

A white dog with black spots is captured in mid-air, jumping over a hurdle. The hurdle has a yellow top bar and red vertical posts. The dog's front legs are extended forward, and its hind legs are tucked under its body. The background is a blurred green field under a clear sky.

Chronicle

The APDT Chronicle of the Dog

Summer 2021

The Association of Professional Dog Trainers

Rats Driving Cars ▪ Alert Tasks for Service Dogs ▪ Finding Fido

**NEW
SHELTER BEHAVIOR
CERTIFICATIONS**

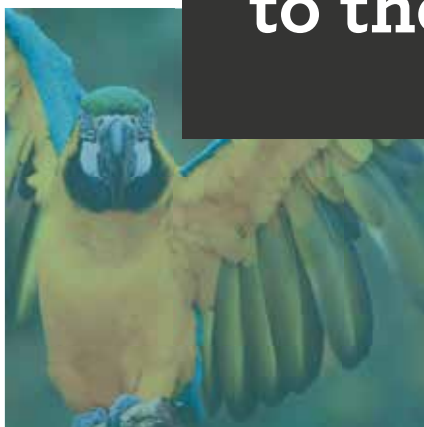


**FREE CEU
EDUCATION**

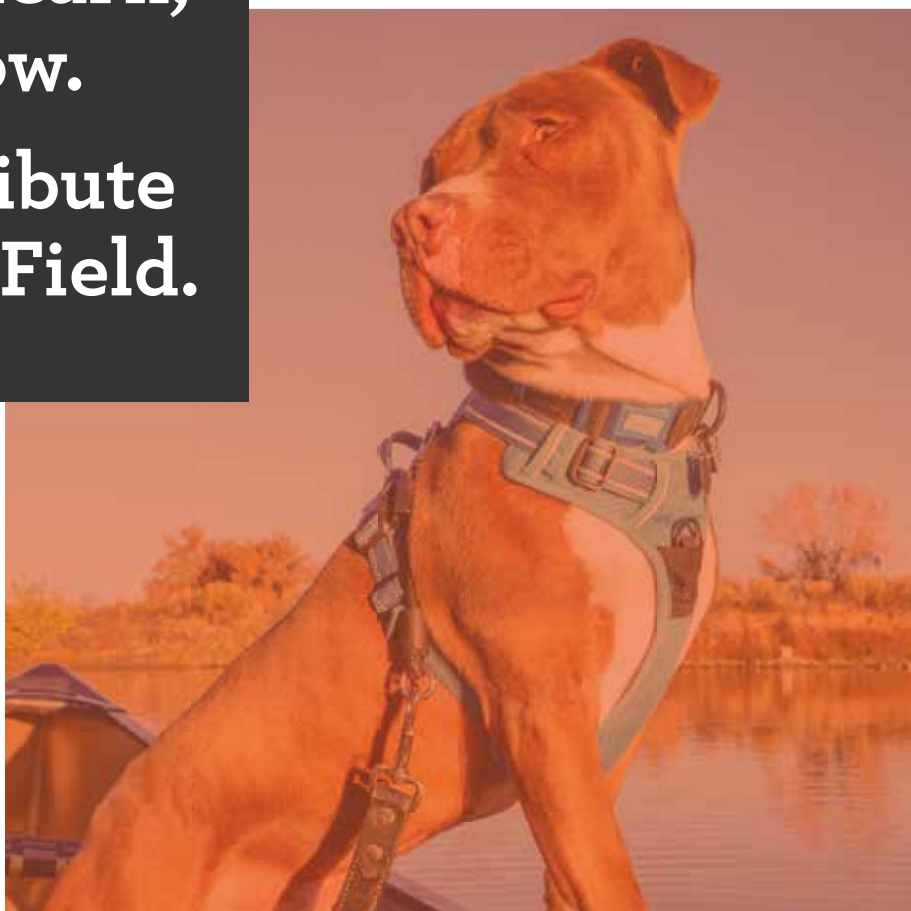
**NETWORKING
& SUPPORT**

**THE BEST
PROFESSIONAL
DISCUSSION
GROUPS ON
THE INTERNET**

**Join, Learn,
Grow.
Contribute
to the Field.**



**DIVISIÓN ESPAÑOL
CERTIFICACIONES RIGUROSAS
ENTRENADOR CANINO ACREDITADO
ARTÍCULOS, VIDEOS, EDUCACIÓN**



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ANIMAL BEHAVIOR CONSULTANTS

**Dog | Cat | Parrot | Horse | Working Animals | Shelter
certification ■ accreditation ■ education ■ membership open to all ■ iaabc.org**



Features in this issue include rats driving cars, dogs finding pets, and a 12-page registration kit for the APDT/CAPDT conference

Remember last year when said “see you next year in Riverside, California?” after our virtual conference? Apparently, we were being too optimistic. And so now we are in the final stages of planning our 28th annual conference, the second to go virtual, Sept. 29-30. The good news is that we have already gone through the “lessons notes, lessons learned” phase after last year’s virtual conference, and this year our neighbors to the north – the Canadian Association of Professional Dog Trainers (CAPDT) – has joined APDT as a conference partner.

And speaking of the conference, inside this issue of *Chronicle of the Dog* will be the 12-page conference registration kit that begins on page 21. It features sponsors, sessions, and speakers, as well as CEU information, membership/registration forms and conference policies. Register by July 30 and receive bonus presentations for an additional possible nine CEUs. Be sure to check out our website at apdt.com and click on the conference tab to get more information and to register by July 30 for those bonus sessions.

The writing team of Bloom & Spaulding (sounds like a detective agency) have Irith Bloom and Kristina Spaulding, Ph.D., discussing studies that show animals who live in an enriched environment are more cognitively stable. And nothing proves that theory better than rats driving tiny cars. It’s as fascinating as it sounds, so check it out beginning on page 34.

There is a growing need for trainers to assist clients who want alert tasks for service dogs. Such dogs either alert their owner to a sound or situation, or alert to smells from the environment/owner. Veronica Sanchez has devoted her service dog training program to include such alert tasks. Her story begins on page 39.

No matter how much dogs have assimilated to humans over the thousands of years, they are still vastly different, even from one breed of dogs to the next. While a lapdog might want a nice cuddle with their human while watching TV, other more independent

breeds are OK if there are on their own mat in the same room with you. Beginning on page 42, author Jamie Gregory explains the steps needed to learn how to walk a mile as a dog to better understand our canine companions.

Our biggest feature package in the past few years begins on page 46 as two authors – Jamie Bozzi of Palm Desert, California, and Jennifer Berg, from Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, write about how trainers might incorporate nose work not just as brain work for their dogs, but to find pets. The Missing Animal Response Network (MARN) has been successful with reuniting owners with their lost pets throughout North America and beyond. The MARN package includes training tips, where to get training and what to expect, and to help trainers/owners understand such nose work gives some dogs a way to channel their high energy. This sniffing dog detectives aren’t all Bloodhounds with their noses to the ground, as a few profiles of MAR-trained dogs will show you. One trainer even gave up her part-time work to turn her hobby into a business.

Of course this issue also has its popular regular columns, such as *Business End of the Leash*, *Veterinarian Perspective* and *Ask The Trainer*.

While it is a bit disappointing not to see everyone in California for the 28th annual conference, we are on the right path to returning to the new normal as more people, even pre-teens, get vaccinated for COVID-19. Be sure to register by July 30 for this year’s APDT/CAPDT virtual conference, and perhaps we’ll actually see you Oct. 19-21, 2022, at Daytona Beach, Florida.

Devon Hubbard Sorlie,
Editor

chronicle

The APDT Chronicle of the Dog



2020 Dog Writers Association of America "Best Annual, Special Interest, or Other Topic" Magazine

2019, 2018 Dog Writers Association of America "Best Annual, Special Interest, or Other Topic" Magazine

2017 Best Club Publication, Maxwell Medallion Winner as awarded by the Dog Writers Association of America

The APDT *Chronicle of the Dog* is published by the Association of Professional Dog Trainers

2365 Harrodsburg Road, Suite A325, Lexington, KY 40504

1-800-PET-DOGS | www.APDT.com

EDITORIAL

Executive Editor

Devon Hubbard Sorlie
editor@apdt.com

Managing Editor

Mandy Roberts
mandy.roberts@apdt.com

Senior Designer/Production

Chris Guzicki
chris.guzicki@theaiedge.com

Advertising

Nita Briscoe
nita.briscoe@apdt.com

FOUNDER

Ian Dunbar, Ph.D, BVetMed, MRCVS

APDT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair

Mark Forrest Patrick

Vice Chair

Fanna Easter

Secretary/Treasurer

Benjamin Bennink

Directors

Heidi Meinzer

Sandy Modell

Inga From

Michael Baugh

Immediate Past Chair

Khara Schuetzner

APDT STAFF

Executive Director

David Feldner

**Marketing, Communications
and Project Manager**

Mandy Roberts

Director of Education

Jennifer Franco

**Exhibitor Relations Manager/Sales
Manager, COTD**

Nita Briscoe

Events Manager

Abby Davis

Member Services Coordinator

Rachel Gates

The APDT *Chronicle of the Dog* is a quarterly educational publication for the APDT's members. Articles that support the APDT's mission of enhancing the human-dog relationship and advocating dog-friendly training are encouraged. Letters or articles that do not support the Mission Statement and/or Code of Ethics of the APDT may not be printed at the discretion of the editor. The opinions expressed by contributing authors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Association of Professional Dog Trainers.

SUBMISSIONS

The APDT *Chronicle of the Dog* encourages the submission of originally written materials. Please query the editor for contributor guidelines prior to sending manuscripts. Instructions for contributors can be found on the APDT website or by emailing editor@apdt.com. The APDT *Chronicle of the Dog* magazine follows the rules of the Associated Press Stylebook.

MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please call the APDT business office at 1-800-PET-DOGS or go to www.apdt.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To comment on authors' work, or to let us know what topics you would like to see more of, contact our editor via email at editor@apdt.com and attach your letter as a Microsoft Word or RTF file. Please put "APDT Pick of the Letter" in the subject line of your email. Please limit your letter to 250 words or less. Please note, the editor reserves the right to edit for length, grammar and clarity.

REPRINTS

Articles in this publication may not be reprinted without written permission from the APDT. Please contact the APDT office at information@apdt.com with your request. Copyright 2021 by the APDT. All rights reserved.

ADVERTISING

Please contact us at nita.briscoe@apdt.com to obtain a copy of rates, ad specifications, format requirements and deadlines. Advertising information is also available on the APDT website. The APDT does not endorse or guarantee any products, services, or vendors mentioned in The APDT *Chronicle of the Dog*, nor can it be responsible for problems with vendors or their products and services. The APDT reserves the right to reject, at its discretion, any advertising.

The APDT is a USA-based organization and not affiliated with other international APDTs.



Features

23 APDT-CAPDT Virtual Conference Registration Kit

Early Bird deadline is July 30 for Sept. 29-30 conference.

35 Cognitive Stability

Enrichment makes animals more cognitively stable.

38 Alert Tasks for Service Dogs

Alert tasks for service dogs is a growing need.

42 Dog Languages

How to better understand and communicate with your dog.

46 MARN Search K9 Training

46 Finding Fido

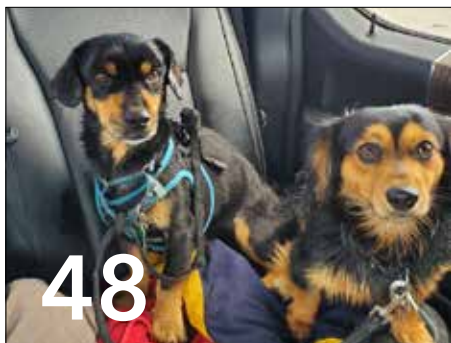
48 Beyond Tracking & Scent Detection

52 Amber & Annie: Dogs of Distinction

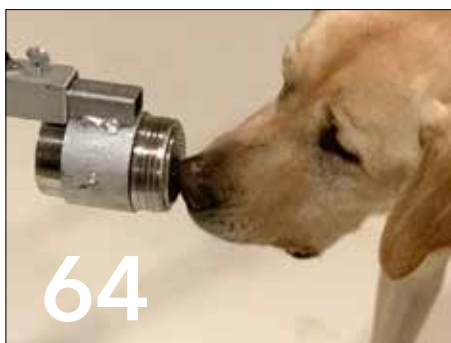
54 Bravo, Bravo K911!



38



48



64



52

In this Issue

- 01 From the Editor**
Features in this issue include rats driving cars, dogs finding pets, and the 2021 registration kit.
- 06 A Message From the Chair**
Trainers need to be ready for volume of pandemic puppies.
- 08 From the Executive Director**
From sessions to swag boxes the virtual conference has something for everyone.
- 10 Association News**
APDT and CAPDT join forces for virtual conference.
- 14 Foundation News**
Meet Ana Verissimo, APDT Foundation's newest board member.
- 16 Business End of the Leash**
Pointers for productive, profitable packages.
- 18 Veterinarian Perspective**
Pandemic caused pivot from in-person to virtual, and society adapted.
- 20 Canine Trainers Academy**
Virtual world expands relationship not bounded by geography.
- 23 APDT-CAPDT Virtual Conference Registration Kit**
Early Bird deadline is July 30 for Sept. 29-30 conference.
- 56 Ask the Trainer**
Solutions for Classroom Challenges
- 58 Body of Knowledge**
Animal & Human Learning
- 63 APDT Advertising Directory**
- 64 The Tail End**
Dogs sniff out coronavirus with impressive accuracy.

Recipes 40,000 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Inspired by dogs' ancestral diet, ORIJEN dog food is packed with animal ingredients to help them thrive.

LEARN MORE AT ORIJEN.CA



WHOLEPREY

POULTRY | ORGANS | BONE



Paid Content. © 2021 Champion Petfoods LP. All rights reserved.

Get Ready for Pandemic Puppies

Clients need to understand that their new canine family member is a lifetime commitment



This year has been an interesting year for the training community with the COVID pandemic, businesses being shut down, conferences and trade shows going virtual, and travel restrictions. As we moved into the New Year, we all faced

uncertain times; some permanently closed their businesses and others applied for stimulus money and were able to remain open. For myself, the training and boarding business took a hit at the beginning of the pandemic. Then as families stayed home from work and the children were home schooled everyone thought since we are home, it would be a great time to get a dog.

While this all seemed like a fantastic idea, now many are facing the true challenges of a new family dog. The veterinarian offices are booked to capacity, daycare operations have waiting lists and training classes are booked for several weeks. What interesting and creative times these are for all of us and how we are coping with this demand.

Over the last few months this has been a question often asked — what's next and where do we go from here? We still have limitations from the pandemic on capacity and wearing face masks in parts of the country while other parts are wide open with no restrictions.

I have personally been reaching out to our local shelters to offer assistance, including in-home training for adopters. My goal is to keep the dogs in their adopted homes and to reduce the number of dogs that come into our local shelters. I have been concerned from the beginning when I saw the number of people calling for training classes that we were heading into a serious crisis in our industry: We needed to be ready for the volume and continue getting the message out to our clients that your new family member is a lifetime commitment and not disposable property.

Today, I team up with local veterinarians and offer one-hour sessions on house training, leash handling, crate training, mind games, and calming techniques for the new pet owners. This is an awesome opportunity for new trainers trying to build their client base. It is also important for us to assist our community to ensure there is not an influx of dogs being surrendered to shelters and local rescues due to lack of training, financial commitment or the lack of veterinarian support.

This is our time now to help others and keep the pets in our community safe through educating the pet owners. It can certainly feel overwhelming and the volume in some markets could be a challenge. Reach out to others when the case is beyond your capabilities and ask for assistance. We need to acknowledge our limits and rely on the tools and resources available to us. I have gained some amazing colleagues and made some lifelong friends by reaching out to fellow trainers with referrals when I knew I was not the right fit for the challenge the family was currently facing. During these times let's network and build a better and strong trainer network for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Forrest Patrick'.

Mark Forrest Patrick, CDT, VA, CMT
Chair



Escape Artists **Meet Your Match**



Martingale Dog Harness - incorporates a cinching feature to help prevent crafty pups from backing out of it and provides gentle pressure to remind your pup not to pull.




sleepypod®
safe travels

sleepypod.com 626.421.6818



Sleepypod is proud to
be a Copper Member
of the AAHA Strategic
Alliance Program



From Sessions to Swag Boxes

Virtual Conference Has Something For Everyone



The COVID-19 pandemic has created a lot of challenges and opportunities for those in the dog training, behavior, shelter/rescue, and boarding industries. As barely anyone was traveling the past year+ attending in-person training sessions, conferences or trade shows, everyone in our industry had to adjust to the way they interacted with people and participated in continuing education. Are these new, or at least more popular forms of networking and education, a flash in the pan or are they going to be around for the long-term? At APDT, we are planning for either, both or whatever comes next.

For the second year in a row, we are planning our annual conference to be virtual rather than in-person in Riverside, California. Unlike 2020 where everyone in the meetings and events industries were learning on the fly, we were able to make some knowledge-based decisions along with our convention center and hotel partners in California on the status of the conference. For those of you in or near California, we will be back in Southern California in 2024.

The APDT virtual conference has a new and familiar partner this year – Canadian Association of Professional Dog Trainers (CAPDT). The leadership of APDT and CAPDT have been working together for the past several years on ways to bring our members together, share our resources and expand our reach to help educate trainers. It was a natural synergy for us to collaborate on the 2021 virtual conference and we hope that we can continue to build our combined offering once our borders are open and we begin having in-person conferences again. In 2020, we had representatives from 16 different countries and we hope to exceed that total this year.

The 2021 APDT/CAPDT Virtual Conference has something for everyone. First, through the APDT Foundation, Blue-9 Pet Products and Simply Brilliant Dogs offered scholarships for individuals to participate in the virtual conference at no cost. Second, the Foundation offered poster opportunities to academic and citizen-science researchers to display their work during the virtual conference with the author receiving complimentary conference registration. Third, the APDT Board heard from our members that we were not directly recognizing three very important segments of our membership and industry: students; rescue/shelter volunteers; and active military/veterans. We provided significantly reduced registration rates for these individuals to participate in the virtual conference. Fourth, we are working with our vendors and suppliers to provide a swag box to the first 500 US-based individuals with a paid registration. While no one can replicate the amazing swag bags from APDT in-person conferences, the mailed swag box is the next best thing. Fifth, individuals registering before July 30 will also receive, at no additional cost, nine sessions that provide another nine CEUs that attendees can view after the conference.

And let's not forget to mention all of the talented, professional, and expert speakers who are providing new content to their sessions once again this year. Our goal with each program is to provide attendees with the education that suits their current status, whether it's the beginning trainer or the much more seasoned professional. The program in this issue will allow you to see which sessions you would like to attend and which ones you will watch as a recording. All conference sessions will be available to view for one year.

I'm not exactly sure where the country and the world will be by the time you read this. At the time of writing this article, various parts of the country are opening faster as the guidance on wearing a mask was reduced for those who are fully vaccinated. As we continue to watch for guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and news from around the world, we have and will always work with your health and safety in mind. All of us on staff and in leadership want to see all of you once again, and we are hoping to do that in the fall of 2022 in Daytona Beach, Florida.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Feldner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "F".

David Feldner, CAE
Executive Director

THRIVE!

A dogbiz U group coaching program for R+ Dog Trainers

THRIVE! has given me
confidence in myself and
my business."

– Pat Blocker

"I can do the job. I am being paid for my
time. Bigger packages solve problems
better. This week's **THRIVE!** take-aways
for me. Thanks y'all."

– Kytha Gernatt

"Having the incredible support of
dog*biz, their insight, suggestions,
expertise, and wealth of information
is extremely invaluable... plus,
laughing together has been a huge
bonus."

– Trish Ryan

"I've always had a lot of big ideas.
Being able to implement them has
been amazing! **THRIVE!** is giving
me the steps to manage it."

– Kizz Robinson

"My last 3 months were
my best ever and I'm
enjoying it more."

– Valerie Barry

We want to see YOUR business **THRIVE!**

Be the first to know and get the best price
the next time we open to new members,
join the **THRIVE!** waitlist at
www.dogbizsuccess.com/thrive.

dogbiz 
UNIVERSITY
Get business smart with dogbiz



Dr. Susan Friedman



Ken Ramirez

APDT, CAPDT Join Forces to Host Virtual Conference 28th Annual Conference and Trade Show to be Held on Sept. 29-30

When it comes to conferences, the more the merrier. The Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT) and the Canadian Association of Professional Dog Trainers (CAPDT) have agreed to jointly “host” APDT’s 28th Annual Education and Trade Show Sept. 29-30. It is the second year the conference has gone virtual due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

“The APDT has been working with CAPDT for several years, so it made sense that we join together to provide education from industry experts to both of our memberships” said Mark Forrest Patrick, APDT chair. He added, “The conference is truly an international event, so working with CAPDT really signifies how trainers learn from each other, regardless of where they are in the world.”

“We are delighted to collaborate in virtually bringing dog trainers together,” said Helen Prinold, CAPDT chair. “Although the Canada-U.S. border is closed (for now), we’re looking forward to lots of shared learning and networking.”

The 2-day APDT/CAPDT Virtual Conference 20/21: *Broadening Our Sight – A Virtual Experience* will feature 21 session speakers for 22 session titles that cover nearly all aspects of training: Animal Learning, Human Learning, Canine Behavior, Health and Nutrition, and Business. Keynote speakers are animal

behaviorists Susan Friedman, Ph.D., and Ken Ramirez. Dr. Friedman is a psychology professor at Utah State University who pioneered the application of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to captive and companion animals. Her opening keynote address topic is “How Animals Learn: An introduction to behavior analysis and training.” Ramirez is the executive vice-president and chief training officer of Karen Pryor Clicker Training. His closing keynote address is titled “Evolution of the Modern Trainer: A personal perspective.”

