

Dog Training: The Good, the Bad, and the Inhumane

Melissa Bain, DVM, DACVB, MS

Associate Professor, Clinical Animal Behavior Service

University of California School of Veterinary Medicine



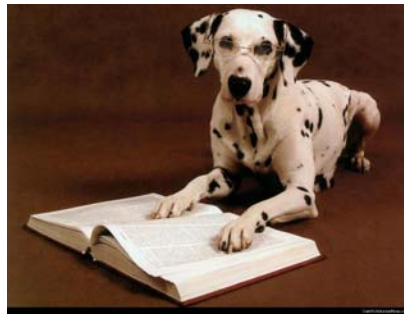
Overview

- ▶ Review of terminology (BRIEF!)
- ▶ Review of professionals
- ▶ What to look for
- ▶ Self-test



Reinforcement vs. Punishment

- ▶ Operant conditioning
- ▶ Teach an animal to "do"/"not do" something



Reinforcement vs. Punishment

- ▶ Is reinforcement always 'pleasant'?
- ▶ Is punishment always 'painful'?



"I'm behaving well. Are you sure you wouldn't like to positively reinforce it?"

Reinforcement

- ▶ Increases the chance of a behavior occurring
- ▶ Teaches an animal what you WANT it to do

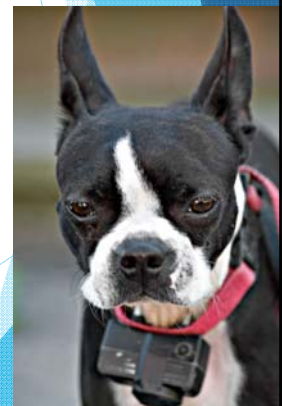
- ▶ Positive (+)
 - ▶ ADDING something
- ▶ Negative (-)
 - ▶ REMOVING something



Punishment

- ▶ Decreases the chance of a behavior occurring
- ▶ Teaches an animal what you DON'T want it to do
 - ▶ Not what you want it TO do

- ▶ Positive (+)
 - ▶ ADDING something
- ▶ Negative (-)
 - ▶ REMOVING something



	↑ chance of behavior occurring	↓ chance of behavior occurring
Addition (+) of stimulus	+ reinforcement	+ punishment
Removal (-) of stimulus	- reinforcement	- punishment

Quiz...

▶ A dog, wearing a choke collar, continues to pull on a leash. The owner stops and waits for the dog to stop pulling. When the dog stops pulling the owner and dog continue their walk. This is an example of:

1. + Reinforcement
2. + Punishment
3. - Reinforcement
4. - Punishment

Answer: 3

Quiz...

▶ A dog, wearing a harness, continues to pull on a leash. The owner pulls back hard on the leash, and the pulling stops. This is an example of:

1. + Reinforcement
2. + Punishment
3. - Reinforcement
4. - Punishment

Answer: 2

Rules of Punishment?

- ▶ Provide opportunity to perform correct behavior!
- ▶ Intense enough to stop behavior, not too severe
- ▶ Short delay between behavior and punishment
- ▶ Don't gradually increase punishment (habituation)
- ▶ Dependent on behavior, not punisher
- ▶ Consistent
- ▶ Stage misbehavior if possible

Punishment

- ▶ Positive (+) punishment
 - ▶ Can of pennies
 - ▶ Yelling, hitting
 - ▶ Shock collar
 - ▶ Squirt bottle
 - ▶ Contact paper
- ▶ Negative (-) punishment
 - ▶ Leave dog park
 - ▶ Social isolation
 - ▶ Turning back on jumping dog



Punishment
≠
Negative Reinforcement

Habituation (classical conditioning)

- ▶ Internal emotions, i.e. fear
- ▶ Via flooding or desensitization

HABITUATION (FLOODING)

Starting Point

Automobile → Aversive Emotional Reaction

Automobile → Aversive Emotional Reaction
100 Stimulus Exposure Trials

Automobile → Aversive Emotional Reaction
100 Stimulus Exposure Trials

Endpoint

Automobile → Neutral Emotional Reaction

Grooming - Oh dear...



View this video at youtu.be/yfZMVzckCIE

SYSTEMATIC DESENSITIZATION

Starting Point

Automobile → Aversive Emotional Reaction

Automobile → Aversive Emotional Reaction

100 Stimulus Exposure Trials

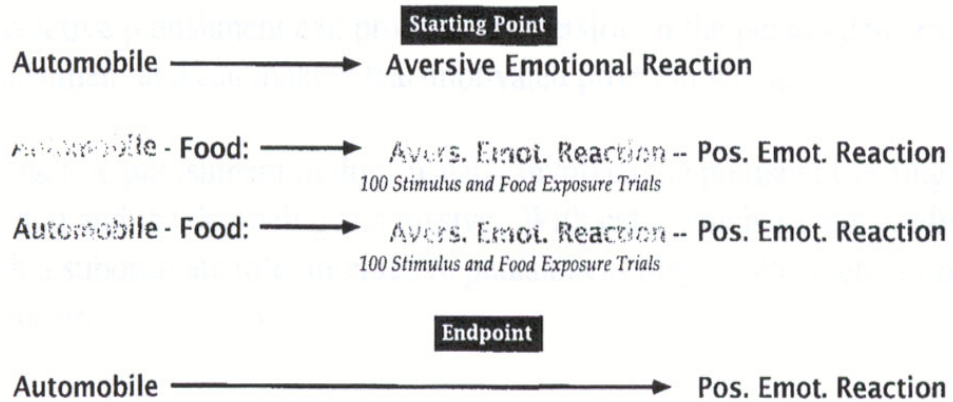
Automobile → Aversive Emotional Reaction

