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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I attended the North American Veterinary Conference in January for the 13th year. I feel so fortunate that I am only an hour and a half drive away because I know so many people that have to travel long distances to go to these major conferences. In February, over in Las Vegas, we had a table at the Western Veterinary Conference's technician fair. Two of our board members, Julie Urban and Renee Harris ran the booth (thank you!) and reported that there was a lot of technician traffic. We hopefully have added to our membership as a result!

Some of our members may not be aware that we held our own SVBT conference in St. Louis, Missouri in the fall of 2006 (it was in conjunction with Jefferson College). This meeting had a variety of speakers and even included interactive wetlabs with puppies and kittens! Looking into the future, we want to have our own continuing education conference each year and we are starting to work on it. Hopefully we will see this dream become a reality by 2009. This will be great

not only for our members, but for other technicians interested in behavior as well.

In addition to our own continuing education meeting, we want to start having a presence at other state technician meetings. We still have large gaps in our state representatives committee! We need representatives for each state that can notify us of state meetings and we can send information about the SVBT, brochures, newsletters, and offer a list of speakers and potential behavior topics. What better way to get our name out there than to have OUR members speaking about behavior at these state meetings!

If you are interested in being on the state representative committee, or are wondering how you can help us achieve our goals, contact me at president@svbt.org.

Kristen White, CVT
SVBT President

SVBT Board Members
Julie Urban, BA, LVT and
Charlotte "Renee" Harris,
RVT, at the 2008 Western
Veterinary Conference
Technician Fair



ANIMAL BEHAVIOR
RESOURCES INSTITUTE, INC.

**R.K. Anderson's – Animal
Behavior Resources Institute**

ABROnline.org is a non-profit site created as a free resource for companion animal professionals that is supported by volunteer experts. There is great material that you can share with your clients!

Please visit <http://abronline.org/index.php> and register!

EDITOR'S BARK

This winter, I had the opportunity to enroll Hemi in a class titled "Arfs & Crafts". The class met once a week for one hour, and lasted for three weeks. This class was going to teach me how to shape the behavior of Hemi painting on something of my choice (canvas, ceramic, etc.). In the beginning, I had to click and treat every time Hemi picked up his foot. This was an easy behavior to capture because Hemi naturally likes to give you his paw. I could only reward him when he offered me a certain foot because only one of his front feet would be used for painting. When Hemi was consistently offering me the same foot, I had to raise the criteria by shaping higher and multiple paw raises. Hemi did great with raising his paw higher, but wasn't very good at giving multiple "swipes." Once he mastered his higher paw raises, it was time to name the behavior. Hoping for an art-tistic dog, I chose "Picasso" as my cue for Hemi to raise his paw and swipe.

I am sure my food-loving Lab thought this was easy work at this point. I would say the magic word, he would swipe at my hand, and Hemi would get that wonderful click and treat. Of course, I just *had* to up the ante and keep adding things just so he could get his delicious treat! Life can be rough when your owner has a clicker and a creative mind! ;)



Hemi eventually had to learn to swipe at a fake easel instead of my hand. When I placed his painting paw on, he wanted to "fling" this foreign object off of his foot. It took a lot of practice and a variety of treats to get Hemi to keep his painting paw on and to swipe at the easel. On the last night of class, we were

ready to put our training to the test. I chose a flat canvas to paint, and mixed my colors. Hemi did great with the painting for awhile, and hit the canvas with each swipe. Towards the end, he started swiping before I cued him or was ready, and I ended up with a colorful shirt. I am glad that Hemi is dark colored, it helped hide all of the paint that he sat in! When we were finished painting, Hemi signed his masterpiece with a paw print and I added my thumbprint. After all, that thumb worked hard shaping Hemi to become an art-tist!

Click! Treat! Have a wonderful spring!