Those who sign up for the full virtual conference on demand to watch at their leisure may earn 29 CEUs that are accepted by CPDT, IAABC, KPA, and NADOI. For those who only attend the virtual conference “live,” as many as 11 CEUs may be earned for the two days. All session recordings will be available on the virtual conference platform during the event and for 12 months after the conclusion of the conference. For the 12-page conference registration kit, including session titles with speakers and a tentative schedule, please check out pages 21-32.

Registration for the conference is open at APDT.com: <https://apdt.com/apdt-conference-2021/>. Be one of the first 500 people to register (US residents only with a paid conference registration) and receive an APDT swag box filled with vendor samples,

discounts and more. Early bird registration fees through July 30 are \$149 for Professional Premium, \$159 for Professional; \$169 for Supporting, and \$199 for non-members. A student fee (requiring an .edu email) has been set at \$99. That discounted rate of \$99 is available also for shelter/rescue volunteer (along with director or owner). An active military/veteran rate is \$99 (includes military ID number).

Early Bird registrants will also receive the following presentations (subject to change) by industry and business experts at no additional charge, a \$225 value with nine CEUs available for the content:

- **Alexandre Rossi and Sarah Rodriguez** – The Potty Problem – A Study on Puppy Potty Training
- **Sarah Ondrako, CDBC** – Puppy Foundations
- **Mandy Eakins KPA CTP, CPDT- KA** – Hay There! Moo-ving Your Training Skills to the Hobby Farm
- **Dr. Nathan Hall** – What the K9 Nose Knows
- **Amy L. Pike, DVM, DACVB** – Separation Anxiety in a Post-COVID World
- **Irith Bloom CPDT-KSA, CDBC, KPA CTP, VSPDT, CBATI, VSDTA** – Using Enrichment to Improve Outcome
- **Clare Swanger, MBA**, Senior Practitioner Tellington TTouch® Method – Tellington TTouch® Method: Techniques for the toolbox
- **Larry Shively** – Proactive Disease Prevention Protocol
- **Mandy Eakins, CPDT-KA, KPA CTP** – What's Up Dock? Diving Foundations From the Ground Up

Registration rates AFTER July 30 will be \$169 for Professional Premium; \$179 for Professional; \$189 for Supporting, and \$219 for non-members. The rates stay the same for students, shelter/rescue volunteers and active military/veterans.

APDT Legislative Task Force

We heard our APDT members loud and clear! Last year, we carefully combed through the 2019 member survey (University of Kentucky), and the majority of APDT members favor creating standards and licensing for dog trainers and behavior consultants. To address this new opportunity, APDT created a Legislative Task Force in mid 2020 and it's now a very active task force in 2021.

The purpose and goal of this task force is to follow through with members feedback pertaining to regulations and licensing for dog trainers and behavior consultants. Last year, the Legislative Task Force reviewed APDT's position statements and made changes or additions, then provided updates to the Board and members via the APDT website.

In 2021, the Legislative Task Force's goal is to explore and identify other organizations like American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) who have political action committees (PACs) and/or lobby to create alliances for legislative efforts. In early 2021, the task force started monitoring current legislation and grassroots legislative activities that affect our members. In March, the board agreed to add Advocacy into the APDT strategic plan to support our members approval of developing legislation and dog trainer and behavior consultant standards of the pet industry. Our year end goal is creating a legislative strategy and a sample legislative packet for licensing of dog trainers and behavior consultants.

The Legislative Task Force's agenda is action packed this year and we generously invite APDT member volunteers to join this task force and help push this initiative forward, while addressing our members concerns about such changes. Ideal APDT member volunteers would have a background in drafting and familiarity with the legislative process. Volunteer at apdt.com/about/volunteering

—Fanna Easter and Heidi Meinzer, Legislative Task Force

Conference hoodies and t-shirts now available to conference registrants

\$25 each

Purchase with your conference registration prior to **September 6**.

Register online at
apdt.com/apdt-conference-2021





Welcome to APDT's Newest Members!

Professional Premium

Nicole Atnip
Sandy Belavilas
Shane Bosworth
Melissa Boyd
Madeleine Cassidy
Dan Castello
Lindsey Condra
Ashlin Cooke
Caroline Currie
Chelsa DeWit
Naseim Du Bois
Amanda Fedric
Eric Gilbert
Nicole Herzog
Jonathan Holliday
Tarik Jayousi (United Kingdom)
Vijay Joshi
Heather Kelly
Sarah Kinelski
Justin Kirby
Eddie Lee
Jennifer Lempesis (Hong Kong)
Sassafras Lowrey
Kierin Lund
James Malec

Jennifer Marenich
Vania Miekeley-Mahon
Amanda Miller
Jennifer Miller
Ahmed Monib
Chandra O'Connor
Grace Osei
Dayana Ouzounova (Canada)
Brett Peer
Joyce Pessel-Yaskoski
Alexandra Petteys
Maria Podolskaya
Erin Polk
Kimber Quealy
Stacey Robinson (United Kingdom)
Deanne Romano
Patricia Ruark
Andrea Scott
Alison Seward
Jennifer Sims
Gail Smith
Stephanie Spooner
Loretta Swanson
Kelley Test
Joey Thierry
Derek Traughber

Gabrielle Urbani
Amanda VanTassel (Canada)
Danielle Vensel
Rachael Wahab
Sara Wallace
Brandon Whatley
Danielle White
Candy Wieloch
Lindsi Wilson
Jessica Wright (United Kingdom)

Professional

Bradley Arrowood
Sheryl Audiss
Kathryn Bahr
Lynne Bell
Danielle Bellerose
Jessie Bender
Jennifer Bernstein
Deborah Bohan
Brygette Branco
Pari Brandt
Kim Bryant
Scott Campbell
Dennis Canfield
Suzanne Cardiff

Taylor Charbonneau
Thi Chau
Kerbie Collinger Fryer
Robin Comstock
Angie Cook
Nicola Cox (Australia)
George Cuchural
Clinton de Armas Jr
Danielle Desio
Jillian Dore
Kimberlee Dorr
Kaire Downin
Janice du Plessis
Chrissy Dullano
Istvan Erdos (Hungary)
Alexis Espinoza
Morgan Evans
Lesley Farmer
Hannah Farrow
Pamela Ferrante
Barbara Fields
Jen Fleming
Lyn Fortner
Jackeline Franco
Suzy Frigo
Dulce García
Elizabeth Gardy
Amanda Garrow (Canada)

The APDT is proud to be an industry-leading association for trainers to network with each other, provide educational opportunities, and grow professionally within the dog training and behavior profession. We salute your commitment to strengthening the professional dog training industry and honor your commitment towards furthering your education through continuing education.

Interested in joining the world's leading professional dog association as we build better trainers through education?

Become a member today!



Visit apdt.com/membership/become-a-member



or call **800-PET-DOGS**

Stephanie Gomez
Stacy Gray
Shauna Gray (Canada)
Jazmin Guerra
Jim Harmeson
Clare Hart-Slattery
Rebecca Hilbert
November Holley
Sarah Homan
Julie Hypes
Brittni Hyzer
Rachelle Janssen
Selena Johnson
Hunter Hannah Johnson
(Canada)
Michael Jones
Dawn Kairns
Suchitra Kappala
Kelly Kendall
Micaela Kennedy
Lauren Kidd/Biersack
Kei Laliberte
Sandy Lee
Robert Lightner
Lee Lodestro
Victor Ma
Ami Macfarlane
Claudia Maltby

Michelle Manganiello
Erin Marcinko
Lisa Marucci
Megan Mason
Cheryl Massey
John McNair
Anna Modest
Robyn Monaghan
Garrett Montanez
Trish Moore
Koltan Nelson
Lauren Nini-Price
Monica Norris
Darcy O'Brien
Maria Obrien
(United Kingdom)
Olivia O'Day
Dorene Olson
Suzanne Parker
Jennifer Parks
Katie Peggram-Butler
Sara Perlin
Mike Pomeroy
Christina Poth
Joanne Powner
Mohammed Qureshi
Stephanie Ramirez
Brae Raphael

Lexi Reddy
Rachel Reed
Steven Reid
Kelley Retest
Karim Ridda Leal (Spain)
Amanda Roberts
Joanna Russell
Kellie Russell
Jenna Sabo
Marion Sandau
Kimberley Saylor
Alanna Skorupski (Canada)
Jessica Smith
Joshua Smith
Melanie Steele
Amber Sullivan-Vo
Alice Teal
Tia Torres
Michel Tourville (Canada)
Chris Tsang
Barb Verdi-Del Rowe
Sarah Vogel
Whitney Washburn
Brianna White
Ashley Jeanne White
Blake Woody

Supporting

Angela Bonham
Cynthia Bye
Dorothy DeFoor
Arlton Figuerido
Natalie Gerber
Laura Grandone
Allison Heffernan
Krystal Hoover
Gertrude Huitema
Alexis Kaul
Amanda Kristinat
Emma Laird
Sandra MacLean
(Canada)
Alysa Marlette
Alexis Nunez
Laurie Omiya
Michelle Richmond
Kaitlyn Riggle
Colleen Schafer
Haley Self-Tumlin
Michelle Tay (Singapore)
Madison Unger
Julie Vest
Nancy Wandersee

2365 Harrodsburg Rd., Ste. A325
Lexington, KY 40504





Ana Verissimo and her Portuguese Water Dog.

APDT Foundation Board Welcomes Trustee Ana Verissimo

The Foundation board for 2021 is led by Patricia Tirrell as its president, with Lynn Rives as vice-president, Lisa McCluskey, secretary/treasurer, and Jennifer Brown as the immediate past president. Trustees are Sarah Anderson, Suzanne Mackay, Ben Bennink, Rhonda Feinberg, and Ana Verissimo.

As the board's newest trustee, Ana Verissimo has been involved with dog training since taking the San Francisco SPCA Dog Training Academy, graduating with honors in 2008. It was a rocky start, Ana admitted. "I had no clue about science-based training. I was given a treat bag, a clicker, and a KONG, and I thought 'what am I going to do with this rubber thing?'"

Ana told director Jean Donaldson she wasn't sure she could finish the Academy. But Jean encouraged her to stay at least until the end of the week, and that did the trick. Since Ana had no real training before taking the academy, she had no bias to overcome; she began to excel in classes and graduated with honors. "It was a great journey," Ana said. Jean continued to guide Ana when she contemplated going back to her technology career and just do training as a hobby. Jean offered her a job taking care of Buffy, her first job as a trainer. Ana then earned her CPDT-KA while

working at a Walnut Creek shelter where she worked with dogs to prepare them for adoption, and then supporting the families who adopted the dogs.

Ana went back to Brazil and was swamped with clients. Now familiar with the use of KONGs in training, Ana reached out to the company to see if she could get a special rate to buy their products, similar to the rates enjoyed by APDT members at annual conferences. She was told they offer those rates only through distributors, not individuals, but serendipitously, KONG was looking for someone to represent the company in Brazil. Ana was offered a position as a certified trainer and ambassador for KONG in Brazil in 2012. She traveled all around Brazil, speaking to thousands of trainers before moving back to the United States in 2019 to take a position at the company headquarters in Colorado. Now she concentrates on instructing Brazilian dog trainers to spread the word, and recruits students from different training schools to the KONG cause. Her last big event before COVID-19 shut down the world was the Global Expo in Atlanta in February 2020.

It was a shared love of Portuguese Water Dogs that led Patricia Tirrell to introduce Ana to the APDT Foundation and its mission on sponsoring scientifically-based research grants. "As I started to work more with separation anxiety with my clients, Patricia was helping me and explained how research was being supported by the Foundation. I was very interested in that aspect. I want to encourage trainers to understand there is so much going on about research into dog behavior that will help trainers know more and know better. I think I can reach a lot of people."



The APDT Foundation (apdtfoundation.org) was created to support applied scientific research on dog training and behavior and to further increase the knowledge base of the dog training profession and related fields. The corporation is organized for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to raise and manage funds for the support of applied scientific research and outreach. The board also promotes the application of science-based dog care and training and to be more than a funding source, but rather an integrated program of research and outreach.



APDT Insurance Administrator Providing Coverage For:

***DOG TRAINERS
BEHAVIORISTS
GROOMERS
BOARDING / DAYCARE
PET SITTERS / DOG WALKERS
PET STORES / TREATS / SUPPLIES
VETERINARIANS***

.....

OFFERING THE FOLLOWING COVERAGES FOR YOUR BUSINESS:

**GENERAL LIABILITY
WORKERS COMPENSATION
DISHONESTY BONDS**

.....

**PROPERTY/EQUIPMENT
PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY
COMMERCIAL AUTO**



**Call Business Insurers of the Carolinas at 1-800-962-4611
or visit us online at www.dogtrainerinsurance.com**

Pointers for Profitable Packages

The longer trainers spend with clients and dogs, the more likely they will succeed

By Veronica Boutelle, M.A., CTC



If you're looking to make the biggest possible difference in the lives of clients and their dogs, to see their relationships develop into joyful, mutually rewarding companionship, the secret is simple: More time with YOU. The longer you're in clients' lives, the more likely dogs and their people are to succeed. And the more they succeed, the more you do, too.

That means moving away from one-off consults or a few follow-ups to carefully constructed training packages designed to promote the best possible success for you and your clients.

Here are some tips for creating powerful training packages:

Package with purpose

Whether you create pre-set packages for clients to choose from or fashion packages customized to each client's goals and needs, do it with purpose.

Leave behind randomly-sized packages (4-packs, 6-packs, etc.) in favor of packages designed to address a specific need, such as puppy raising, basic manners, leash reactivity, etc. Clients are more likely to purchase a package that speaks directly to their issue, making them easier to sell.

Bigger is better

Set down your concern about what people will or will not pay for. Your job is to provide training solutions. Every time you allow fear to dictate selling less training than is actually needed, you set yourself, your client, and their dog up for potential failure.

All cases, clients, and dogs are different, and we can't guarantee specific outcomes. But what we absolutely can

“All cases, clients, and dogs are different, and we can’t guarantee specific outcomes. But what we absolutely can and must do is insist on enough training to make a difference. Training packages need to be of a size to give clients a solid chance of reaching their goals. Clients must have at least enough time to attain significant progress and momentum, and to learn the skills required to keep that progress rolling if they haven’t yet gotten where they mean to go.”

and must do is insist on enough training to make a difference. Training packages need to be of a size to give clients a solid chance of reaching their goals. Clients must have at least enough time to attain significant progress and momentum, and to learn the skills required to keep that progress rolling if they haven’t yet gotten where they mean to go.

When you feel queasy about creating and selling professional packages, repeat this dogbiz mantra: Underselling is underserving.

Keep choices limited

Our inner customer service reps can be tempted to offer clients lots of options. Beware: too many package choices can lead to potential clients making no choice at all. The goal is to make decision making easy. A good rule of thumb is to keep choices limited to two to three packages for any given issue (And just one is perfectly fine!).

Your choices should have purpose—for example, you might be offering the choice between working in-person or online. Or between day training (you training the dog) or coaching (them learning to train their dog), or even board and train.

In most cases, (puppies being a notable exception) avoid package options based purely on size or length of package, unless your smallest package is plenty sizeable to get the job done and you’re simply using the larger option(s) to make that one look more attractive.

Bottom line: Never offer options you don’t want dog lovers to take. There’s nothing more frustrating and disappointing for all involved than a client choosing a 4-session package for a 10-session problem.

Let your creativity fly

In this new era of training, with all we’ve learned from adapting to the pandemic, there are so many new ideas to play with. Step outside the box to reimagine your training services. What kinds

of package features can you incorporate to better support clients toward their goals (and toward your trainer goals for them)?

Consider online options and all the flexibility they allow for playing with session length and frequency, for example. Or all the ways you can combine elements. Are there ways you might combine in-person and online experiences in your packages? Individual and group sessions? Could you add extra support options like Facebook groups, online homework, pre-recorded videos, video review sessions, office hours, and the like?

The possibilities are endless for differentiating your services, providing stronger support and better training outcomes than ever before, and crafting a way of working that plays to your individual strengths and preferences—all while increasing your income, too.



Veronica Boutelle, M.A., CTC, is the founder of dogbiz and author of “How To Run a Dog Business”. Learn more about how the dogbiz team can help you improve your conversion rate and help more dogs at www.dogbizsuccess.com.

Pandemic Pivot

Pandemic caused pivot from in-person to virtual learning, yet society adapted in how it delivers info

By Melissa Bain, DVM, DACVB, M.S., DACAW
Professor, Clinical Animal Behavior
University of California School of Veterinary Medicine

Wow, what a year it has been...extraordinary, challenging, sad, gut-wrenching, crazy. The staggering loss of more than a half million people in the United States to COVID-19 has impacted us as individuals as well as a society. It has also given new meaning to much of what we know about learning, in humans as well as non-human animals. There much more that goes into learning than positive and negative reinforcement and punishment, flooding, and desensitization. These are fairly static terms that do not vary in and of themselves. What does vary, and what has come to the forefront during this pandemic, is one's ability to navigate the learning process.

“ This may help us alter our focus on to what is actually important for our dogs to learn. Should the model of dog training be what has been done for years, or should we also pivot? Should the standard be a 6-week class focused on what we think a dog should learn, in our predetermined order of “sit”, “down”, “stay”, “come”, and “heel”? Or should we ask our owners what THEY would like their dog to learn and how they would like to teach it? Research has shown that owners approach veterinarians about behavioral concerns, and that these concerns were not necessarily related to “obedience,” but instead were problem behaviors such as jumping up, anxiety, and aggression. ”

Research has shown that environment, the emotional state of the being, and external triggers affect the process, effectiveness, and speed of learning. Highlighting this during the pandemic is our pivot from in-person to virtual learning. At no other time in recent history have we had to make such a

drastic change from the standard educational model in so short of time. But the actual delivery of information was only part of this change. Eliminated were the immediate in-person feedback from peers and teachers and the ability to take breaks during recess to socialize with friends. Added were external triggers, such as unstable or unavailable internet, a family member's job loss, food and housing insecurity, and illness and loss of loved ones. Also gone was our control over choices...we no longer could choose to go to a museum or visit friends. While we may not have chosen to do either of these things at any given time, pre-pandemic we could if we wanted to.

What has also arisen from this is seeing the resilience of our society. We have adapted to a novel way to deliver information. Perhaps we can adapt some of our expectations as to what information is actually important. Many people worry about stagnation of our children's education this year. Perhaps we should reframe it as “what exactly IS important for our children to know?”

This may help us alter our focus on to what is actually important for our dogs to learn. Should the model of dog training be what has been done for years, or should we also pivot? Should the standard be a 6-week class focused on what we think a dog should learn, in our predetermined order of “sit”, “down”, “stay”, “come”, and “heel”? Or should we ask our owners what THEY would like their dog to learn and how they would like to teach it? Research has shown that owners approach veterinarians about behavioral concerns, and that these concerns were not necessarily related to “obedience”, but instead were problem behaviors such as jumping up, anxiety, and aggression.¹

We maintain certain beliefs regarding training methodologies. Disregarding aversive methods, there are considerable differences in beliefs and outcomes among humane training methods, such as the use of secondary reinforcers. Results from a 2018 study showed that clicker training made target training less challenging to teach; however, there were no differences in how enjoyable an



owner found training, nor a difference in their relationship with their dog, between the two methods.² Another 2018 study showed that not everyone had the same definition of “clicker training”, and that, while individuals reported that clicker training was successful, it should be acknowledged that certain handler skills needed to be mastered before beginning clicker training.³

Even more salient is asking our dogs what and how THEY would like to learn; well, aside from how to open a garbage can most effectively. A study that just came out in February 2021 had some interesting results. In three separate arms to the study, the researchers investigated a dog's ability to learn via “clicker training” compared to food only. The results suggest that primary reinforcement alone was as successful in training a dog to perform a novel behavior, compared to the use of a secondary reinforcer.⁴ These were similar results as found in the 2008 study “Clicker increases resistance to extinction but does not decrease training time of a simple operant task in domestic dogs.”⁵ Now, this does NOT mean that we should abandon the use of secondary reinforcers. Not at all. But these studies demonstrate that our dogs are also resilient in learning in different ways, and perhaps pairing what is humane and effective for the dog with what the dog and owner prefers is the sweet spot to which we should aspire.



Dr. Melissa Bain is a veterinarian and Professor of Clinical Animal Behavior and is board-certified by both the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists and the American College of Animal Welfare. She received a master's degree in

Advanced Clinical Research from the UC Davis School of Medicine in 2007. She is a past president of both the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists and the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior. In 2016 she was selected as the Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year, awarded by the American Veterinary Medical Association, and in 2019 she was selected to receive the Companion Animal Welfare Award from the World Small Animal Veterinary Association. Additionally, she is the director of Professional Student Clinical Education for the UC Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. Her responsibilities include student and resident education, clinical case management, and research.

Research:

¹ Roshier AL, McBride EA. Canine behaviour problems: discussions between veterinarians and dog owners during annual booster consultations. *Vet Record* 2013;172(9):235. <https://doi.org/10.1136/vr.101125>

² Feng LC, et al. Is clicker training (Clicker + food) better than food-only training for novice companion dogs and their owners?. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 2018;204:81-93. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2018.04.015>

³ Feng LC, Howell TJ, Bennett PC. Practices and perceptions of clicker use in dog training: A survey-based investigation of dog owners and industry professionals. *Journal of Veterinary Behavior* 2018;23:1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jveb.2017.10.002>

⁴ Gilchrist RJ, et al. The click is not the trick: the efficacy of clickers and other reinforcement methods in training naïve dogs to perform new tasks. *PeerJ* 9:e10881 <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.10881>

⁵ Smith SM, Davis ES. Clicker increases resistance to extinction but does not decrease training time of a simple operant task in domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*). *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 2008;10(3-4):318-329. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2007.04.012>

Connecting with Chats

Virtual world expands relationships not bounded by geography

By Catherine Comden, Program Development Lead, CATCH Canine Trainers Academy



When Monique and I were deciding how we wanted our virtual discussion group to run, we agreed that we wanted deep connections with a lot of sharing from each member. This meant our group needed to be small. We started by agreeing to each invite three colleagues from our respective areas –academic and applied. That limit gave our group a maximum size of eight people. This seems ideal for managing conversation and ensuring everyone has a chance to share, within our one-hour time limit. Monique articulated how well this is working by saying, “Meeting together has been both a source of inspiration and support. The work we all do can be incredibly rewarding, but also challenging. I love that we can learn from each other and help one another as part of a community that cares deeply about people and animals.” She’s so right. We are better, together. And I think this particularly works because the group itself decided how we would connect.

