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2002-2003

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President's Message

It was wonderful to see so many members at our first annual meeting at AVMA in Nashville. Our business meeting was short, sweet, and productive. Immediately afterwards we entertained both veterinary behaviorists and our corporate supporters during our recognition reception. This was an well-attended event that was fun as well as fruitful. Many of our guests expressed their appreciation for the relaxing refreshments while we thanked them for their generous assistance. Speaking of recognition, I want to thank our members that helped AVSAB by volunteering in their booth in the exhibit hall. A special thanks goes to Terri Sajdera, Kim Clark, Amy Parmer, Cassndra Vong, and Jenny O'Connor. I worked in the booth myself and we had many veterinarians picking up information on SVBT for their technicians as well as information for themselves on AVSAB.

Now for the news on our quest for specialty status with NAVTA, we have constructed a survey to research the education and experience level of our members. The first step on this road is to assemble a committee to develop the specialty. They will be the people working with NAVTA to create the education for people wanting to sit for the specialty exam. They will write bylaws and a constitution for the Academy of Veterinary Behavior Technicians (AVBT). Look for the survey to come out on the web site. Julie Shaw will be able to update us on the listserv in this regard. The criteria for the specialty committee members are strict and prospective members will need to submit curriculum vitae to prove their credentials.

Requirements for the committee include:

- The person is a graduate of an AVMA accredited college or they are a credentialed technician
- They are a NAVTA member
- They have seven years of experience in animal behavior, and have spent 75% of their time on behavior

- They possess qualifications far exceeding those set forth to obtain specialty status.

This committee usually contains between ten and fifteen people. So, keep your eyes peeled for the survey if you qualify and would like to serve on the specialty committee.

Congratulations to our new officers! Kim Clark is our treasurer and Julie Shaw is our president-elect (she will become our new president next year in Denver). Remember that we will be having our next annual meeting in Denver, Colorado at the AVMA conference, which is July 19-23. So, mark your calendars and join us if you can.

Sincerely,

Ginny Price

SVBT President

The Unsung Heroes of 9/11



PHOTO: SEP 18, 2001, REUTERS

This edition of *The Behavior Perspective* is in tribute to all working dogs including our 9/11 canine heroes.

Editor's Bark by Julie Shaw, R.V.T.



PHOTO: SEP 15, 2001, ANDREA BOOHER FEMA

By the time this edition of *The Behavior Perspective* hits your doorsteps the first anniversary of 9/11 will have passed. It seemed appropriate that we dedicate this addition to the heroic working dogs that assisted in the aftermath of 9/11 and to all working dogs that help to make this a better world to live in.

When I started on this edition I neglected to think about the feelings this subject would elicit. Many of the emotions I personally felt in the aftermath of 9/11 have resurfaced for me to deal with again. But along with the sadness and fear is a profound thankfulness and appreciation for the 9/11 rescue teams.

I am also the mother of a child with cerebral palsy and am privileged to see on a daily basis how Dylan's service dog "Faith" enhances his life.

Working dogs truly are our "Unsung Heroes." To the Search and Rescue dogs, Service Dogs, Hearing Dogs, Guide Dogs and Therapy dogs—the Society of Veterinary Behavior Technicians thank you.

Visit <http://www.ctlegalguide.com/SlideShow/canintribute.htm> for a slideshow tribute to the canine heroes of the 9/11 tragedy. I'd recommend you have a box of Kleenex close at hand.

SVBT's First Annual Business Meeting

On Saturday, July 13th, 2002, Ginny Price, SVBT President, called to order the first annual business meeting of the Society of Veterinary Behavior Technicians. There were approximately a dozen members in attendance in addition to the six board members that were present.

The officers gave brief summaries of activities to date. Some of the highlights were:

- A Board of Directors is in place.
- An Advisory panel of industry experts has been formed.
- By-laws have been developed
- We have received not-for-profit status.
- A comprehensive website has been created.
- Four newsletters have been published.
- Continuing education programs are being created and we sponsor an annual scholarship program and offer member discounts to Purdue University's DOGS! Course.
- A listserv for professional and student members has been formed
- Corporate sponsorships have been acquired.
- Working relationships have been established with organizations in related specialty fields.
- A tremendous growth in membership has occurred in our first year. At the time of our meeting our membership was 146 members including international members.