Sheri Church, LVT

MEMBER'S PAW PRINTS

Shannon Trouba, LVT
Recording Secretary



Shannon Trouba, LVT is a 2003 graduate of the Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology in Denver, Colorado. After attending a continuing education seminar on animal behavior she became hooked! Since then she has strived to increase her knowledge of training and behavior through attending conferences, continuing education events and becoming involved in organizations like the SVBT. She also attended the DOGS! Course at Purdue University in 2004. Currently Shannon works as a licensed veterinary technician at a small animal practice in Gretna, Nebraska and teaches a weekly puppy class with the help of her husband. They also do in-home consultations and occasional pet-sitting.

She and her husband Don have two young daughters, Sidney and Charlotte. They also share their home with a Shiba inu named Misha, a husky mix named Jericho, and a cat named Squeeky.

WELCOME NEW SVBT MEMBERS!

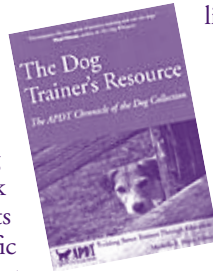
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BOOK REVIEW

The Dog Trainer's Resource: The APDT Chronicle of the Dog Collection

Reviewed by Mary Ellen Goldberg
BS, VMT, LVT, SRA

Editor: Mychelle E. Blake
Dogwise Publishing, Wenatchee, WA, 2006.
339pp. paperback
ISBN 1-929242-39-5



What an excellent collection of articles previously published by the Association of Pet Dog Trainers' newsletter! This book is well organized and permits the reader to select a specific topic of interest. You do not necessarily have to read it in a specific order. Some of the topics covered and authors include:

Chapter Sections

Puppy Training
Learning Theory
Dog Behavior, Training, and Modification
Aggression
Class Tips and Curriculum
Clients and Community
Shelter Dogs
Working with Veterinarians
The Business of Dog Training

Authors

Pia Silvani CPDT, CABC
Karen Overall MA, VMD, PhD, DACVB
Marian Breland Bailey and Robert E. Bailey
Melissa Bain DVM, DACVB
Jean Donaldson CPDT, CDBC
Ian Dunbar MRCVS, PhD, APDT
Trish King CPDT, CDBC
Nicole Wilde CPDT
Susan Smith CPDT, CDBC, CTC
and many more!

a science, OC is objective and open to the world, and it emphasizes quantitative data, replications, verification and follow-up. As, a technology, it is a powerful tool for changing behavior. On a personal level, we earned our livings using it for almost half a century."

- Dr. Karen Overall's explanation of how to apply scientific method to behavioral studies is an excellent reference for all readers. Having read and reviewed previous scientific literature, I find this article timely to let the readers know that this isn't all personal opinion. She talks about the diagnosis for behavioral problems is not as easy as having a physical, tangible disease that can be seen, examined or tested. She talks about comparative methods and statistics used to reach a scientific diagnosis. She concludes, "In behavioral medicine, the dog's behavior, and not our interpretations, artificial labels, or categories are the data."

- Dr. Dunbar effectively quells "punishment" only training in his chapter, "Eight Criteria for the Effective Use of Punishment in Pet Dog Training." Here are the topics he discusses:

1. Tautological – Punishment should be punishing
2. Immediacy – Punishment must immediately follow the unwanted behavior
3. Instruction – Punishment should also indicate the desired response
4. Strength – Punishment need not be unpleasant, painful or scary; it just needs to be effective.
5. Duration – Punishment should be of extremely short duration

6. Warning – Punishment should be preceded by a warning
7. Prior Training – Punishment should be preceded by adequate prior training
8. Consistency – Punishment must be consistent

- Pia Silvani's, "Are you ready to take on behavioral cases?" is a wonderful chapter that outlines the need for the reader to critically assess their own abilities before pursuing a business in Professional Dog Training.

- Dan McNally talks about Protection Trained dogs. He explains what protection dogs are; why own a protection dog; types of protection dogs; how to train them; what is the right dog; common perceptions and misconceptions; insurance liabilities; and finally what does this mean to non-protection trainers.