100 Stimulus Exposure Trials

Endpoint

Automobile → Neutral Emotional Reaction

SYSTEMATIC DESENSITIZATION WITH COUNTERCONDITIONING



Grooming - EBY



View this video at youtu.be/WWZUcLFHXLE

Overview

- ▶ Review of terminology
- ▶ Review of professionals
- ▶ What to look for
- ▶ Self-test

What best describes a dog trainer?

1. A licensed professional
2. Someone who has passed a training program
3. Someone credentialed through an organization
4. Someone who trains dogs

Answer: 4

Credentials

- ▶ What does this mean?
- ▶ Do they have a degree?
 - ▶ What is it?
- ▶ Do they have to attend CE?
 - ▶ What kind?
- ▶ Do they have to be humane?
- ▶ Are they licensed?



What is your liability?

- ▶ Chiropractors
 - ▶ AVCA advocates for close work between chiropractors and vets & adherence to the law
 - ▶ One state—OK—allows animal chiropractic care without a referral, but require training
- ▶ Equine and pet 'dentists'
- ▶ Groomers
- ▶ AVMA Scope of Practice
avma.org/Advocacy/StateAndLocal/Pages/state-issues-scope-of-practice.aspx



What are *SOME* organizations?

Within Veterinary Medicine:

- ▶ **DACVB**
dacvb.org
- ▶ **AVSAB**
avsabonline.org
- ▶ **AVBT**
avbt.net
- ▶ **SVBT**
svbt.org

Outside Veterinary Medicine:

- ▶ **CAAB**
certifiedanimalbehaviorist.com
- ▶ **APDT**
apdt.com
- ▶ **CCPDT**
ccpdt.org
- ▶ **KPA**
karenpryoracademy.com
- ▶ **IAABC**
iaabc.org
- ▶ **IACP**
canineprofessionals.com
- ▶ **ABC**
animalbehaviorcollege.com
- ▶ **National K9 School**
k-9companions.com/become-a-dog-trainer

What to look for in a trainer?

- ▶ **ACVB statement:**
dacvb.org/resources/position-statements
- ▶ **AVSAB statement:**
avsabonline.org/resources/position-statements

How do you select a trainer?

****POLL****

1. Word-of-mouth
2. Websites/Yellowpages/etc.
3. Yelp/Wiki's/Other reviews
4. "Lunch and Learn" by trainers
5. Visit in person
6. Send an employee to take class with dog

Best Answer: 5

Where to start? Pros and cons?

- ▶ Word-of-mouth
- ▶ Search engines
 - ▶ Websites
- ▶ Yelp/Wiki's/Other reviews
- ▶ "Lunch and Learn" by trainers



- ▶ **VISIT THE TRAINER IN PERSON!!!!**

What is the dog's problem?

- ▶ No problem
 - ▶ Puppy socialization classes
 - ▶ General obedience training/tricks/agility/...
- ▶ Minor problems
 - ▶ Pulling on leash
 - ▶ Jumping up
 - ▶ General obedience

What is the dog's problem?

- ▶ Major problems
 - ▶ Aggression
 - ▶ Fear
 - ▶ Separation anxiety
 - ▶ Compulsive disorders
 - ▶ Veterinary behaviorist/veterinarian/CAAB
 - ▶ Liability remains with you if you send to a non-vet

Overview

- ▶ Review of terminology (BRIEF!)
- ▶ Review of professionals
- ▶ What to look for
- ▶ Self-test

Caution with these phrases

- ▶ Guarantee
- ▶ Dominance/Alpha/Pack
- ▶ No treats/Treats are bribery
- ▶ Boot camp/Board and Train
- ▶ Schutzhund/Ring
- ▶ Motivational training
- ▶ Negative reinforcement
- ▶ Guard/Protection/Police training
- ▶ Remote/leash-free/tap and tell/e-collar



Examples

The screenshot shows the homepage of 'Home of the ForceFree Method'. At the top left is the IACP logo. The main header reads 'Home of the ForceFree Method™' with the tagline 'It's all about Pack Drive!™'. A navigation bar includes links for Home, The ForceFree Method™, Dog Training, Become a Trainer, Dog Boarding Spa, Articles, Happy Clients, and Tell Us About Your Dog. Below the navigation are four featured images: 1) Marc Goldberg's logo with 'MARC GOLDBERG' and 'chicagodogtrainer.com'; 2) A dog sitting on a tiled floor with the caption 'Boarding School Dog Training'; 3) Cesar Millan and Marc Goldberg with the caption 'Cesar Millan, The Dog Whisperer Whispers to Marc'; 4) A dog wearing a colorful striped sweater with the caption 'Our Dog Training Programs'.