(Editor's note: At the time of this printing that number has grown to 175 members).

After the board meeting we were able to relax and meet the people who we had only known previously through email. The members of SVBT are highly motivated individuals who care deeply about the field of animal behavior and the veterinary technician profession. In addition to the SVBT members, all the veterinary behaviorists were invited to the celebration as well as our corporate sponsors. We were very pleased that so many people accepted the invitation. One SVBT member said she felt as if she were star watching because every time she looked up, another celebrity walked through the door. Another person commented, "There was just the right amount of professionalism mixed with social interaction" and "It was good to see so many veterinary diplomates come to support technicians." Another member commented, "The sense of community between all who attended, even new people like myself, was immediate."



SVBT President Ginny Price speaking at the AVMA Convention 2002

If you missed this year's extravaganza, be sure to make plans to attend next year's annual meeting in Denver, Colorado July 19-23, 2003.

SVBT First Annual Meeting in Action



The elegant hors d'oeuvre table



ACVB Diplomates Drs. Ilana Reisner, Barbara Simpson, Andrew Luescher



Mrs. Anderson, Dr. RK Anderson, Dr. Andrew Luescher



SVBT President Ginny Price and Dr. Petra Mertens



SVBT 2002-2003 BOARD MEMBERS:

Back row: Ginny Price, Andrew Luescher
Middle row: Cassandra Vong, Julie Shaw, Kim Clark
Front row: Amy Parmer, Donna Dyer



Donna Dyer and Julie Shaw celebrating SVBT's success



The always fashionable Marcia Ritchie, SVBT Member



SVBT Member and 2002 DOGS! Course Scholarship winner Nicole Hendrich



SVBT Member Jennie Lane with ACVB Diplomat Dr. Jacqueline Neilson



SVBT Board Members Dr. Andrew Luescher and Donna Dyer



L to R: SVBT President Ginny Price, Board Member Cassandra Vong, Secretary Amy Parmer, Treasurer Kim Clark

Ask The Expert

Editor's note: The Expert for the Ask the Expert question is Melanie "Quint" Meenen. Ms. Meenen is a member of the board of directors for the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP). Please visit their website at www.iaadp.org

QUESTION: What should a veterinary technician know or keep in mind when an assistance dog or working dog comes in as a patient? *Anastasia Baima, R.V.T. Aiken, SC*

ANSWER: You will find an assistance dog in a clinic setting one of the easiest dogs to handle. I've had mine in the office for teeth scaling without anesthesia. I know assistance dogs who remain so still in a 'stay' that x-rays are also done without anesthesia. They get on the scale readily so there is an accurate record of their weight. They are about the most pleasant clients RVTs and veterinarians ever treat. Why? Training. They have many behaviors under voice control. Each set of commands which yield the desired behavior can be different from client to client, program to program, trainer to trainer. For example, 'move' to my dog means pull the wheelchair - nothing else. Without the handler, how would you know? Only the handler knows the correct 'doglish' [vocabulary of commands] to achieve the needed behavior. The handler needs to be present.

There are a few basic reasons when this might not work: the office insists that the team be separated because for their convenience; 'they always do it that way' or the animal isn't fully trained to the level of an assistance dog. Casual observations of the teams behavior while waiting in the clinic can rule in or rule out the level of training the dog has.

The most distressing thing to do, especially in a veterinary clinic setting, is to take the dog from the handler into another area for an exam, shots, or what ever may be needed. The bond between the partners is strong. It isn't appropriate for either of them to be separated. Because assistance dogs are with their partners 24/7, it would not be out of the realm of possibility to trigger an anxiety separation reaction.

Assistance dog handlers recognize there may be times when the team must be separated for the safety of the procedure. Surgery is one example. It is highly preferable to arrange same day drop off of the assistance dog versus drop off the evening before the procedure. Preoperative blood panels can be done the day before without causing a separation to the team. Tell the handler the animal is to have nothing by mouth after a certain time, along with any other instructions prior to surgery and it will be done. The assistance dog handler is well aware that breach of instructions would be potentially harmful to the dog and therefore noncompliance is not an issue. Early drop off prior to surgery is much less stressful for all concerned. Expect the human partner to call and ask how their canine partner is doing. Offer to call to update the client. Being without an assistance dog may require hiring a personal aide for the time the dog is not able to work. This is an added expense when the teams' finances are already stretched to cover unexpected veterinary costs.

