Syllabus

Introduction

Welcome and Academy history

Resources for students and grads

People

Progress through the program levels

The Dog Scientific website

The Academy Café on Facebook

The Academy Study Group on Facebook

Live webinars

Webinar recordings archive: streaming and downloading

Video coaching

The Academy Video Bar on Vimeo

Case Mentoring

How to use the lecture software

Activities overview and order of modules

Academy philosophy regarding dog and human learners

Training method roots

Sources for dogs to train and dog selection
Animal Learning

Operant and classical conditioning overview and terminology
Where OC and CC fit into the big picture of pet dog training
OC and CC historical figures
Using the technique choice flow-chart
Contingencies
Motivation
Operant conditioning quadrants
  Applied behavior analysis examples
  Trainer intention versus actual effect on behavior
Force-free OC tools in practical dog training
Aversive tools in practical dog training
Antecedents
  Prompts and cues
  Getting the behavior: capturing, shaping and prompting
    Mixing and matching
Prompt fading
Cues (Sd)
  Formal versus pet dog stimulus control
  When to add cues
  Ordering prompts and cues
Antecedent interventions in behavior problems
ABC as smallest unit in OC
Immediate antecedents versus more distant

Positive reinforcement

Schedules of reinforcement
Practical applications of intermittent schedules
Extinction
Matching Law
Superstitious learning

Setting events

Exploiting establishing and abolishing operations

Premack’s Principle

Conditioned reinforcers

Timing
Correct installation

Punishment

Timing
Use of conditioned negative punishers
Punishment schedules
Warning cues
P- execution
P- compliance
Magnitude of punisher: $5 versus $500 fines
Taste aversion learning: the timing exception

Classical Conditioning

Flowchart review: choosing techniques
Order of events
Classical conditioning is occurring whether we’re training or not
The ugly terminology
Conditioned Emotional Responses (CERs)
Offset conditioning
Temporal conditioning
Getting the most bang for your buck in practical applications
Rules for CER execution
  Ratio of CS to US
  Order of events
  Recognizing and mitigating competing CSs
  Overshadowing and blocking
Cues and prompts revisited
Analyzing cases of attempted CER installation
Classical extinction
CER applications
Fear conditioning
Interactions between operant and classical conditioning
  The Messy Real World
  Making the interaction work for you
  When to use which revisited: compliance and execution factors
    Playing to trainer’s or client’s strengths
What happens if you misdiagnose?
  Hedging to play it safe
CC-OC Hybrids
  Misbehavior of Organisms effect: the classical conditioning connection
Reinforcer type and delivery
  Feeding for position
Single event learning
Habituation
Dog cognition
  Intelligence versus trainability
Learning preparedness continuum
Imitation
  Versus social facilitation and stimulus enhancement
  Two-action test
Learning by observation (inference)
Verbal and insight learning
Cognitive domains
Dog cognition research

**Dog Training**

Animal training jargon
  Push, drop, stick, split, trial, set, session, economies etc.

Habits to cultivate
“What” versus “why” training problems

Motivation
  Free lunch myth
  Talking about motivation with clients
  Identifying and controlling top motivators
  Implication of reinforcer hierarchy
    Premack revisited
  Troubleshooting motivation problems
    Short-term and long-term solutions

Toy reinforcers
  Tug

Training plans
  Backwards planning from terminal behavior
  Criteria setting
The contract with the dog

Deciding on criteria

What happens if you’re too high or too low?

Rate of reinforcement

Rate-criteria marriage

What rate is optimal?

Dog’s experience

Dog’s keenness

Four ways to boost rate

Criteria change decisions (PDS)

Efficiency

Rate checks

Splitting

Training execution

Bob Bailey’s mantras

Mechanics

Quiet body, timing, prompting/fading, R+ delivery

Using clickers

Capturing

Prompting, fading, cueing with and without clicker

Sequence drills

Target stick exercise

Prompting small dogs

Tunnel down and backdoor sit

Position-feeding

For short-term use: “cue ball effect”

For long-term trend: biases cue to classical conditioning

“Sit-happy” dogs
But doesn’t the click end the behavior?