- Jim Barry speaks on training hunting/retrievers and positive methods to accomplish this. He expounds on gun dogs; what the force fetch is and positive training proponents.

These are just a sampling of the abundance of articles contained within this volume. There is so much more to educate not only dog trainers, but also the owner and veterinary staff. I think this book would prove beneficial to be on the shelf of anyone (not only professionals) that has a keen interest in dog behavior. The wealth of information and the practical application of the subject matter will clearly be a guide to anyone interested in training their dog. We could all profit from reading this text. Happy Reading!

Rating: 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 out of 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

A big thank-you to Dogwise for your generous donation of The Dog Trainer's Resource for this book review! 🐾

The wide variety of articles will certainly appeal to lay readers, professional dog trainers and veterinary professionals. What more could we ask for?!

Here are just a few examples of chapters and authors that can be found in this broad topic book.

- Bailey and Bailey's articles explain, define and enumerate on Behavioral Training. The first article they write is entitled "The Science of Animal Training". This article clearly defines the science behind operant conditioning (OC) that today is referred to as behavioral analysis. It then goes on to illustrate cognitive psychology which began to take hold in the 1980s. The final paragraph for this chapter states, "As

UPDATE

Academy of Veterinary Behavior Technicians (AVBT)

Thanks to a \$2000 grant from Premier Pet Product, 5 members of the AVBT Organizing Committee made history January 17-18, 2008. Committee co-chairs Julie Shaw, Ginny Price and committee members Angela Licari, Linda Campbell, and Marcia Ritchie, sequestered themselves in a hotel room in Orlando, Florida and in a two day, 23 hour marathon brain storming session completed the petition to be submitted to NAVTA for specialty status in animal behavior.

Committee member Nancy Peterson will now carefully edit and compile the final details of the petition which will then be submitted to NAVTA before their April 1st deadline. It could take up to a year before NAVTA's decision for recognition is known. During that interim, the committee is planning another "retreat" during the AVMA meeting this July to finalize the examination process.

The preliminary constitution, bylaws and application requirements may be found at www.avbt.net.

Thank you to all of the hard work and dedication the organizing committee put into this project. The next level is now within our reach!

ASK THE EXPERT - TARA LANG, BS, RVT



This issue's expert is **Tara Lang BS, RVT**. Tara and her husband are owners of Ancient Oak Thoroughbreds, LLC., where they have owned and bred race horses since 1999. To learn more about Tara, visit the SVBT website's current board members link at http://www.svbt.org/pages/board_members.htm.

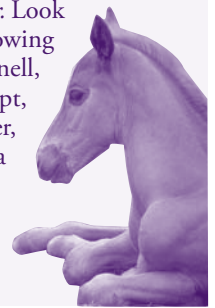
Question: I have a mare and her 4-month-old foal. The mare does not normally stand well for a bath and/or clipping. Will the foal pick up on these habits? Is there anything I should do?

Answer: The good news is no, your foal will likely not pick up on this habit by simple observation, especially if you teach appropriate responses to bathing and clipping. Horses can learn by watching other horses. For example, foals learn items such as the water trough and fences are safe to investigate by watching other horses. They also learn to avoid things that cause pain or fear. So if bathing and clipping never cause fear or pain, your foal will learn to

tolerate and maybe even enjoy baths. It is even better if your foal learns bathing and clipping results in positive things such as a good scratch behind the ears or food. It is likely that your mare was never correctly desensitized to these stimuli, or that she had a negative experience with bathing and clipping. If a horse learns that by moving away, shaking their head, rearing, etc. make the clipping/bathing stop they will try this again. With patience, you can teach your mare and your foal to tolerate bathing and clipping. Break each item down into baby steps and reward your horses for tolerating each step. If your horses become frightened and move away, you have moved too fast or applied too much pressure. Some baby steps may be to place a hose on the ground with the water off. Begin walking your horse up to the hose. The goal is to turn and walk away before the horse becomes afraid. Each time you get closer until you walk the horse around and then over the hose. Then begin with a small stream of water coming from the hose, eventually you will be able to stand with the water hose running in one hand and the horse on a lead line in the other. Or perhaps you can try

sponge bathing with warm water instead of using a hose. There are many magazines and books on teaching a horse to stand for bathing and clipping. You will want to choose one that does not use force and instead uses reward-based training. According to a new study presented at the 34th Annual Equine Research Day held in Paris, France, on February 28, 2008, young horses learn faster and have more positive interactions with humans when they receive food as a reward during training.

