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
Cohort Study Groups 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
Practica evaluation prior to taking final exam
Final exam
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

**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
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

**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”
Separation anxiety
Review of cardinal diagnostic signs
Treatment overview
Pre-departure D&C
Absence increments
Management between sessions
Veterinary consultation
Ancillary measures

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
Modes 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
Exam scheduling