Remember the best part of in-person conferences? It was always the people you had the opportunity to meet – in the halls, after hours, at the trade show. You never knew where those conversations would take you: what opportunities you might find, products to explore, ideas to stimulate your thinking. The pandemic altered the way we meet up socially, professionally, and personally in the past year. But, it hasn’t all been bad. For many, leaning into virtual tools has brought expanded opportunities to connect and enhanced relationships not bounded by geography. For me, leaning into the “new normal” this year has included starting a monthly “Behavior Chat” with academic and applied dog behavior colleagues. I’d like to tell you a bit about our group, and then at the conclusion of this article, I’ll lay out a list of key tips for starting one of your own.

Years ago, I had the great blessing of meeting in-person Monique Udell, Ph.D., CAAB, Animal Behaviorist and associate professor of the Human-Animal Bond at Oregon State University. Our first email exchange led to a lunch invitation (remember lunch with friends?) that led to a collaborative relationship, while I was managing behavior programs at a local humane society. Our friendship grew as she introduced me to several of her graduate students who were working on various research studies and with different species. At the end of 2020, we were discussing another project. This meeting was via Zoom, due to an abundance of caution with the pandemic. We had an hour-long chat and covered an enormous bunch of theoretical and applied ideas along various “bunny trails.” At the end of it, I simply said, “That was fun; we should do this again and invite some friends.” Next thing I knew, we each invited colleagues and a monthly Behavior Chat group was born.

At our first meeting, our members immediately agreed that we didn’t want to have a formal plan for topics, but to let the conversations occur organically, naturally. We have an informal moderator who ensures quieter folks get an opportunity to speak by simply saying, “Hey, (name), what do you think about what (name) said?” or “I’d like to hear what’s going on with you.” This person watches the clock and making sure that no one is inadvertently monopolizing the time. This has worked out well for our group, giving benefits that were unexpected. For example, Kelsey Weber, CPDT-KA, ABCDT, founder of Pawsitively Trained, LLC and Paws for Responders, LLC said, “This group has kicked my imposter syndrome out the door! When people you look up to and respect deeply give you positive feedback, it is incredibly reinforcing!” That’s a great outcome ensuring all voices are heard.

For our monthly Behavior Chat, we have kept login and scheduling really simple. We have the same Zoom link each time, thanks to the “recurring meeting” setting. We all have the link in our calendars on the day and time we are to meet. We’ve blocked out an hour (sometimes, we wish for more!) and we all reliably show up on video and audio for a face-to-face conversation. One participant, Jennifer Shryock, CDBC, Founder/Director, Family Paws Parent Education said, “It has been very interesting to hear



With the distribution of more vaccines for COVID-19 and many communities increasingly opening access to small groups, I hope that the lessons learned during this pandemic won't be lost. We can use virtual platforms to grow personally and professionally by connecting with people we admire, learning from one another's ideas, and helping each other serve pet owners better.



the diverse interests and focus of all in our small behavioral group. The consistency of the meetings allows comfort and relationships to develop. I'm grateful to be included!" Jen has brought a lot of wonderful perspective and experience to our group. We're grateful she's there, too.

When I asked Dr. Udell to comment about our Behavior Chat group, she wrote, "Having a time and a place to share ideas and experiences openly with a trusted group of individuals who share a similar passion, but bring unique approaches, experiences, and resources to the table, can also help lead to new solutions, opportunities, and a sense of belonging." Perfectly said, and to that goal, here are 10 tips to help you create and moderate an online Behavior Chat of your own:

Tips for Starting Your Own Behavior Chat Group

1. **Keep it small.** Monique and I agreed that we wanted a small group so that we could dig deeper into each person's experience and knowledge. If you aim for a larger group because your goal is to grow your network, consider starting smaller and then building from there. If you do go with a larger group, be sure you adjust the length of the meeting so that everyone can contribute.
2. **Look beyond your friends.** Ask another professional to bring their friends so you can grow both your professional contacts and knowledge. Try some variety that may be outside your niche. Add people who are academics, in another realm of dog care, or experts in another area of dog training.
3. **Look beyond your location.** The best part of meeting remotely is we can be REMOTE! We have members close by and far away, which expands our professional reach, resources, and perspective to include that which isn't easily found in our local area.
4. **Upgrade to a Zoom Pro account.** Or use Skype, Facebook Messenger, or Rooms within a Facebook group, if you want to set your own meeting length at more than 40 minutes which is the default free Zoom limit.
5. **Schedule it!** Set the meeting at a regular time and date each month. This gives busy people a chance to plan ahead and make the time to connect.

6. **Pick a moderator.** This should be someone who can redirect conversation with diplomacy, and ensure all voices are heard.

7. **Email reminders.** Even with a regular time and date, it can be easy to forget about the meeting. If you are meeting monthly, send a gentle reminder email and include the link the day before your meeting.

8. **Topic selection.** In the reminder email, you may ask if anyone has a topic they'd like to discuss, or a question they'd like to ask the group. If everyone chooses "Reply All" when they comment on the email, this can generate some thought ahead of time, which will improve the conversation during the meeting.

9. **Follow up.** Our group has an email chain after each meeting, in which we send out resources. We also sometimes post links in the chat during the meeting. Either way can work, so long as your group's participants know where to find any resources shared.

10. **Be grateful.** Extend appreciation, every meeting, for each person's contribution. We know positive reinforcement gives a dopamine rush. Be sure each one of your members gets a little "hit" of your gratitude, every time you meet.

With the distribution of more vaccines for COVID-19 and many communities increasingly opening access to small groups, I hope that the lessons learned during this pandemic won't be lost. We can use virtual platforms to grow personally and professionally by connecting with people we admire, learning from one another's ideas, and helping each other serve pet owners better.



Catherine Comden, B.A., CPDT-KA, is Program Development Lead at CATCH Canine Trainers Academy. She is an enthusiastic participant in connecting with dog pros from all aspects of canine

understanding for friendship, learning and support. She can be reached at ProgramDev@catchdogtrainers.com

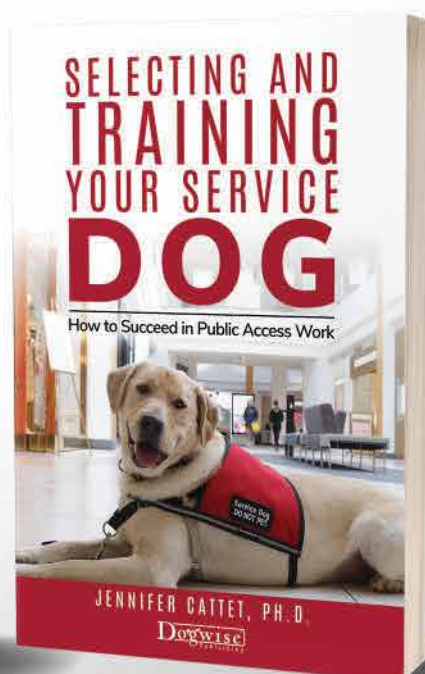
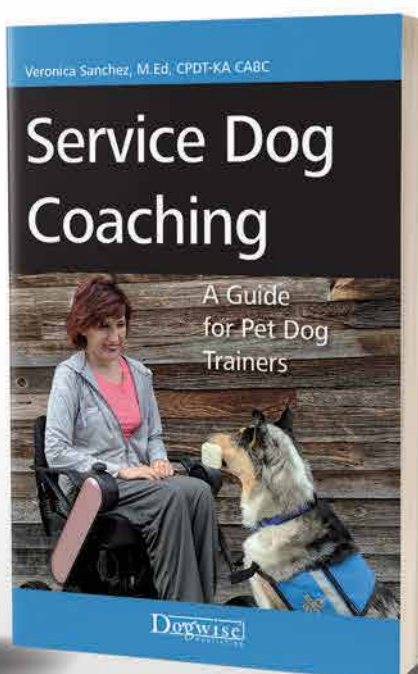
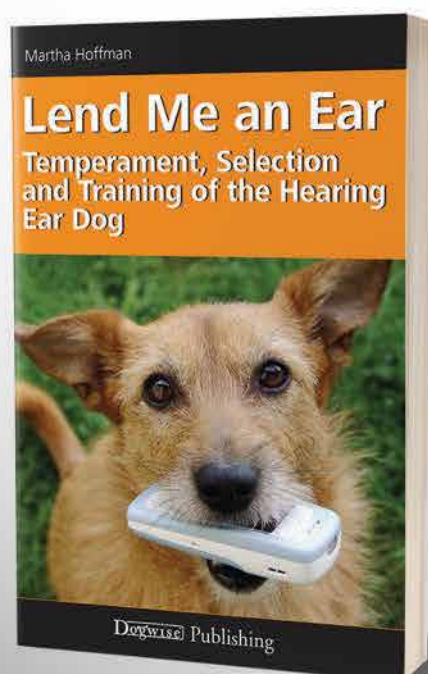


DogwiseTM

dogwise.com 800.776.2665

- Books • eBooks • DVDs • Streaming Video
- CDs • MP3s • Website Affiliate Sales Program
- e-Newsletters • Association Reading Lists

A Salute to Service Dogs





Registration Kit

2021 APDT/CAPDT
Virtual Educational
Conference and
Trade Show
September 29–30, 2021

**Be a Better Trainer.
Build a Better Business.**

Start Planning for the
2021 APDT/CAPDT
Virtual Conference

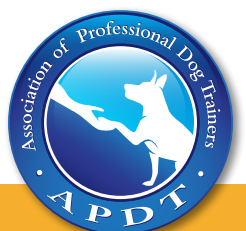
The 2021 APDT/CAPDT Virtual Conference will offer a variety of opportunities to improve ourselves as trainers, as business people, and as an industry. From amazing keynote speakers to CE classes, the 2021 APDT/CAPDT Virtual Conference is a dynamic event for serious dog-trainers who want to stay at the top of their game.

Register online at
apdt.com/apdt-conference-2021



Register by July 30 and receive nine additional presentations (9 CEUs) at no additional cost (a \$225 value)

*Celebrating 28 years as
the premier conference for
dog training and behavior
consultation professionals*





Thank You to Our Sponsors



Pet Products



protect. teach. love.®



Supporting Organizations





Speakers & Agenda



APDT is a CCPDT Approved Educational Provider

The APDT's Body of Knowledge (BOK) consists of information, knowledge and functional skills the association has identified that all professional dog trainers should strive to possess. The BOK is built on the foundation of the six core competency areas identified by APDT:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Animal learning | 4. Health and nutrition |
| 2. Human learning | 5. Business |
| 3. Canine behavior | 6. Laws and regulations |

Conference session tracks have been marked accordingly.

Wednesday, September 29



OPENING KEYNOTE:
How Animals Learn: An introduction to behavior analysis and training
Susan Friedman, Ph.D.

All levels

Track(s):

Animal learning,

Sponsored by:



Human learning

This talk is an overview of four fundamental topics in animal behavior consulting and training. They are: 1) "The Significance of Science" to our work as behavior-change practitioners; 2) How the different science perspectives represent different questions of interest and so, our "Model Matters"; 3) The importance of "Functional Assessment" for problem solving and intervention design; and 4) The relevance of the least intrusive procedure to "Ethical Considerations."



Specific Socialization Practices for Dogs and Puppies

Sue Sternberg

All levels

Track(s): Animal Behavior,
Canine behavior

Nothing is as important as

socializing a young dog, particularly a puppy within his critical socialization period, but what exactly does it mean? Meet 100 strangers? Go walk on strange surfaces? What if you get a dog who is past his critical period?

Sponsored by:



Socialization is not a one-size-fits-all approach and is likely the hardest task a dog owner has to accomplish, and yet they are most often out doing it alone. It is the more fearful and sensitive dogs who will suffer most and likely have the most to lose, perhaps more by being poorly socialized than not being socialized at all.

Sue Sternberg will outline the prerequisite behaviors she believes are useful to have on cue, and how to be the attentive and active chaperone your dog needs.



Ethological Contributions to "Behavior Problems" in Dogs – Part 1 of 2

Kim Brophey, CDBC, CPDT-KA

All levels

Track(s): Animal learning,
Human learning,
Canine behavior

Sponsored by:



Ethically and effectively working cases as a canine behavior professional requires us to perform both initial and ongoing comprehensive analysis of all contributing elements to a dog's behavior. Participants will be introduced to Kim Brophey's widely celebrated and endorsed L.E.G.S.® system of Applied Ethology as a simple and practical framework for doing so – bridging multiple scientific disciplines and delivering new depths of understanding by organizing the critical components of all animal behavior. Learn how to identify, understand and integrate the full scope of potential factors influencing behavior – Learned, Environmental, Genetic, and unique internal conditions of the individual animal's own self – in order to prevent misunderstandings and incorrect assessment of cases, obstacles to the progress of behavior modification, inadequate safety and management provisions, and even life-threatening circumstances for both animals and people.



Ethological Contributions to "Behavior Problems" in Dogs – Part 2

Kim Brophey, CDBC, CPDT-KA

All levels

Track(s): Animal learning,
Human learning,
Canine behavior

Sponsored by:



The second part of this session will take a deep dive into the 10 genetic working groups of dogs, exploring their original historical purpose and the resulting selective forces on behavior for specialized perceptions and responses in various conditions. We will examine how many of the erroneously labeled "behavior problems" commonly observed in pet dogs are the natural consequence of the friction created by modern conditions – the preservation of genetic keys (niches) that no longer fit the environmental locks (habitats) in which they find themselves. Through a greater understanding of the behaviors for which the various working groups were designed, we will appreciate how readily these artificially selected patterns manifest problematically in the average pet dog lifestyle, and how paramount certain adjustments to our expectations and common practices of stewardship need to be in our profession and culture.



PLENARY SESSION
Dog Genes Tell Surprising Tales

Elaine Ostrander, Ph.D.

All levels

Track(s): Human learning

There are more than 350 distinct breeds of domestic dog, all of which are members of the same species *Canis lupus familiaris*. Each breed is characterized by both morphologic and behavioral features, as well as patterns of disease susceptibility. The Ostrander lab is interested in understanding the underpinning of this enormous genetic



Speakers & Agenda Continued

Wednesday cont.

diversity. We have assembled the largest and most diverse DNA dataset of dog breeds analyzed to date. Using genome sequencing, we show that most breed-defining traits, such as body size, ear position, leg length, etc., are controlled by small numbers of genes, that are also relevant for human health and biology.



What is LIMA and How Do We Assess if Training is “Really” LIMA? – Part 1 of 2 Mara Velez, M.A., CPDT-KA

All levels

Track(s): Human learning, Canine behavior

Part 1: During this hour-long presentation, we will examine why and how different approaches to teaching new and replacement behaviors adhere to the Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive (LIMA) ethical standard. This will be a critical examination of what choice is and isn't; what is aversive; and how to assess if something is, or is not, aversive to an individual animal.



LIMA-Based Case Studies: What is least and minimally, anyway? – Part 2 Mara Velez, M.A., CPDT-KA

All levels

Track(s): Human learning, Canine behavior

Using a case study approach, we will examine behavior modification practices using the Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive (LIMA) ethical standard. During this session, we will critically examine the considerations for how LIMA was applied to each behavior plan and execution. We will also emphasize how to assess what is “intrusive” and what is “aversive” for each specific animal.



Legal and Risk Management Panel Heidi Meinzer, JD, CPDT-KA, CNWI and David Pearsall, CIC, CWCA

All levels

Track(s): Business

Heidi and David will give you a brief description of their backgrounds in law and insurance. They will answer all your legal and insurance questions, from how to set up your business to how to protect you/your business as it grows.



Canine Fitness: Tricks with a benefit Jamie Popper, CPDT-KA, KPA CTP

All levels

Track(s): Human learning, Health & Nutrition

Are you looking to incorporate fun canine fitness exercises into your training program? Learn how to increase flexibility, balance and coordination while decreasing the risk of injuries. These exercises are sure to work your dog's body and brain.



Memories in the Making: Applying the neuroscience of memory to dog training Marsha Penner, Ph.D., KPA CTP

All levels

Track(s): Animal learning, Human learning, Canine behavior

Memory, the product of learning, is one of the most fascinating topics in the field of neuroscience. The goal of this field is to understand how the brain acquires, stores and maintains a representation of past experiences. This session will discuss these brain processes, with an eye toward understanding how we can optimize memory function.



How to Fit All Your Work into a 40-Hour (not 60-hour) Work Week Robin Bennett, CPDT-KA

All levels

Track(s): Business

You're juggling your dog training business, being pulled in a zillion different directions all at the same time, completely overwhelmed, and *gasp* spending more time with other people's dogs than your own! That's probably not how you envisioned your business when you first started. Is it time to change your work habits and hire or outsource a few things? Join Robin in this one-hour session and discover:

- Three steps to creating your own dream team (that don't involve hiring employees!)
- How to identify the things to take off your plate so you can work effortlessly
- The fastest way to get on track to have it all: a profitable business *and* a balanced lifestyle with time off and real vacations
- The secrets to hiring good employees and keeping them on your team

Sponsored by:



Thursday, September 30



Examining the Impacts of Temporary Fostering and Short-Term Outing Programs for Shelter Dogs Erica Feuerbacher, Ph.D., and Lisa Gunter, Ph.D., CBCC-KA

All levels

Track(s): Human learning, Canine behavior



It is possible that social isolation contributes to reduced welfare for dogs living in animal shelters. One type of intervention that addresses this concern, human interaction provided at the shelter, has been demonstrated to improve behavior and reduce physiological measures of stress for dogs awaiting adoption. We will discuss research conducted at nine animal shelters across the United States where we've investigated the impacts of temporary fostering (sleepovers) and more recently, outings (field trips) away from the shelter, on shelter dog stress and activity levels. We'll examine the particular effects of these

programs and how they can be implemented in the shelter to positively impact the lives of dogs.



PLENARY SESSION

10 Years and 100 fMRI-Dogs: What have we learned from brain imaging?

Gregory S. Berns, M.D., Ph.D.

All levels

Track(s): Canine behavior, Health and nutrition

Dr. Berns will show how dogs can be trained to cooperatively participate in fMRI studies – without restraint or anesthesia – and how this has opened up a wealth of new data about canine brain function. These results have identified the brain circuitry of homologous functions ranging from reward and face processing to rudiments of language perception. Finally, because the dogs participate in repeated scan sessions over their lifetimes, the project has created a unique longitudinal cohort, which, in some cases, has allowed the detection of CNS tumors before symptoms appear and the monitoring of tumor regression following radiation treatment.



Five Strategies to Increase Revenue Without Changing Your Prices

Robin Bennett, CPDT-KA

All levels

Track(s): Business

During COVID we learned that diversification in businesses was critical. The dog training businesses that did the best were the ones that understood how to increase profits despite decreasing demand. In this seminar we will discuss the best strategies to growing your revenue even in a pandemic and without having to change your prices. You'll discover:

- Two strategies that can increase revenue from your current service offerings
- How to understand your revenue per pet so you can increase it without adding new clients
- Why your discounts can affect your cashflow and how to put more money in your pocket without increasing your pricing
- Three new revenue streams you can add with little effort and no additional staffing



Methods and Efficacy: Positive snake avoidance training

Eileen Koval, CDBC, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA, MSc

All levels

Track(s): Animal learning, Human learning, Canine behavior

R+ snake avoidance training is not only possible but maybe even more reliable since we are teaching the specific behaviors we want our dogs to exhibit (various flight behaviors) while also teaching snake detection skills. This presentation will discuss how and why the training works, and briefly discuss some of the methods I use to teach it. This is a fun, enriching activity that relies on foundation skills that are useful in other scenarios.



The Changing World of Service Dogs

Veronica Sanchez, M.Ed., CABC, CPDT-KA

All levels

Track(s): Human learning

Service dogs are helping adults and children with a wider range of disabilities than ever before. The types of tasks service dogs are being trained to assist their handlers are also expanding. Additionally, more people are looking for help training their own dogs for service work. Learn about changes in the service dog industry and the growing role for pet dog trainers in this exciting field.



Effective Interpersonal Communication Skills: Applying what we know from contemporary animal training to human relationships

Susan Friedman, Ph.D.

All levels

Track(s): Animal

Sponsored by:

learning, Human learning

A simple saying to describe our most basic animal training principle could be, "Feed (reinforce) the behavior you want; don't feed (don't reinforce) the behavior you don't want." Along with our focus on establishing dialogue, building trust and empowering animals, the relevance of this approach to human relationships resonates with this story:



A Native American boy was talking to his grandfather. "What do you think about the world situation?" he asked. The grandfather replied, "I feel like wolves are fighting in my heart. One full of anger and hatred; the other is full of love, forgiveness and peace." "Which one will win?" asked the boy, to which the grandfather replied, "The one I feed."

In this session presentation, we will first merge our understanding of the ABCs of learning and behavior with key obstacles and solutions to effective communication described in the book "Crucial Conversations" by Joseph Grenny, Kerry Patterson and Ron McMillan, to empower greater success with our own species.



