract us. Given that, it is our job to teach owners to recognize signs of fear in their best friends. It might be one of the most important things that professional dog trainers can do. I would love to see every training class include information on reading subtle signs of anxiety or fear in a dog—isn’t that more important for everyone’s eventual happiness than a straight sit? (See end of this article for sources on observing emotional expressions in dogs.)

Anger

Anger, a cousin of fear, is another primal emotion. Far from being a “human construct,” anger is what allows a threatened animal to gather the energy to defend itself. Ethologist Roger Abrantes tells a compelling story from his days as a young soldier forced to fight in someone else’s war. He remembers feeling overwhelmed by terror as the enemy ran toward him, bayonets drawn. However, when the flashing blades were within a few yards of him, he became infused with a rage that empowered him to fight back, and to save his own life. That’s the same energy that fuels the fury of a bitch whose puppies are being threatened, and there’s simply no reason to claim it as an exclusively human response.

Anger is closely related to fear in many ways, running parallel to the brain’s primary circuits of fear, but it differs in one important way. Anger provides a rush of energy, lots of it, and once the anger switch is tripped, it can take a long time for the body to defuse its intensity. We all know what it feels like to try to calm down after getting truly angry, even after learning, you had no reason to be upset in the first place. That’s one of the reasons it’s important to understand what happened to a dog several hours before an “aggressive” incident—the physiology of anger in a dog is little different than that of a person, and can affect behavior.

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ior for hours after it is expressed.

What *is* different between people and dogs is how we humans lose our tempers. Overall, dogs are much less likely to become angry than we humans are. No doubt that's part of why we love them so much—imagine if dogs had tempers as short as holiday shoppers in a traffic jam! There are many interesting reasons for this difference but suffice it to say here that we are very lucky indeed that dogs, who after all have carpet knives in their mouths, are so remarkably mellow and forgiving!

But that doesn't mean that dogs never experience anger. Indeed I would argue that after fear, frustration (a mild form of anger) is the second most common cause of growling and biting in dogs. Think of the dog who bites his owner's hand when pulled away from barking out the window at another dog. Often those dogs are simply frustrated, and mixing frustration together with emotional arousal is a problem in any species. Ever heard the line, "I went to a fight and a hockey game broke out?"

Ironically, even though the most primal aspects of anger are deeply embedded in our mammalian natures, it is the emotion that we seem to be the most confused about in our dogs. As I've already mentioned, many professionals are uncomfortable attributing anger to dogs. One highly trained professional I spoke to couldn't seem to disconnect anger from aggression, speaking of them as if they were synonyms. But anger is an emotion, aggression is an action, and equating them together is more like comparing pineapples to ponies than apples to oranges. Anger may be less common in dogs than in humans, and it may not contain the complexity of thoughts and feelings that we experience, but that doesn't mean that dogs can't get angry.

Perhaps part of the hesitancy of so many to acknowledge canine anger is the general public's tendency to ascribe anger to dogs when it is not relevant. How many of us have heard owners say that their dog pottied in the house to "get back at them?" "I know he knows better" they say, "he's just doing it because he's mad I left him home alone." Now that would be impressive—a dog so smart he knew that other dogs have owners who stay home all day, that humans hate urine and fe-

ces (even though we pick it up compulsively and hoard it for ourselves) and that he could ruin your day at six in the evening by urinating on the carpet at two in the afternoon. Wow. What a dog! Our job as trainers is to educate the public that, although we share a lot, the mental life of a dog is still very different than the mental life of a human, and the chance of a dog thinking the way described above is, uh ... minimal. Most "disobedience" is fueled by a simple lack of training, not by anger or strategic attempts to "get dominance." But we need also to educate owners that dogs *can* lose their tempers, can get frustrated or angry, and need, just like children, to learn frustration tolerance and emotional control. (See end of this article for sources on how to do that.)

