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**2002-2003**

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## President's Message

Happy holidays! This is the second annual **expanded edition** of **The Behavior Perspective**. Wow, what an exciting year 2002 was for SVBT. We passed some major milestones. Early in April our membership topped 100. We were ecstatic. By the time of our annual meeting in July, our ranks had topped 150 and today we are 223 members strong! Members of SVBT are being recognized as leaders in our profession. Two of our members appeared on the cover of Veterinary Technician magazine and were featured in articles. SVBT members were also busy providing educational opportunities for other technicians and veterinarians. Our members spoke at Midwest Veterinary Conference, Hawaii MegaCor, American Veterinary Medical Association Conference, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Conference, Central Vet-

erinary Conference, Chicago VMA and many more local meetings as well. In July we held our first annual business meeting and reception at the AVMA in Nashville. We were very gratified that in addition to a good showing of our members, a number of well-known veterinary behaviorists attended to help us celebrate our first year successes. As we move into the new year our goals are to get the newly formed committees working to increase membership, increase visibility of our organization, obtain funding for educational programs, and start the long process of working towards specialty status. Join in! This group is going places!

Sincerely,

*Ginny Price*

SVBT President

## Crate Training the New Addition to the Family

By Julie Shaw, R.V.T., Donna Dyer, C.V.T.

*Doskocil, manufacturer of Petmate® pet products, is located in Arlington, Texas, USA. Doskocil initially pioneered the production of plastic pet carriers for the American airline industry. Today, the company is the nation's leading manufacturer and marketer of both plastic pet carriers and structural foam doghouses. The company now has a leading market share in both the pet carrier and doghouse categories.*

Crate training is the process of teaching a puppy that he has a safe and secure area all his own. A crate is a valuable tool for housetraining, preventing destructive behaviors and keeping a puppy safe when the puppy-parent cannot supervise the puppy. A puppy's crate is also a place for him to go to get away from the crazy human world.

A puppy's crate should be large enough to allow the puppy to stand, stretch and turn around. It is a good idea to purchase a crate that will be the correct size to accommodate his adult size. A puppy may eliminate in a crate that is too large, so block off the back of the crate with a cardboard box until he is fully housetrained.

A puppy should be in his crate anytime that puppy-parent is unable to watch him. During hectic times when they can't supervise the puppy, he may be learning things the owners don't want him to learn—stealing food, chewing on inappropriate objects or eliminating in the house. This is the time to put

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at home”™**

<http://petmate.com>

## SVBT Offers Scholarship and CE Discount



Dr. Andrew Luescher teaching the puppy class practicum at the DOGS! course, 1999.

The Society of Veterinary Behavior Technicians is sponsoring a \$700 tuition scholarship contest for the Purdue University DOGS! Course—Principles and Techniques of Behavior Modification June 4-8, 2003. The winning applicant will be guaranteed a spot in the acclaimed DOGS! Course.

This program is open to any SVBT member in good standing.

The scholarship will be awarded on the merits of a 1000 word or less essay written by the candidate stating why they want to attend the DOGS! Course and how they would utilize the knowledge they gain. A letter of recommendation from their supervisor, explaining why they would be a good choice for the award should also be submitted.

Submitted essays become the property of SVBT and may be published in future issues of *The Behavior Perspective* or on the SVBT website. The winning SVBT member will be announced in the April edition of *The Behavior Perspective*.

Essays must be submitted in both hard copy and computerized form no later than March 1, 2003.

### SVBT Scholarship Contest

**Julie Shaw, R.V.T.**

**Purdue University  
VCS / Lynn**

**625 Harrison Street  
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2026**

SVBT is also sponsoring a \$25 discount to any SVBT member who registers for the 2003 DOGS! Course. To take advantage of this discount simply check the SVBT membership box on the DOGS! Course registration form and include your SVBT membership number.

All SVBT members will receive DOGS!  
Course registration information in  
March 2003.