My favorite book to teach foals is John Lyons' *Bringing Up Baby: 20 Progressive Ground-Work Lessons to Develop Your Young Horse into a Reliable, Accepting Partner*. Look for materials by the following veterinarians; Sue McDonnell, DVM, Katherine Houpt, DVM, Robert M. Miller, DVM, or trainers; Linda Tellington-Jones, Monty Roberts, John Lyons, Pat Parelli, or Cherry Hill.

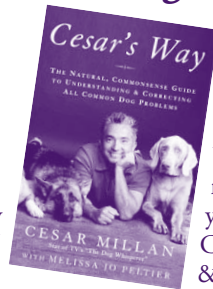


BOOK REVIEW

Cesar's Way: The Natural, Everyday Guide to Understanding and Correcting Common Dog Problems

Reviewed by Ginny Price, MS, CVT

Cesar Millan with Melissa Jo Peltier
Crown Publishing Group, 2006.
320pp. hardcover
ISBN 0-307337-33-2



Cesar's Way is an enjoyable, easy to read book. It is the story of how Cesar Millan grew up in Mexico, came to the United States illegally, and through good connections and charisma became a famous dog trainer and US citizen. I was surprised by how much Cesar and I had in common regarding our beliefs about dogs and life in general. That said, I must emphatically state I would not recommend this book to people in order to help them understand and train their dogs.

Although Cesar has many appropriate beliefs and ideas about dogs, often the reasons he gives to justify these ideas are false. For example, he asserts that dominance and aggression in dogs can be controlled by having them walk on a treadmill. His belief is that exercise can change social relationships while my belief is that after walking on the treadmill for awhile the dogs are too tired to fight.

Much of the book is based on the belief that dogs live in packs as wolves do. We have evi-

dence dogs do not live in packs or familial groups like wolves (Boitani, Francisci, Ciucci, & Andreoli, 1995; MacDonald & Carr, 1995; Pal, 2005). We also have evidence that dogs do not cooperatively hunt or raise their young like wolves (Boitani, Francisci, Ciucci, & Andreoli, 1995; MacDonald & Carr, 1995; Pal, 2005). Instead they tend to be scavengers. Really, the only

behavior dogs typically offer that correspond to wolf pack behavior is they cooperatively defend a territory (Boitani, Francisci, Ciucci, & Andreoli, 1995; MacDonald & Carr, 1995; Pal, 2005). If dogs do not live in packs, it then follows that there is no sense behaving as if we are the leader of a pack. There is evidence to show that consistent interactions between a person and a dog and clear rules that are reinforced create a bond of trust between them (Rockwood, 2007). Despite Cesar's pack lingo, he does profess to believe in these features of a sound human-canine relationship too.

Other interesting ideas Cesar presents are: dogs see us as energy, dogs can read our thoughts, and dogs become the energy we project. With the emphasis dogs' brains put on olfaction, why wouldn't dogs see us as a package of scent instead of energy? I prefer to think that dogs

read our body language and scent output instead of our thoughts. Even if they could read our thoughts, how would they be able to decipher them? Dogs are not the complex beings we are no matter how long we have evolved together. Dogs most certainly come ready made with their own temperaments. These tendencies to behave in particular patterns throughout their lives across situations is why one dog may do well in a family while another dog may need to be re-homed. These discrepancies are not addressed in Cesar's book.

