

# You CAN have the dog you want!



**Without force,  
pain or  
threats**



## **Understanding positive reinforcement training**

By Chris Puls- President of Dog Scouts of America

*(The following is the information provided during a 4 hour in-person seminar in 2010. Only minor changes have been made to make this suitable for a web document. Where the power point presentation included photos or helpful info, the slide pages have been added to the text below. The handouts links are on the last page of this document.)*

My goal for this presentation is that you will learn lots of new things that you can use with your own dogs or in classes you teach.

This isn't about my personal opinion or preferences. It IS about what happens in your dog's head. It's about how your dog thinks and how he reacts to training. I have learned this information from top trainers, seminars, books, the internet, scientific studies and hands-on experience. It's not new stuff. It's not stuff I have dreamed up. It's based on actual scientific studies in most cases or on the experience of top trainers with many different types of dogs and other animals.

For those that don't know me, I'm Chris Puls. I'm the President of Dog Scouts of America. If you've never heard of Dog Scouts, it's similar to the kid's scouting organizations, except that the DOG is the scout! We promote responsible dog care and training as well as helping the community. You can visit [www.DogScouts.org](http://www.DogScouts.org) if you'd like more info.

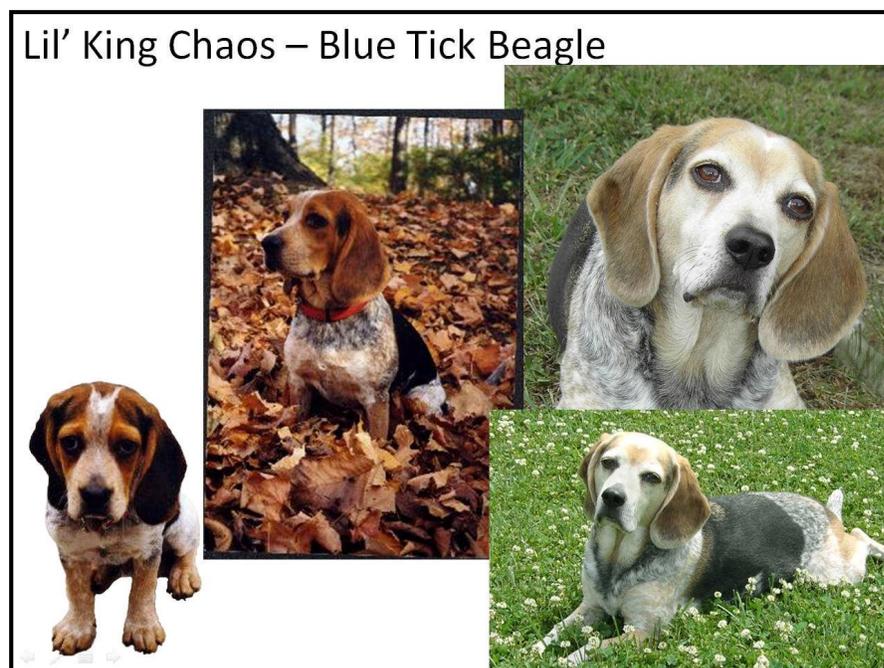
While DSA has played a major role in my learning about reward-based training, and I am a learning junkie that LOVES educating myself about behavior modification- it's really been dogs that have been my best teachers. My own dogs, the hundreds of dogs I have helped others train and the dogs I learned from when I worked at dog daycare centers.

This is my current crew:

**Dazzle**- Born July 2008, scary smart, Belgian Malinois- He has been teaching me about how to deal with a dog that has more energy and drive than a border collie on speed.



**King**- is 12 years old and my husband's shadow. I haven't done much training with him because he and my husband are happy with his current level of obed.



**Bear** is a 7 year old beagle that found us and has really changed my thinking about what Beagle's can accomplish if the right training is used. He's the dog I use for demos when doing this presentation in-person.