**Principles and Techniques of Behavior Modification  
Purdue University  
June 4-8, 2003  
[www.vet.purdue.edu/animalbehavior](http://www.vet.purdue.edu/animalbehavior)**

**DOGS!**  


The Purdue University Animal Behavior Clinic will be holding its fifth DOGS! Course: Principles and Techniques of Behavior Modification June 4-8, 2003.

The course format includes lectures and hands-on workshops. The following topics will be covered:

- Normal canine behavior
- Puppy development
- How to run a puppy class
- Prevention of behavior problems
- Principles of learning
- Humane and effective training techniques
- Behavior modification techniques:
  - Systematic desensitization
  - Counter-conditioning
  - Response substitution
- Understanding behavior problems
- Application of behavior modification techniques as part of the treatment of behavior problems

There will be in-class workshops focusing on how to apply the principles of learning and behavior modification techniques to problem cases. Four hands-on practicum sessions will focus on puppy classes, training normal dogs, and on applying behavior modification techniques to problem dogs.

Participants will have the opportunity to take a written, closed book exam to earn a DOGS! Course certificate. Participants will

designate a proctor in their area to administer the exam. After having passed the exam, participants should be qualified to:

- Offer high-quality puppy classes and training classes
- Educate owners on pet choice and prevention of problems
- Educate owners on training and learning
- Assist a veterinarian or certified animal behaviorist in the treatment of behavior problems. A veterinarian or certified animal behaviorist is responsible for the diagnosis and differential diagnosis of a behavior problem, as well as for the medical work-up, pharmacological treatment and the development of a treatment plan (including behavior modification techniques to be used on the case). The veterinarian/behaviorist would then refer clients with this treatment plan to the veterinary technician or trainer who can help the client to implement the required behavior modification techniques.
- In cooperation with the veterinarian, incorporate a behavior program into a veterinary service.

Participants of the DOGS! Course will thus become an essential part of the "behavior team," sharing responsibilities for a comprehensive behavior program with veterinarians and/or certified animal behaviorists. We believe that this is a niche with great potential.

The registration fee for the course is \$700 and includes course notes, training equipment, snacks, lunches, banquet dinner, DOGS! Course 2003 T-shirt, and a trip to Wolf Park.

## AVSAB Members Act Now for a Membership Discount

SVBT is proud to announce that for a limited time, veterinarians who are members of the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB) will receive a \$5 discount on the cost of a membership in SVBT for one of their valued technicians.

### ***SVBT memberships includes:***

- Quarterly editions of *The Behavior Perspective*
- Access to the Member's Only Pages on the www.svbt.org site
- Continuing education discounts
- Listserv access for professional members

You may take advantage of this discount by completing the registration form with a current AVSAB membership number.

**This discount will only be available through March 31, 2003, so send in your technician's membership quickly!**

## Welcome New Members

Heidi Albury, C.V.T.	St. Petersburg	FL
Sharon Bartolotta, C.V.T.	Ansonia	CT
Marie Bosquez, L.V.T.	Walton	NE
Lyn Callander, C.V.T.	Richfield	MN
Kelli Chickos	Dunedin	FL
Joanne Daley, L.V.T.	Lee Center	NY
Heather Ehlers, R.V.T.	Columbus	OH
Danielle Gayhart, L.V.T.	Harrisonburg	VA
Anissa Gegenheimer, R.V.T.	Indianapolis	IN
Deanna Hinders	Ackley	IA
Mary Johnson, C.V.T.	Portland	OR
Judith Johnson, C.V.T.	Middleboro	MA
Mary Kaiser, L.V.T.	Massapequa	NY
Bonita Kimbrell	Columbia	TN
Aleeya King	San Diego	CA
Jenny Langness, C.V.T.	Prescott	WI
Dea Leemon, C.V.T.	Apple Valley	MN
Angela Lochner, C.V.T.	Madison	WI
Cassie Lunder, C.V.T.	Billings	MT
Sheila Magesky, C.V.T.	Peabody	MA
Elizabeth Maginnis	Rochester	NY
Carrie Mast, R.V.T.	Goshen	IN
Kellee Matthews, R.V.T.	Sylmar	CA
Christine Paiva, C.V.T.	Arlington	MA
Claudia Parsons	Salisbury	CT
Angela Philbrick	Bristol	CT
Shannon Radford	Minneapolis	MN
Shannon Riley-Coyner, R.V.T.	Napa	CA
Candy Rodriguez-Trump	Cleveland	OH
Helen Schultz, C.V.T.	Madison	WI
Kerri Sederavicius, L.V.T.	Omaha	NE
Hayley Smith	Champaign	IL
Lesley Soper	Cazenovia	NY
Julie Sterling, R.V.T.	Pacific Palisades	CA
Tracey Stewart	NewYork	NY
Laura Tilbury, L.V.T.	Elmont	NY
Bonnie Tuthill, L.V.T.	Wallkill	NY
Mary Anne Vogt	Green Bay	WI
Barbara Witman	Collegeville	PA
Brigid Goudie	Kloof South Africa	