Cesar writes about projecting calm energy. If you are calm the dog near you will be calm as well. He calls this being a pack leader, but this is really a feature of social facilitation. Social facilitation is seen in all types of groups. Whenever a group of humans are together their group will tend to behave as most of its members are behaving. This is seen in mobs; it is called mob mentality. We see it when one person in a mob picks up a brick and breaks a window and then others in the mob do the same thing. This has nothing to do with being a leader. These behaviors are seen in all social animals. Yes, it is a good idea to stay calm and move slowly and deliberately when working with all animals to

Cesar's Way, continued on pg. 7

TRANSPORTATION-RELATED BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS IN HORSES

Sharon L. Crowell-Davis, DVM, PhD, DACVB*
The University of Georgia

The following article originally appeared in the September/October 2007 edition of Compendium Equine. Permission to reprint has been granted by the author and publisher. Copyright 2007 Veterinary Learning Systems, Yardley, Pennsylvania.

Although the current horse-show season will soon be over and it may seem too soon to start preparing for the next season, now is the time to begin preparing horses to be comfortable when they are transported in trailers and vans. As any visit to a stable, show ground, or parking lot of an equine veterinary hospital will confirm, the fear of entering a trailer or van is an extremely common problem among horses. This is unfortunate because this problem can be easily prevented or treated if the time is taken to properly train the horse.

HABITUATION

The first and most important thing to remember is that it is not natural for horses to walk up a ramp into a small, enclosed “box” and then cope with the inertial forces generated as a trailer or van accelerates and decelerates. Ideally, naive horses should be gradually habituated to trailers: first to seeing them, then to entering them, and, finally, to standing in them while they are moving. This is most easily accomplished with foals, especially if the mother has been trained to comfortably enter trailers or vans. If the mother is led in and begins quietly eating some food placed in the front of the vehicle, the foal may hesitate but will soon follow. If a weanling or yearling is being trained, it should be led close to the vehicle, but not right up to it, and given treats (e.g., apple

slices or carrots) while standing calmly near the vehicle. Without a signal from its mother that the vehicle is safe, a weanling or yearling may require several visits to the vehicle before becoming comfortable walking all the way up to it, sniffing it, and touching it with its nose or hoof. Offering highly palatable food at the vehicle entrance can facilitate development of the idea that the vehicle is a “good” place.

Although it may be very tempting to force the horse close to the vehicle and even into it, this urge should be resisted. While short-term success may be achieved (i.e., the horse goes into the trailer), this is a counterproductive approach in the long term. Association of the vehicle with forceful handling, yelling, whipping, and other aversive stimuli will increase the horse’s fear of trailers and vans. Time and patience during the early stages of training can be beneficial in the long term. The number of sessions needed to get a young horse to walk up to a trailer or van and eat food placed at the entrance varies widely, depending on the temperament of the horse.

Once a naive horse is comfortable being around a trailer or van, the next step is to get it to step inside. This process has multiple phases and, therefore, is likely to require multiple sessions.

CLICKER TRAINING

Clicker training can be beneficial in training many horses. In this method of training, the sound of a click is associated with immediate presentation of a highly palatable treat. In time, the click becomes a secondary reinforcer, facilitating exact timing of reinforcement for desired behaviors. In the early phases of training, the treat always follows the click as soon as possible. As a horse progresses in its training, the frequency of the treats gradually becomes more sporadic so that the horse cannot predict when a click will be followed by a treat. This form of reinforcement, called *variable ratio reinforcement*, produces very strong and persistent responses when done correctly.

TARGET TRAINING

Once a horse is clicker trained, it can be target trained without a trailer or van. Commonly used targets in horse training include paper plates with a vivid bull’s eye painted on them or dowels with a ball on the end. Initially, the horse is reinforced for touching the target with its nose. Then the target is steadily moved,

and the horse learns that it will be reinforced if it follows the target or a series of targets and touches them with its nose. Once the horse has mastered following a target, the target can be used to lead the horse into a vehicle. However, it is important to know that the target must be moved more slowly and for shorter distances to give the horse time to adapt to the major change of walking on the unusual surfaces of the ramp and vehicle and into a small, enclosed space.