**Coyote**- is an 11 yr old Cattle Dog who has taught me about managing a dog's space to keep them from feeling the need to use aggression and he was my guinea pig for positive training, being the first dog I used only reward based training with. He is scary smart and is the fastest dog I know at figuring out a training puzzle. You'll see him at work soon by video.



**Buster**- is a 13 yr old Cattle Dog who was the reason I found reward based training because of his severe fear issues.



When we got Buster it was clear that the punishment based training I had been using could NOT be used on him. He would go catatonic if we even looked at him sternly. In my search to find a method that would work for Buster, I found a seminar in Chicago about clicker training being presented by 2 top trainers from the Shedd aquarium. While the info presented really opened my eyes to a new world, another impact on me was that this was where I first learned about Dog Scouts from another attendee and I was hooked!

Long story short, I took my then 7 year old Rottweiler to a Dog Scout mini-camp in Michigan.



To that point he had only been trained with correction based training. I learned more there in 3.5 days than I had learned in several years of training classes, books and seminars. While I had just learned clicker training existed during the seminar a few months before, I hadn't really done any practice with it. I would have described Hunter as willful, stubborn and hard headed when we arrived at camp.

While I THOUGHT he liked training, we often had battles of wills and looking back now, I realize he didn't like our training time prior to camp very much. But he was very well behaved, loved everyone and knew LOTS of commands.

One of the things taught at camp is shaping. This is where a complex task is broken down into smaller parts that are easier to teach. And to teach shaping, people are taught how to get their dogs to paint, wearing a bootie called a Paintin' Paw and swiping at a canvas with their foot.

(I don't have photos of Hunter creating a painting, but this is Bear and the finished masterpiece titled "camp fire" which he painted upside down!)



Because he was 120 lbs., Hunter was taught during the first 7 years of his life to NOT use his paws for anything off the ground. He had been punished for pawing at anything, putting his paws up on anything. NOW I needed him to USE his paws!

Hunter had just learned what the click from a clicker meant, but I was at a total loss about how to overcome years of corrections for this behavior.

One of the trainers came up with the idea of using a target stick. This is a stick that the dog learns to touch with his nose. The act of touching the end of the stick can then be used to get the dog to move in a certain way (following the end of the stick) as well as helping the dog learn several other behaviors. She helped me teach him to target the stick with his nose. Each time his nose touched the end; I clicked at the moment of contact and then gave him a treat.

Once he got really good at that, we put the stick on the ground and had him nose it several times, each time clicking and treating. Then we stopped clicking for nose touches. He tried nosing it, shoving his nose into it, biting it, staring at it, then he tentatively stepped on it and got a click and reward. It was the coolest moment to see his brain working!

The touch stick was one of the very first things he learned with a clicker, but he quickly understood the concept and in that moment was trying to figure out what had just gotten clicked. After trying his nose a few more times, he, with obvious deliberation, stepped on it with his paw and got a click and reward. You would have thought someone injected him with caffeine! He got SO excited; definitely a "light bulb" moment for him. He started stomping on it to get clicks, then pawing at it, a huge Rottie grin on his face and the little nub of a tail going a mile a minute.

Then I raised it off the floor just an inch. His ears went down, his tail stopped, his body got still and he just stared. I think he was certain it was a set-up.

He looked at me, looked at the trainer, looked at the stick that was now off the floor and tentatively, slowly raised his paw and gently touched the stick and got a CLICK! He was overjoyed! I was actually ALLOWING him to use his paws! Off the ground!

I was able to build on his success and gradually shaped that behavior into the higher swipes needed on the canvas. Seven years of pent up frustration came out that day and in every painting he did since then. He LOVED to paint and his little nub couldn't go fast enough whenever he saw the painting supplies come out. I can't help but smile every time I see a painting he has done and recall that special day when we developed an awesome communication system that lasted 7 additional years.

One of Hunter's paintings:



Our training sessions were forever changed for the better and so was his attitude. Those paintings are even more special now that he's gone and while they may not look like art to most people, I think they are priceless masterpieces.