## Committe Members

Welcome to the following new committee members.

### **Newsletter committee:**

Julie Shaw—Chairperson  
Karen Frair  
Pam Mahlie

### **State Representatives committee:**

Ginny Price, Florida—Chairperson  
Karen Frair, New York  
Pam Mahlie, Indiana

Michelle Quintant-Sousa, California  
Jill Danby, Wisconsin  
Amanda Jones, Michigan

### **Finance committee:**

Julie Shaw—Chairperson  
Jenny O'Connor  
Kim Clark

Dr. Andrew Luescher

### **Internet committee:**

Julie Shaw (web page)—Chairperson  
Amy Newfield (listserv)

### **Public Relations committee:**

Donna Dyer—Chairperson  
Cassandra Vong  
Terri Sajdera  
Marcia Ritchie  
Stacey Farquer

### **Continuing Education and Programs committee:**

Donna Dyer—Chairperson  
Sherry Rupp  
Linda Thomas

### **Membership committee:**

Nancy Peterson—Chairperson

We still have a few committee positions open. If you have an interest in serving on a committee email Ginny Price at [pricecvt@aol.com](mailto:pricecvt@aol.com).

**We welcome new members anytime  
throughout the year.  
All memberships become due on July 15.**

## SVBT Executive Board Nominations

It is time to begin the nomination process for the 2003-2004 year. Elections will be held before the annual meeting in July 2003. Results will be announced at the AVMA Conference in Denver, Colorado. All candidates must be SVBT members in good standing, have reliable email and internet access, respond to executive board emails within 48 hours and attend on-line board meeting approximately every six weeks (subject to change as needed). All board members must also be able to attend SVBT's annual board meeting held at the AVMA conference.

You may submit a nomination by completing and mailing the nomination form in this edition of *The Behavior Perspective* or by submitting your nomination electronically from our website at [www.svbt.org](http://www.svbt.org).

The following executive board positions are available for nominations. Please visit [www.svbt.org](http://www.svbt.org) for position details.

**President-Elect:** 1-year term with automatic succession to the office of President. This is a three-year commitment (president-elect, president, past president). President-Elect serves as President in the temporary absence of the President, cooperates in promotional activities, assists in the organization

of the annual meeting including the continuing education program, chairs the finance committee and signs checks if the treasurer becomes incapacitated.

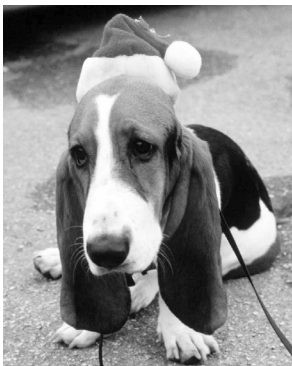
**Secretary-Recording:** 2-year term. The recording secretary records minutes from all meetings and reports those minutes to all board members within 7 days, maintains a file of committee meeting minutes, maintains an accurate record of SVBT members, keeps a history of the Society, sends out a welcome packet to new members and assists the corresponding secretary.

**Secretary-Corresponding:** 2-year term. The corresponding secretary conducts correspondence for SVBT, supplies information to Society members about the annual meeting and other CE programs, notifies board member of meetings and assists the recording secretary.