Examples

ADAM'S CODE BENEFITS

- The dog learns in a stress free manner
- The dog is not bribed with food.
- The owner does not have to learn to 'fade' the food away
- A skilled trainer can achieve off-leash reliability, at a distance in five (5) days.
- Dog breeds that are considered impossible to train, Asian breeds, sled dogs, scent hounds, can be trained to off-leash reliability quickly and reliably.
- Dogs can be guided to stop unwanted behaviors gently, quickly and for ever!



Examples

Our Guarantee

Dog Training With a Guarantee??

That's right! A *guarantee* that our training will work for your dog to reach the goals you have; a guarantee that lasts your dog's lifetime...

If you are like most of the dog owners we talk to, you have already gone through training programs with your dog and still need assistance with getting your dog to listen, or to stop some unwanted behaviors.

It is extremely rare to find a dog training company who can GUARANTEE that their training will work for your dog. So why can we guarantee it and other training companies can't?



GET CONTROL OVER YOUR STUBBORN DOG

Do you want to be leash FREE?
See results in 14 days or less..

[Click Here](#)

Learn more now about our **Online Course...**

What do you think of this?

SAN FRANCISCO VETERINARY BEHAVIOR CLINIC

What can we do?

We are proud to be able to offer guarantees of our services. We have years of experience in treating pets with problem behaviors, and are confident that we will be able to help you. Therefore we GUARANTEE that your dog or cat will stop its problem behavior, whether it is aggression, anxiety, or compulsive behaviors.

FAKE 😊

Potentially better phrases

- ▶ Use treats/toys/food
- ▶ Positive reinforcement (*caveat!*)
- ▶ Clicker training
- ▶ Debunking dominance/alpha/pack
- ▶ Family pet training (*caveat!*)
- ▶ Work with the family/owner/dog relationship

Examples



Our Methods

Urban Dawgs uses modern, reward-based training methods based on the scientific principles of animal learning theory. Our highly effective techniques are 100% dog-friendly and taught with an emphasis on trust and cooperation, so you can truly be your dog's best friend. We do NOT use pain, force, shock, choke, startle, fear or intimidation. Positive reinforcement really works and you avoid the negative side effects (such as fear, anxiety and aggression) that can come with using corrections and other aversive techniques. We use the presentation and removal of rewards as motivation to get our dogs to work - just like employers use salary, benefits and bonuses to motivate employees or as parents use privileges to motivate their children. Rewards can be many things, depending on the individual dog. The most obvious is food treats but there are many more possibilities (access to play, walks, door opening services, etc). Almost anything our dogs need and/or want on a daily basis can be used as rewards. Training is incorporated into your everyday life and is enjoyable on both ends of the leash!



Examples



Start fresh with your dog today!
We specialize in clicker training and long-term, reward-based teaching for dogs and their humans.

San Fernando Valley and the beach communities. At Pawsitive Feedback our approach is based on positive reinforcement and modern methods of animal training.

Follow the links below to learn more about our dog training philosophy and what distinguishes our dog training programs from the rest of the pack:



[Modern Dog Training Methods](#)
[Certified Dog Trainer](#)
[Small Class Sizes](#)
[Testimonials from Satisfied Dog Owners](#)

Look at pictures

- ▶ Open-source photo vs. actual
- ▶ Breeds of dogs
 - ▶ Pictures of GSD/Rott/Mal/Pit (not all!!!)
- ▶ Size of classes
 - ▶ Big vs. small
- ▶ "Favorite" trainers



Look at pictures

- ▶ Types of products
 - ▶ Shock collars (look for hand-held remote)
 - ▶ Other collars (choke vs. head collar vs. other)

Products



Products



Products



Links

- ▶ Some are neutral
 - ▶ Vet clinics, boarding facilities, animal shelters
- ▶ Some are worrisome
 - ▶ Problematic organizations
 - ▶ Problematic tools

Confused trainer?



View the video at youtu.be/pb6Dd9-AMGc

Overview

- ▶ Review of terminology (BRIEF!)
- ▶ Review of professionals
- ▶ What to look for
- ▶ Self-test

Let's look at some

Are each of these examples of good or bad training programs?

- ▶ **A1:** pawsitivepaw.com
- ▶ **B1:** tk9.com
- ▶ **A2:** fortheloveoffido.com
- ▶ **B2:** johnknowsdogs.com

Answers:
A1 = good
B1 = bad
A2 = good
B2 = bad

Conclusions

- ▶ Confusing
- ▶ Who do you trust?
- ▶ Visit the trainer in action
- ▶ Rely on evidence-based information

Questions?