Tower of Babble: Dealing with confusing terminology

Ken Ramirez

All levels

Track(s): Animal learning, Human learning, Canine behavior

Sponsored by:



As trainers try to integrate training terminology into their discussion about behavior with clients, we often run into a terminology conundrum. Science vocabulary doesn't always match the public's understanding or use of the same term. Do we fully understand the real meaning of these terms: punishment, negative reinforcement, deprivation, timeout, behavior chain, keep going signal, jackpot, and end of session signal? How do we as trainers handle those challenges? Ken will try to untangle the confusion and suggest some solutions.



Speakers & Agenda Continued

Thursday cont.



Hay There! Moo-ving Your Training Skills to the Hobby Farm

Mandy Eakins, CPDT-KA, KPA CTP

All levels

Track(s): Animal learning

The latest census data by the USDA shows a sharp rise in small farms commonly called hobby farms. With the increase in new farm owners comes an increase for resources on how to handle, train and care for the animals commonly found around the barn. Cows, chickens, goats, pigs and donkeys are all common animals found on the hobby farm and all are opportunities for potential income. This presentation will cover the skills that we as dog trainers already have that can easily be utilized for other species on the hobby farm and increase our customer base and profits.



Crawling Babies ... Conflicted Dogs

Jennifer Shryock, B.A., CDBC

All levels

Track(s): Human learning, Canine behavior

Babies change and grow so quickly during the first two years. This can create tremendous stress for the family dog. Dog professionals can help support families by increasing dog awareness skills and being creative about management and inclusion for success.



Successful Training in Record Time: Choosing the best pace for each case

Alexandre Rossi, Veterinary Behaviorist, M.S. of Psychology, and Sarah Rodriguez, CPDT, B.A. in Psychology, Fear Free Certified

All levels

Track(s): Animal learning, Canine behavior

Join Alexandre Rossi and Sarah Rodriguez as they discuss what they learned from training under time constraints in the film and television industry and how trainers can use these techniques to help clients achieve fast results. They'll discuss using the natural reinforcers for each behavior to take advantage of the brain's pre-mapped neural pathways for quicker learning. They will also cover the downsides to training behaviors too fast, and how to know the appropriate speed to achieve the optimum welfare for the animal.



Dealing with Over-the-Top Behavior: A practical tool kit

Irith Bloom, CBCC-KA, CDBC, CSAT, KPA CTP, VSPDT, CBATI, VSDTA Faculty, DWA Faculty

All Levels

Track(s): Animal learning

Are your clients going crazy because their dog literally bounces through the day, or worried that their dog's violent outbursts on leash will result in injury to them or someone else? Whether you are faced with over-excited, over-reactive, aggressive or fearful behavior, helping dogs find their inner zen can be the key to improving behavior and keeping dogs in

their homes. Irith Bloom will share practical tools to help you address over-the-top behavior in your clients', or even your own, dogs.



Mastering Media for the Modern Trainer

Sara Ondrako, CDBC

All levels

Track(s): Business

Whether you're looking to combat outdated methodology with modern science or build a name for yourself to grow your client base, reaching the masses can be a tricky business in a world where anyone can be an "influencer" – educated or not. So how can your voice be heard? This session will help the modern dog trainer and behavior professional make their mark by using media. Tap into your strengths, be self-aware of weaknesses, and I will provide specific examples to help you make the most of your website, your online/social presence and the manner in which you present yourself to reach your business goals through local, and even national, media sources.



CLOSING KEYNOTE:

Evolution of the Modern Trainer:

A personal perspective

Ken Ramirez

All levels

Track(s):

Animal learning,

Human learning, Canine behavior

Ken will use a review of the trajectory of his career to examine the growth, changes and trends in the training community. His goal is to explore what is possible and examine how far the training community has progressed in the last 50 years. This presentation will take a brief peek at a variety of concepts including relationship building, husbandry training, scent detection work, cognitive research, remote training, conservation training and so much more.

Sponsored by:



Bonus Presentations

Register for the 2021 APDT/CAPDT Virtual Conference by July 30 and you will also receive the following bonus presentations by industry and business leaders at no additional charge (\$225 value!)



The Potty Problem: A study on puppy potty training

Alexandre Rossi, Veterinary Behaviorist, M.S. in Psychology, and Sarah Rodriguez, CPDT, B.A. in Psychology, Fear Free Certified

All levels

Track(s): Animal learning, Canine behavior



Potty training is one of the most common complaints new puppy parents have, yet we have very little data on the issue. Alexandre Rossi and Sarah Rodriguez conducted a study to find answers to some of the most common potty training questions clients ask trainers. They will use the information gathered from the study to

answer questions such as “Is it normal for my puppy to still be having accidents at this age?”; “How long will it take to potty train my puppy?”; “Is it faster to teach them to go potty indoors or outdoors?”; and much more. Alexandre and Sarah will discuss their research findings and talk about how trainers can use this information to help clients achieve potty training success.



Separation Anxiety in a Post-COVID World

Amy L. Pike, DVM, DACVB

All levels

Track(s): Animal learning

In this webinar we will discuss the concerns that many trainers, veterinarians, and veterinary behaviorists share: what happens to all these dogs (and cats) when everyone goes back to work? Will we see a big uptick in separation anxiety? We will discuss how to diagnose separation anxiety (and other often confused diagnoses and co-morbidities), and how you can start preparing clients now, and how to treat it once it occurs.



Using Enrichment to Improve Outcomes

Irith Bloom, CBCC-KA, CDBC, CSAT, KPA CTP, VSPDT, CBATI, VSDTA Faculty, DWA Faculty

All levels

Track(s): Animal learning

The client is managing the environment and training the dog, and yet you're not seeing the level of improvement you hoped for. Sometimes what's missing is the right enrichment. In this session, Irith Bloom will discuss different types of enrichment and how best to use them to help dogs (and their people) succeed.



Tellington TTouch® Method: Techniques for the toolbox

Clare Swanger, MBA, Senior Practitioner
Tellington TTouch® Method

All levels

Track(s): Animal learning, Human learning, Canine behavior

The session covers Tellington TTouch® techniques you can use immediately. The materials include key components of the TTouch Method. There will be real-time opportunities for hands-on learning.



Puppy Foundations: Starting clients off on the right paw for a lifetime of behavioral well-being

Sara Ondrako, CDBC

Intermediate level

Track(s): Canine behavior

As trainers, you know about critical social and fear periods and what happens (or doesn't happen) during those periods can lead to traumatic behavioral outcomes in adult dogs. But what does safe socialization early-on actually entail? How can you ensure you are setting pet parents up for success in meeting those critical needs as they begin their journey with their new furry family members? This segment will walk you through the science for your behavior toolbox starting

from in-utero through the first year of life for a developing puppy, as well as help you navigate scenarios where some of those critical events were already missed.



What the K9 Nose Knows

Nathaniel J. Hall, Ph.D.

All levels

Track(s): Animal learning, Canine behavior

Dogs are trained in a variety of detection tasks for work and sport. This talk will provide a broad overview of the scientific status of what is known about the canine sense of smell. I will focus on recent research highlighting how canine perception and detection is related to the training and will provide guidance on how to modify training to optimize the performance of working and sport detection dogs.



Little Things, Big Impact: Grow your business through client satisfaction as free marketing

Mandy Eakins, CPDT-KA, KPA CTP

All levels

Track(s): Business

Looking forward to working with “that” client and wishing you had 50 more like them? It's the little things that have the biggest impact on your clients and their perceived value of your service. Learn tips on how to secure the approval of your clients and their likelihood of referring more clients like themselves to you.



What's Up, Dock? Dock diving foundations from the ground up

Mandy Eakins, CPDT-KA, KPA CTP

All levels

Tracks: Animal learning, Human learning

Foundation training for dock diving doesn't happen anywhere near the dock or the water. This session covers foundation skills to help build drive and confidence needed for the dock that you can do in your own back yard.



Proactive Disease Prevention Protocol

Larry Shively, Licensed Board of Veterinary Medicine CE Provider

All levels

Tracks: Animal learning, Human learning

A nosocomial infection is defined as “an infection that is acquired or occurs in a hospital.” Nosocomial infections can also be associated with other animal care facilities such as shelters and boarding kennels. Due to lack of uniform reporting, veterinary nosocomial infection rates are unknown, though it has been found to be a common and very costly problem. Learn how to implement an effective Proactive Disease Prevention Protocol (PDPP) at your facility to help reduce nosocomial infection.



2021 Continuing Education Units

CEU Information – Continuing education units are required of various certificants to maintain their credential status. The APDT Conference has received approval for certificants of the organizations indicated below.

Requesting CEUs		
IAABC	CCPDT	KPA, IACP, NADOI, NACSW or ABCDT-L2
Indicate that you need them when you register for the conference.	Provide your CCPDT certificate number when you register for the conference. (If you become certified after you register, but before the conference, email your certificate number to education@apdt.com)	Conference attendees can download a conference certificate of attendance at the following link at the completion of the conference. apps.apdt.com/eweb/dynamicpage.aspx?webcode=coaverify
Your CEUs will be processed for you after the conference.	Your CEUs will be processed for you after the conference	Provide a copy to the organizations above, as proof of the CEUs you earned.

CEUs for Conference Sessions

Attendees can only choose one option for receiving CEUs: the live option or the full conference; you can NOT do both.

Conference Format	Description	CCPDT-KA, KSA, CBCC-KA, IAABC, KPA, IACP, NADOI
Live Conference	You only receive 12.5 CEUs for the actual live content (one track) per day.	12.5
Full Conference/On Demand	After the live conference is over, you have up to 12 months to watch the remainder of the sessions you missed and receive 27.5 CEUs.	27.5
Bonus Content	If you purchased a registration prior to the July 30 Early Bird, you get access to 9 additional sessions, this is a \$225.00 value. Directions will be sent out on how to access October 1, 2021.	9

This information is subject to change.



Never miss a post!

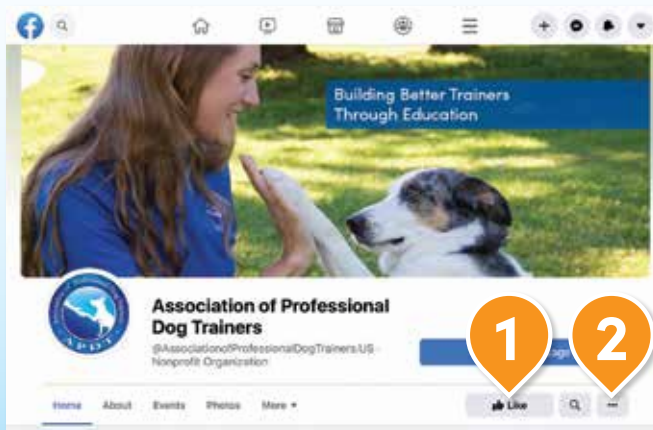
You like APDT because you want to see our posts. Don't miss a single training topic, conference update, multi-week/webinar highlight or more! Here are two easy steps to make sure you never miss an update!

When you are on APDT's Facebook page:

- 1 Click the Like button.
- 2 Click the ... menu, select Follow Settings, and make sure **Favorites** or **Default** is selected.

Also, don't forget to follow us on Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter

- [instagram.com/apdt_official](https://www.instagram.com/apdt_official)
- [linkedin.com/company/1455954](https://www.linkedin.com/company/1455954)
- twitter.com/APDT | @APDT



facebook.com/AssociationofProfessionalDogTrainers.US

2021 APDT/CAPDT Virtual Educational Conference and Trade Show Registration Form

Please type or print clearly.

To type and save, use the free [Adobe Reader](#) application. (For the digital signatures below and on the following page, you will be prompted in Adobe Reader or Acrobat to choose a signature option. If you do not already have a digital signature ID, when prompted select the third option, "Create a new Digital ID" and follow the steps.)



APDT/CAPDT
2021 VIRTUAL
Conference
SEPTEMBER 29-30
20/21: Broadening Our Sight
- A Virtual Experience



NAME _____		APDT MEMBER # _____		DESIGNATIONS _____	
ADDRESS _____		CITY _____	STATE/PR _____	ZIP _____	COUNTRY _____
EMAIL _____		BUSINESS PHONE _____		CELL PHONE _____	
First APDT Conference? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N					
What CEUs will you need? <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> IAABC <input type="checkbox"/> CPDT-KA <input type="checkbox"/> CPDT-KSA <input type="checkbox"/> CBCC-KA CCPDT ID # (required for CCPDT CEUs) _____					

CONFERENCE FEES: SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2021

Register by July 30 and receive 9 additional presentations as part of your registration – a \$225 value!

Attendee Category	Conference Fee before July 30	Conference Fee after July 30	Total
Premium Professional Member	US\$149	US\$169	US\$
Professional Member	US\$159	US\$179	US\$
Supporting Member	US\$169	US\$189	US\$
Non-Member	US\$199	US\$219	US\$
Student	US\$99	US\$99	US\$
Shelter/Rescue Volunteer	US\$99	US\$99	US\$
Active/Veteran Military	US\$99	US\$99	US\$
CONFERENCE FEES TOTAL			US\$

T-SHIRTS AND HOODIES

T-shirts and hoodies must be pre-ordered by Tuesday, September 7, and will be shipped shortly before the start of the virtual conference.

Item	Quantity Desired of Each Size						Price Each	Total Qty	Total
T-shirt	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL	US\$25		US\$
Hoodie	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL	US\$25		US\$
T-SHIRT AND HOODIE SUBTOTAL									US\$

TOTALS

Conference Fees	US\$
T-Shirts and/or Hoodie Fees	US\$
TOTAL DUE	US\$

Registrations will not be processed without payment. Make checks payable to APDT.

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____

Please return form via mail with credit card or check payment. Credit card payments are also accepted on our website at www.apdt.com or over the phone at 800-PET-DOGS.

Please mail or fax completed registration and payment to APDT, 2365 Harrodsburg Road, Suite A325, Lexington, KY 40504. Fax: 864-331-0767.

☐ I agree to have my contact information provided to exhibitors/sponsors for promotions and discounts.

Conference Policies, Terms and Conditions

About

The APDT/CAPDT Virtual Conference is an event hosted by the Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT).

Personal Information

By registering for and/or participating in the event, you acknowledge that any personal information that you provide or that we collect from you will be used to grant access to the virtual conference sessions, exhibitors, etc. through a third-party provider and shared with exhibitors and/or sponsors per the opt-in statement during the registration process.

Recording Notice

All event sessions will be recorded. By attending the event, you consent to and authorize the use of your name and written comments or any reproduction thereof by us in any media whatsoever in connection with the promotion of the event and our programs, materials and services.

Information Shared with Exhibitors, Sponsors and Supporting Organizations

Exhibitors receive an attendee mailing list prior to and after the conference as part of their sponsorship. By completing conference registration, you agree to have your mailing information (name, title, company, mailing address) and limited demographic data shared with exhibitors and sponsors for this purpose.

Mailing and demographic information for attendees who reside in the EU and EEA are excluded from these exhibitor mailing lists.

We permit select sponsors to send limited emails to attendees from our email server. You may opt-out of sponsored emails during the registration process.

Conference Communications

By agreeing to these terms and conditions, you consent to receive emails and/or push notifications from APDT containing important information about the conference including news, giveaways and promotions. These emails are designed to ensure attendees are fully informed about the conference and receive the most satisfactory experience possible.

We may also send you emails about APDT membership, similar APDT events or other APDT products and services.

Non-payment Clause

Once a registration is submitted, it becomes binding and all fees are due and payable according to the terms herein. If you cancel the registration, or do not attend the event, the registration fees as dictated by the cancellation policy below remain due and are nonrefundable.

APDT reserves the right to reject any registration not in compliance with event eligibility requirements. APDT will only refund registration fees as the cancellation policy listed below dictates for any rejected registrations based on the date of rejection.

If an event registration is purchased as a paid member and the membership expires and is not renewed prior to the event in September 2021, the registrant will be subject to the non-member registration rate.

Credit Card Payments

Credit card payments are due at the time of registration. Any registration without a valid credit card payment at the time of registration may be required to re-register or may incur additional fees.

Check Payments

Check payments are due within 30 days of the attendee's registration date, and prior to any rate changes, or the registration will be cancelled and re-registering at the current rate will be required. Check payments should arrive by and no later than Sept. 24, 2021, to allow for adequate processing time.

Once the check payment is received, an additional payment confirmation will be sent. If the check is returned or cannot be processed, the registration will be cancelled. Please allow 5-7 business days for the processing of conference payments upon receipt by APDT. A copy of the registration confirmation letter is required with the registrant's payment to ensure proper allocation. Check must be payable to APDT.

Check Mailing

APDT
2365 Harrodsburg Road, Suite A325
Lexington, KY 40504

Right to Reject Registration or Deny Participation

APDT reserves the right to reject registration, deny event participation or remove from the event any person who, in the reasonable judgment of APDT, does not meet registration eligibility requirements or is disruptive, threatening, distracting or otherwise engaging in conduct detrimental or damaging to APDT, the event, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors or other event participants. Registration fee refunds will be considered according to the cancellation refund policy above based on the date of registration rejection or denial of participation to or removal from the event.

Cancellation Refund Policy

- 100% less \$25 processing fee:
Through August 31, 2021
- 50% refund (no processing fee):
Sept. 1-27, 2021
- NO refunds are given for cancellations received after Sept. 27, 2021

All cancellations must be submitted in writing to APDT by the above dates via email to apdt@apdt.com

Substitutions

Registrations are not transferable nor are substitutions accepted.

Notice about Speakers

Opinions expressed by speakers at the event are their own opinions and do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the APDT. We do not provide technical, software, legal, accounting, tax or other professional services or advice, nor do we endorse or guarantee the accuracy of any opinions or information expressed or provided by speakers at the event.

SIGNATURE _____





The Association of Professional Dog Trainers

2365 Harrodsburg Rd., Suite A325, Lexington, KY 40504

Phone: 1-800-PET-DOGS (1-800-738-3647) | Fax: 864-331-0767 | www.apdt.com

Membership Application

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Title _____

Business Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Country _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____ Website Address _____

Certifications: Please check all that apply:

Check Off	Certification	Certifying Body	ID Number	Expiration Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	CAAAB	Animal Behavior Society	NA	
<input type="checkbox"/>	CAAB	Animal Behavior Society	NA	
<input type="checkbox"/>	CABC	International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants	NA	
<input type="checkbox"/>	CCAB	Association for the Study of Animal Behavior	NA	
<input type="checkbox"/>	CDBC	International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants	NA	
<input type="checkbox"/>	CPDT-KA	Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers		
<input type="checkbox"/>	CPDT-KSA	Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers		
<input type="checkbox"/>	CBCC-KA	Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers		
<input type="checkbox"/>	NADOI-Endorsed	National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors	NA	
<input type="checkbox"/>	CDTA	International Association for Canine Professionals	NA	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PDTI	International Association for Canine Professionals	NA	
<input type="checkbox"/>	DACVB	American College of Veterinary Behaviorists	NA	
<input type="checkbox"/>	ABCDT-L2	Animal Behavior College	NA	

The APDT office verifies the above certifications with certifying organizations. If a certification is found to be invalid, you will be notified by the APDT office and the listing will be modified.

Mailing Preferences: As a member of the APDT, you will automatically be added to the APDT news email list. Members receive our Speak! email newsletter (two times per month) and its purpose is solely to keep APDT members abreast of important APDT membership updates and news of interest to our membership. If you do not wish to receive any communications from the association, you can update your privacy and trainer search preferences in your online account.

Membership is for a full calendar year from the date application is processed.
Membership dues and *The APDT Chronicle of the Dog* subscriptions are non-refundable.

Please choose a membership level or *Chronicle of the Dog* Subscription:

Professional Premium - \$160* Professional - \$110* Supporting - \$89†

The APDT Chronicle of the Dog Subscription - \$50

*Professional Premium and Professional members may opt to receive just the digital version of *The APDT Chronicle of the Dog* for a \$10 discount. Check if desired

†Supporting members may opt to receive the print version of *The APDT Chronicle of the Dog* for an additional \$10. Check if desired

For additional information about the membership levels or to purchase a subscription to *The APDT Chronicle of the Dog*, please visit apdt.com/membership.

Check Amount _____ Make checks payable to APDT.

Credit card payment can only be accepted by phone for security purposes. Please call 800-PET-DOGS.

Please mail completed application (with check payment only) to APDT, 2365 Harrodsburg Road, Suite A325, Lexington, KY 40504. Fax: 864-331-0767.

I agree that I have read the APDT Code of Professional Ethics and Standards of Practice and that I confirm my commitment to these guidelines as a condition of my membership in APDT.

Signature _____



The Association of Professional Dog Trainers

2365 Harrodsburg Rd., Suite A325, Lexington, KY 40504

Phone: 1-800-PET-DOGS (1-800-738-3647) | Fax: 864-331-0767 | www.apdt.com

Code of Professional Ethics

Amended July 10, 2018

The Professional Code of Ethics was created to set forth guidelines for members. Any members is subject to termination of membership, revocation of certification, and/or other disciplinary actions if they: (a) are convicted of a felony that involves violence against people or animals (b) engage in conduct which could lead to conviction of a felony, or a misdemeanor, related to their qualifications or functions; (c) engage in cruelty, abuse, or neglect of animals or humans, crimes against humanity or of violence against animals or humans; (d) fail to cooperate with the organization at any point from the inception of an ethical complaint through the completion of all proceedings regarding that complaint. Any member, or member applicant, who wishes to appeal the termination may do so in accordance with the complaints process.

Principle I: Responsibility to Clients

1.1 Trainers/behavior consultants provide professional assistance to persons without discrimination on the basis of race, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, gender, health status, religion, political beliefs, national origin, or sexual orientation.

1.2 Trainers/behavior consultants are aware of, and comply with, applicable laws regarding the reporting of animal bites and suspected abuse or neglect.

1.3 Trainers/behavior consultants respect the right of clients to make decisions regarding their pet's management, training and care. Trainers/behavior consultants are responsible for helping clients understand the potential consequences of those decisions.