ACCLIMATION TO THE VEHICLE

When the horse has entered the vehicle for the first time, the back door should be secured while the horse experiences being in the vehicle and explores it through sight, smell, sound, and touch. To associate being in the vehicle with a pleasant experience, the trainer should offer the horse highly palatable food,



and the first session in the trailer should last only 1 or 2 minutes. Over subsequent days, the length of time the horse stays in the vehicle should be gradually extended.

The horse also needs to master the skill of exiting the vehicle comfortably and smoothly. It is important to remember that the horse is moving backward and is not yet familiar with stepping down. While some horses rush out of the trailer, many are hesitant. It is important to be patient while the horse determines how to best step backward and down, and the horse should be rewarded with treats and praise once it has successfully exited. This session should conclude by allowing the horse another look into the “cave” that it has just experienced.

While initial sessions may be done with a stand-alone trailer (i.e., unattached to a truck), the last training sessions before beginning exposure to a moving trailer should be conducted with the trailer hitched to a truck. This allows the horse to see the truck and experience the slightly different way that the trailer floor moves when it is hitched rather than free-standing or on blocks. If the horse is likely to be transported in a variety of types of vehicles, it is best to expose the horse to as many types of vehicles as feasible during the early training period. Once the horse calmly stands and eats for 15 to 20 minutes, the process of becoming familiar with a moving trailer can begin.

KEY POINTS



Helping a horse become relaxed and comfortable in a trailer or van is the most important goal in preventing and treating transportation-related behavior problems.

Multiple pleasant experiences with trailers or vans are required to teach horses to be relaxed and comfortable with these vehicles.

Standing in an accelerating and decelerating vehicle is a physical skill that horses must learn through practice and experience.

Vehicles containing horses should be driven as smoothly as possible; drivers should accelerate, decelerate, and turn slowly as well as not change lanes unless it is necessary.

Transportation, from pg. 5

TRANSPORTING THE HORSE

A common mistake made by people who are only interested in riding and showing horses is to take the horse on its first ride in a vehicle when it has to be driven one hour or more to a show ground, where it undergoes a variety of novel and sometimes frightening experiences. This approach is likely to result in a horse that does not want to go into vehicles because they are predictive of stress and excessive novelty. Instead, a horse's first ride should be only a few minutes and very smooth, with the driver remembering that the horse has to learn how to balance and stand on a floor that accelerates and decelerates. After a short drive, the horse should be returned to its home, given a treat, and allowed free time in a familiar paddock or pasture. In this way, rides will become predictive of pleasant consequences. By ending frequent, short rides in pleasant, familiar surroundings, the owner will teach the horse to be comfortable with the vehicle.

TRAILER PHOBIA

The following experiences can cause horses to become trailer phobic through the process of classical conditioning:

- Being forced into a vehicle with ropes and whipping
- Being taken on long, exhausting trips for which the horse has not been prepared
- Riding in a trailer with mechanical problems that cause excessive shaking or noise
- Being in an accident
- Riding in a trailer pulled by a thoughtless driver who accelerates and brakes rapidly and switches lanes frequently
- Any other experience that causes the horse to associate vehicles with fear- and pain-inducing stimuli

Horses that have become trailer phobic can be rehabilitated using techniques almost identical to those used in familiarizing a naive horse with vehicles, but the process takes much longer.

If a horse has had a strongly aversive experience with a particular vehicle, it may be easiest, in the long term, to change the vehicle in which the horse will be transported, even if this means selling a current trailer and buying a different one. If the vehicle will be replaced, the following issues regarding the horse's comfort should be carefully considered:

- The size of the trailer or van (width, length, height)
- The padding and sturdiness of the floor
- The sounds that are created when walking in the vehicle

- Adequate shock absorption
- Appropriate ventilation to ensure that fresh air enters at a reasonable rate and that exhaust from the towing vehicle does not enter the trailer

Some horses that have become very trailer phobic will be more comfortable in and accepting of vans, or vice versa.