Lastly, we shouldn't leave the topic of anger without acknowledging its role in the behavior of dog owners. What one of us is so emotionally evolved that we have never felt frustration when working with one of our dogs? Even if you have dedicated your life to using positive training methods, aren't there times when you've felt irritated at your dog's behavior? You may or may not have acted upon it, by raising your voice or expressing your irritation in some other way, but imagine (or remember?) what it's like to have little or no training in our field. Maybe we should add a short "frustration control" section to our beginning training classes to give people coping skills for when their nine-month-old Beagle won't come when called out of the yard—and they're late for a meeting. (Of course, that's never happened to any of us, right?) I'm smiling as I write this, but I'm serious in my suggestion that we could better serve dogs and their owners by giving *both species* positive and constructive ways to react to frustration.

Happiness

Whew, enough of aversive emotions—how about the ones that feel good? And what could feel better

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Deadline for contributions to be included in
Issue 16, April/May/June 2013
1st May 2013

than sharing joy and happiness with our dogs? This is another emotion that most people are comfortable attributing to dogs, although there are some experts who argue that this too is a “human construct.” But most scientists, from Darwin to neurobiologists like Jaak Panskepp, include joy as another primal emotion that is universal to all mammals.

Joy is the body’s way of telling us that all our physical and mental functions are running smoothly, that life is sweet and whatever we did to feel that way is a good idea to replicate in the future. Of course, we humans get into problems with short-term happiness (eating an entire box of chocolate-mint cookies) versus long-term problems (an hour after eating an entire box of chocolate-mint cookies), but these systems evolved long before we were capable of such over-indulgence. The emotion of happiness can keep animals safe, strengthen social bonds and encourage healthy behaviors, like play and restful relaxation.

Biologists know that emotions are contagious, and a happy face on a dog has the ability to create a happy face on a human. The relaxed jaw and full face of a happy dog is so similar to that of a happy person that we react, even unconsciously, with our own version of joy. I suggested in *For the Love of a Dog* (2007, Ballantine Books) that one of the reasons we love dogs so much is that not only do dogs and people share the emotion of joy, but we express them in such similar ways. What a gift it is to come home to a body-wagging, lip-grinning, eye-squinting happy dog! Who can avoid smiling while watching two young dogs frolicking gleefully in the grass?

Expressions of happiness are particularly easy to read: the extensive research of psychologist Paul Ekman found that people of any culture, anywhere in the world, express and perceive happiness in similar ways. Indeed, he found that of all the emotional expressions tested (like fear, anger, disgust, contempt, etc.), happiness was the one identified with 100 percent consistency between all people tested, from American college students to Japanese car salesmen to hunter-gatherer tribes in New Guinea. (He found that all the basic emotions are expressed and perceived in similar ways, but happiness was the only emotion that was never,

ever misidentified.)

Given that, you’d think that dog lovers everywhere would be experts at perceiving happiness on the face of their dog, and yet, that’s not always the case. Not too long ago a magazine published a picture of my Great Pyrenees, Tulip, with her mouth closed and her tongue flicking out of her mouth. She was clearly uncomfortable about the huge, round, black lens staring straight at her, and kept turning her head away from it while she flicked out her tongue in an expression of anxiety. There was only one photo in the entire sequence of a happy Tulip, in which her mouth was open and relaxed and her eyes were squinting a greeting to the photographer. However, the editors of the magazine felt she looked aggressive in that one, but friendly in the one with her face tense, her mouth closed and her tongue extruded. Go figure.

That’s just a reminder of how important it is for trainers to educate dog owners about what the outside of a dog can tell them about what’s on the inside of a dog. The opportunities to do that in a class setting are numerous: think of the people who blissfully pat their dog on the top of his head for a good performance, cooing praise and feeling happy and sure that their dog is feeling the same way. But one look at the dog’s face says otherwise: you may be aware that the dog is turning his head away, closing his mouth and walking away, but the owner often isn’t. This is the time to stop the class, and without shaming the owner, ask the rest of the group what the dog’s expression is telling them. We need to teach people that just because *they* feel good doesn’t mean that their dog feels good, and the better they are at reading expressions, the less they’ll be apt to project their own feelings onto their dog.