1.4 Trainers/behavior consultants obtain informed consent from clients before videotaping, audio recording, or permitting third-party observation.

1.5 Trainers/behavior consultants obtain signed waivers, contracts, or agreements prior to the start of services.

1.6 Trainers/behavior consultants ensure and oversee the safety of clients, animals, and the public in implementing training and behavior programs.

Principle II: Confidentiality

2.1 Trainers/behavior consultants do not share confidential information that could reasonably lead to the identification of a client, or prospective client, research participant, or other person with whom they have a confidential relationship, unless they have obtained the prior written consent of the client, research participant, or other person with whom they have a confidential relationship.

2.2 Trainers/behavior consultants keep accurate and complete records of all clients, their animals, services provided, and the conclusion of the services provided.

2.3 Trainers/behavior consultants provide referring veterinarians with professional feedback on services provided and training or behavior plans to improve continuity of care and ensure the collaborative relationship between health and behavior professionals.

Principle III: Professional Competence and Integrity

3.1 Trainers/behavior consultants work to minimize the use of aversive stimuli and maximize the effective use of positive reinforcement to modify animal behavior through a Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive (LIMA) based approach.

3.2 Trainers/behavior consultants maintain competence in training and behavior through continuing education.

3.3 Trainers/behavior consultants maintain adequate knowledge of, and adhere to, applicable laws, ethics, and professional standards.

3.4 Trainers/behavior consultants provide truthful advertising and representation concerning their qualifications, certifications, experience, performance and pricing of services.

3.5 Trainers/behavior consultants refrain from providing guarantees regarding the specific outcome of training and behavior plans.

3.6 Trainers/behavior consultants provide full disclosure of potential conflicts of interest to clients and other professionals

3.7 Trainers/behavior consultants work within their professional education and individual expertise.

3.8 Trainers/behavior consultants seek help and education when confronted with complex or difficult cases, and refrain from taking cases beyond their professional experience.

3.9 Trainers/behavior consultants do not advise on problems outside the recognized professional education and certifications, and do not provide advice or recommendations in areas of veterinary medicine or family counseling unless licensed and qualified to do so.

3.10 Trainers/behavior consultants do not permit employees, subcontractors or supervisees to perform or to hold themselves out as competent to perform professional services beyond their training, level of experience, and competence based on certification and education.

3.11 Trainers/behavior consultants exercise care when stating their professional recommendations and opinions through public statements.

Principle IV: Responsibility to the Profession

4.1 Trainers/behavior consultants are respectful of colleagues and other professionals and do not condemn the character of their professional acts, nor engage in public commentary, including commentary in public presentations, written media or on websites, internet discussion lists or social media, that is disrespectful, derisive or inflammatory. This includes cyberbullying, that is, the use of electronic media for deliberate, repeated and hostile behavior against colleagues.

4.2 Professional trainers/behavior consultants maintain adequate professional liability insurance coverage.

Principle V: Financial Arrangements & Truthful Representation of Services

5.1 Prior to entering into the professional relationship, Trainers/behavior consultants clearly disclose and explain to clients all financial arrangements and fees

related to professional services.

5.2 Trainers/behavior consultants represent facts truthfully to clients, third party payors and students regarding services rendered.

Principle VI: Advertising

6.1 Trainers/behavior consultants accurately represent their competencies, education, training, and experience relevant to their practice of training and behavior.

6.2 Trainers/behavior consultants do not use titles that could mislead the public concerning the identity, responsibility, source, and status of those practicing under that name.

6.3 Trainers/behavior consultants correct, wherever possible, false, misleading, or inaccurate information and representations made by others concerning the consultant's qualifications, services, or products.

6.4 Trainers/behavior consultants do not represent themselves as providing specialized services unless they have the appropriate education, training, or experience.

6.5 Trainers/behavior consultants refrain from making misrepresentations regarding marketing and logos for which the practitioner is no longer eligible, and remove logos and claims of certification when no longer maintained by the practitioner.

6.6 Trainers/behavior consultants agree to use the most current logos, and follow recommended usage of said marketing materials.

6.7 Trainers / behavior consultants shall not commit business fraud, plagiarism or copyright infringement, misuse or misappropriation of logos, trademarks, theft of intellectual property, slander or libel.

Standards of Practice

Amended July 10, 2018

The Standards of Practice provide a framework of principles to convey a collective principle of professionalism, skills and values in positive reinforcement-based training. As members / certificants (collectively referred to as "members"), each individual member will undertake the following:

- To understand and promote Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive (LIMA) training and behavior work.
- To continue professional development by reading relevant material; attending conferences, workshops and seminars; and pursuing other educational opportunities.
- To review and understand source material and academic texts for information.
- To abstain from representing training and behavioral information as scientific, unless the information is derived from peer-reviewed and published research.
- To refrain from offering guarantees regarding the outcome of training and behavior work.
- To always maintain professionalism through:
 - Providing your services honestly
 - Treating animals and clients respectfully
 - Valuing and preserving the privacy of clients
 - Maintaining professionalism with colleagues and other professionals



Enrichment Makes Animals More Cognitively Stable

By Kristina Spaulding, Ph.D, and Irith Bloom

Enrichment and rodent driving skills (yes, you read that right) Those of you who read our articles regularly know that we often spend a lot of time discussing the methods and results of a study. We also usually discuss background and context – information that is often included in the introduction. Well, in this case, the (rather brief) introduction is in some ways more informative than the methods and conclusions of the study.

In the introduction of this paper, “Enriched Environment Exposure Accelerates Rodent Driving Skills,” by L.E. Crawford, et al., and published in the January 2020 issue of *Behavioural Brain Research*, the researchers point out several interesting things. First, they talk about how laboratory testing often fails to allow for the full complexity of animal behavior to be demonstrated. As an example of this, they discuss a rat who evaded capture by a seasoned research team for 18 weeks – all while wearing a tracking device. We wish we had more information, but alas, the reference to this incident is only a couple of sentences long. What the researchers point out, though, is that a rat wearing a tracking device evading researchers for this long must have involved a “diverse arsenal of sophisticated maneuvers.” Our comment? Go rat!

The researchers then go on to discuss how to encourage animals to show more complex, autonomous behaviors even in research settings – and point out that the likelihood of these behaviors is enhanced by enrichment. And that is why we are here today (as it were). As training professionals working with dogs who are often living in a less-than-natural setting, it’s important for us to understand how enrichment affects behavior.

So that explains why we dog professionals should care. But why should researchers care about enrichment? Why does seeing complex, autonomous behaviors matter to them? It matters because researchers want their studies to be as representative of the populations they are trying to help as possible. The more realistic research is, the more benefit it offers. Humans aren’t rats, of course, but we share many similarities. Research on rats is often a springboard for things that make human life better. As a side note, we’d like to point out that the tone of the writing in this research paper also suggests the researchers seem to have an interest in and respect for the rats themselves.

So with all of that said, what are the impacts of enrichment? Fortunately, there is a pretty deep body of research on this topic.

Benefits of enrichment includes increased hippocampal complexity, so let's start there.

For those of you who aren't neuroscientists (if you are, feel free to ignore the next few lines), the hippocampus is a structure in the brain that plays a significant role in learning and memory. It's also part of the limbic system (the system that regulates emotion). The roles of the hippocampus include context learning, episodic memory, cognitive processing, inhibition of stress reactivity, and extinction of classical conditioning. Issues with the hippocampus can affect an animal's ability to navigate, and (more importantly from our standpoint) make it much harder for the animal to deal with stress or learn when a behavior no longer pays (that's extinction).

So what does all of this have to do with enrichment? Since enrichment increases hippocampal complexity, that suggests enrichment can help animals form long-term memories more easily (which relates to learning behaviors). A healthier hippocampus also allows the animal to quickly stop doing behavior that no longer gets reinforced.

Enrichment also enhances emotional resilience. Emotional resilience is the ability adapt to stressful situations, and to recover more quickly from negative experiences. That means animals with more enrichment in their lives have an increased ability to recover from bad things that happen to them (whether those are short-term or long-term situations).

On the human side, a study in Denmark showed that childhood exposure to natural green space (a natural form of enrichment) reduced the rate of mental illness by up to 55 percent. Think about that for a moment: Simply taking children to the park early in their lives reduced their odds of developing mental illness by more than half. There are other factors that may be linked to access to green space, such as socioeconomic status. However, for most mental disorders, the positive association was only decreased slightly when controlling for other possible causes.

The conclusion the researchers drew from all the studies they reviewed is that "various forms of enriched environments provide opportunities for frequent spontaneous movements leading to mastery over environmental challenges and heightened resilience against the onset of psychiatric illnesses and cognitive decline." In other words, enrichment makes animals more psychiatrically and cognitively stable.



The enriched housing cages were larger than standard housing cages and had multiple levels. There were also enrichment objects placed in the housing.

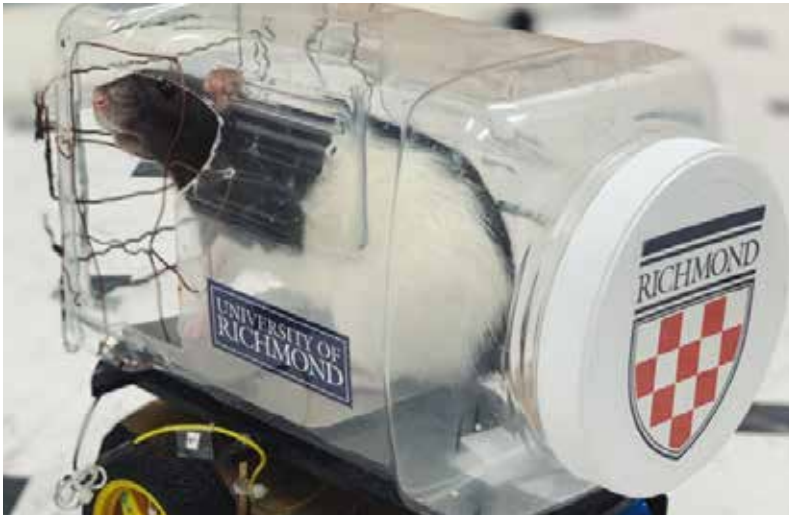
So far, we have only discussed the introduction to this paper. See what we mean about how much information was in the introduction? Now, let's look at the actual study described in this paper.

The authors trained rats to use what they call a "rat-operated vehicle" (ROV). In other words, the rats were taught to drive a little rat car of sorts. The researchers had proved in previous studies that rats could be taught to drive the ROV, including steering it in different directions, to reach a desired food reward.

In this study, the authors were interested in finding out more about the effects of enrichment on the acquisition of complex skills. They therefore housed about half of the subject rats in standard research housing for rats, which is fairly barren, and the other half in enriched housing. The rats in standard housing were housed in pairs in a single level cage. The rats in enriched housing were moved to enriched housing at 3.5 weeks of age and housed in groups. The enriched housing cages were larger than standard housing cages and had multiple levels. There were also enrichment objects placed in the enriched housing, which were changed weekly.

The rats remained in their assigned type of housing, being cared for, and fed but not trained in any specific tasks, until they were five months old. When the rats were five months of age, the researchers began shaping the rats to drive the ROV forward. This required the rat to touch or grab a bar; when the rat released the bar, the ROV stopped. The researchers used Froot Loops cereal stuck to marshmallows as the reward, and started the rats very close to the reinforcer at first, shaping the rats to drive longer distances by gradually moving the start position farther and farther away. To help ensure the correct behavior was rewarded, they set things up so that the reinforcer was only available when the rats were in the ROV.

To make sure the rats were as comfortable as possible, the researchers introduced both the food reward and a plastic container resembling the ROV shell to the rats about a week before training commenced. Ultimately, they also trained the rats to steer the ROV, which made it possible to vary the start positions of the ROV even more.



The authors trained rats to use what they call a "rat-operated vehicle" (ROV). In other words, the rats were taught to drive a little rat car of sorts.

So what happened, other than some pretty adorable video of rats driving the ROV? As it turned out, the rats who were living in enriched housing (hereafter "enriched rats") learned the task more quickly. They also kept doing the task for longer, even when the food reward was no longer available. In other words, the enriched rats learned the task faster, and the driving behavior also extinguished more slowly in the enriched rats.

The researchers also collected fecal samples prior to training (as a baseline), midway through training, and during the extinction phase. They used the fecal samples to measure corticosterone (CORT) and dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) metabolites. Interestingly, the DHEA/CORT ratios did not vary with the type of housing, but there were higher DHEA levels in all the rats once training began. Higher levels of DHEA are associated with greater emotional resilience (Karishma and Herbert, 2002). Neither of us is an expert in the field of endocrinology, but this suggests that training itself, regardless of housing environment, has a beneficial effect – which is not surprising since training is a form of enrichment (which is a point the authors of the article make as well).

The researchers also suggest that "the accumulation of informative experiences, whether they are driving skills or another skill set, likely contribute to emotional resilience, providing buffers against subsequent neural threats and challenges." The rest of the paper discusses possible applications in future research, both with rats and humans.

What does this paper mean for dog professionals? As always, we want to remind you that this is just one study – but it does build upon a large body of research into the benefits of enrichment in general. Among other things, research into enrichment indicates that enrichment literally changes the brain for the better (for example, by increasing hippocampal complexity).

With that said, the results of this study are also a nice reminder that enrichment helps animals build emotional resilience so that they can cope with stressful situations better, and that training is a form of enrichment. In addition, this study suggests that creating an enriched environment for dogs will help dogs learn new tasks better and require less extrinsic (a.k.a.,

human-provided) reinforcement to keep performing those tasks. In other words, you can point to this research when people ask you what the benefits are of rotating puzzle toys and activities for their dogs. You can also use it to encourage them to do a bit of training with their dogs every day.

Our takeaways? Enrichment may not be the answer to everything, but it's a great start! Also, driving rats are cute!



Kristina Spaulding, Ph.D., has a doctorate in biopsychology and is a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist. She currently conducts private behavior work through her business, Smart Dog Training and Behavior (<http://smartdogtrainingandbehavior.com>) in Upstate New York. Dr. Spaulding is a member of the Fear Free Speakers Bureau. She teaches online classes on Learning Theory through the Association of Professional Dog Trainers and is a member of the APDT the Education Committee.



Irith Bloom, CPDT-KSA, CDBC, KPA CTP, VSPDT, CBATI, is a member of the faculty at Victoria Stilwell Dog Training Academy and DogBiz's Dog Walking Academy and speaks at conferences and seminars regularly. She has been published both online and in print. She volunteers with NESR, Annenberg PetSpace, and the LA County 2020 HPHF Coalition. Irith is the owner of The Sophisticated Dog, LLC (<https://thesophisticateddog.com>), a pet training company based in Los Angeles.

References:

1. Crawford, L.E., Knouse, L.E., Kent, M. et al. (2020). Enriched environment exposure accelerates rodent driving skills. *Behavioural Brain Research*, Vol. 378, 112309.
2. Engemann, K., Pederson, C.B., Arge, L. et al. (2019). Residential green space in childhood is associated with lower risk of psychiatric disorders from adolescence into adulthood. *PNAS*, Vol. 116, No. 11, pp. 5188-5193.
3. Karishma, K.K. and Herbert, J. (2002). Dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) stimulates neurogenesis in the hippocampus of the rat, promotes survival of newly formed neurons and prevents corticosterone-induced suppression. *European Journal of Neuroscience*, 16: 445-453. <https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1460-9568.2002.02099.x>





ALERT!

Alert Tasks for Service Dogs: A Growing Need

By Veronica Sanchez, M.Ed., CABC, CPDT-KA

All types of service dogs are in high demand, and this is especially true for service dogs trained to perform alert tasks. There are many different kinds of service dog tasks that involve alerting. For instance, service dogs working with people with PTSD are often trained to alert to the individual's anxiety. Hearing dogs alert their handlers to sounds in the environment. Service dogs helping people with diabetes alert their owner to changes in their blood sugar level.

The Ins and Outs of Alert Tasks

Service dogs may alert their owners in various ways. For example, they may touch their owner with a nose, paw, or another part of their body. Other types of alerts include sitting in front of their owner, resting their chin on the owner's leg, or performing a different behavior. The most important aspect of the selected alert is that the behavior must be noticeable to the owner.

When training an alert task, service dog trainers teach the dog that a change in the environment or in the owner is a cue for the dog to perform the alert. For example, for a hearing alert, someone knocking on a door becomes a cue for the dog to nudge the owner with his nose. When a dog performs anxiety alerts, the body language associated with the owner's anxiety becomes the cue. For diabetic alert, a change in the owner's scent is the cue.

Alert tasks may also be trained in a way that gives the owner important additional information. For instance, when performing a two-way hearing alert, a service dog first alerts the owner to the sound and then leads the owner to the sound's source. A service dog that is trained to alert to an allergen in the environment may similarly be trained to indicate the location of the allergen.

Service dogs that perform alert tasks are often trained to perform helpful behaviors after they have alerted. Retrieving medication, alerting a caregiver that help is needed, retrieving an emergency phone, or lying down next to the owner when the owner has a seizure are a few examples of response tasks.

A Need for Research

As individuals who are passionate about dogs, we naturally tend to see the best in dogs' abilities. However, it is important to look at the objective research when it comes to service dog tasks, since correct execution of these important skills can impact a person's health.

There are questions about how reliably and accurately service dogs can perform scent-alert tasks. While working dogs like search and rescue dogs and explosive detection dogs have long been trained to perform scent-based tasks, scent alert is relatively new in the world of service dogs. Given the nature of service dogs' work, the demands are different. Service dogs are "on" for extended periods of time – possibly even all day, in a variety of distracting environments. Some handlers may even expect the dog to perform alerts at night.

Additionally, the behavioral requirements for service dogs to work calmly in public settings are different from those of other working dogs. While many working dog roles require high-energy dogs, service dogs assisting people with disabilities



A dog performing a nose nudge alert.



Scent alert training for diabetics must include how to deal with false alerts.

in public places are usually moderate in their energy levels, and sometimes even low energy. Moreover, service dog handlers are not professional dog handlers, and they vary in their ability to maintain a dog's training over time. Can a service dog napping under a table in a restaurant suddenly tune in to a scent reliably to perform an alert? Can the same dog do this reliably over a span of years in a wide variety of settings?

Ideally, we would get answers to these questions via scientific research. However, since scent alerting for service dogs is a new area, the literature is limited at this time. Most of the research on service dog scent-based alerts is on diabetic alert dogs' ability to alert to low blood sugar. Early research showed dogs were not very accurate¹. However, a more recent study showed better performance². Because this is such a rapidly growing area, service dog trainers need to be attentive to the science to learn more as information becomes available. In the meantime, given the high demand for service dogs, many trainers are teaching dogs to perform scent alert tasks as a "back-up" to established medical tools and strategies.

Tips for Alert Training

There are a number of common pitfalls in teaching alert behaviors. To avoid them, spend time training the alert behavior carefully and making sure it is on both a verbal and visual cue first before moving forward with the training. This type of behavior needs to be fluent, precise, and fully generalized.

It is best to practice the training process with your own dog or another dog that does not need to be trained to alert. The first time you teach anything you are likely to run into challenges. Given the nature of alerts, it can be tricky to fix training mistakes. It is better to practice your process with a dog that does not actually need to perform these behaviors for a person with a disability.

False alerts are a common phenomenon. Because of this, it is critical that trainers plan for the entire training loop, including the not-alerting component. Be prepared to heavily reward not

alerting while training. Otherwise, the dog will offer many alerts when they are not needed.

Remember that a service dog may need to alert in a broad range of contexts and circumstances. Take time to generalize the skill fully with a wide variety of distractions. The initial training for many alerts goes quickly, but the generalization can take weeks and even months of work. The behavior will not be useful if it has not been fully generalized.

Finally, keep in mind that it can be nearly impossible not to accidentally cue the dog to alert while training. Make sure you are using careful assessments of the dog's progress along the way, while taking measures to ensure you are not inadvertently cuing the dog. When working with hearing dogs, for instance, this can involve wearing earplugs when evaluating the dog's performance. When working with dogs performing scent alerts, trainers need to practice when they are not aware of the location or presence of the target odor.

What Trainers Need to Get Started

There is much more to service dog training than the tasks alone. Trainers interested in training service dogs to perform alert tasks need to be knowledgeable about dog training and have their business set up properly, with appropriate paperwork and insurance needed for this work. They also need to have a thorough understanding of:

- Service dog laws
- People with disabilities and their needs
- The service dog training process
- Selecting dogs with the behavioral characteristics needed for service work
- Training and preparing service dogs to work in places pets are not permitted
- Assessing teams' readiness to work independently
- How to help teams maintain their training over time

Alert training is challenging but rewarding work. Alert tasks can be the difference between life and death for a service dog handler, so if you are interested in branching into this area of training, educate yourself first. There are increasing opportunities to learn about the subject in greater depth, including courses, webinars and even some trainers who offer mentorship. It is exciting for trainers to be involved in a new and growing area of service work, teaching invaluable tasks that can make a big difference in owners' lives.



Veronica Sanchez, MED, CABC, CPDT-KA, is the founder of Cooperative Paws Service Dog Coach™, a certification program for professional trainers, and she offers a variety of courses in service dog training. Veronica is also the author of the book *Service Dog Coaching: A Guide for Pet Dog Trainers*. As a dog trainer with a disability, her passion for service dogs is personal as well as professional. You can learn more about Veronica and her educational programs online at www.cooperativepaws.com.