Veterinary Care Partnership is relatively new program which offers a grant to all IAADP partner members to help defray veterinary costs when the only thing in the way of continuing a working team is inability to pay unexpected veterinary bills. It is funded by Bayer Animal Health, Iams Foundation, Ft. Dodge Animal Health, Nestles Purina, and Cosequin (formerly Nutramax). These corporate sponsors stepped in when Heska eliminated their three year program which assisted with veterinary bills. Bayer's veterinary staff make all medical decisions. The complete guidelines are on IAADP's web site.

IAADP has a video, Partners in Independence, which discusses what the various types of assistance dogs are trained to do. There is a veterinarian version geared toward issues which may come up in practice. It discusses the issue of separating the canine human team. It is available through our bookstore on our web site for twenty dollars. Ed & Toni Eames lecture frequently at veterinary schools throughout the country to insure assistance dog teams needs are known. If you would like to contact them to discuss these issues, or would like them to present at an RVT convention, you may contact them at <eames@iaadp.org>

On behalf of over 1,000 assistance dog teams internationally, thank you for asking for our input.

CE Opportunities

October 15-17, 2002

Atlantic Coast Veterinary Conference, Atlantic City, NJ Dr. Vint Virga, DVM, Dipl. ACVB12 hours of behavior lectures

October 26-27, 2002

Animal Behavior Conference 2002, Dallas, TX Fear and Anxiety in Companion Animals: Prevention, Detection, and Treatment Drs. Sharon Crowell-Davis, Debra Horwitz, Katherin Houpt, Gary Landsberg. Contact: l.denny@elsevier.com www.mosby.com/CET

October 27, 2002

Veterinary Behavior Seminar Series, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN Feline Behavior Problems Dr. Sarah Heath and Dr. Andrew Luescher. Contact Information: www.vet.purdue.edu/animalbehavior

November 2-3, 2002

University of Georgia, Athens, GA Prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of behavior problems in companion animals: A team approach for veterinarians and veterinary technicians. Contact: Dr. Bruce Hollett, Phone 706-542-1451, Email: bhollett@vet.uga.edu or skilgo@vet.uga.edu Website: go-live.vet.uga.edu

November 4, 2002

Master class in behavioral medicine, University of Georgia, Athens, GA Contact: Dr. Bruce Hollett, Phone 706-542-1451, Email: bhollett@vet.uga.edu or skilgo@vet.uga.edu Website: go-live.vet.uga.edu;

November 17-20, 2003

Western Veterinary Conference Las Vegas, NV 6 hours behavior Dr. Vint Virga, DVM, Dipl. ACVB

April 10-13, 2003

American Academy of Veterinary Dermatology Monterey, CA 4 hours behavior CE on behavioral dermatology Dr. Vint Virga, DVM, Dipl. ACVB

April 2-5, 2003

Humane Society of the United States Animal Care Expo Reno, NV

Animal Behavior Track. To be placed on the mailing list for information about the next Animal Care Expo, send an e-mail including your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address to Dina McDaniel, Expo Registration Coordinator at expo@hsus.org. Or call Dina at 1-800-248-EXPO

February 17-22, 2003

Caribbean K9 Cruisin' Dr. Ian Dunbar, Susan Garrett, Trish King Departs Tampa, FL www.puppyworks.com

June 4-8, 2003

DOGS! Course: Principles and Techniques of Behavior Modification Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN To be placed on the list to receive registration information in March of 2003 visit www.vet.purdue.edu/animalbehavior

Working Dog Resource Guide

by Janet Lazarus, R.V.T.