My wish for you is that YOU can have an experience like that. One where you and the dog are communicating and working toward solving a training puzzle together that increases the bond you have and changes the way you think about your dog.

So, what the heck IS clicker training? It's known by many names, several of which I use:

- Operant Conditioning
- Positive training
- Reward based training
- Marker training

While each of these is open to interpretation, Operant Conditioning is the proper scientific term; meaning that you are conditioning the learner to be operant- to DO something.

**“Positive Training”** is a term that is very subjective. We are not going to get into a debate over what is positive and what is not. Hopefully by the end of this seminar you'll better understand what I feel is positive. Which may or may not match what YOU think is positive and I'm ok with that. :-)

**“Reward based training”** is intended to imply that the methods being used are pleasant for the dog. But technically a reward can include stopping something the dog doesn't like. When you stop giving a punishment to your dog, the end of the punishment is rewarding.

**“Marker training”** refers to the fact that you don't have to use a clicker device. Any unique sound or signal you choose can be used in place of a click. Some people use a word, like “yes!” or “good” and people training deaf dogs have used the flash of a flashlight or a hand signal as the marker.

The idea is that you want to mark the moment in time in which the dog is doing what you want. Brenda Aloff calls it a “Memory Marker” and I love that. You mark the moment that you want the learner to remember. The click or other marker is always followed by a reward of some kind.

Rather than try to explain clicker training with words, I want to show you an example of a clicker training session with my Cattle Dog Coyote. What we are doing in this clip is called “free shaping”.

I'm not giving any signals other than the click, so it's all on the dog to use the click as information to figure out what I want. I shape his behavior toward the desired end result. And I get it in just 12 clicks.

**MOVIE:** Coyote shaping (3:15)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIIKGx-0dIU>

(click = what you did when you heard the click made the reward available)

Coyote is a master of clicker training and problem solving. This clip is NOT where you start, it shows what is possible with a dog that truly understands the meaning of the click and with a trainer that has reasonably good timing of the click. I can get him to do just about any behavior through shaping like this. But obviously I can get behavior even faster if I use some prompts. If I had gone to the stool and pointed and said “bow” when he was lined up where I wanted, I could get the behavior in about 2 clicks. This is just a fun game we play because he enjoys puzzles and I think it's perfect for showing that you really don't need anything but the click to communicate.

You don't even need a collar and leash to do this! Also notice his body language. His ears are up, his tail is up, there is a spring in his step, he is willingly offering behaviors and staying engaged in the training. You'll see the same thing from Bear when he does a demo. Your dog can be just as happy to train, regardless of what behavior you are teaching.

If you and your dog are new to this kind of training, don't expect your dog to start offering all kinds of behaviors like Coyote does. This is especially true if you have punished the dog for ad-libbing and free thinking in the past. The dog has to learn to trust that this type of thing is ok. And you need to trust that having a thinking training partner is a GOOD thing, not a scary thing!

For those that do competition and may be worried about using this for your competition dog, I want to share a bit of this clip:

Denise uses toys as the reward and makes the click sound with her mouth, but it's the same concept. Notice at 1:40 that when the dog makes a mistake, the only punishment is that the click is not given. She calmly says "no" to indicate to the dog that the jump is not going to get her a reward and then simply tries again.

**MOVIE:** Cisu Obed training (3:00)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2YgjeTINLM>

Denise's positive training methods are widely recognized for producing dogs with exceptional attention, accuracy and enthusiasm for their work. She is a twenty-five year veteran of training, competing, and titling in schutzhund, obedience, tracking, agility, conformation, and herding and has earned multiple HITs in obedience and schutzhund along the way. Denise regularly teaches obedience for both the AKC ring and schutzhund field. She breeds working Belgian Tervuren under the kennel name "Sprite."

In competition, Denise's students routinely score in the high 190s in AKC obedience and high 90s in schutzhund obedience. In 2004, Denise earned a perfect score of 100 points in schutzhund obedience with Cisu who was only 18 month old at the time! Perfect scores are NOT common in Schutzhund!