**Members At Large:** 1-year term. There shall be two Members at Large who act as voting members on the executive board.

**Visit [www.svbt.org](http://www.svbt.org) to make nominations electronically or mail in the attached nomination form.**

## Editor's Bark by Julie Shaw, R.V.T., C.P.D.T.



### Welcome to this year's expanded edition of *The Behavior Perspective*!

Pre-Purchase Counseling, Pet-Selection Counseling or Pre-Pet Planning, whatever the title, this valuable client education tool is the first defense against behavior problems. Pet-selection counseling assists the client in choosing the most appropriate pet for their personality and life-style and is the first step in the process of developing a strong human-animal bond.

I am very excited to include in this edition a Pet-Selection Counseling form (see pages 9-10). This form was developed through a collaboration of information from SVBT members Marcia Ritchie, L.V.T., Shawn Dillard, R.V.T., Danette Wells, L.V.T. and myself. This form is only an example of what you may choose to use to begin the service of Pet-Selection Counseling. You may decide to add an additional page with your hospital's services and contact information. Our feature article written by Marcia Ritchie, L.V.T. suggests visiting the client's home. Another page might be added to include observations from the home visit.

Numerous excellent articles were submitted by SVBT members for this edition. I will be updating our website with additional articles. Our website was also recently updated with a link to duplicatable forms including a "Puppy class Vaccination Recommendation Letter" which describes age recommendations for puppies attending puppy socialization classes and a "Canine Behavior Plan of Care" which is to be used by veterinarians who are referring cases to veterinary technicians or trainers for behavior modification.

This edition of *The Behavior Perspective* represents what SVBT is all about—technicians coming together to support and educate each other. I feel very grateful to be involved with such a dynamic group of professionals.

On a sad note, my son's six year old service dog "Faith" was recently diagnosed with lymphosarcoma and has been forced into early retirement. "Hero," an eight week old golden retriever puppy will begin training as "Faith's" successor about the time you receive this newsletter. I plan on including updates and program reports about "Hero's" training in future editions of *The Behavior Perspective*. Wish us luck and see you in the spring!



Dylan and "Faith" Shaw

# Pet-Selection Counseling

by Marcia Ritchie, L.V.T., C.P.D.T.

*Editors's Note: Ms. Ritchie is a 1977 graduate of SUNY at Delhi with an AAS degree in veterinary technology. She worked in private veterinary practice for over 20 years while teaching obedience classes part time.*

*Ms. Ritchie retired in 1995 from private practice and is the training director at a full service kennel in WNY. She teaches and supervises over 70 family pet obedience classes a year in multiple locations. She also does in home private instruction along with Pet-Selection Counseling. Ms. Ritchie is an occasional breeder and exhibitor of Pembroke Welsh Corgis, a 4-H dog program leader, an Erie County SPCA volunteer and certified Pet Dog Trainer through the Association of Pet Dog Trainers.*

As a dog obedience instructor, one of the services I offer is private in home instruction for owners having difficulties with their dogs. I would like to relay several of my current cases.

***A 70ish couple, neither of which have ever had an indoor dog before. The husband was diagnosed with terminal cancer 1 year ago. The couple's grown children, who both live out of state, decide to get their parents a dog. Their father had always wanted one and mom will ultimately be living alone. The children surprised their parents with a 6 week old chocolate lab puppy.***

***Next we have a young professional couple. The wife is a Speech Pathologist who has a 2 hour commute to her full time job each day. The husband owns his own company and works 6 days a week, commonly for up to 15 hours a day. He grew up with a husky as a child, so as soon as they bought their new home, they also bought a 6 week old husky puppy.***

***Finally I have a couple in their late 70's who have owned large mixed breed dogs their entire life with great success. Their previous dog was a Newfoundland mix, which came to them as a 4 year old and was part of their family for 12 years. They inquired about my services after their 5 month old Rottweiler mix knocked the wife over, breaking her hip.***

Instead of discussing details on how to deal with these three cases, I would like to emphasize what they all have in common. All three are examples of breeds of dogs that are not suitable for the individual's life styles. Certainly all of these clients would have benefited from Pet-Selection Counseling, prior to adding a pet to their households.

