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

Academy grad referral list

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

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

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

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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

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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

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