“What” (Sd) problems

Not conflating “what” and “why” problems

Under-training

Failure to generalize

Poor inter-cue discrimination

Misleading framings of animal training

Strong versus weak behavior

Dog biases that work against stimulus control

Aggregate R+ history

Recentness

Preferred behaviors

Order of events

Costs for guessing

Tackling verbal cue discrimination tasks

Optimal session spacing

Getting ready to train

Formal self-assessment

Using the checklist

Assessment practice drill

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**Obedience Behaviors**

Procedure reminders

Suggested order of training

Verbal Sd task: Sit-Down-Stand

Six behaviors, not three

Best practices for luring and fading
Usual splits for dogs who can’t be lured into sits and downs
Usual splits for dogs who are “literal” (appear lure-dependent)
When and how to add verbal cues
When to commence practicing in random order
Cleaning up weaknesses

Recall

Recall hygiene
Parameter order
Getting bang for buck with recall practice
  Occasional practice versus rep-rep-rep-rep
Premack Recall

Impulse control learning set

Sit-stay, down-stay, wait, leave-it, loose-leash walking, Premack
Releasing versus reinforcing

Down-stay
  Plan overview and breakdown: parameters
  Lure versus distraction confusion
  Adding a cue
  Stay mechanics
    Timing and position-feeding
  Building duration
  Mat targeting, auto-down and stay
    Adding a cue: traditional clicker training
    Adding a cue: quick and dirty chain alternative
  Go to crate, auto-down and stay

Sit-stay
  Applications in pet dog training
Sit-stay for exam/greeting

Wait

Versus stay

Timing

Leave-it

Sequence: when to add the cue

Loose-leash walking

Deconstructing LLW in terms of whether the dog has a clear directional goal or not

Training set-up

Optional extras: R+ for eye-contact and position

Retrieve

Why free-shape this?

Gear you’ll need

Clicker charging revisited

Sets in free-shaping

What is “shopping?”

Mechanical skills drills

Usual criteria milestones: recognizing, clicking and counting

What if your rate is too high but you have no clear push?

Post-click carry philosophy

Place-in-hand game

Adding a stay

Practical application of retrieve training

Heeling

Using traditional prompt-fading

Using classical conditioning of “prompt-dropping”
Free-shaping
  Criteria-setting, timing, position-feeding
  Training behaviors you’ve never trained before
  Defining terminal behavior
  Breaking terminal into parameters
  Plan-building

Teaching Classes
  What do the best instructors have in common?
  Is class teaching for you?
    Usual challenges
    Advantages of class format
    Performing and stage fright
    Expectations
  Ring-leader blindness
  Ratios of dogs to instructors/assistants
  Developing assistants
  Premises and gear
  Dog screening and legalities
  Course evaluation findings
  Curriculum planning priorities
  Orientations
    Paul Klein of Bravo Pup Orientation deconstructed
  Access to instructor between classes
  Fielding questions
  Teaching concepts
  Format for exercises
Selecting demo dogs
Trained dog demos
Keep 'em coming back!
Training skills for owners
  Activities to teach timing
  Activities to teach criteria-setting
Typical course streams
Puppy class curriculum
Sandi Thompson of Bravo Pup class examples deconstructed
  Refereeing play sessions
  Protecting shy puppies
  Making concepts sticky
Puppy classes and disease prevention issue
Basic class curriculum
Intermediate, advanced, specialty classes and socials
Class teaching as a series of instructor choices
  Sandi Thompson interview
  Fawn Pierre interview

**Dog Behavior**

Introduction to economics of behavior
What is behavior *for*?
Evolution
  Changing of gene frequencies in population
  What does the “fittest” mean?
Premises of evolution
How does evolution work?
Natural and sexual selection

Differences between pressures on males and females

Evolutionary arms races

Why does he do that?