My intent is not only to emphasize the importance of providing or recommending this service as animal care professionals but I would also like to take you through the process. Although I have been offering this service for the past 5 years, regretfully it is not a popular one. My hopes are that with more education, such as the SVBT news letter is providing, the program and its benefits will become better known.

The information in this article will refer mainly to dogs. I call this service Pet-Selection Counseling as there are some people whose life style is not suited for dog ownership even though that was their initial intent. In these cases a cat may be recommended or in my opinion, the most under rated pet, Guinea Pig. Since my presence in the community is more closely associated with dogs, at this point all of my clients have used my services for breed selection. I have also found thus far, the individuals that opt for this program are thoughtful conscientious people who are potentially good dog owners. The other important point, although of the same species, there is much diversity of characteristics between dog breeds, thus the importance of calling upon an educated professional to assist with breed choice.

Pet-Selection Counseling is one of the services I prefer be done in the home of the client. The dynamics of the household always provide important insight into breed selection. Your observations are far more accurate than what some one might offer on a form. Is the house neat as a pin and perfectly organized, or messy and cluttered? How is the addition of a dog going to affect house keeping styles? Children's behavior in an office environment is going to be more inhibited than in their own home. It's also beneficial to see the actual layout of the home for early management of the puppy, such as crate and baby gate placement. Is their fencing in their yard secure, do they live on a busy street, or where is the best placement for their underground fencing?

Once settled into the home, I start with an exercise where I have each family member describe their ideal dog with out being breed specific. I'm interested to hear about this dogs physical characteristics, how it behaves and most important, what activities they are doing with this dog. I have the children draw pictures of themselves with their dog and have them tell me what they are doing in the picture. As the client talks about their ideal dog, it gives me the opportunity to build a rapport. It's important to take the time to listen without being judgmental or jumping to premature conclusions. Be a good listener as you give them time to tell their stories. In return you will gain their confidence in your knowledge of animals.

People commonly choose dogs based on appearance which often will be emphasized while describing their ideal dog. Although how a dog looks should not be a top priority, it is an important consideration. A client may think a Rottweiler is the most striking breed of dog and you determine a Maltese is a better fit for their life-style. You have to think about which dog's behavior the client going to be most forgiving of, should they have a problem.

The actual interview process is done as I fill out a form that serves as a guide. I begin with details about family members and their history of owning pets. This service may appeal to people who have failed at pet ownership before. It's important to determine why they weren't successful and prevent possible errors from occurring again. Also included are family work schedules and extra curricular activities. You may have a stay-at-home-mom who does volunteer work, runs kids to lessons, has meetings several evenings a week and works out at the gym every day. You need to ask about these things. The environment they plan on keeping the dog in is important to know. How large is their yard? How do they plan on containing the dog? Certain breeds can be managed quite nicely in the city; others need plenty of space. Where will the dog be if they travel? Do they have a summer home? Certain breeds are more adaptable to changes in environment than others.

During the interview, I give common case scenarios and ask owners how they would like this dog to behave. We discuss

*Continued on page 6*

## Pet-Selection

*Continued from page 5*

entertaining, interactions with children and other animals and if people enter their home in their absence. Often times these are situations the client hasn't thought about but certainly play into the decision.

Physical and behavioral characteristics and the degree of importance to the potential dog owners are also identified and discussed. Some examples I include for consideration are size, grooming, shedding, sociability and exercise requirements. Another area most people don't consider in advance are financial considerations such as cost of the dog, professional grooming, veterinary care, food and training/management.

Behavior problems need to be discussed. As an obedience instructor, it amazes me how little tolerance some people have for a minor problem such as a 14 week old puppy who's still not housebroken, while others will live for years with a dog that attacks family members repeatedly. I explain common behavior problems and have the client rate them as: (1) they could live with the problem, (2) they would do whatever it takes to correct the problem or (3) the problem would prompt them to get rid of the dog. If they live in an apartment building and work all

day, you wouldn't want to recommend a Sheltie or a Miniature Schnauzer that may bark all day and disturb the other tenants. Such a behavior would be cause to get rid of the dog or move.