Seeking

There’s another internal state shared by people and dogs that we usually don’t think of as a core emotion, but that is fundamental to dog training. Neurobiologist Panskepp calls it the “seeking circuit,” or the sense of “eager anticipation” we feel when something wonderful is about to happen. This subjective state is characterized by the energized excitement we feel when anticipating something we want, and there’s little question it is experienced by dogs everywhere, from Rat Terriers to

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Rottweilers. I mean, really ... is there anyone who expresses “eager anticipation” better than a dog?

What’s interesting about this emotion is that the energy and excitement it generates occurs before the deliverance of what’s wanted. Once we get what we wanted—the concert begins or the treat is delivered, the feelings of energized excitement tend to go away. This emotion is primarily mediated by the neurotransmitter dopamine, and is, to take an example from dog training, coursing through our dog’s bodies every time a dog hears a clicker. Our dogs may want the treat that the click predicts, but the rush of excitement about its delivery fades away as soon as the click ends and the treat is delivered. That rush of dopamine is a powerful stimulant, so you can see why clicker training can be so effective.

Love

It’s been suggested by at least one author that dogs have no real affection for people, that they have simply learned to lick our faces and wag their tails to obtain food and shelter. I’ll be the first to agree that the species *Canis lupus domesticus* is doing a darn good job of getting its needs met in much of the world. However, to deny dogs the feelings of what we call love is to deny the biology of social attachment. Highly social animals like people, dogs, and mice for that matter, have similar physiologies that mediate emotional connections between members of the group. The hormone that evokes feelings of warmth and love between social partners is oxytocin, and it is ubiquitous in all mammals. The more social the species, the higher the levels of oxytocin. It is oxytocin that creates those warm, fuzzy feelings we have around a cherished loved one (but it’s dopamine that provides the rush of infatuation when we first meet that special someone!). There’s simply no reason to argue that dogs are incapable of love—it is yet another basic, primal emotion driven by internal changes that are similar across social species like dogs and people.

Most dog owners have no problem crediting the emotion of love to their dogs; but I think we trainers can help them with one aspect of it. So many people seem to believe that their dog should love everyone equally, including strangers and all members of the family. But love doesn’t work that way, does it? First of all, not all dogs are thrilled with close

physical contact with strangers, any more than all people are. There’s really no reason for us to demand that all of our dogs enjoy petting from everyone. I suspect that millions of dogs would breath a huge sigh of relief if Americans stopped insisting on petting every dog they see on the street.

What if your new dog appears to love your partner more than you? The truth is we don’t know why one particular dog loves one particular person so very much, anymore than we know why any one person loves person A over person B. For that matter, don’t you love some dogs more than others? We accept different levels of devotion in people (mostly!), and we are wise to do the same in dogs. If your new dog loves your partner more than he or she does you, well ... maybe it’s not you. Could it be that our dogs would say, if they could, “It’s not you honest, it’s me?” Of course, if your dog is “just not that into you” there is a lot you can do to improve the relationship, but sometimes a dog is going to worship someone else ... just because they do.

Summary

The topic of emotions in people and dogs is a huge one, and I have barely scratched the surface here. But I hope I have stimulated some thinking about how we can best acknowledge what all dog lovers know: that dogs have emotions, and that some of those emotions are similar in many ways to our own. As trainers, we need to go beyond criticizing owners for projecting their feelings onto dogs, and educate them about what emotions really are, how much of them they might share with their dog, and what’s the same and what’s different inside the human and canine mind. Surely, the more owners understand about emotions, the more they can use that knowledge to enrich their relationship with their dogs. Emotions in us and our best friends is best described as a glass-half empty and a glass half-full—but it’s a very big glass, and what is inside is as important to relations between people and dogs as any other aspect of training.