Proximate/immediate causation and adaptive significance of behavior

Fixed/modal action patterns/innate or “instinctive” behavior

Defined

Versus learning

Are APs modifiable?

AP categories: the big ticket tasks of living

Dog ethogram as mostly “problems”

Domestication

Coppinger’s hypothesis

Current best research on domestication

How does domestication affect behavior?

AP morphing (or not!) in dogs

Stylization of behavior via selective breeding

Evolutionary anachronisms

Drifting of APs

AP misfires

Social facilitation

Dog development

Neonatal period

Transitional period

Socialization period

Exploiting best available knowledge

Juvenile period

Dentition and aging of puppies
Adulthood

Dog social organization
  Are dogs pack animals?
  Feral populations
  Wild wolf social organization
  Dog hierarchy hypotheses
  Adaptive significance of social dominance in animals
  Relationship or character trait?
  Motivation assumptions
  Social dominance in humans

AP organization
  Fight/flight
  Feeding
    Predatory behavior
      Predatory sequence in wolves
      Exploitation by selective breeding in dogs
      Implications of dogs’ genetic legacy as group hunters
      How good are dogs’ noses?
    Understimulation
    Scavenging
  Courtship and reproductive behavior

Dog body language
  Observation versus interpretation
    Difficulties with interpretations
  Making oneself appear bigger or smaller
  Signs of fear and stress
    Improving owner body language literacy
  Recognizing happy, relaxed postures and facial expressions
Pro-social behavior
  When absent it is conspicuously absent
Behavioral neoteny
Intention behaviors
Threat
  Horizontal and vertical plane lip retraction and contraction
  Hard versus soft eyes
  Assessing how dangerous a dog is
T-position
Teaching kids to be safe around dogs
Allowing dogs the right to say no
Play
  Play is expensive behavior: so why do animals do it?
    Adaptive significance of play hypothesis
Topography of play
Evaluating play
  Meta-signals
  Self-handicapping
  Role-reversals
  Trends: learning to better quantify
    Using simple counting forms
  Play “ruts”
Consent tests
  What if play is normal but human onlookers are upset?
  Flagging worrisome behavior
Conflict
  Types of internal conflict
  External conflict
Examples in dogs
Displacement and redirection
Canine compulsive disorder
Breaking up dog fights
Gear
The messy business
Pull-aparts and latch-ons

**Behavior Problems**

A “problem” according to whom?

Shift in the training zeitgeist from “NO!” technology to “Yes! Do more of that!”

Pet dog trainer’s intervention arsenal

Overview of first-line strategies for most common behavior problems

Normalizing of normal behavior

  Trainer intervention threshold biases

Diagnostic flow-charts

  Horses versus zebras
  Veterinary referral indicators
  Separation anxiety versus garden-variety owner-absent problems

  Sep-anx rule-outs

Management

  Crating and confining

    Crate training plans

Exercise and mental stimulation

  Fetch propensities

  Dog-dog play and interaction

Problem-solving and work-to-eat
Daycare and walkers

Screening of daycares, being careful whom you refer to

Training

Definition review: DRI, P-, D&C

Konrad Lorenz and the hydraulic model of behavior

Common DRI applications

DRI installations

Common P- applications

P- compliance and magnitude of punisher

Coaching clients

Crate as penalty box issue

Dog resists arrest

Functional analyses

DRI solutions

Antecedent and setting event manipulations

DRI and P- combos

What about extinction?

Housetraining

Frequently cited behavior in dogs relinquished to animal shelters

Management imperative

Housetraining 1-2-3

Schedules for adults versus young puppies

Late punishment

Crating

Close confinement effect

How long can he hold on?