Based on the interview we negotiate several breeds to consider. I always bring my reference books along and we have a great time looking through the pictures and reading information and profiles of the different breeds. We end up with a list of 3 to 7 breeds for consideration. I used to direct clients to specific breeder, including making a personal to call to interview ones I wasn't personally familiar with. I found this wasn't always well received by the breeders. Instead, I now provide clients with a questionnaire that will guide them through the process of finding an ethical breeder.

Shelter pets are also considered. Although I have not yet had a client go through Pet-Selection Counseling and choose this route, I always mention this option. It's beneficial to anyone providing this service to have a close connection with your local shelter. I have made them aware when looking for a particular pet for individuals that have contacted me informally. The staff appreciates my support and I enjoy being able assist in bringing an unwanted pet together with a new owner.

Pet-Selection Counseling is also an opportunity to educate clients on early puppy management. I discuss crate training, feeding, toys, house training, puppy proofing and problem prevention. Separation anxiety can often be prevented in the first 48 hours you own a dog, but is one of the most difficult problems to treat once established. We also may discuss puppy versus adult and the proper age to bring a puppy home. It also gives you the opportunity to recommend other animal care professionals and such as veterinarians, trainers, fence services, groomers, boarding kennels, dog walkers and day care services. These recommendations create a network of professionals that are sure to promote your services in return.

What does Pet-Selection Counseling mean to SVBT members? Whether you are working in a veterinary practice or teaching obedience classes, adding such a program is a good business builder. Pet-Selection Counseling sets the stage to have a loyal and educated client for the life of that pet. Of most importance however, is to help guarantee a successful relationship between pet and owner. There is more than just financial gain in this union. There's great personal satisfaction in knowing you assisted in creating this wonderful bond.

## Crate Training

*Continued from page 1*

the puppy in his crate. When the situation has calmed, let him out of the crate and be sure to spend time teaching him the desired behaviors.



Most puppies have a natural instinct to keep their "den area" clean. This instinct will be diminished if a puppy is left in his crate for time periods that exceed his physical ability to "hold it." A young puppy

should not be crated for more than 1-2 hours at a time.

**Never use a puppy's crate as a punishment.** The puppy should learn that going to his crate is fun and rewarding.

The following are helpful hints to create a positive association with the crate.

- Place the crate **with the door open** in an accessible area. Toss treats into the crate and reward the puppy for getting the treat (clicker training would be useful in this situation).
- Allow the puppy to eat meals in his crate **with the door open** so that he can leave any time he wishes.
- Become a "Crate Fairy" and leave special hidden toys in the crate like chew bones and stuffed chew toys. Encourage the

puppy to explore his crate to find these treasures. When he enters his crate on his own, make a big hoop-la over the event!

- As the puppy becomes accustomed to his crate and enters on his own; begin shutting the door for a second or two (without latching the door) while pushing a tasty treat through the door. The puppy will learn that shutting the cage door means he will get another treat.
- As the puppy progresses, begin latching the door and then opening it immediately as you toss your puppy a reward.
- Once the puppy has learned that latching the door is a good thing, latch the door and then leave for brief moments. Reward the puppy for staying quiet with a treat.
- Do not open the puppy's crate when he is barking or crying or you will inadvertently teach him to vocalize in his crate.
- Keep a special toy on hand, such as a stuffed Kong Toy, and only give it to the puppy when he is in his crate.
- Surprise the puppy by smearing peanut butter in his crate for him to find later.
- The puppy should spend some time in his crate while the owners are home. This way he will not associate going to his crate with them leaving.

## Client Information Recommended Reading Before Getting a Dog

A Buyer's Guide to Your  
Purebred Puppy  
by Michele Welton

The Right Dog for You:  
Choosing a Breed that  
Matches your Personality,  
Family and Lifestyle  
by Daniel Tortura

Culture Clash  
by Jean Donaldson

The Perfect Puppy  
by Gwen Bailey

Clicking with Your Dog  
by Peggy Tillman

## Book Reviews

***Your Purebred Puppy: A Buyer's Guide (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)***  
by Michele Welton.  
New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2000.  
Reviewed by Shawn Dillard, BS, R.V.T.