If the horse has developed a very strong phobia of vehicles, it may be necessary to medicate the horse before it is transported. If the horse is a show horse, the handler and veterinarian need to know which medications are not allowed for the particular competition in which the horse is involved. If anxiolytics are not allowed, the horse must be rehabilitated during the off season, and sufficient time must be allowed for the medication to be completely eliminated from the horse's body before competition is resumed. Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) provide good anxiety control with less sedation than benzodiazepines, but because they have very long half-lives, several weeks are required for SSRIs and their metabolites to be eliminated from the body. Currently, fluoxetine is one of the most economical SSRIs on the market; it is given at a dose of 0.25 to 0.5 mg/kg q24h and can be readily consumed when mixed with the horse's grain. Fluoxetine may require 4 to 6 weeks of administration before full efficacy is achieved. A benzodiazepine, such as diazepam (10 to 30 mg), given 30 to 60 minutes before a treatment session can also alleviate anxiety and may be useful during the early phase of treatment. While antipsychotics, such as acepromazine, may tranquilize the horse sufficiently to facilitate getting it into a vehicle, they are not good anxiolytics and, therefore, are unsuitable for long-term resolution of a problem.

Systematic desensitization and counterconditioning may be necessary for severely trailer-phobic horses. In desensitization, the

horse is exposed to the fear-inducing stimulus, but at such a low level that fear is not induced. During repeated treatment sessions, the intensity of the stimulus is slowly and gradually increased, ideally at a pace that never induces fear. Desensitization generally proceeds more rapidly if it is paired with counterconditioning, in which a response that is behaviorally, physiologically, and emotionally incompatible with the undesired (fear) response is induced. For most animals, including horses, highly palatable food is a good counterconditioner. For some horses, food is not very motivating, so other responses, such as a relaxation response generated by massage or gentle currying, are more useful. As with training a naive horse, clicker training may be useful with trailer-phobic horses. Individual treatment sessions should be short (i.e., 5 to 30 minutes), depending on the horse. The goal is to keep the horse relaxed or focused on the treats while gradually increasing the intensity of exposure to and interaction with the vehicle. The horse must never be forced inside the vehicle.

CONCLUSION

Entering and standing in a vehicle is not a natural behavior for horses. Learning to calmly enter, ride in, and exit a vehicle is a critical part of routine horse training that is as important as teaching a horse to respond to pressure applied by a bit or heel. When horses are properly trained to enter and ride in vehicles, traveling can be easy and stress free for the horse and owner.

RECOMMENDED READING

Crowell-Davis SL, Murray T: *Veterinary Psychopharmacology*. Ames, IA, Blackwell Publishing, 2006.

*Dr. Crowell-Davis discloses that she has received financial support from CEVA Animal Health and Merial. 🐾

2008 SVBT BUSINESS MEETING and RECEPTION

This year's business meeting will be held Sunday, July 20 at a local restaurant in the vicinity of the New Orleans Convention Center at a time/location yet to be determined. The annual reception will be held at 8pm, Sunday, July 20 in the Marriott directly across from the convention center. We will be serving dessert, drinks and great networking opportunities! Please let a SVBT Board member know if you are planning to attend. We look forward to seeing many SVBT members at the AVMA and AVSAB meetings and would love to have you at the SVBT events! Updates with more information will be posted on the website in April. If you have questions or would like to RSVP for the SVBT events please contact: Amanda Eick-Miller, RVT, CPDT by email at: AmandaMiller@mfire.com.

THE SOCIETY OF VETERINARY BEHAVIOR TECHNICIANS BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS AND VOTING

If you are interested in running for a position, it's not too late!

Write-in nominations are accepted!

To learn more about the nominees, visit the SVBT website at www.svbt.org.