In early 2005, Cisu and Denise scored 199.5 and HIT out of the Novice B class at the American Belgian Tervuren Club's National, narrowly edging out her other dog "Soja."

So reward based training can only HELP your competition dog! My own Malinois is the youngest dog to ever earn the Dog Scout title, which he did at 14 weeks of age! This test includes heeling as well as some serious "leave it" tests along with other basic obedience. He also earned his AKC Rally novice title in one weekend at 6 months old, his CGC at 6 months, CWAGS Obedience and Rally titles before he was 1 year old, his UKC rally 1 title at 12 months and his UKC Obedience title at 16 months of age.

Could I have done that with a dog years ago when I first learned about clicker training, no, I don't think so. But the experience and knowledge I have now made it much easier. Any method of training takes some time to master. As a trainer, you have to have good timing, either with corrections or with a marker. The reward-based methods allow more leeway for mistakes without screwing up the dog as you learn! :-)

The really cool thing is that this stuff works with ANY species!

**ANY species can be trained to do any task they are physically able to do using only a marker and the rewards THAT animal wants.**



Clicker training is being used in zoos, animal shelters, wildlife rescues and homes all around the world. Even goldfish have been trained to go through hoops, do spins and even play underwater sports using a marker and rewards.

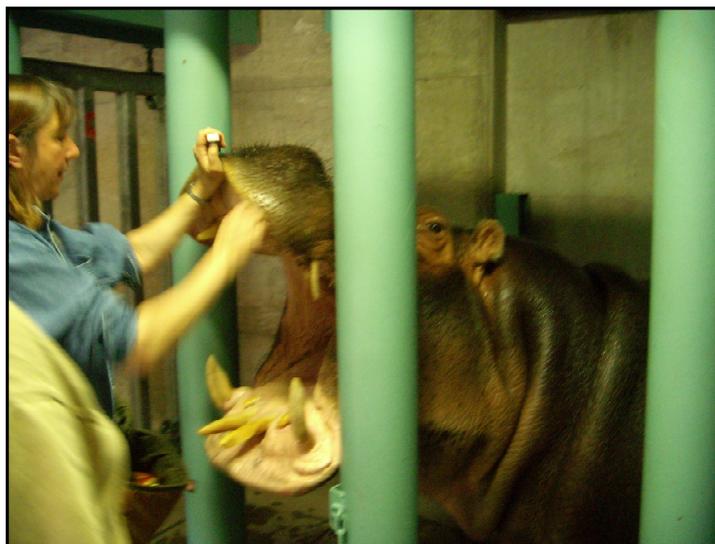
**So if you think your dog is too stupid to understand this- sorry, but I don't think that's the end of the leash with the problem. :-)**

**MOVIE-** Goldfish video (:42)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L\\_Iznh9VbsY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_Iznh9VbsY)

At the ClickerExpo in Lexington KY 2010, Karen Pryor shared some video of a Rhino in a zoo that had been trained to sit, lie down and roll on its side so medical procedures can be performed. Each click earned the Rhino ONE grape. Many zoo animals are being trained to offer behaviors for routine medical care and maintenance. This prevents the need for chemical sedation or physical restraint, reduces the animal's fears and has even allowed some breeding programs to be successful because the skittish animals are more relaxed about people and can now reproduce in captivity.

Here, a hippo is being trained to “open wide”. You can see the clicker in the trainer’s left hand and she’s about to deliver a treat with her right hand. Trainers working with potentially dangerous animals do so through “protected contact” as shown in this photo. This means the animal can’t hurt the trainer, but also means that it is the animal’s choice to participate in the training. The animal can walk away at any time but they choose to participate and learn new skills.



So if you can learn how to correctly use the operant conditioning training principles, the sky is the limit with your dog! (Or cat, or horse, or spouse) ☺

This method of training really requires a major shift in your thinking. Instead of looking for things to correct or setting the dog up to fail so you can correct him, you will be looking for behaviors to reward and setting the dog up to succeed so he can learn what you WANT him to do, instead of focusing on what you DON'T want.