Research

¹ J Diabetes Sci Technol 2017 May;11(3):506-512.

doi: 10.1177/1932296816666537. Epub 2016 Aug 28. Reliability of Trained Dogs to Alert to Hypoglycemia in Patients With Type 1 Diabetes; Evan A Los ¹, Katrina L Ramsey ², Ines Guttman-Bauman ¹, Andrew J Ahmann ³

Affiliations expand <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27573791/>

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6333402/> PLoS One. 2019; 14(1): e0210092. Published online 2019 Jan 15. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0210092

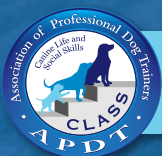
How effective are trained dogs at alerting their owners to changes in blood glycaemic levels?:

Variations in performance of glycaemia alert dogs; Nicola J. Rooney, Conceptualization, Data curation, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing,^{1,2,*} Claire M. Guest, Conceptualization, Funding acquisition, Writing – review & editing,² Lydia C. M. Swanson, Data curation, Resources,² and Steve V. Morant, Formal analysis, Software, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing³

Purchase APDT's Canine Life and Social Skills (C.L.A.S.S.) Curriculum TODAY!

The new C.L.A.S.S. curricula offers benefits to both new and experienced dog trainers. C.L.A.S.S. curricula offers a unique 4-level comprehensive program that every dog trainer can easily follow and successfully build their group class business. It's perfect for new dog trainers interested in generating group class business quickly.

Available for purchase to APDT members in the General Store. Log on to your Member Dashboard, scroll down and click on the APDT General Store link and use the drop-down menu to browse the C.L.A.S.S. product category.



Learn more about the C.L.A.S.S. program at apdt.com/education/class



Sponsored by



**Before you
criticize a
~~man~~ dog, walk a
mile ~~in~~ on his
~~shoes~~ paws.**



Walking a Mile on Their Paws: How to Better Understand and Communicate With Your Dog

By Jamie Gregory, CPDT-KA, CBCC-KA

My philosophy as a certified behavior consultant and professional dog trainer is to make dog trainers out of my clients. I have a trained eye; in other words, I speak “dog.” I feel it is my responsibility to teach my clients how dogs learn, how to effectively communicate with their dogs, and how to listen to what their dogs are communicating to them. As dog trainers, it is necessary we teach our clients these foundational skills of canine communication and for them to always keep this information in mind – whether on a walk around the neighborhood, at the dog park, or visiting a dog-friendly beach.

In the right set of circumstances all dogs can bite. Biting is an instinctual behavior. It is our responsibility as owners to keep our dogs’ safe and other animals and people safe from our dogs. Learning canine body language and how they communicate can help clients interpret a potentially bad situation and intervene before something unfortunate happens. Here are some ways I help my clients better understand their dogs.

Helping the Foreign Feel Familiar

Imagine you are lying on your couch, wrapped in a warm blanket, watching TV, surrounded by family, and suddenly you are abducted by two aliens and taken to their planet. The aliens walk on their elbows, eat upside down, communicate by clicking and squeaking, and when they need to go to the bathroom, they get in the spaceship and fly to a different planet. Here you are with these aliens; they are nothing like you. You have no idea how things work. You cannot ask because they just click and squeak at you. You have to go to the bathroom, so you look for something that resembles a toilet, only to have some alien whisk you away to another planet to do your business. You are hungry, but they do not eat like you. You are scared and lonely. This place is nothing like you are accustomed to. How are you ever going to survive?

This is how our dogs feel: everything we do is foreign to them. When you bring a puppy home for the first time, they go from

snuggling with their litter mates one minute, to an alien territory the next. They are scared and lonely. They try to speak, but no one understands; no one in this new place speaks “dog.” They try to find a place to potty only to be swooped up and taken to yet another unfamiliar place. People expect a lot from dogs without even realizing it, and everything that dogs are asked to do goes against their natural instincts.

Remarkably, dogs have learned to adapt to humans and our lifestyle. The human study of dog behavior is relatively new; however, the dog study of human behavior has been going on for thousands of years. Dogs became domesticated by infusing themselves into the human way of life. One theory of canine domestication is that the dog’s ancestor, the wolf, moved to the outskirts of human camps to scavenge for leftovers. Over time, this led to the relationship between humans and dogs that we see today.

Dogs are much smarter than we think. For example, my dog has learned that, in this foreign land, I expect her to go potty outside. She has learned that if I say the word “sit,” she should put her rear on the ground. She has learned the sound of a plastic bag being opened means something delicious is coming her way. She has learned that a car ride after dinner means we are going to grandma’s house. Dogs are incredibly fascinating animals, capable of learning and adapting beautifully into our daily routines.

However, dogs do not come to us understanding what we are saying or what we want from them or to be able to tell us their needs. Dogs do communicate with us and understanding what your dog is trying to communicate is important for your relationship. We need to learn to communicate with our dogs in a way they understand.

When we communicate with our furry friends in a way they understand, they are able to learn very quickly what it is that we want or do not want. Your dog is not intentionally misbehaving; this is not in his nature. However, it is in his nature to want to please you. If your dog understands what you want, he will behave accordingly. Dogs do not have the intellectual capability to understand what it is like to walk in our shoes, but we have the capability to understand what it is like walking a mile on their paws.

So, How Do Dogs Communicate?

Dogs are always using their senses to gather information from their environment. They take in a lot of information about each other, and about people, in a short period of time. We might not realize it, but dogs are communicating with us all day long. They are watching, listening, touching, and using their noses to gather information about what is going on around them.

Doggy Language. While humans rely heavily on verbal communication, dogs communicate using body language and vocalizations. These two forms of communication are a universal

language among dogs. No matter the breed or where they come from, dogs all speak the same language. For example, when dogs see each other, they immediately start assessing each other: they look at the ears and eyes, position and movement of the tail, body movement, and facial expressions. Knowing the body language and vocalizations your dog uses will help you to effectively communicate.

The Tail Wag. Your dog’s tail is wagging, does that mean he is happy? Not necessarily. Dogs display many different variations of the tail wag, and they all mean different things. For example, if a dog’s tail is low or tucked between his legs, that is a sign the dog is afraid or is showing signs of submission. A mid-tail wag is a sign a dog is relaxed and happy.

Ear Position. A dog’s ears can also tell us a lot about how he is feeling. Forward ears mean he is captivated by something, while ears that are pinned back suggest he is uncomfortable or unhappy.

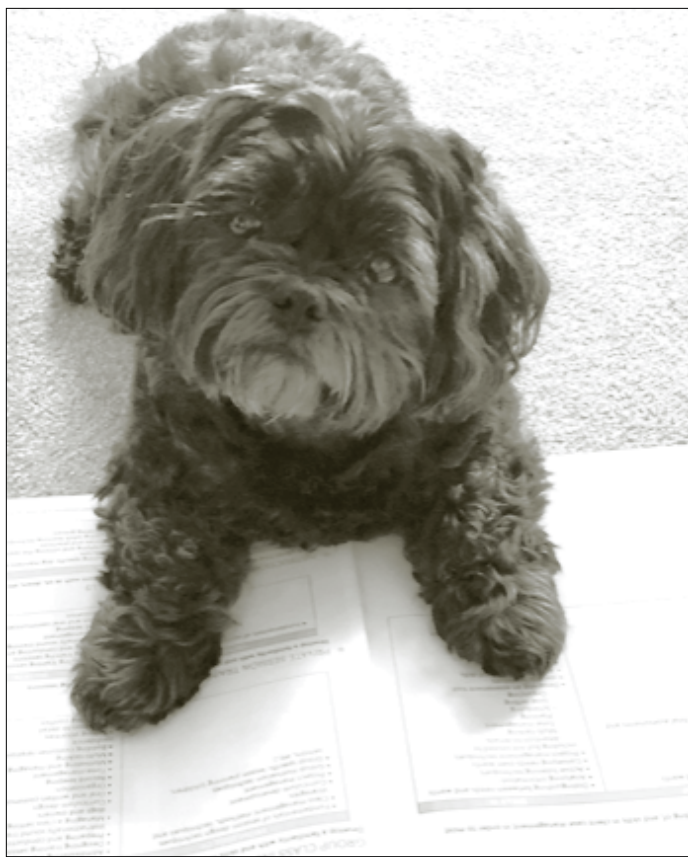
Eye Contact. Another way dogs communicate is with their eyes. Dogs make eye contact to get our attention; however, they generally do not like direct eye contact for long periods of time, as this can be a sign of confrontation. If we share direct eye contact for too long, the dog will look away. If the whites of a dog’s eyes are showing, this is a sign of stress, and suggests we need to put some distance between him and the stressor.

Facial Expression. Dogs will also use facial expressions to communicate to us and other dogs. For example, lip licking is a part of “dog talk.” This is how they attempt to calm themselves and send a calming signal to another dog or human. If dogs are growling and baring their teeth, they are giving a warning they are unhappy about the present situation, so it is best to calmly diffuse the situation rather than punish/correct the dog for growling, as they are doing us a favor by giving a warning signal. If we tell dogs not to growl, they will stop warning and go right to the bite.

Dogs understand dog vocabulary; we do not, unless we teach ourselves. We need to listen when our dogs are talking to us and take note of what is going on in our environment when they give these signals. By understanding canine communication, we strengthen the relationship with our dogs and can teach them more effectively. Training will go much more smoothly when we understand our dogs and how they learn.

How Do Dogs Learn?

The best and fastest way to teach a dog and build communication is by positively reinforcing the behaviors you want. The behaviors you reward are the ones most likely to be repeated, while behaviors that are not rewarded are less likely to be repeated. Dogs only do what works for them. For example, if your dog is whining for food while you are eating dinner, and you ignore the whining, they will eventually learn to stop the whining because it gets them nothing.



If they engage in a behavior and it doesn't "pay" for them, they will stop doing it. It is a waste of a dog's time to repeat behaviors for which they get nothing.

So, what is a dog looking for? Dogs are constantly seeking our attention. A dog views any type of attention (whether positive or negative) as affection. If you are looking at your dog while saying, "No," "down," or "off," while he is jumping on you, you are really communicating, "Thank you for jumping on me, please continue." Without training or repetition, your dog does not understand that you want them to stop. Dogs view any talking, looking, or touching as affection, and such behaviors on your part will only intensify an unwanted behavior. We need to think about and view our actions through our dog's perspective: We think we are saying "no," but our dog hears "yes."

If you want your dog to stop a behavior, the best thing you can do is ignore it. This can be hard for people to do and takes practice. Instead of concentrating on the behaviors we do not want, we must focus on the ones we do want.

How Can We Communicate With Our Dogs in a Way They Can Understand?

The Three T's. In order to communicate to our dogs what we do want, we have to provide the three T's: Treat, Talk (provide praise), and Touch (pet). These three actions are key to showing

our dogs what we expect and to building a strong bond. Here are a couple examples of these principles in action.

Jumping. If we do not want our dog to jump up, we need to ask ourselves: What behavior do we want instead? The desired behavior is having all four paws on the ground. The key is to ignore the jumping. Ignoring means looking away, turning your back, and not talking. This includes saying, "No," "down," "off," or anything else. Do not touch or pet your dog when they are engaged in the unwanted behavior. Remember, when you look, talk, or touch your dog, you are communicating that they have your attention and affection. After ignoring the undesirable behavior, we cannot forget to tell him what we do want. As soon as your dog has all four paws on the floor, reward them with the three T's. Dogs will learn very quickly that jumping does not pay but keeping his paws on the floor does pay.

Potty Training. When potty training, we must ignore accidents in the house and reward when our dogs go outside. The dog learns that going outside pays while going in the house does not pay. Imagine a similar human scenario as an example: You are presented with two bathrooms to choose from, one blue bathroom and one green. Every time you sit on the toilet in the green bathroom, a \$20 bill falls from above. When you go to blue bathroom and sit on the toilet, you get nothing. Which bathroom would you go to every time? The answer is simple: you would go to the bathroom that pays. This is the world of canine learning. We must reward the behavior we want and ignore the behavior we do not want. This is how we shape and train a dog's behavior.

When is the Best Time to Communicate?

Dogs learn in the immediate, meaning they cannot connect a past behavior to a reward that is given later. In other words, if you were sitting on the toilet in the example above, and the \$20 did not drop until you reached for the toilet paper (instead of immediately when you sat down on the toilet), you would still be able to connect the reward to the green bathroom. A dog, on the other hand, would think they are getting a reward for getting the toilet paper. Similarly, if you are teaching your dog to sit, and they happen to look at the ceiling when you deliver the treat, they will think they are getting rewarded for looking at the ceiling. When a dog offers a desired behavior, they need to be rewarded immediately in order to make the connection.

The same holds true with punishment. If your dog potties in the house and you find it after the fact, you must forget about it, because your dog has long forgotten about it. We are wasting our time and energy and potentially damaging our relationship with

our dogs when we punish them for something that happened more than two seconds ago. Dog's brains are not capable of connecting

you are trying to extinguish an unwanted behavior, and you find the behavior is continuing, you need to look at what you or someone

else might be doing that could be maintaining that behavior. Are you communicating "no" to your dog or are you communicating "yes"?

“Dogs understand dog vocabulary; we do not, unless we teach ourselves. We need to listen when our dogs are talking to us and take note of what is going on in our environment when they give these signals. By understanding canine communication, we strengthen the relationship with our dogs and can teach them more effectively. Training will go much more smoothly when we understand our dogs and how they learn.”

Dogs do not speak our language and we certainly do not speak dog. Dogs spend much of their lives trying to learn what we want. They study our behavior and way of life. We want our dogs to understand our human thoughts, feelings, and language. In turn, we need to try to understand what our dogs are thinking, how they learn, and how they communicate. Encourage your clients to spend time watching what their dogs are saying to them. They have learned how

the two events. The only time you can effectively address a behavior is right when your dog is presenting the behavior.

What is the Best Way to Communicate?

When you are training your dog, use a high value reinforcer. Use something your dog wants to work for. Consider a human example: If I asked you to dive down to the bottom of my 50-degree Fahrenheit swimming pool for a quarter, would you do it? Would you do it for \$50? Would you do it for \$1,000? It depends on the person. If you asked me to run a mile for a piece of key lime pie, that would not be a good reinforcer for me; I hate key lime pie, and I am not a fan of running if not necessary. Alternatively, if you offered me a piece of chocolate cake, running a mile might be worth it, because that is a high-value reinforcer for me. Every dog is different, so you must find what your dog finds rewarding. My dog might not do much for a piece of kibble but will work hard for some juicy chicken. I once trained a dog that did not like chicken or peanut butter, so I made a roast every time I trained him because that is what worked for him (And maybe he trained me!).

We Must Walk a Mile on Our Dog's Paws

Dogs will figure out which behaviors "pay" and which behaviors do not. Your dog is seeking attention and affection through treats, talking, and touch or play time. Remember, dogs do what works. Behaviors that are reinforced are more likely to be repeated. Behaviors that are not reinforced are less likely to be repeated. If

to survive in our world, the least we can do for our best friends is to learn to speak their language. Knowing just a little bit about how dogs learn and communicate can change your clients' relationship with their furry friends and lead to a lifetime of happiness.



Jamie Gregory has been training dogs for more than 20 years. She is a Certified Behavior Consultant Canine (CBCC-KA), a Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT-KA) and attended E-Training for Dogs. She has her own Indiana-based dog training center, but finds it is more beneficial to work with the dogs and owners in their own environments. "Dog training is not my job, it is my passion," she says. Her accreditation status can be found on the CCPDT Certified Counsel for Professional Dog Trainers website.



It's finally summer, filled with activities for humans, such as noisy parades, loud music, large gatherings, and fireworks. While fun for humans, they are traumatic and dangerous to pets. The American Humane Association estimates more than 10 million companion animals are lost each year in the United States; more dogs are lost during the 4th of July holiday than any other time of the year, according to statistics by Lost Dogs of America.

Even when it is not a busy holiday, however, companion animals become lost for many reasons: a gate left open by mistake, a mad dash outside after a recent move, slipping out of a collar from during a first potty break with an adoptive/foster family. Street corners in every neighborhood are canvassed with posters of lost pets. On social media there are numerous Facebook lost pet groups desperately trying to get the word out, hopeful someone has a productive lead. Through no fault of their own, many pet owners find themselves in similar heartbreaking situations. What would you do if your furry family member went missing?



Real Life Pet Detectives

Thankfully, there are organizations that can help. Missing Animal Response Network (MARN) is a worldwide organization dedicated to helping pet owners find their missing pets. MARN was created in 1997 by Kat Albrecht, a former police Bloodhound handler, crime scene investigator and search-and-rescue manager. Albrecht used her law enforcement and search-and-rescue experience to train her police dogs to track lost pets. She's spent more than 20 years authoring books and developing lost pet recovery training courses.

MARN offers online resources (both scientific and field research) for pet owners on the behavior of lost dogs and cats (www.missinganimalresponse.com). Trained professionals and volunteers help solve missing pet cases by providing services like flyer and poster design for optimal visibility, trapping, and the utilization of MAR Missing Animal Response (MAR) search dogs trained to track lost pets.

MARN has wonderful educational opportunities. MAR field online courses are available for animal control officers, animal industry professionals, shelters, vet staff, and volunteer dog and cat rescue groups and individuals.

MAR Search Dog – K9 Indy's Story (aka Indiana Jones)

I have been a certified professional dog trainer for over 20 years. I got my start in the industry as a volunteer for a therapy dog program at a local psychiatric hospital. That rewarding experience led me to become a dog trainer. Soon after I became involved in a variety of dog sports, which quickly became my passion. I loved working with high-drive dogs motivated by food and toys. After 10 years as a Certified Nose Work Instructor (CNWI), and years of successful competition with multiple dogs throughout the United States, I began looking at community-based work once again. My teammates and I earned many ribbons and championships, but something was still missing. I wanted to go back to the rewarding job of helping others in the community.



Indy is a rescue dog from a local shelter in San Diego, California. He was returned multiple times for having too much energy. I first saw him when I stopped by the shelter to drop off

some of my business cards. It was love at first sight. He was the shelter's house dog and had free run of the front office. His tiny, long legs never stopped moving. I asked about him and the attendant said that I was welcomed to foster him. The rest is history. I put Indy on odor at three months old, and we have been involved in scent-related activities ever since. He loves it. And I really enjoy being his partner.

“ Nearly any dog can do this type of work. Often, animals can’t be easily caught. Getting lost animals to safety requires patience, strategy, skill, and equipment, as well as time and resources. It requires an environmentally resilient dog who is very food and/or toy motivated and LOVES to work. ”

In October 2019, we attended a MARN workshop in Texas. At that workshop, Indy was evaluated for being a MAR Search Dog. He got a resounding green flag and off we went on our new adventure in Search and Rescue work. Although SAR/MAR training is very different from scent detection competition, my prior scent experience allowed me to read his body language when he was in and out of scent.

MAR Search Work

Dogs trained to find missing animals is similar to the training used to train Search and Rescue (SAR) dogs to find missing humans. It requires about 12-18 months of scent discrimination “trailing” training. Indy has logged more than 250 training videos to date. In addition to training a MAR search dog, MARN graduates must pass a MAR Field Course that consists of studying lost pet behavior, physical evidence, predator behaviors, tracking, humane trapping, ethics, equipment, search theory and grief avoidance.



K9 Indy’s focus is urban and residential type environments. K9 Indy is deployed through Lost Animal Resource Group (LARG), a volunteer-based East Coast organization that tracks, finds, and humanely captures lost family pets and other animals. Carmen Brothers, a professional pet tracker, helped create LARG (LARGCares.org) in 2019 with team members Bob Swensen and Denise Harris. Together they provide MAR-trained search dogs, trapping, surveillance, lost dog flyer design, community outreach and social media, all to help distraught pet owners know they are not alone and have support from a large network of search and rescue organizations.

MAR Search Dog – K9 Magic’s Story

Carmen and her MAR search dog Magic started working together in 2018. Magic was formerly a diabetic alert dog who was surrendered to a kennel when the owner required care outside of the home. Magic is a natural when it came to tracking and trailing. She was already trained on scent specific work, so she quickly picked up the nuances of rescue scent training. Carmen and Magic travel across the United States working on missing pet cases. They have worked trails from northern Maine in 10 inches

of snow to the swamps of Florida. Although Magic loves to work, she is happiest at the beach, in water, or with her beloved tennis ball. Her motto is “ball is life,” Carmen said.

Carmen loves helping animals and people reunite and has been involved in all aspects of rescue since 2012. She continually provides encouragement and inspires people to be positive through the difficult process of having a pet go missing. Carmen and Jake (a now-retired Coonhound) were part of National Geographic’s “Trackers” TV show in 2018 (still streaming) about those who work hard to bring home missing cats and dogs. In the first episode, Jake assists in finding a missing Chihuahua named Emma more than two miles from where she escaped her yard.



Can My Dog Do This?

Nearly any dog can do this type of work. Often, animals can’t be easily caught. Getting lost animals to safety requires patience, strategy, skill, and equipment, as well as time and resources. It requires an environmentally resilient dog who is very food and/or toy motivated and LOVES to work. This type of work is not as breed specific as one might think. Dogs must also enjoy the company of other animals and have no major fear or aggression issues.

You can learn more about lost pet recovery work by reading Kat Albrecht’s books “Pet Tracker: The Amazing Story of Rachel the K-9 Pet Detective” (available on Audible and Amazon) and “Dog Detectives: Train Your Dog to Find Lost Pets.”



Jamie Bozzi of smrtdog.com is a Certified Canine Behavior Consultant (CBCC-KA); Certified Pet Dog Trainer-Knowledge and Skills Assessed (CPDT-KSA); Certified Nose Work Instructor (CNWI); AKC Scent Work judge; and MAR Search Dog Handler.

LOST DOG!!
DO NOT CHASE!!!



Niko
Needs Medication

631-702-5014
631-433-6865

Beyond Tracking & Scent Detection Sports

MARN Search K9 Training

By Jennifer Berg, CPDT-KA

Niko, a newly adopted dog had been missing for 13 days. His owner brought him along on a camping trip, but Niko's collar failed, and he bolted into the dunes and marsh. Enter Teddy Henn, a lost dog search-and-rescue expert, and Winston, his long-haired Dachshund trained to search for lost dogs. But help was delayed since Niko was lost on federally protected land and Teddy couldn't be on the land without permission from the authorities. Finally, Teddy got approval, and the team set out.