President Elect: A three-year term (president-elect, president, past-president)

Candidate: Monique Feyrecilde RVT

Write-in candidate: _____

Treasurer: A two-year term

We are still looking for a candidate to fill the treasurer position!

Write in candidate: _____

Member at Large: A two-year term

Candidate: Sheri Church, LVT

Write-in candidate: _____

Please mail your ballot to:

Kristen White CVT
2207 Egret Walk Court
Trinity, FL 34655

**Or save a stamp and cast your
vote online at www.svbt.org!**

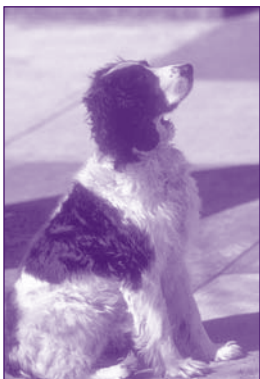
Vote by June 1, 2008!



Cesar's Way, from pg. 4

keep them calm, but this has nothing to do with being a pack leader.

One of my biggest pet peeves is the misuse of the phrase "the survival of the fittest." In Cesar's book he uses it to mean weak energy animals/people are attacked by strong energy animals/people, which is his example of the survival of the fittest. This phrase does not mean the strongest, meanest, and most aggressive animal lives and the weakest, sweetest, and least aggressive animal dies, instead it means the animal best suited to this particular environment that lives long enough to reproduce is proven to be biologically fit (Darwin, 1859/2004). Neutered animals would never be proven to be fit as they cannot reproduce. The reason I bring this up is not to nit pick. It is to show the importance of a scientific education when speaking or writing about scientific matters.



Animal behavior is a science. Although Cesar is a good observer of animal behavior, he is not a good interpreter of what he observes. He does not use scientific methods. He even writes as if scientists are unable to see things as well as he. He scoffs at scientists as if we are stuck in our rigid methods unable to see the truth. This is the danger of using charismatic people to market

something as entertainment when it is really science.

Some of the sections in the book are well written. He wrote a great section on dog parks and another equally nice section on the use of response substitution or differential reinforcement of an alternate behavior (DRA). He also has some sound ideas on the ways and preferred timing for sharing affection as a reinforcer with dogs. There are some good tips for helping your dog cope with a move to a new home and introducing new animals to the group. He even had some thoughtful advice about how dogs might grieve if one of the family dogs dies. Throughout all of this advice, the idea that owning dogs well takes a Herculean effort seems to pervade. After all, who among us can run our dogs for four hours each morning as Cesar does? Who can then hand make the dog's food and feed him when he is calm? Who can then roller blade with their dog for an hour and then play fetch with them? Last of all, who among us has a large compound where we can keep our group of dogs? One of the things I remember Dr. Kersti Seksel saying to a lecture hall is that we have to make the treatment plan doable. Our clients have to be able to do it. This is why National Geographic Channel and Cesar Millan advertise The Dog Whisperer as an entertainment show because it is not science and it is not doable.

References available upon request from the editor.

Rating: 🐾🐾 paws out of 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

Cesar wrote his ideas of why dogs behave in certain ways, but these ideas are not supported by the scientific method or recent research. The author makes many good observations about canine behavior, but his conclusions are not supported by evidence. A reader, without using critical thinking, could easily believe incorrect ideas about dogs if they believed everything they read in this book. I would not recommend this book to people in order to help them understand and train their dogs. 🐾

INTERNET COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

The SVBT website is moving to new server. If you have any problems with your login to the SVBT forum or website, please email techsupport@svbt.org.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

*Horses give us
the wings we lack.*



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**Membership
 Information:**
www.svbt.org

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**ANOTHER SVBT MEMBER
 BENEFIT!**

Dogwise™ will be offering all SVBT members a 10% discount on regularly priced books. You must have your SVBT membership number available when placing your order. Visit Dogwise™ at www.dogwise.com.



*Visit the new
 SVBT forum at
svbt.org/members/forum/index.php*