Mistakes are not evil things to be banished! They are just information for the dog that helps clarify what you want. The dog learns what does (and doesn't) result in a reward. They are also information to you (from the dog) on his level of understanding. Once the dog understands the game, the only “punishment” needed is to withhold the click and reward. The dog wants that reward so much, that he will try his best to NOT make mistakes!

This has also been called the “Fun Theory”:

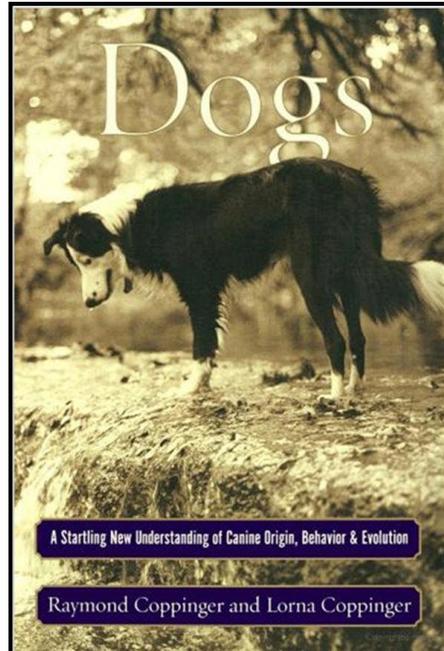
Here’s a problem for you to solve: If you have an escalator next to a set of stairs, how do you get people to WANT to take the stairs instead of riding the working escalator?

**MOVIE:** musical stairs: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lXh2n0aPyw> (1:45)

Dogs trained with only rewards look for ways to get you to reward them because it’s FUN! My dogs LOVE the clicker games we play to teach them everything they need to know and the fun is contagious. The dog doesn’t need to be sneaky or conniving or try to “get away” with something because that doesn’t gain him anything.

### But what about the Alpha dog theory and domination?

As a means of explanation, I want to share information that has been learned about the history of the dog. Dr. Ray Coppinger is a biology professor at Hampshire College, co-founder of the Livestock Guarding Dog Project, author of several books including *Dogs: A Startling New Understanding of Canine Origin, Behavior, and Evolution*; and a well-respected member of the dog training community. He and his wife, made some startling discoveries about how dogs evolved.



It has been well established that you can't domesticate a wolf. Many have tried, but no matter what you do with the wolf pup, it still grows up to be a wolf and act like a wolf. For those that don't know, wolves cannot live in a home. They destroy and urinate on EVERYTHING. They act like a bored caged animal, always looking to get into something and they do not develop the bond with a human that a dog will. And if they sense weakness, like injury or illness...they try to KILL YOU!

I learned this from my friend Beth Duman who is a (Court certified) wolf expert that works for the state of MI in that capacity. She has worked at Wolf Park in Indiana and she is also an amazing dog trainer who has raised an African Village Dog that was born in Africa who now accompanies her on school demos and lives with her and the rest of her dogs. So she has the experience to know what she is talking about. In the 70's, she and her husband tried to raise a wolf pup in their house and by 6 months of age the wolf was living in a pen in their yard because they wanted to keep what little remained of the belongings in their house. That wolf was moved to Wolf Park in Indiana (where she worked at the time) when the wolf tried to kill her husband who had simply entered the pen with a sore back.

So we can be GLAD our dogs are not more wolf like. There used to be a YouTube video of a BBC documentary titled "The Secret Lives of Dogs" but sadly that video is no longer available. It included a study regarding the raising wolf puppies and domestic dog puppies from 5 days old in a home environment. It shows that no matter what was done, the wolf puppies were definitely NOT dog-like and could not be tamed.