Long-term confinement

Reverse housetraining
What about paper training?
What about marking?
What about...
Veterinary referral triggers
Dogs who soil their crates
Submissive urination

Chewing
  Chewing 1-2-3
  Types of toys, pros and cons
  Management during training

Digging
  Likely reasons
  Functional analysis revisited

Jumping up
  DRI
  DRI and P- combo
  Impulse control set revisited

Food stealing, garbage raiding, pestering for food or attention, pica
  Scavenging and contextual discrimination

Pulling on leash gear
  Head halter pros and cons
  Anti-pull harness pros and cons
  Brand differences

Barking
  Types of barking
    Watchdog barking DRI, P- and combo
    Demand barking P-
  Reinforcing quiet
Barrier frustration
Dogs and cats
Which dogs and cats are best candidates?
Managing and training for successful cohabitation
Separation anxiety
Review of cardinal diagnostic signs
Treatment overview
Pre-departure D&C
Absence increments
Management between sessions
Veterinary consultation
Ancillary measures

**Fear and Aggression**

The challenges: taking aggression cases, taking fear cases
Practitioner types
Evaluating information
Function of fear and aggression
Technique choice flow chart revisited
Fear
Evolution of default fear
Behavior options
Mechanisms
Genetics
Stress during pregnancy
Maternal behavior
Early environment
Conditioning (bad experiences)

Types of fear

Sound sensitivity
Object/context/situation fears
Separation anxiety
Social fears

Social fears

Desensitization

What is it exactly?
Desensitization threshold
Trainer variables
Breaking down stimuli (parameters)
Role of learning
Breaking down social stimuli

Counterconditioning

What is it exactly?
CER options

Desensitization and counterconditioning

Push-drop-stick rules
CER rules revisited

Management

Habituation versus desensitization

What to use habituation
Sensitization

DRI options
Counseling clients with fearful dogs
Prevention: the value of “padding”

Aggression
Adaptive contexts of aggression in animals
Societal ambivalence: dogs as pets and protection
Acknowledging the bar
Lumping of severity
Dog bite fatalities
Why are people disproportionately afraid of dogs?
Academy philosophy
Classification of aggression
    Lumpers and splitters
Intervention options overview
Desensitization threshold and aggression
    Threat sequences in dogs: earliest signs
DRI options
    Summary of differences between OC and CC strategies
Case selection: prognostic indicators
    Acquired bite inhibition
        Taking a bite history
        Dunbar’s levels of ABI
        Blood versus pressure
    Client compliance
    Problem type
Aggression to strangers
Food guarding
    Plan, usual splits, execution
    DRI options, mixing OC and CC
Object guarding
    Plan, usual splits, execution
Location guarding
Body handling

Best practices: breaking it down optimally

Better to not lie to dogs

Dog-dog Aggression

The usual suspects: problem types

Triage choices in dog-dog counseling

Necessary qualities in a dog-dog trainer

Intervention bias threshold implications in dog-dog

When to always intervene

When to normalize

Developmental events

Very upset clients

Counseling on severity distinctions

Management logistics

Prognosis estimation by problem type

Other prognosis factor: ABI

Leash problems

Management-only option

Teaching leash maneuvers, timing and “defensive driving”

No off-leash history: optimal plan

Using a play parameter if it is available

Off-leash problems

Play problems differential diagnosis

What if there’s no play?

Bullies

Executing time-outs

Use of long-lines

Play skill deficits
Phases of training

Predation events
Female-female problems
Game dogs
Prevention of aggression
Class activities
Most useful CERs
The big picture

Client Counseling

Our job in a nutshell
Allocation of client resources
  Choosing our battles
The counseling bible
Letting clients decide how to live with their dogs
  Exceptions
  Gray areas
  Developing your policies
What we want clients to do is not cheap behavior
  Setting criteria for humans
  Old-school misanthropism
Delivery formats
  Consultations
  Day training
  Board and train
  Factors affecting format decisions
Consultations
The phone: doing it right to avoid burn-out

Triage and doorknob questions

The appointment

Re-framing client interpretations into ABCs

Best practices re: written instructions

Follow-up checklists

Day training

Packages and training time estimates

Homework and management during the training period

Board and train

Client visits, homework and progress reporting

Transfer of training

What if the problem doesn’t manifest?