CCCCC (Graded 4 out of 5 paw prints)

*Your Purebred Puppy* is a must-have book for any clinic that has a pet-selection counseling service. It is 319 pages long and covers 200 different dog breeds. Welton divides the book into four steps: deciding whether or not to get a purebred dog, choosing the right breed, finding the right breeder, and choosing the right puppy.

There are several reasons that I highly recommend this book. First of all, it does not just explain the different breeds, but it gives advice for choosing the right breeder and puppy. Since the breeds are listed alphabetically, it is easy to quickly find the breed for which you are searching. Each breed's page describes its characteristics such as exercise and grooming needs, sociability with strangers, temperament, history, physical features, health issues, and some things to be aware of before you buy a dog of that breed. The histories of the breeds are interesting to read and help explain why certain dogs do the things they do. Each breed's AKC popularity and photograph are also included. A glossary of color and medical terms is included at the end of the book.

It is difficult to find anything wrong with this book. Although a small improvement could be to include color photographs instead of black and white photos. Also, Welton is biased toward holistic medicine and all-natural pet foods. This is only evident on two pages of the book, so it is a minor issue.

*Your Purebred Puppy* is a great starting point for a pet-selection counseling program. Welton's unbiased breed profiles serve as a great reference for helping a client to choose a dog. This book is an excellent source for any veterinary clinic and can be recommended to clients as well.



***The Right Dog for You: Choosing a Breed that Matches Your Personality, Family, and Lifestyle***  
by Daniel Tortura. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1983.  
Reviewed by Shawn Dillard, BS, R.V.T.

CCCCC (Graded 3 out of 5 paw prints)

If you are looking for a book that describes the personalities of many different dog breeds, then this is the book for you. It contains 391 pages of breed personality descriptions and charts. 123 different breeds are described in Tortura's book.

There are several things that I like about this book. First of all, for each dog breed, there is a chart that describes the temperament of a typical dog from that breed. The chart rates the various personality traits from very high to very low. Some of the traits include indoor and outdoor activity, territoriality, sociability, learning, and watchdog ability to name a few. All of these traits are clearly explained by the author in the first chapter. Also included on each breed's page(s) are a hand-drawn picture of the dog, the AKC popularity ranking (in 1983), and a more detailed written description of characteristics that are not mentioned in the chart. Other tables compare the breeds based on the characteristics mentioned above. Later in the book, there are more charts that describe each breed's average height and weight, coat type, color, grooming needs, function, and

AKC behavioral description. Even more tables divide the breeds into groups (i.e. Sporting, Working, Hounds, etc.) and describe their characteristics.

However, there are several things that I do not like about this book. First of all, it is harder to use than some other books about dog breeds because in order to learn all you can about each breed, you must use several different tables throughout the book. Also, the pictures are drawn by hand, which can be a little harder to visualize than photographs. Unlike other books, health concerns are not listed. Lastly, since the book was written nearly twenty years ago, some breeds that are popular today are missing from this book.

In conclusion, *The Right Dog for You* is a good addition to any pet-selection counseling library as a supplement to another book such as *Your Purebred Puppy—A Buyer's Guide* by Michele Welton. I believe this book can be useful for veterinary technicians and other veterinary professionals who understand dog behaviors and personalities. However, because the amount of information may be overwhelming, it might not be the best book to recommend to clients who are looking for new canine additions to their families.