For more about emotions in people and dogs, including photographs of facial expressions in both species, and **advice about “anger management”** see:

For the Love of a Dog: 2007, Patricia B. McConnell
More readings on emotions in people and animals:

Affective Neuroscience: The Foundations of Human and Animal Emotions, 1998, Jaak Panksepp

Animals Make Us Human: Creating the Best Life for Animals, 2009, Temple Grandin

Canine Body Language: A Photographic Guide Interpreting the Native Language of the Domestic Dog 2005, Brenda Aloff

The Emotional Lives of Animals 2007, Mark Bekoff
The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals, 3rd Edition, 1998 (Edited and added to by Paul Ekman, who studied human facial expressions around the world.)

For videos to help in the interpretation of expressions and in helping animals learn frustration tolerance:

Canine Behavior Program DVD: Body Postures and Evaluating Behavioral Health 2000, Suzanne Hetts & Daniel Estep.

Feeling Outnumbered: How to manage and enjoy your multi-dog household. 2005, Patricia B. McConnell

Reading Between the Lines DVD, ½ day seminar on reading dogs 2004, Patricia B. McConnell

The Language of Dogs DVD 2006, Sarah Kalnajs

For 2 great posters illustrating canine body language, go to
www.dreamdogproductions.com

www.patriciamccconnell.com

www.theotherendoftheleash.com



APDT NZ Vision statement:

All dogs are effectively trained through dog-friendly techniques and therefore are lifelong companions in a relationship based on mutual respect and trust.

APDT NZ Mission statement:

To promote human-dog relationships of understanding and trust by offering education in canine behaviour and effective, up to date, dog friendly training methods and skills.

Code of Ethics for Association of Pet Dog Trainers New Zealand

As a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers New Zealand I will:

- Make the long term welfare of the dog of primary importance bearing in mind the needs of society.
- Employ only humane, dog-friendly techniques in the training of dogs and I shall develop and apply training programs in line with the APDTNZ's mission of advocating dog-friendly training. Refer to Appendix 1 (Source APDT UK Code of Ethics).
- Please also refer to Appendix 2 AVSAB Position Statement: http://www.avsonline.org/avsonline/images/stories/Position_Statements/Combined_Punishment_Statements.pdf and Appendix 3 Delta Professional Standards for Dog Trainers <http://www.deltasociety.org/Document.Doc?id=374>
- Promote conscientious dog ownership and incorporate what it means to be a socially responsible dog owner into training programs.
- Promote a nurturing human/canine relationship between owner and dog.
- Treat all dogs and clients with respect, taking into account their physical and emotional well-being and respecting clients' wishes regarding the training of their dogs.
- Continue professional development by reading relevant material, attending conferences, workshops and seminars, and pursuing other education opportunities in order to provide a service based upon sound scientific principles and current best practice.
- Be honest and trustworthy in my dealings with clients.
- Refrain from giving guarantees regarding the outcome of training, because there is no sure way to guarantee the cooperation and performance of all parties involved and because the knowledge of animal behaviour is incomplete. This should not be confused with a desire to guarantee client satisfaction with professional services.
- Represent accurately the source of any information and disseminate to clients and members of the public.
- Respect the confidentiality and privacy of clients.
- Be respectful of colleagues and other professionals and not falsely condemn the character of their professional acts.
- Not advertise myself as a member of the APDTNZ Inc or use the logo of the APDTNZ without prior approval of the Association.
- Not represent myself as a spokesperson for APDTNZ Inc without prior approval of the Association.
- Refer any and all suspected medical problems to a veterinarian before beginning or continuing a relationship. The relationship between dog trainers and vets must be cooperative for the benefit of dogs and their people.
- Perform services to the best of my ability within the guidelines of this code of ethics.