Training time estimates

Ethics and the offering of guarantees

Coaching clients

Coaching concepts

Cultivating “stickiness”

Avoidance of knowledge-dumping

Repetition

Coaching skills/mechanics

The recipe to perfect

Coaching management

Management first

Big ticket management types

Convincing clients of need for confinement

Comparisons to previous dogs

How hard should we try to sell resistant clients on crating?
What is a dog-proofed room?

Coaching training

Sticky language for DRI and P-
DRI conceptual and techie roadblocks
P- legwork and perseverance roadblocks
Coaching repetition

  The gift of bio-speed in a techno-speed world

CED checks

Coaching exercise, enrichment and mental stimulation

  Explaining enrichment to clients
  The stand-bys
  Fetch, tug, hide & seek
  Tug caveat
  Explaining chew toys
  Teaching hide and seek
  Making clients “itchy” to train as an enrichment activity

Education and myth-busting

  Building empathy
  Key education messages
  Myth of rewards “spoiling” dogs
    There’s no free lunch in motivation
    Talking to clients about motivation
    “When can I stop giving rewards?”
  Myth of aggression as pathology
    Horses versus zebras
    “Normal” doesn’t mean “okay”
  Myth that immobile dogs are necessarily calm
    Body language education
Myth that dogs seek to dominate us
   Helping clients who are stuck on dominance
   Dominance busting resources
Myth that tug increases aggression
   Identifying personal comfort levels
Myth that “good” = behaviorless
   Cousin myth to not moving = calm
Myth that dogs look “guilty” when owner punishes late

Consultation example: “Cinder”
   Presenting with object guarding and agitating at the fence
   Diagnostic rule-outs
   Management
   Training
   Doorknob question: adding a second dog

Great training demo sites for owners

**History of Dog Training**

19th century excerpts from training books

Two roots of training and behavior modification
   Traditional dog training
   Applications of operant and classical conditioning theory

Traditional training
   War dog recruitment and training
   Post-WWII era
   Koehler method and the Monks of New Skete

Sciences of operant and classical conditioning
   Skinner and Pavlov
Keller and Marian Breland
Marine mammal training
Lure-reward training
Pet dog training as specialty
The watershed philosophy divide
Dog training regulation

**Dog Breeds**

- Origin of domestic dogs (DNA and archaeological evidence)
- History of dog shows
- Features of AKC groups
- Sporting dogs
  - Show versus field lines
  - “Backyard bred”
  - Breeds with heavy exercise requirement
- Hounds
- Working dogs
- Terriers
- Toys
- Non-sporting dogs
- Herding dogs
- Miscellaneous group
- Pitbulls
- Interpreting breed standards for behavior information
  - Sleuthing out euphemisms
- Russian fox experiment: breeding out fear
- Societal ambivalence about genetic determinism
Critical Thinking

“Nullius addictus iurarae in verba magistri”

Why critical thinking for dog trainers?

How do we know whether a statement is true or not?

Acknowledging when we don’t know: the foundation of learning

Post-modernism and relativism

“There are no facts, only opinions” and “There is no objective reality”

But wait: would you step off a building?

Why science?

Hypothesis versus theory in science

Conclusions are provisional/science as self-correcting endeavor

Follow the evidence

Kinds of written articles

The peer-review process

Confounding variables

Control groups

What does “blind” mean?

What does “placebo-controlled” mean?

Hypothetical study design

Sampling and sampling problems

Correlation and causation

Common confounds in the popular dog behavior literature

Unanswered questions in our field

Behavior testing

Reliability and validity

Performing lit searches

Critical thinking resources
Psychotropic Medications

- Acute versus longer term drugs
- Mode of action of TCA and SSRI classes
- Most commonly used meds
- Veterinary behavior resources
- Our role as trainers

Exam Preparation

- Overview of exam for Academy Certification
- Exam topics
- About the CPDT-KA and CBCC-KA exams
- Disease and parasites
- Exam prep quizzes
- Practica demonstration requirement
- Exam scheduling