Editor's Note: The Expert for "Ask the Expert" and the following Working Dog Resource Guide would not have been possible without the assistance of SVBT member Janet Lazarus who came to my aid when I needed it. Janet's complete list of resources can be viewed on our website at www.svbt.org

Assistance, Hearing and Guide Dog Resources

Canine Companions for Independence (CCI)

National Headquarters
PO Box 446 Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0446
Phone: 1-800-572-2275 (V/TDD)
Fax: 707-577-1711
E-mail: info@caninecompanions.org
Website: www.caninecompanions.org
CCI is a nonprofit organization that provides highly trained assistance dogs to people with disabilities and to professional caregivers providing pet assisted therapy. The assistance dogs trained to be Canine Companions are matched with individuals as service, hearing, assisted service and facility dogs. CCI provides continuing support for these teams to ensure success.

The Assistance Dog Institute

P.O. Box 2334, Rohnert Park, CA 94927-2334
(707) 585-0300 or (707) 537-6391
Email: assistdog@aol.com
Website: <http://www.assistanceadog.org/frames.htm>

This program offers an Associate in Science degree in Assistance Dog Education and Human-Canine Life Sciences.

Paws With A Cause, Inc. (PAWS)

4646 South Division, Wayland, MI 49348
Phone: 616-877-7297 (V/TDD) or 800-253-PAWS [7297] (V/TDD) Fax: 616-877-0248
E-mail: paws@ionline.com
Website: <http://www.pawswithacause.org/>
Paws With a Cause trains Assistance Dogs nationally for people with disabilities and provides lifetime team support that encourages independence. It offers the best of everything to its clients, including full ownership of their dog when training is completed. PAWS Assistance Dogs are trained to assist people who have been challenged by any of more than 25 different diseases, including: cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, spinal cord injuries, epilepsy and varying degrees of hearing impairment and vision loss.

Delta Society National Service Dog Center

289 Perimeter Rd. E., Renton, WA 98055
Phone: 800-869-6898 800-809-2714 TDD
Website: www.deltasociety.org
Delta Society, a non-profit organization, promotes animals helping people improve their health, independence, and quality of life.

Canines for Disabled Kids

National Office:
299 Redemption Rock Trail S.
Princeton, MA 01541
Phone: (978) 422-5299 Fax: (978) 422-3255
E-mail: caninesforkids@aol.com
website: www.caninesforkids.com
Canines for Disabled Kids is a national non-profit organization located in Princeton, MA that provides dogs of all breeds, shapes, sizes, most rescued from shelters, to help children under 18 who are deaf, physically, developmentally or emotionally disabled. These assistance dogs help children by going everywhere with them to help give balance, independence, socialability and security. Some dogs work in a school or therapy setting, others, with the help of a facilitator, in the home.

International Association of Assistance Dogs Partners (IAADP)

P.O. Box 1326
Sterling Hts., MI 48311
Phone: 810-826-3938
E-mail: iaadp@ismi.net
Website: <http://www.iaadp.org/>
The mission of the IAADP is: (1) to provide assistance dog partners with a voice in the assistance dog field; (2) to enable those partnered with guide dogs, hearing dogs and service dogs to work together on issues of mutual concern, and; (3) to foster the disabled person /assistance dog partnership.

Guide Dogs for the Blind

National Office:
P.O. Box 151200
San Rafael, California 94915-1200
Phone: 800-295-4050
Website: www.guidedogs.com
Established in 1942, Guide Dogs for the Blind is a nonprofit, charitable organization with a mission to provide Guide Dogs and training in their use to visually impaired people throughout the United States and Canada.

Search and Rescue Resources

National Association for Search and Rescue

4500 Southgate Place, Suite 100
Chantilly, VA 21051-1714
Phone: 703-222-6277
Fax: 703-222-6283
website: www.nasar.org
The National Association for Search and Rescue, Inc., (NASAR) is a not-for-profit membership association dedicated to advancing professional, literary, and scientific knowledge in fields related to search and rescue. NASAR is comprised of thousands of paid and non-paid professionals interested in all aspects of search and rescue - the humanitarian cause of saving

lives - throughout the United States and around the world. "...that others may live."

Canine Aided Emergency Search & Rescue

Corporate and Northwest Region
C.A.E.S.A.R., Inc.
666 Fredonia Road
Greenville, PA 16125-8407
Phone: (724) 475-4647
Fax: (724) 475-4657
Website: www.caesarinc.org
C.A.E.S.A.R. is a volunteer nonprofit charitable organization, founded in August of 1990 for the purpose of supporting emergency search and rescue efforts by providing municipal, state, and federal agencies with highly trained search and rescue personnel.