Soon Winston locked on to Niko's scent trail and raced along over difficult terrain, straining against his harness while Teddy tried to keep up. Suddenly, Niko is sighted. Teddy stopped Winston at a generous distance so Niko wasn't scared away. Another walk-up find for Winston! But the drama isn't over yet. Niko ran into the water, but Teddy waded in to carefully rescue Niko while Winston waited on the

shore. The dramatic rescue ended with an emotional reunion between Niko and his owner. It sounds like a great movie!

Ironically, it wasn't that long ago when Winston was the target of a search-and-rescue. Winston was found lying on a highway late at night, cars swerving around him. A lady stopped, and thinking the dog had a broken back, drove him home to take him to the vet in the morning. When she got home and opened the car door, he bolted into the woods.

Teddy was part of the search team, and after the other volunteers dwindled out, Teddy persevered and eventually trapped the little dog. He called the SPCA, explaining that the dog looked like one of the 11 dogs that had been abandoned for several months in a cemetery many miles away. Teddy was asked to keep the dog with him for a few days. The dog, covered in big scabs and ticks, had been checked and treated by a vet, but after three days, Teddy knew this dog needed to have a bath. The little dog was terrified, but Teddy used what he learned from MAR training and laid on his dining room floor giving calming signals for three hours. He was able to get the little dog into the bath and the two bonded. Teddy decided

to adopt him. As it turned out, Winston loved other dogs and soon overcame his fear of people.

Teddy had been planning to get a Bloodhound to train as a search dog, but one of his Missing Animal Response (MAR) instructors who has trained Dachshunds for MAR work and narcotics detection encouraged him to train Winston. It turned out to be an exceptionally good decision. "I trust Winston's nose 110-percent," Teddy said. And with good reason: Winston has helped rescue countless lost dogs, often after large search teams and other dog trackers have failed. As of April 2021 Winston has had 18 walk-up finds, which is rare in search work because by the time a search dog is called in to work the case, many days have passed. To read more about their amazing work, visit their Facebook page Long Island Lost Dog Search & Rescue.

From SAR to MAR

I first learned of Winston and Teddy back in 2018 when I had the privilege of being a guest at an online weekly meeting for MAR Search K9 students. Teddy credits much of his success to the MAR training courses created by Kat Albrecht, a retired police Bloodhound handler and Search and Rescue manager. "Kat's online classes are absolutely phenomenal! If you do the homework and stay with it, your dog will be trained properly, and you will get trained properly as a handler."



I knew of Kat Albrecht, who developed the program in the late 1990s, when I took her online MAR Field course in 2014, and I was excited to hear the MAR Search K9 training had gone online. In 2008, Kat published "Dog Detectives: Train Your Dog To Find Lost Pets," a comprehensive, easy-to-read training manual. In 2015 she published her award-winning memoir "Pet Tracker: The Amazing Story of Rachel the K-9 Pet Detective," originally published in 2005 under the title "The Lost Pet Chronicles: Adventures of a K-9 Cop Turned Pet Detective." Among her other professional accomplishments, Kat has co-authored a lost

cat behavior study “Search Methods Used to Locate Missing Cats and Locations Where Missing Cats Are Found” and articles in the IAABC Journal: “The Science of Finding Lost Pets” and “What We Need to Learn About Missing Dogs.”

Kat wants to train as many dog owners as she can to effectively search for lost pets, and putting her course online drastically expanded her reach and the opportunities for dog owners. Her students no longer need to travel across the country or take a week off work to attend an in-person group seminar, and those learning independently from her book can receive guidance and support through weekly meetings and individualized instruction. “I started my online MAR Search K9 Training in 2017 not knowing if I could successfully train students to train their dogs to find lost pets via the Internet and using a GoPro camera,” Kat said. “The highly-successful students over the last three years prove it can be done.”

She is passionate about helping people find their missing pets and is frustrated by the many improperly trained handlers and dogs out there that give tracking dogs a bad name. Scammers and people who should know better are particularly irksome, but even those novices with their hearts in the right place can be more of a harm than a help. “When the news reports on a story about someone who has successfully used their dog to find a missing dog, unfortunately, what you end up with is someone thinking their dog can find any missing dog without them actually doing any training,” Kat explained. “Maybe they enjoyed helping that person and want to do it more, but they don’t realize how much work and training is needed to do it. They end up leading a search in the wrong direction or they don’t understand how to cue the dog or read the dog when there is a scent trail or no scent trail. The opportunity is missed, or people think the missing dog is not in the area.”

Since pets’ lives are at stake, Kat is serious about training her students properly. She designed her course to meet the high standards of the search-and-rescue (SAR) dogs she used to train. The course is divided into 10-week units and students in the group course (as opposed to the self-paced course) can expect to commit about 10-15 hours a week working trails, training specific cues,



Kat with Zeke (Bloodhound)

submitting video homework, and meeting with the instructors and the other students online. Each 10-week unit costs \$750, and most students should be able to complete the course in six units — about 18 months.

Students use a GoPro camera as they work trails and post their video homework online for the instructors and other students to review in the group class each week. Students can expect to work trails about three times a week, and they will need access to a large selection of different target dogs as they progress through the training over the months.

To ensure the dogs and handlers are trained for any scenario, they practice working a variety of trails, starting with easy trails that are fresh, have few turns, and ideal weather conditions. As students advance, the trails become more difficult, such as trails that are hours/days old, trails where the scent of the target dog is not present, and trails that lead to an elevator and the handler and dog need to stop at each floor to figure out which floor the target dog exited onto. “It’s not just trails in grass or the woods,” Kat said. “Most of my students are working trails through shopping centers, parking lots, school grounds, residential and commercial (areas).”

One of the most important things that Kat teaches her students is how to recognize their dogs’ unique signal when there is no target dog scent present. “For some dogs, they make eye contact with the handler. For two of my Bloodhounds, they would shake-off when they had no scent,” she said.

The handler’s ability to read their dog is also tested. The team transitions to semi-blind trails where the handler does not know where the trail is at all, but a Flanker going with them does and is available for help if the handler needs it. Later they advance



Niko and Winston in back seat

to double-blind trails — the handler and dog are required to find the target dog without any help. Setting up the final double-blind trails for the handler/dog teams to complete their training requires the help of local dog trainers. “We give instructions to the dog trainer on how to set up the blind trails. Ideally, we would like to try partnering with dog handlers that certify search-and-rescue dogs, and we’re hoping that we can find a way to get that done, but until that time, we’re just using our own testing for now,” Kat said.

There is no official graduation certificate because Kat wants an unbiased, reputable organization to officially certify her handler/dog teams, like what is done in SAR training. So far, she has not been able to arrange this; however, this does not mean she lacks confidence in her program and her students who complete it. “We know the handler/dog team is ‘mission ready’ when we’ve seen them do enough double-blind trails where they are confident and the dog is nailing the trails,” she said.

The dogs in the course must be friendly towards other dogs and people, not scared of things in the environment, and have a high interest in other dogs. As Kat explained: “The breed is not important. What is important is that the dog loves other dogs. The basis/foundation of the training is runaway/hide-and-seek games, and the dogs need to be very excited to play the game. There are a few dogs that aren’t into it and drop out, but for the most part, the dogs that learn the game end up loving the game.”

I asked Kat if there were any dogs in her classes that surprised her, and I mentioned Winston. “Ah, yes, Winston, the Sleeper Dog. When Teddy told us that he had found Winston and he was a little on the skittish side, I was very doubtful. But that dog has been an amazing trailing dog. Just amazing!”

Kat has had a few dogs in the online course that have had some behavioral issues, and some have been able to overcome them. “It is best to select dogs that have a solid temperament without fear or any type of aggression. The last thing that we want is when you’re out working your dog to have another loose dog run up to your dog and then you have a big fight on your hands. If somebody wanted to take their dog through the training program for that purpose [for behavioral rehabilitation but not to do actual MAR work], I would be fine with that as long as we have room in the class. But my real goal — my real passion — is to get more dog teams trained to help find lost pets.”



Jennifer Berg, CPDT-KA, is a member of the Canadian Association of Professional Dog Trainers (CAPDT) and is the owner of Oberhund Dog Services & Products. She has more than 16 years’ experience providing force-free,

science-based dog training and behaviour modification services. Jennifer is passionate about promoting dogs’ physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing and she specializes in private and group classes to help dogs and their people enjoy the outdoors together. She can be reached through her website at oberhund.com.

Research

<https://www.missinganimalresponse.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/animals-08-00005.pdf>

Search Methods Used to Locate Missing Cats and Locations Where Missing Cats Are Found

<https://iaabcjournal.org/science-finding-lost-pets/>

<https://iaabcjournal.org/what-we-need-to-learn-about-missing-dogs/>

Learn more about MAR Search K9 Training

Join the Train Your Dog to Find Lost Pets Facebook group

Become a MAR K9 Observer. Some restrictions apply.

Enroll in the MAR Field Course.

This article was originally published in the Spring 2021 issue of Forum, the CAPDT’s quarterly newsletter.

Amber & Annie, Dogs of Distinction

MAR Search K9 Training

By Jennifer Berg, CPDT-KA



Jane Bowers, CPDT-KA, CDBC, has been training dogs for more than 20 years and runs Dogs of Distinction Canine Training Inc. near Roberts Creek, British Columbia, Canada (about an hour northwest of Vancouver). Jane is highly accomplished, passionate about force-free training, and loves to

learn and share her expertise. Some of her credentials include a degree in psychology, a contributor and content expert for the Canadian Police Knowledge Network's online course "Assessing and Interpreting Dog Behaviours," author, teacher, and host of the TV program "Doggin' It on the Coast." She has even worked as an animal control officer. Recently she's been able to add MAR Search K9 training to her list.

"We get a lot of lost pets up in this area, and there's a lot of misconceptions about the behavior of lost pets or what you should (or should not) do to find a missing pet," Jane said. "The animal could be hurt and frightened and the poor owner is distraught, not knowing where their pet is. I was looking for instruction that had some science behind it and was evidence-based in order to be the most efficient. First, I ordered Kat Albrecht's book "Dog Detectives: Train Your Dog to Find Lost Pets," then took her 10-week Field Course online. When I saw that her MAR Search K9 course was being offered online, I signed up with Amber, my Coonhound.

Jane had years of experience with trailing work prior to taking Kat's course, and she had also been using Amber to alert if there were any cougars in the area to help the local conservation officer keep school children in the area safe. "And generally, that had worked well, but for that type of work, you're really better off with several hounds. Amber was showing a lot of interest in following the scent of animals, and being a hound, she was also a lot calmer when she was given a job. It was a really good fit for her to start doing some work looking for missing animals."

It took about 14 months for Jane and Amber to finish the course, and since then they have been able to help people and their lost pets. "We had one search where a sick cat was supposed to go back to the

vet but it escaped from its home," Jane recalled. "The owners called me because they had read the 'at-home care instructions' from the first vet visit and realized their cat very likely had a blocked urethra and maybe had gone off to pass away. Their property was on five acres with bush, so I took Amber out there. The vet was kind enough to stay open while Amber did her search. She located the cat, and the owners immediately took their cat to the vet clinic. We got a call from the vet later who said the cat is going straight into surgery, and added 'Tell Amber thank you, because we think she saved the cat's life.' Most people are really appreciative of the help, even if my dog doesn't make a successful find. They find it very reassuring for me to be able to recognize that my dog has not made any indication that the animal is hurt."

Jane added even the training is fun. "I enjoy that my community is involved. Helpers thought it was a hoot to lay a trail that went straight through the dog-friendly shopping mall. The (equestrian) riding community was happy to lay trails, giving my dog practice searching for horses. I still have people saying to me 'Hey, when COVID is over, let's get some practice going!'"

Jane is currently training another one of her dogs, Annie, a Malamute/Doberman mix. "That was a super good experience for Annie who was anxious around people. She got a lot of repetition of finding the dog — which she LOVED — and there was a human there with the dog and she got a reward. It didn't take her long to learn that everything in her world was good and fun, including people."

Even with all her knowledge and experience over the past 20+ years, Jane still learned a lot from the course, found it challenging, and enjoyed the partnership aspect of the training. "I have to be able to read my dog's signals to know when she is on the scent, has been temporarily distracted from working the scent trail, or when a scent is not in an area," she explained. "As our skills advanced, the trails became more difficult: double blind trails, split trails, and aged trails. And sometimes the unexpected happened such as the time we set up a trail across water only to discover at the last moment that Amber didn't like water. I had to stop and modify her training to include conditioning her to water."



Annie (in pink) and Amber (in green). With Amber's help, Jane volunteers her time to help people search for their lost pets. Annie is still in training (which has been put on hold because of the pandemic).

Jane thinks it is a good idea for trainers to be students as well. "For me personally, I have a lot more empathy for the struggles my students might be having, and I can use my own experience as a learner to help me explain things in a different way to my students. I'm also able to suggest to some students that they might want to do this type of training with their dog — the students who like hiking but have dogs that can hike for four hours without calming down. Or the students with dogs that don't pay attention to them, such as hounds. My experience has been the more you do this type of partnership work with your dog, obedience falls into place. You become very reinforcing to your dog and it's not just 'Hey, come when you're called, we're leaving the fun park.' Now it's 'Hey, come with me, we're going to find a cat or a bird and there's going to be lots of treats involved at the end of the search!' I've found the dogs love the work and people are actually quite surprised when they see what their dogs can do. Most dogs can do this if you put in the right training and many people find they enjoy it."

I asked Jane if she felt that the course would be easier for trainers than non-trainers. "Because I'm a trainer I have an easier time getting access to a lot of target dogs; many of my students were very willing to help me set trails, especially when I needed six or seven people and dogs at once to have Amber practice finding the right dog in a mix of various dog scents. But I wouldn't say that the training is easier for a dog trainer than non-dog trainer. I don't want to give people the impression that if you're not a trainer it would be hard. Maybe some of the stuff is easier for a dog trainer — like teaching the dog a cue and understanding clicker training — but the course is very comprehensive and well-laid out, and Kat and the other trainers are very generous with their feedback."

The trainer/dog team should be relatively fit, but it is not necessary



For Amber to do her search work, Jane needed to condition her to be comfortable in a small aircraft, including using ramps and wearing hearing protection and a life jacket.

to be at a super high level of fitness to do this work. "You can ask your dog to slow down especially if you are in areas that are a bit dangerous. Practice trails will be safer because the person helping you won't be going into dangerous places. But when you do actual searches after the training, for example when you're out actually looking for a cat, I keep the dogs very slow and I'm very careful about where they're allowed to search. A recent example was when I was asked to search a property for cats that had escaped a house fire. The property was so filled with garbage and debris that I just said 'This is too dangerous for my dogs and someone is going to get hurt on sharp metal or something.' If I had continued that search it would have taken a lot of fitness on my part to climb over all the stuff. It also had police tape around the area, so of course the dogs and I were not going to cross that tape."

Both Amber and Annie had some behavioral problems that were resolved, in part, by this training, so I asked Jane about her thoughts on the potential for using MAR K9 Search training as one aspect of rehabilitating a dog with such issues. "I do a lot of reactive dog work, and I find it's often the working-type dogs who are under-occupied or perhaps had some enthusiasm/frustration from meeting other dogs and now the association has become quite negative. However, I would say that in a case where a dog is anxious/nervous about other dogs, it's going to be hard for the dog to want to find another dog. MAR search K9 training is a really fun activity to do with your dog, but if the end goal is for the dog to actually do MAR search work, then the dog should really like the type of animal they are training to search for. I highly recommend the training. Even if a person just did it for fun and wasn't necessarily planning to go out to help people — I mean I hope they would — the demand is high for people looking for help to find their lost animals."



◀ Balynda Brown and Bravo

started raising and showing Rat Terriers, and it was thanks to a Rat Terrier named Bravo that Balynda started her path into MAR Search K9 training.

Bravo was a bit of a troublemaker right from the start, the kind of dog that needed a job to channel his mental and physical energy. It was around the age of three when things got really serious. “Bravo was constantly getting into fights with his brother, Buddha, and the fights had escalated to the point where they would likely kill each other. I was able to give Buddha to my neighbor and best friend who also owns Buddha’s mom and two sisters.”

But Bravo, who was often the loser in the fights, had developed extreme fear aggression towards any dogs, including the six other dogs he still lived with. “On walks, if he saw another dog — even one a mile away — he would redirect his aggression towards the nearest person, including me,” Balynda said. She feared Bravo may need to be euthanized if she couldn’t find a way to help him with his severe aggression. As a last resort she did a desperate search to see if she could find some activity for him to do that would help him — to give him a job to do. She thought about the sport of tracking, but what she knew about it didn’t appeal to her. Eventually she saw a description of Kat Albrecht’s MAR Search K9 training online and thought that sounded like a good activity for her and Bravo. It would challenge Bravo’s brain and provide the outlet and exercise he needed.

After discussing the course with Kat, Balynda faced two obstacles: The cost of tuition and dealing with Bravo’s dog aggression. The tuition was easily solved when Balynda created a social media fundraiser to raise money for Bravo’s MAR Search K9 tuition in lieu of gifts. She surpassed the total after strangers who had lost their pets found the site and donated money for the little dog’s tuition. After 10 days, she had raised the \$4,000 to cover Bravo’s tuition for the 18-month course (\$750 for each of the six 10-week courses).

Balynda started with the self-paced course, but within a couple months she switched to the group course that met online each week. The structure of the group course sped up Bravo’s training: She had him working scent trails three days a week, and he flew through the homework easily. She took precautions to ensure strict management of Bravo’s environment and careful supervision throughout his training. She was also putting in extra socialization efforts between his MAR training: taking him places to gently expose him to new situations and joining a dog walking social group led by another trainer. She was delighted to see his behavior improving.

Bravo, Bravo K911!

MAR Search K9 Training

By Jennifer Berg, CPDT-KA

Dog trainers often have some pretty crazy stories, but have you ever found yourself in a field behind a church trying to convince a police officer that you were not burying evidence from a crime but were setting up a training exercise for your dog? And when the officer asked to see your dog, did your explanation ring true that your dog was not with you because the scent item needed to be buried for a month before you would return with your dog to work the area? All in a day’s work for Balynda Brown when training a MAR dog.

Balynda, a dog trainer from North Carolina, is the owner of BravoK911.com, a lost pet business she’s been operating full time since February 2020. Balynda started training dogs beginning with Conformation, then competitive Obedience, and now Missing Animal Response (MAR) Search K9 training. She had poodles for many years, but about 10 years ago she

"I knew that MAR work would be a good activity for Bravo. As I expected, it was physically and cognitively challenging for his Rat Terrier energy. But I was extremely pleased to see that the MAR work seemed to be very beneficial for his fear aggression. Right from the first day of training, he seemed to stop looking for trouble and he no longer got into fights at home. When he was working a trail, he seemed oblivious to everything around him and could easily pass by dogs, kids, etc."

After the first 10 weeks were over, Balynda knew she had to "come clean" to the instructors about Bravo's aggression, something she had been managing to hide each week. She wanted to take Bravo through the rest of the MAR course — he was thriving and she wanted to fulfil the promises to people who donated money for his full training. "Before I could enroll Bravo in the next 10-week block, I had to inform Kat and my other instructors of Bravo's issues. A requirement for Kat's course is that the dog must be friendly with people and dogs, but I was desperate to help Bravo and did not admit to his issues on my application. I modified his training and used a ball at the end of each training video for Bravo's reward — the part where Bravo is supposed to get a chance to play with the target dog as the reward for the search. Week after week the instructors would ask me to include Bravo playing with the dog at the end of the practice searches, but I would make some excuse."

In tears, Balynda explained the situation and apologized. But the instructors surprised her. They wouldn't let Balynda quit. They were very impressed with Bravo and thought he had tremendous potential. As it turned out, Bravo continued to excel and became "mission ready" in 12 months, far quicker than the usual 18 months.

One of the hardest things about the MAR training is finding a large number of people and other dogs to help lay scent trails each week. "You can't use the same person and dogs. Others in the class have struggled with finding different people and dogs, but luckily, I didn't have that problem. I have lots of dog friends, plus access to 13 dogs that I own, and many of my gymnastics students were able to help. I think that's one of the main reasons why Bravo and I completed the program so quickly. That, and the fact that I am an experienced dog trainer. I could train Bravo to do a task in three hours what it might take a non-trainer in the group a week or more."

In November 2019, soon after Bravo graduated, Balynda started taking on lost pet cases, thinking she could do it part time and continue to teach gymnastics in the evenings full



Ollie escaped his North Carolina home while being watched by family friends. Thanks to Bravo, searchers knew he was in the area and kept looking, even when Ollie's military family was transferred to Colorado. Bravo and Balynda worked with rescue volunteers and family friends until finally a very scared and skittish Ollie was sighted by his owner during one of her trips back to North Carolina to search for him. After a few tense minutes and a few stanzas of "let's go for walky walks" singing, the happy reunion occurred 105 days after he escaped.

time. After a couple of months, it became obvious to Balynda this wasn't going to be a part-time gig. She quit her full-time job to keep up with the demand for her lost pet services. By February 2020 she was operating Bravo K911 full time, and in their first year of business, Bravo helped find 250 lost pets. Even though she loved teaching gymnastics, Balynda does not regret her decision to give it up to do full time MAR work. "It's such a different feeling to save a pet's life and bring it home to its family," she explained.

Business has not decreased for Bravo K911, even with the pandemic. In fact, Balynda thinks it might be partially the cause of more lost pets. "With more people staying at home, indoor pets that normally would sleep are finding open doors as people come and go. And with the new protocol at vet clinics, scared pets are getting away in parking lots when they are being handed off to vet staff or vice versa, often because of crates or leashes in poor condition or poorly secured collars and harnesses."

