

The Academy

FOR DOG TRAINERS

Syllabus

Introduction

Welcome and Academy history

Resources for students and grads

People

Progress through the program levels

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The Academy Café on Facebook

The Academy Study Group on Facebook

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Webinar recordings archive: streaming and downloading

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The Academy Video Bar on Vimeo

Case Mentoring

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- 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

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Practical applications of intermittent schedules

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Superstitious learning

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Timing

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Analyzing cases of attempted CER installation

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Making the interaction work for you

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Playing to trainer's or client's strengths

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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

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Criteria setting

The contract with the dog

Deciding on criteria

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Rate of reinforcement

Rate-criteria marriage

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Dog's experience

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Four ways to boost rate

Criteria change decisions (PDS)

Efficiency

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Splitting

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Bob Bailey's mantras

Mechanics

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

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Capturing

Prompting, fading, cueing with and without clicker

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Target stick exercise

Prompting small dogs

Tunnel down and backdoor sit

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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

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

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Most useful CERs

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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

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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

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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 iurare 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