The American Rescue Dog Association

P.O. Box 151
Chester, New York 10918
website: www.ardainc.org



Case History - Distractability of a Hearing Dog

By Julie Shaw, R.V.T., C.P.D.T., Purdue University, Animal Behavior Clinic

Editor's Note: All Cases outlined in the "Case History" section have been diagnosed and treated by a veterinarian. This case has been summarized. This history is dedicated to the memory of "Travis".

Signalment and Statement of Problem:

A veteran hearing dog named "Travis" (Mx, 5.5 years old, 37 kg, Belgian Sheepdog), was presented for an issue of dog distraction which was affecting his ability to alert.

Behavior History: Two months previous to the consult "Travis" was attacked while working by an unleashed dog. "Travis" partner reported that "Travis" was now distracted and pulled toward dogs he saw in the environment and therefore did not always alert properly in public.

Significant Physical and Laboratory Findings: Physical examination was within normal limits

Behavioral Diagnosis: Distractibility / Training Issue

Previous Treatment Owner avoided known situations in which other dogs might be present. "Travis" had already been fitted with a Gentle Leader Head Collar and the owner was adept at using the Gentle Leader.

Prescribed Treatment Plan: The behavior modification techniques of desensitization and response substitution were prescribed. "Travis" was taught to target the handler's hand when another dog was present in the environment and the owner could then reward "Travis" for the alert. The owner began working at a great enough distance from another dog that while "Travis" was



aware that a dog was present he was not too distracted to alert. Gradually the owner decreased the distance to the dog while doing fast paced heeling combined with turns and "sits" with "Travis".

Follow-up Appointment: "Travis" and his owner were seen two weeks post the initial consult for a training consultation. The owner was assisted in the desensitization process and "Travis" was already performing response substitution by alerting the owner by touching his nose to the owner's hand (targeting) when dogs were introduced.

Results: Two months post the initial consult the owner reported a "significant improvement". She reported one incident in which "Travis" had alerted her in a mall parking lot to a dog in a parked car."

Note: Sadly, one year after seeing "Travis" in the behavior clinic he became dyspneic and was diagnosed with a pulmonary sarcoma. "Travis" was euthanized.

Client Information Response Substitution

By Julie Shaw, R.V.T., C.P.D.T.

Response Substitution (often incorrectly called "Counter-Conditioning") is the behavior modification technique of changing an inappropriate behavior which is currently associated with a stimulus to an appropriate behavior associated with the stimulus. For example: Teaching a dog to sit instead of jumping to greet people.

- Train the incompatible behavior in a non-stressful situation without the stimulus present. (Teach the dog to "sit" on a verbal signal).
- Initially reward every correct response.
- Once the animal is consistently responding correctly to your verbal cue in a quiet environment, present the stimulus that causes the unwanted behavior at a low intensity.
- Gradually increase the intensity of the eliciting stimulus.
- Training will progress much more quickly if the dog's opportunity to perform the unwanted behavior is eliminated until the appropriate behavior has been learned.

Temperament Testing: How it Applies to Military Working Puppies (MWP)

By Donna Dyer, CVT

In a field as dynamic as veterinary behavioral medicine, it is sometimes hard to keep up with the latest trends and research results. One area, in particular, that has had more twists and turns than the road to the summit of Pikes Peak, is that of temperament testing.

At one time it was thought that a temperament evaluation at the age of 7 to 8 weeks of age could accurately predict the behavior of that puppy as an adult. Over time, beliefs have evolved and now many feel that testing of puppies provides a snap shot of the puppy at that specific point in time but probably does little to predict adult behavior. To add to the confusion, behavioral evaluations have traditionally been subjective and there has been a lack of scientific evidence that would validate or invalidate the "test" results.

For military working dogs (MWD), the ability to assess aptitude to perform certain duties, such as substance detection or controlled aggression (important for patrol dogs), at an early age is essential. It can mean the difference between having a successful cost-effective program and having a program that is unable to retain funding due to high costs associated with high drop-out rates when dogs are unable to perform tasks to specified standards.