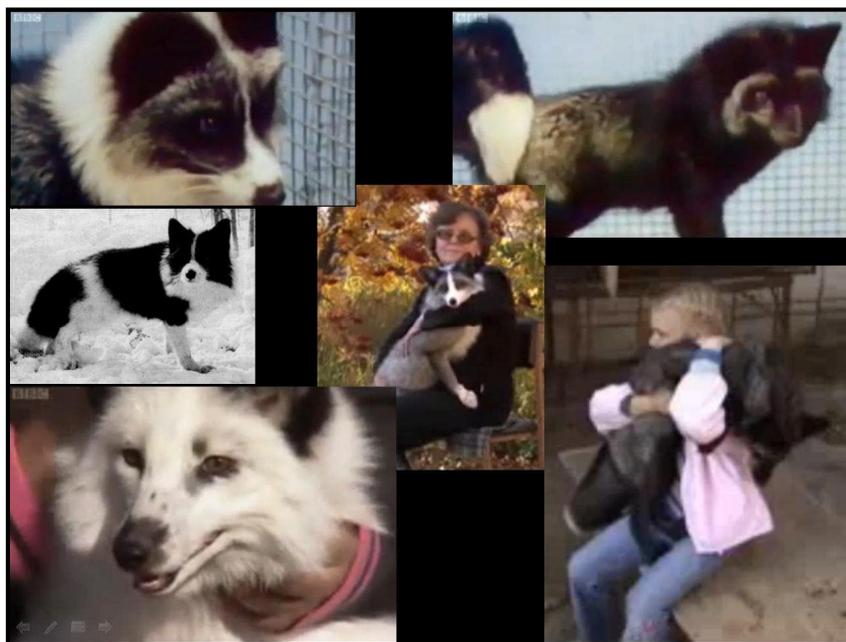
The documentary also goes into details on the fox study I'm about to tell you about. The whole video was an hour long. It's fascinating and worth watching if you can get your hands on a copy from the BBC. The fox study is also mentioned in the book by Ray Coppinger.

Dr. Coppinger's discoveries on the origins of dogs are detailed in his book and were mainly initiated in the 50's by a fox farmer, Demitri Belyaev. Since foxes are part of the canis family, their study is closely related to that of dogs and wolves.



This farmer, who had thousands of foxes in cages being raised for their fur, decided that he didn't like it when the foxes freaked out or got aggressive when he tried to perform basic care like cleaning the cage. So he chose to **ONLY** breed the ones that didn't move away as fast as others. That was his only criterion for the breeding. In just **3** generations, he started seeing the off-spring become much more friendly. By the 8<sup>th</sup> generation, the foxes were **SEEKING** contact with humans and showing affection as soon as the pups opened their eyes!

But he was also getting foxes with floppy ears, curly tails, shorter legs, multi-color coats, 2 heat cycles per year instead of only one and they barked! They also more readily formed bonds with new individuals and have a relaxed desire to attain or assert rank.



This and the subsequent studies, like the ones in the BBC show these photos are pulled from, have clearly established that there is a direct correlation between appearance and flight distance- or wildness. And temperament is clearly genetic and passed along to off spring!

Even when they switched embryos from tame to wild foxes, the results of the breeding were the same. So Dr. Coppinger theorized that it wasn't man that domesticated the dog, but the canids themselves.

As man became less nomadic and started living in one place, they developed garbage dumps. The wolves that hung out at the dump sites would flee every time a human approached. This used up energy.



But those that had a lower flight reaction, meaning those that waited longer to flee or didn't run as far, got more food, used less energy and could produce more pups. It is believed that they then bred with each other creating the same genetic temperament stability found in the foxes.

It also means their appearance could have changed and that by the time they started looking more like a village dog, they were begging for food directly from people. As a much more social animal, they were easier to train and to live with.



I shared this to show you that dogs are NOT wolves. **They may be as genetically close to wolves as humans are to chimps, but the differences are nearly as vast.**

In fact, the original alpha/dominance model was born out of short-term studies of captive wolf packs done in the 1940s. In the wild, a wolf pack is a family unit: parents and off-spring. In the studies, they put non-related wolves together.