To keep up with demand, Bravo K911 is expanding into what is starting to resemble a sort of family business — Bravo's family, that is. Buddha's new mom is now Balynda's Lost Pets case manager. To prevent Bravo from getting burnt out or injured, Balynda is getting two more dogs trained — Bravo's niece, Pippa, and Bravo's brother, Buddha. Sarah Seely, a previous lost pet client, is helping by taking Buddha (who has been renamed Booty) through Kat's online MAR Search K9 course.

"The MAR training hasn't been an easy ride," Balynda explained. "I've had to learn how to use a computer and a GoPro, and I had to learn how to run. Following Bravo as he works a trail is physically demanding because Bravo sprints when he's following a trail. Thankfully, I can sometimes manage to slow him to a jog, though."

SOLUTIONS FOR CLASSROOM CHALLENGES

Voices from the Training Community

By Jamie McKay, CPDT KSA

Ask 10 trainers a question and you'll get 10 different answers! If you have a suggestion for a topic to be covered in this series, please email jamiemckay@optonline.net.

This challenge was suggested by **Jamie McKay, CPDT KSA:**

The challenge is: Training can be frustrating at times. In an effort to keep things on the lighter side, what games (or challenges) do trainers use in their group classes to help owners continue to regard training their dogs as “play” and not as a chore.

Mark Ehrman, VSPDT
www.K9Counselling.com.au
Sydney, Australia

One of the games that I use to get owners to focus on what their hands are telling the dog versus what their voices are telling the dogs, is to have a “silent” session. I typically use the four basic cues of sit, down, stay and come, and try to get the owners to get their dog to complete all four without saying a word. It can be challenging at first, but also fun. I also use it as a way to get kids to understand how they are communicating to their dogs. It can be difficult in a distracting environment, so this can also be demonstrated in class, then given as homework.

Abby Harrison, CPDT KA
Welcome to Sit Dog Stay
Houston, Texas

I like to end classes with a game to finish on a fun moment. Games become more complicated as people trained additional cues and increased their skills. I was influenced by Terry Ryan's book “Gamify Your Dog Training.” During a class where I teach loose-leash walking, sit and auto-sit, I end the session with Red Light/Green Light or Simon Says.

Weather permitting, an outdoors game my students enjoy is a relay race called Burning Doghouse. The group is divided into teams named for various dog breeds. I avoid using the name of any breed in the class as to not show favorites. A small china log house (a fish tank decoration) is placed at an equal distance in front of each team. Everyone is given a cup filled to the top with water. To start

the game, I put one hand to my forehead and dramatically cry: “OH NO! The doghouse is burning! We have to put out the fire!” Each individual on the team takes turns walking their dog on a loose leash holding the cup without spilling, pour out the water on the house, and walk back to their team before the next person can leave.

I've found that some people don't attend the last class of a session when they were concerned about taking a test to graduate (even when I knew they could pass it). I pitch the last class of the session by telling the students “We're having a dog show. Please invite your family and friends to watch your dog perform. I'll bring cookies (baked in the shape of dog bones for the humans) to celebrate. I'll bring hula hoops for fun and some dress up dog costumes so bring your camera.”

Karen Reilly, CPDT KSA, CNWI
Paws for Obedience
Mamaroneck, NY

In my group classes, I liked to have students play a game that was a variation of “My Dog Can Do That.”

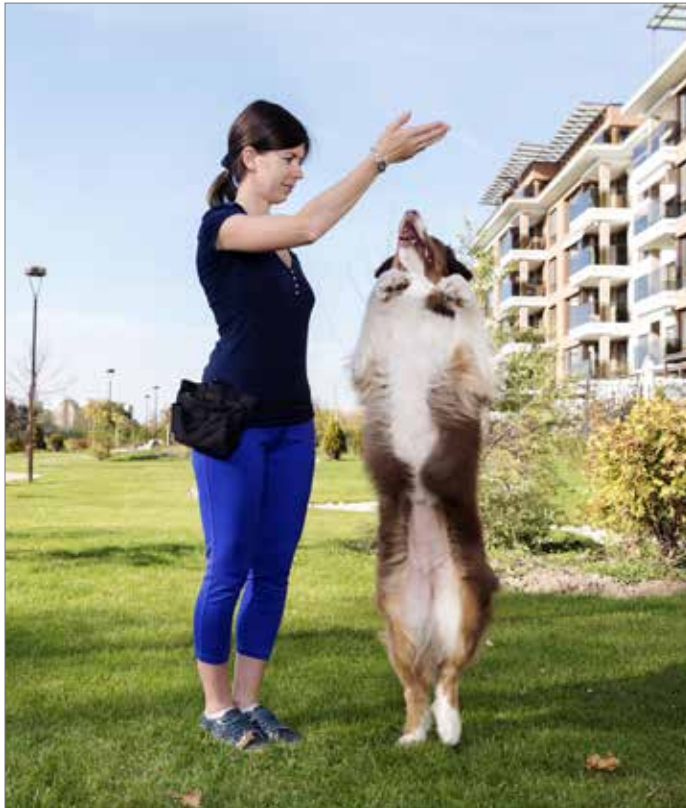
On colored index cards I wrote down various behaviors that we had covered in class. There were three levels of difficulty. White cards listed foundation behaviors considered the easiest, i.e., sit, down, etc.

Pink cards listed advanced behaviors and blue cards listed the more challenging behaviors to train.

I placed the cards face down so they could only choose based on color. Depending upon the students, I sometimes placed the cards face up so everyone could choose a behavior they felt they could be successful with or one that would challenge them. Occasionally, I gave cards out as people entered class so they had a behavior “assignment” to warm up with at the beginning of class.

Betsy Schwartz, CPDT-KA
<https://www.whattagooddog.com/>
Greenwich, Connecticut

I noticed something that seems to be true in every one of my classes from puppy through my more advanced classes. While working on “stay” or “come,” people tend to be rigid and use a



stern voice, but when I say, “Let’s teach our dogs a trick,” people are loose and smiling, and they use upbeat, sometimes silly voices. Honestly, though, there is no better “trick” than to get your dog to come away from a huge distraction, running straight to you!

With that in mind, I refer to many of my classroom and homework exercises as “games,” and I encourage my students to have fun with their dogs. I include tricks as part of my curriculum, teaching a “spin” when we work on “stand,” and “crawl” when we work on “stand to down.” Not only does it change the human learner’s mindset, but you can see the canine learner is more open to try something new and fun! I need to keep my classes fun for me as an instructor, too!

I encourage students to bring their dog’s favorite toy to class and we take “play breaks” after working on exercises that require lots of concentration on the part of the dog. It is a good break for the people, as well. I teach “tug” (with very specific rules) to help dogs learn to give up something they possess, and I look for other times when something fun can be used to teach another skill. Targeting is taught as a game and then used to help with loose-leash walking or to get a dog’s attention in a distracting environment.

I hope that my students come away with the idea that learning is lifelong for us and for our dogs, and it should be fun. Whether you are training or just snuggling together on the couch, enjoying that time spent with our dogs is the most important, and best thing.

Jamie McKay, CPDT KSA

www.McKay9.com

New Rochelle, New York

I strive to keep my classes fun and “teach” the handlers to look at training not as a chore but as playing with their dogs.

I attended a seminar where Kamal Fernandez was the presenter. He introduced a game called ‘Simon Says Sit!’ The idea of the game is to see if your dog responds to your verbal cues while you do different things. In the seminar we asked our dogs to sit while our hands were on our heads. Then we asked them to sit with hands on our shoulders, then waist, hips, etc. I enjoy introducing this fun game in classes.

In my advanced foundation classes I like to set up loose-leash walking challenges. Handlers hold a wooden spoon with one hand while walking with a dog attached to a “hands free” leash. A plastic egg is placed on the spoon. Of course, if outside, a real egg could be substituted. Using a hands-free leash allows the handler to be able to reward to the dog and prevents the handler from the “temptation” to yank on the leash. If the egg challenge goes great, I switch to a spatula or a paper plate that has a glass of water placed on it. The handler and dog must walk across the room without the water spilling. Another loose-leash walking challenge is to take a leash and tie it in a loose knot. The handler must walk their dog across the room without the knot tightening and closing.

Obstacle course is a game where teams work on recalls with distractions. Student’s dogs are on a stay (handler chooses position) and handler goes to the other side of the room. The dog will have to run past me and one obstacle to get to the handler. The obstacle is usually something like a cone to start. If successful I add another obstacle and then another, etc. Obstacles could be a toy, dry food in a zip lock bag, a basket, etc. If the dog doesn’t have a reliable stay and is comfortable with me, I’ll hold the leash or harness/collar until the handler is in place and calls them to come. If the dog is not comfortable being handled, I will have the handler toss a treat behind the dog and when the dog goes to get it the handler takes off running and then calls the dog.



Jamie McKay, CPDT KSA, gained her early experience at the Humane Society of Westchester teaching safe handling skills to volunteers to enhance the adoptability of shelter dogs. Jamie teaches group classes at Port Chester Obedience Training Club in New York. She is a Canine Good Citizen evaluator and competes in agility and rally obedience. Jamie and her husband, Stephen, CPDT KSA, own McKay9 Dog Training, LLC.

ANIMAL LEARNING

● LEARNING THEORY

Develop an understanding of and skills in learning theory as it applies to animals.

KNOWLEDGE OF:	SKILLS IN:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamentals of animal learning theories and practices, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Classical conditioning - Operant conditioning - Non associative learning - Animal cognition • Extrinsic and intrinsic influences on dog learning including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - External environment - Socialization - Handlers' emotions and attitudes - Distractions - Prior training methods used - Prior experiences - Reinforcement history - Punishment history - Context • Techniques for proofing, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building distance - Duration - Resistance to distractions for trained behaviors • Animal learning terminologies • Dog training methods • Meaning of various dogs' reactions • Recognize, respond to and adjust training based on the dog's reaction to specific training techniques • Techniques of response prevention, response substitution, and reduction or elimination of undesirable behaviors • Safe activities to enhance bonding for all age groups and dogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying learning theory • Identifying and utilizing the appropriate theories and practices • Mechanical skills in leash handling, timing • Applying appropriate methods of training language and communication • Attention to detail • Problem solving • Observing body language • Building distance, duration, and resistance to distractions • Managing and conducting training • Adjusting training based on the dog's reaction to specific training techniques • Recognizing and responding to various dogs' reactions • Managing undesirable behaviors • Identifying key issues • Assessing situations • Analytical and critical thinking • Practicing safe techniques to enhance bonding between humans and dogs

*All information contained in the APDT's Body of Knowledge is copyrighted., APDT2016. Use with permission only.

● TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

Develop a familiarity with various training tools and equipment.

KNOWLEDGE OF:	SKILLS IN:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog training equipment and tools, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collars, head halters, body harnesses - Leashes, leads - Various marker options (audio, visual, tactile) - Toys, puzzles, games - Various dog sport equipment • Pros and cons of various training equipment • Animal learning terminologies • Fitting, sizing, adjustment • When, where, why, and why not to use each • Sources for purchase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying the appropriate training equipment for an individual dog • Using various training equipment • Identifying key issues • Assessing situations • Analytical and critical thinking • Fitting, sizing, adjustment of leashes, collars, harnesses, etc.

● TRAINING TECHNIQUES

Develop a familiarity with and understanding of various training techniques, modalities, and concepts in order to:

- Better instruct and advise clients
- Compare and contrast differing techniques to explain to a client why to or why not to use a method
- Provide sound recommendations to clients

KNOWLEDGE OF:	SKILLS IN:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All training methodologies that have been used both historically and in the present day to ensure a complete understanding of the evolution of techniques and concepts in dog training over time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying the appropriate training techniques for an individual dog • Using various training techniques • Identifying key issues • Assessing situations • Analytical and critical thinking

● MECHANICAL SKILLS

Develop an understanding of and mechanical skills in dog training such as body movement, leash handling, etc.

KNOWLEDGE OF:	SKILLS IN:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamental mechanical skills of dog training • Dog training methods including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Luring - Capturing - Modeling - Shaping - Correction/compulsion - Target trainings • Animal learning terminologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying mechanical skills of dog training • Identifying and utilizing the appropriate theories, practices, and training methods • Analytical and critical thinking

HUMAN LEARNING

● LEARNING THEORY

Develop an understanding of and skills in learning theory as it applies to humans.

KNOWLEDGE OF:	SKILLS IN:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fundamentals of adult learning theories and practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applying learning theories and practices in classroom setting• Identifying and utilizing the appropriate theories and practices

● HUMAN INSTRUCTION

Develop an understanding of and skills in teaching a variety of people, including but not limited to:

- Various ages
- Various learning differences and abilities
- Various cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds

KNOWLEDGE OF:	SKILLS IN:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fundamentals of adult learning theories and practices• Learning terminologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applying learning theories and practices in classroom setting• Identifying and utilizing the appropriate theories and practices

● CLIENT CASE MANAGEMENT

Develop a familiarity with, an understanding of, and skills in client case management in order to most effectively instruct clients.

KNOWLEDGE OF:	SKILLS IN:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difference between needs and wants • Active listening techniques • Project management • Training assessment tools • Survey techniques • Thorough client histories • Creating reports • Conducting periodic and final assessments and follow-ups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinguishing between needs and wants • Analyzing information • Active listening techniques • Conveying needs over wants • Project management techniques including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attention to details - Multi-tasking - Time management - Planning - Scheduling - Goal setting - Organizing • Designing an assessment tool • Identify key issues • Analytical and critical skills • Assessing situations • Decision making • Problem solving • Developing surveys • Note taking • Written and oral communication • Record keeping • Organization

● GROUP CLASS INSTRUCTION

Develop a familiarity with and skills in creating, managing, and effectively teaching group training classes.

KNOWLEDGE OF:	SKILLS IN:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamentals of session design techniques • Class management methods, techniques and strategies • Curriculum development • Project management • Group motivation techniques • Group specific lesson planning (children, seniors, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administering training sessions • Designing training sessions • Preparing and conducting an instructionally sound training session • Managing a class setting with multiple dogs and owners • Curriculum design • Oral and written communication • Organization • Record keeping • Time management • Motivating and managing groups • Multi-tasking • Building customer relations and confidence • Setting priorities • Attention to detail • Managing conflict

● PRIVATE SESSION TRAINING

Develop a familiarity with and skills in effectively conducting private training sessions.

KNOWLEDGE OF:	SKILLS IN:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamentals of session design techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administering training sessions • Designing training sessions • Preparing and conducting an instructionally sound training session • Time management • Record keeping • Written and oral communication • Organization

● INSTRUCTION OF MECHANICAL TRAINING SKILLS

Teach clients how to train their dogs to perform specific basic behaviors such as sit, down, etc.

KNOWLEDGE OF:	SKILLS IN:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific manners and behaviors such as sit and down • Fundamental theories and practical elements of adult and animal learning • Group motivation • Animal learning terminologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching specific dog manners and behaviors • Identifying and utilizing the appropriate theories and practices • Applying adult learning techniques • Motivating groups



Product and Service Directory

To showcase your product or service, or explore other advertising and sponsorship opportunities contact

Nita Briscoe | nita.briscoe@apdt.com

NewTriX™ dog halter **STOPS** pulling!

with calm, kind control.

No pain, no fear. Pure science.

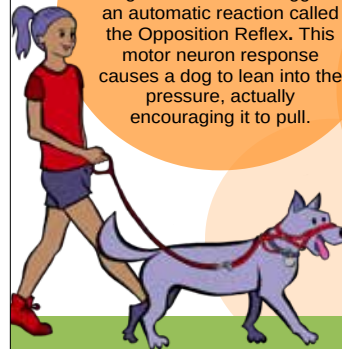
Decreases dog arousal, reduces frustration and acclimation time, and jump starts your behavior modification program.

You know how the Opposition Reflex works

— pressure on the front of a dog's neck or chest triggers an automatic reaction called the Opposition Reflex. This motor neuron response causes a dog to lean into the pressure, actually encouraging it to pull.

The solution is simple —Reverse it!

When a dog pulls, the NewTriX™ dog halter applies pressure behind its head triggering the opposition reflex — but this time the dog leans back into the pressure and stops pulling! The push-pulley mechanism applies pressure on the back of the dog's neck and puts this force to work for you rather than against you.



Reverse the reflex — apply pressure behind the head.

youtube.com/user/newtrix

Contact us to add the NewTriX dog halter to your training toolbox.

Veterinarian designed.
Recommended by
behaviorists,
veterinarians, and
trainers worldwide.

info@newtrix.ca 1-866-384-2135
416-301-2094 www.newtrix.ca

348-2255B Queen St E, Toronto, ON Canada M4E 1G3

Software for Dog Training Professionals!

DOG BIZ PRO



www.dogbizpro.com | 855-364-2497

Looking for a Professional Dog Trainer?



The APDT's Trainer Online Search will help you connect with a professional dog trainer in your area based on city, zip code, country, services offered and last name of the trainer. APDT has more than 4,300 members in 41 countries worldwide. Go to apdt.com and click on "Locate a Trainer" in the top menu or center screen.



Sponsored by





◀ Poncho, a yellow Labrador retriever, was one of the dogs trained in a Penn Vet-led study to see if his and his fellow canines' sensitive noses could discriminate positive from negative SARS-CoV-2 samples.

With impressive accuracy, dogs can sniff out coronavirus

Many long for a return to a post-pandemic “normal,” which, for some, may entail concerts, travel, and large gatherings. But how to keep safe amid these potential public health risks? One possibility, according to a new study, is dogs. A proof-of-concept investigation published April 14, 2021 in PLOS ONE, a peer-reviewed, open-access scientific journal by the Public Library of Science (PLOS), suggests that specially trained detection dogs can sniff out COVID-19-positive samples with 96-percent accuracy.

“This is not a simple thing we’re asking the dogs to do,” says Cynthia Otto, senior author on the work and director of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine Working Dog Center. “Dogs have to be specific about detecting the odor of the infection, but they also have to generalize across the background odors of different people: men and women, adults and children, people of different ethnicities and geographies.”

Eight Labrador retrievers and a Belgian Malinois that had not done medical-detection work before were used in the study. SARS-CoV-2-positive samples from adult and pediatric patients, as well as samples from patients who had tested negative, served as experimental controls. The dogs were trained with positive reinforcement to show a final trained response (“stand-stare”)

at a target odor. First the researchers trained them to recognize a distinctive scent, a synthetic substance known as universal detection compound (UDC). They used a “scent wheel” in which each of 12 ports is loaded with a different sample and rewarded the dog when it responded to the port containing UDC. When the dogs consistently responded to the UDC scent, the team began training them to respond to urine samples from SARS-CoV-2 positive patients and discern positive from negative samples. The negative samples were subjected to the same inactivation treatment — either heat inactivation or detergent inactivation — as the positive samples.

The team found that after three weeks of training all nine dogs were able to readily identify SARS-CoV-2 positive samples, with 96-percent accuracy on average. Their sensitivity, or ability to avoid false negatives, however, was lower, in part, the researchers believe, because of the stringent criteria of the study: If the dogs walked by a port containing a positive sample even once without responding, that was labeled a “miss.” The researchers ran into many complicating factors in their study, such as the tendency of the dogs to discriminate between the actual patients, rather than between their SARS-CoV-2 infection status. The dogs were also thrown off by a sample from a patient that tested negative for SARS-CoV-2 but who had recently recovered from COVID-19. “The dogs kept responding to that sample, and we kept telling them no,” Otto says. “But obviously there was still something in the patient’s sample that the dogs were keying in on.”

The findings are feeding into another investigation that Otto and colleagues have dubbed “the T-shirt study,” in which dogs are being trained to discriminate between the odors of COVID-positive, -negative, and -vaccinated individuals based on the volatile organic compounds they leave on a T-shirt worn overnight. “We are collecting many more samples in that study — hundreds or more — than we did in this first one and are hopeful that will get the dogs closer to what they might encounter in a community setting,” Otto said. “We want to make sure that we have all the steps in place to ensure quality, reproducibility, validity, and safety for when we operationalize our dogs and have them start screening in community settings.” — *story by Katherine Ungerbaillie, Penn Today, University of Pennsylvania*

Journal Reference:

Jennifer L. Essler, Sarah A. Kane, Pat Nolan, Elikplim H. Akaho, Amalia Z. Berna, Annemarie DeAngelo, Richard A. Berk, Patricia Kaynaroglu, Victoria L. Plymouth, Ian D. Frank, Susan R. Weiss, Audrey R. Odom John, Cynthia M. Otto. Discrimination of SARS-CoV-2 infected patient samples by detection dogs: A proof of concept study. PLOS ONE, 2021; 16 (4): e0250158 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0250158

WE'RE STAYING VIRTUAL!

Due to the continued global COVID-19 pandemic, the APDT has decided to keep the Annual Conference and Trade Show virtual, taking place September 29-30. Review the Registration Kit inside this issue of the *Chronicle of the Dog* magazine to stay current on speakers and sessions being offered. We're excited to offer this option to keep you healthy and safe at home while you continue your education.



APDT/CAPDT
2021 VIRTUAL
Conference
SEPTEMBER 29-30

20/21: Broadening Our Sight
- A Virtual Experience

Register at
apdt.com/apdt-conference-2021

Register for
the Virtual Conference
by **July 30** to receive
9 bonus presentations
by industry and
business leaders at
no additional charge
(\$225 value).



800-PET-DOGS | apdt.com



Freedom NO-PULL HARNESS

Time for a GREAT WALK



CHECK OUT OUR
AWARD-WINNING
RECYCLED
EarthStyle
COLLECTION!

★★★★★
MADE IN THE
USA

Wholesale pricing, affiliate, and
referral programs are available.
Contact us for details.

WWW.2HOUNDSDESIGN.COM • 704.234.0228