Appendix 1

There can never be a definitive list of equipment and techniques that the APDTNZ does not endorse. The following list gives examples of some of the equipment and training methods which are covered by the Code of Ethics not to be used as training tools in a dog training class:

- Pet corrector – emits a hiss of cold air
 - Dog stop – emits a high pitched sound
 - Remote controlled spray collars
 - Automatically triggered spray collars
 - Antibark collar – emits spray directed onto dog's skin (including new product jet master)
 - Training discs
 - Liquid sprays
 - Loud noises – inc. rattle cans/bottles/chains/keys
 - Throw stick/chain
 - Strong smelling substances – inc. smelling salts/bite back
 - Any electronic training collar
 - Any check/choke chains, prong or spike collar
- Punitive methods not to be used in a dog training class:
- Pinching – ears/feet/toes
 - Hitting
 - Biting (of dog)
 - Alpha roll
 - Any manhandling that causes pain or discomfort.

Alteration

This code may be altered by the committee of the Association provided that the proposed alteration is notified to all members and their comments requested and duly considered by the committee.

Terms and Conditions for the Use of the APDTNZ Logo by Full Members

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The logos may be used in a professional manner on the user's business cards, stationery, literature, advertisements, and storefront window or in any other comparable manner to signify the user's membership of APDTNZ. The logo may never be used independent of the term "FULL MEMBER". Notwithstanding the foregoing, the logo may not be used in any manner that, in the sole discretion of APDTNZ: discredits APDTNZ or tarnishes its reputation and goodwill; is false or misleading; violates the rights of others; violates any law, regulation or other public policy; or mischaracterizes the relationship between APDTNZ and the user, including by but not limited to any use of the logos that might be reasonably construed as an endorsement, approval, sponsorship or certification by APDTNZ of the user, the user's business or organization, or the user's products or services, or that might be reasonably construed as support or encouragement to purchase or utilize the user's products or services.

If a member changes their membership level to associate, they must immediately discontinue use of the logo.

The logo can be displayed on the front page of a full members website with the following text beside it: *Are you up to date? Heard of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers New Zealand? Check the link.*

Permission to use the APDTNZ logo is given to individual full members only, and not to a business or club. If the business or club has a number of staff/volunteers, the logo can only be displayed in connection to the full member, i.e. in the 'about us' section of the website.

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Any questions concerning the use of the logo or the terms and conditions should be directed to the president@apdt.org.nz

Events

Clicker Training / Shaping Skills 2-day workshop with DEBRA MILLIKAN, a guest speaker at the Australian APDT conference 2013, and at the APDTNZ conference 2010.

We are looking at running a workshop in Nelson this year to prepare trainers seeking to gain formal clicker training qualifications. The Competency Assessment Program (CAP) is an initiative that was started by top English clicker trainer Kay Laurence (<http://www.learningaboutdogs.com/>). CAP qualifications are becoming more and more recognised internationally. Debra will run a CAP 1 & 2 workshop that will polish our clicker training skills and will prepare us to be assessed for the CAP qualification via DVD or YouTube submission to the UK.

Tentative date for the workshop on 1st & 2nd June in Nelson and 25th & 26th May in Auckland. Cost of workshop will be approximately \$200, probably less if there are observers at the workshops.

If there is not enough interest for June we will look at doing running it later in the year or in 2014.

If anyone on this list is interested, please email Vikki on vikki@youandyourdog.co.nz.

APDT Australia Annual Conference
28-30 October 2011
Bankstown Sportsclub, Sydney
Featuring:
Dr. Kersti Seksel
Dr. Gabrielle Carter
Kay Laurence
For more info see www.apdt.com.au

Terry Ryan Is Coming to NZ!



The NZKC Eukanuba Canine Good Citizen Committee is proud to be hosting Terry Ryan on her first ever visit to New Zealand from 26th to 28th July 2013.

Registrations close **FRIDAY 5 July, 2013**

For more information contact cgc@nzkc.org.nz

Or go direct to our online registration form at: [http://](http://fs20.formsite.com/CanineGoodCitizen/TerryRyan/)

fs20.formsite.com/CanineGoodCitizen/TerryRyan/index.html