Much the way our own behavior would change if we knew we were trapped in a room with strangers and food was limited, so did the captive wolves behavior. They were not with family,

they were with wolves they didn't know. These studies were a good start, but later research of wild wolf packs has disproved almost all of the findings.

There were three major flaws in these studies:

1. These were short-term studies, so the researchers concentrated on the most obvious parts of wolf life, such as hunting and feeding. The studies are therefore unrepresentative and drew conclusions about "wolf behavior" based on about 1% of wolf life.
2. The studies observed non-related wolves- so social structure was altered and what are now known to be ritualistic displays were misinterpreted. Unfortunately, this is where the bulk of the "dominance model" comes from, and though the information has been soundly disproved, it still thrives in dog training for some reason.

For example, alpha rolls. The early researchers saw this behavior and concluded that the higher-ranking wolf was forcibly rolling the subordinate to exert his dominance. But this is actually an "appeasement ritual" STARTED by the LOWER RANKING wolf. The so called "Alpha roll" is actually 1 dog submitting- voluntarily rolling with little or no contact.

By contrast, when a wolf is hunting or trying to kill a rival it involves: chasing it, body slamming the prey to knock it off its feet, grabbing it, pinning it and holding on till it stops struggling. I think this better describes the way some people do alpha rolls.

So it's no wonder dogs often fight it or they go into Fright response (meaning they play dead or get catatonic like the victim of a serious physical assault who knows fighting is futile or life threatening).

3. After the studies, the researchers made cavalier extrapolations for wolf-dog, dog-dog, and dog-human relationships based on their "findings." Unfortunately, this nonsense still abounds.

I mentioned wolf expert Beth Duman earlier, and she says that even the wolf experts don't use the dominance theory when working with wolves and haven't for many years! And the leaders of wild family unit wolf packs aren't even called Alphas. That term is reserved for captive packs created by man.

At Wolf Park, which is a wolf education and research facility in Battle Ground, Indiana, the staff has learned that careful non-confrontational behavioral shaping methods work best in dealing with the wolves. The staff does not attempt to act like wolves when interacting with them- they use clicker training!



This is Ken McCort, a trainer at Wolf Park, using a target stick. He's also holding a clicker in his right hand and is wearing a treat pouch that is just outside the frame. The wolves get a lot of training through protected contact before any trainer goes into the enclosure with food on their body.

Another enlightening study was done by Dr. Frank Beach who performed a 30-year study on dogs. Nineteen years of the study was devoted to the social behavior of dogs (mostly feral dog packs). Some of his findings include that:

- Young puppies have what's called "puppy license." Basically, that license allows them to do most anything. Females are generally more tolerant of puppy license than males are.
- The puppy license is "revoked" at approximately four months of age. At that time, the older middle-ranked dogs give the puppy hell -- psychologically torturing it until it offers all of the appropriate appeasement behaviors and learns to respect the social rules.
- The top-ranked dogs ignore the whole thing.
- There is NO physical "domination" in the pack. Everything is accomplished through psychological harassment and ritualistic threats and displays. Physical fights are rare and when they occur there is rarely any injury.
- A small minority of "alpha" dogs assumed their position by bullying and force. But those that did were quickly deposed. No one likes a dictator or bully, not even dogs.
- The vast majority of lead dogs rule benevolently. This means they are kind, compassionate, and gentle. They are confident in their position. They do not stoop to squabbling to prove their point.

To do so would lower their status because...

- It's middle-ranked animals that quarrel. They are insecure in their positions and want to advance over other middle-ranked animals.
- Lower-ranked animals don't argue. They know they would lose. They know their position and they accept it. There seems to be less stress when they understand the social rules and the others act predictably within that rule structure.
- "Alpha" does not mean physically dominant. It means "in control of the good stuff"- also known as resources. Many lead dogs are too small or too frail to physically dominate. But they have earned the right to control the valued resources. And which dog was "alpha" was often dependant on the resources and other dogs involved. So leadership was dynamic and often changed based on the circumstances.