Not surprisingly, the United States Department of Defense, Military Working Dog Veterinary Service at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, is conducting some of the most comprehensive research into behavioral testing done to date. The following is a recap of a paper detailing the research done by Stewart Hilliard, PhD and Walter Burghardt, Jr., DVM, PhD. The paper is titled, "*Development and validation of behavioral testing instruments for longitudinal study of military working puppies*" and it was presented at the International Working Dog Breeding Conference in September 2001. The full text of the paper is available by ordering proceedings of the meeting at www.iwdba.org.

This research project was conducted at Lackland Airforce Base in Texas. The objective was to follow 15 Belgian Malinois from birth, through their military career to see if behavioral evaluations administered at set intervals before 12 months of age would have any predictive value as to the aptitude of these dogs to perform tasks as adults. Additionally, Drs Hilliard and Burghardt wanted to identify if testing done at certain ages would be more predictive than tests conducted at other ages. At one year of age, all of the dogs were inducted into first

— Continued on page 7

Temperament Testing, from page 6

substance detection and then patrol training where they received instruction until they either graduated or washed out of their training program for failure to progress.

The following is directly quoted from the paper and details the methodology employed in the testing:

"The individual items on the tests consisted of the names for hypothetical psychological properties and behavioral characteristics, such as dominance, noise sureness, play object possession, bite quality and bite commitment. The items were divided (on the basis of face validity and traditional usage in dog training) into three sub-scales; those items intended to predict substance detection aptitude (e.g. object interest, object pursuit, search focus), those intended to predict patrol aptitude (e.g. bite interest, bite steadiness, man interest), and those intended to predict the dogs' psychological stability or "soundness" when confronted by intense environmental stimuli (e.g. boldness). All tests were videotaped and the video was subsequently scored by 2 trained observers. The performance of each military working puppy (MWP) on each item was evaluated using a subjective behavioral definition for that item, and a 9-point scale (a 5-point Likert scale with ½ points allowed). A score of 1 was meant to denote the complete absence of the property in question, while a 5 was meant to denote the greatest possible magnitude or intensity of this behavioral property. Items were in most cases defined so that a score of

5 denoted behavior assumed to be associated with high working aptitude, while a score of 1 denoted behavior associated with low working aptitude."

How predictive were the tests meant to evaluate success at training for substance detection? Quoting from Drs Hilliard and Burghardt:

"The detection testing data did not exhibit a clear co-variation between test indices and rates of graduation from training over all four tests, and in general it appeared that detection indices are not highly reliable predictors of performance in substance detection training until 12 months of age." When tested at 3 months of age, MWPs with detection test indices in the highest interval of the range were no more likely to graduate from substance detection training than those with low detection indices and the puppies with intermediate indices were most likely to graduate. At 4 months, a trend appeared, with nearly all MWPs in the highest interval of detection indices graduating from training, and none of those in the lowest interval graduating. When tested at 7 months, puppies with higher detection indices graduated at much higher rates than those with lower indices, but 33% of the MWPs in the lowest rank interval still graduated. Finally, at 12 months, a strong differentiation appears in the data. The great majority of puppies in the highest two detection index intervals graduated from substance detection training while none of the puppies in the lowest two intervals graduated from training. Note that at 12 months of age, there

was still considerable uncertainty involved in predicting when MWPs in the highest index would succeed in training—these dogs still failed at a rate of 20%.

How predictive were the tests meant to evaluate success in training for patrol? Again quoting the paper directly:

"Overall, the data for patrol testing exhibited a stronger co-variation of test indices and graduation rates than those for detection, and a more distinct differentiation between MWPs destined to graduate from patrol training and those destined to fail in training. When tested at 3 months, MWPs with patrol indices in the highest interval graduated from patrol training at a rate of

nearly 100%. However, those MWPs with patrol test indices in the lowest interval still graduated from patrol training at a rate of 33%. MWPs with intermediate 3-month patrol test indices graduated at an intermediate rate. Four-month patrol test indices exhibited an equally clear trend, but featured a stronger differentiation between MWPs that were highly likely to fail in training and those highly likely to graduate. MWPs in the highest patrol index interval graduated at a rate of nearly 100%, while those in the lowest interval invariably failed training. MWPs in the intermediate intervals exhibited intermediate rates of success in training. In contrast, the 7-month patrol test data did not exhibit the clear trend seen in the data from 3- and 4- month tests. MWPs with intermediate patrol test indices graduated at a higher rate than those with higher indices. However, it is important to note that those MWPs with patrol indices in the lowest interval invariably failed. Twelve-month patrol test indices exhibited a clear trend and a distinct differentiation between MWPs nearly certain to graduate and those certain to fail. MWPs with patrol indices in the highest interval graduated at a rate of nearly 100%, while those with indices in the lowest two intervals invariably failed. In the intermediate intervals, MWPs with higher indices were slightly more likely to graduate.

In conclusion, the authors caution that because the sample size (15 test subjects) is small, there is a possibility that adding the results from another 14 subjects (testing done but analysis not yet complete) may change the findings substantially. Therefore, these findings should be considered preliminary. Keeping that in mind, this study found that:

- The testing given at 12-months of age for both patrol and substance detection were found to be highly predictive of whether a dog would succeed or fail in training. Higher indices correlated to higher rates of graduation from training while the MWPs with the lowest indices failed the training.
- It was easier to predict success for those dogs with high indices in patrol as compared to those dogs with high indices in detection since even those dogs with high indices in detection failed at a rate of 20%.
- Results from testing done at 3, 4 and 7 months were not as predictive as were those done at 12 months of age.
- High indices are not as reliable at predicting success as low indices are at predicting failure.
- The aptitude testing used with MWPs is much better at predicting failure than success.
- The aptitude testing currently in use is not as predictive for eventual success or failure in substance detection training as it is for patrol training.





Welcome New Members

Jennifer Andricosky	South Riding	VA	Carol Macfarlan-Dickson, C.V.T.	Galloway	NJ
Jenny Ballard, C.V.T.	Park Forest	IL	Tenney Mudge	Lexington	VA
Kristina Carpenter, L.A.T.	Ft. Myers	FL	Dionne Rodgers, L.V.T.	Southfield	MI
Lisa Chase, R.V.T.	Duluth	GA	Susan Sampson, L.V.T.	Fairbanks	AK
Dawn Christenson, L.V.T.	Vermontville	MI	Karen Schnurbusch, R.V.T.	Oak Ridge	MO
Laura Cornett, R.V.T.	Livermore	CA	Dixie Schulte, C.V.T.	Whitewater	WI
Jennifer Day-Blackham, R.V.T.	Walla Walla	WA	Marie Seelmeyer, C.V.T.	Aurora	CO
Christopher Delgado, C.V.T.	Belleair Bluffs	FL	Lynne Shaw, B.S., C.V.T.	Appleton	WI
Marcie Dudas, C.V.T.	Holliston	MA	Colleen Shigeta	Aiea	HI
Stephanie Fedewa	Ft. Collins	CO	Lisa Smoyak, R.V.T.	Piscataway	NJ
Linda Heidenreich, R.V.T.	Pataskala	OH	Andrea Sonntag	Denver	CO
Brenda Herl	Arnold	MO	Gillian Stott, C.V.T.	Denver	CO
Marla Hunston, L.V.T.	Woodbridge	VA	Stephanie Swenty, C.V.T.	Madison	WI
Tami Johnston, R.V.T.	Rapid City	SD	Tracy Thulian, C.V.T.	Chaska	MN
Trish Jones, R.V.T.	Oakland	CA	Beatriz VanKampen, L.V.T.	Williamston	MI
Elizabeth Kenyon	Denver	CO	Jennifer Wilhelm, L.V.T.	Clifton Park	NY
Tara Lang, R.V.T.	Alpharetta	GA	Maureen Yiesla, R.V.T.	Noblesville	IN
Erin Macdonald	PinellasPark	FL	Curtis Yoquelet, R.V.T.	San Antonio	TX
Jennifer Brookover	Hermitage	IN	Amanda Elck	Wooster	OH
	Chantal Marie	West Hollywood	CA		

**Society of
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