An individual dog determines which resources he considers important. Thus a lead dog may give up a prime sleeping place because he doesn't care about that spot.



So what does this mean for the dog-human relationship?

- Using physical force of any kind **reduces** your "rank." Only middle-ranked animals are insecure in their place and need to use force.
- To be "alpha," simply control the good stuff. I don't mean hokey stuff like not allowing dogs on beds or preceding them through doorways. I mean making what the dog wants and values contingent on behavior.
  - Does the dog want to be fed? Wait for 4 feet on the floor.
  - Does the dog want to go outside? Has to sit to get the door opened.
  - Dog wants to greet people? 4 on the floor.
  - Wants to play a game? Asks politely.

If you are smart enough to control the things your dogs want, you ARE alpha by the **dog's** definition.

- Pain is not needed to train a dog. Children, women, elderly people, and handicapped people -- all are capable of training a dog.

Very few people are capable of sustained physical domination over most dogs. Eventually the dog gives up and shuts down or the dog fights back and gets killed for being aggressive.

- Reward polite behavior, rather than pushy behavior.
  - Pulling on lead gets the dog nowhere – loose leash = forward movement.
  - Doors don't open until dogs are seated
  - Food bowl isn't set on the floor till dog is sitting
  - Going potty outside is worth doggie "cash and prizes" (why would a puppy chose to go potty inside for free when going outside earns him great rewards?)

Give attention and rewards to pushy, and you'll get more pushy behavior.

Give your attention and rewards to good manners and you'll get better manners from your dog.



Your job is to be a leader, a parent, a teacher, not a dominatrix or a dictator. Leadership and parenting are a huge responsibility. Your job is to provide for all of your dogs needs... food, water, vet care, social needs, and security to help them become a welcome member of society or even an accomplished athlete.

This is Beth and her dogs.



- Anja- on the far right was what Beth called a “Smooth Coated North American Swamp Dog”. She was literally found in a swamp and took 3 weeks to coax close enough to capture.

This dog took the term “smart” to a whole new level. Beth could carry on a conversation with her, like “Anja, can you go over there and get the brochure off the table and give it to the nice lady” and that’s exactly what she would do!

- Lacey, the brown dog in the middle, was given up by her previous owner for being “too stupid to learn” among other behavior problems. Turns out she just needed exercise and reward-based training.
- Reggie, the Terv in the front, was given up because he couldn’t be groomed. After a few months of careful desensitization by Beth this dog now falls asleep while being groomed and no drugs are needed.
- Kaddi, on the far left, is the village dog I mentioned earlier. She’s actually tan and white, but the light washed her out.

Here is what Beth says about her village dog:

*“When we began working with Kaddi, the village dog direct from Africa that my daughter gifted us, many of her less desirable behaviors could have been characterized as “dominance related” to those who chose to think in that mindset.*

*Her gut reaction to any fearful situation was to charge, snarling with tail and hackles raised. She was an ardent resource guarder who seemed to go out of her way to try to stare down our other dogs.*

*I don’t know how many misguided dog people told me she was a “dominant bitch” and I should be correcting her and lowering her social status. I chose to prove them wrong. I suspected that Kaddi was just fearful in many situations so I continued a careful socialization program.*

*For many months, she was hand fed, kibble by kibble, practicing eye contact with me and other operant behaviors. We intervened by luring her away from stare-downs with our dogs and rewarding her for choosing alternate behavior.*

*She is doing wonderfully in all respects. She is very lucky that we chose to train rather than dominate her, and so are we."*

And many national and international agencies and organizations have the same mind-set and have posted position statements against the use of punishment based training, choke chains, and shock collars. Most include prong collars as well. This includes:

- American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB)
- American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA)
- American Humane Association (AHA)
- Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)
- Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT)
- Karen Pryor Academy for Animal Training & Behavior (KPA)
- Certification Counsel for Professional Dog Trainers (CPDT)
- Dog Scouts of America (DSA)
- And countless dog training facilities

I have included links to some of these on the last page

Seminar continued in "Part 2"