# CE Opportunities

**Jan. 18-22, 2003**

**North American Veterinary Conference  
Orlando, FL**

Fax: 352- 336-6827  
www.navconline.com/navc2003/  
main.htm  
info@navconline.com

**January 25-26, 2003**

**Training on the Cutting Edge  
Pamela Reid, PhD  
Novato, CA**

Marin Humane Society  
sponsored by Puppyworks  
www.puppyworks.com

**February 16-20, 2003**

**Western Veterinary Conference  
Las Vegas, NV**

702) 739-6698 Fax: (702) 739-6420  
www.wvc.org  
E-mail: wvc@ix.etcom.com

**February 17-22, 2003**

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

www.puppyworks.com

**February 20-21, 2003**

**Horse Behavior Equine  
Behavior Lab  
New Bolton Center, PA**

Contact: Bonnie Millar - Tel: 610-  
444-5800 x2121 -  
Fax: 610-925-8100 -  
www2.vet.upenn.edu/labs/  
equinebehavior/02-03Courses/beh02-  
03.htm  
E-mail: blmillar@vet.upenn.edu

**February 20-23, 2003**

**Ohio Veterinary Medical Association's  
Midwest Veterinary Conference  
Columbus, OH**

1-800-662-OVMA (6862)  
email: ohiovma@ohiovma.org  
website: www.mvcinfo.org  
Behavior speakers: Dr. Perta  
Mertens, Dr. Tony Buffington -  
(nutrition & behavior), Dr. Philip  
Roudebush, Dr. Amy Marder, Traci  
Shreyer, AAB, Dr. Debra Horwitz

**March 22-23, 2003**

**Becoming a Better Trainer  
by Pia Silvani  
Naperville, IL**

Narnia Pet Behavior Consulting and  
Training  
For detailed information and to  
register on-line, go to [http://  
www.puppyworks.com/events/  
silvani/ps0303il.html](http://www.puppyworks.com/events/silvani/ps0303il.html)

**March 28, 29 & 30, 2003**

**Alpha Bitch Seminar  
Trish King  
Patricia McConnell, PhD  
Longmont, CO**

Various behavior topics  
www.puppyworks.com

**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](mailto:expo@hsus.org). Or  
call Dina at 1-800-248-EXPO

**September 27-28, 2003**

**Advanced Canine Behavior  
Seminar  
Patrica McConnell, PhD  
Naperville, IL**

Narnia Pet Behavior Consulting and  
Training  
For detailed information and to  
register on-line, go to [http://  
www.puppyworks.com/events/  
mcconnell/pm0903il.html](http://www.puppyworks.com/events/mcconnell/pm0903il.html)

**Dogs Day Out  
Danette Wells, R.V.T.  
Seattle, WA**

Various dates and topics  
206-706-4875  
[www.dogsdayoutseattle.com/  
DogSeminars.html](http://www.dogsdayoutseattle.com/DogSeminars.html)  
[www.dogsdayoutseattle.com/  
events.html](http://www.dogsdayoutseattle.com/events.html)  
Email:  
[danette@dogsdayoutseattle.com](mailto:danette@dogsdayoutseattle.com)

New interactive toy! All-day entertainment!

**[www.proactivepets.com](http://www.proactivepets.com)**

Watch for details in the Spring edition of The Behavior Perspective!



## Pet-Selection Counseling - Part 1: Lifestyle

1. Household members:

Name	Age	Relationship

2. Current household pets:

Name	Age	Sex	Species/Breed

3. Previous household pets

Name	Age	Breed

4. How often do adults visit?

- Daily
- Numerous times weekly
- 1-4 times monthly
- Infrequently

5. How often do children or teens visit?

- Daily
- Numerous times weekly
- 1-4 times monthly
- Infrequently

6. Would you say your current lifestyle is

- Very hectic
- Moderately busy/controllable
- Calm / quiet

7. Does anyone in your family have special needs?

- Yes       No
- If yes, please specify \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

8. Is anyone in your home allergic to animals?

- Yes     No
- If yes, please specify \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

9. Are there any major family changes in your near future?

- Birth of a child
- Household move
- Schedule change
- Marital change
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Part 2: Care and Maintenance

10. You live
- In a house
  - In an apartment
  - On a farm
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

11. What is your approximate yard size?

- Large (acre or more)
- Medium
- Small
- No yard to speak of

12. What type of fencing is around your yard?

- Chain-link
- Invisible Fence
- Privacy
- No fence

13. Where will your pet spend most of its time?

- Indoors
- Outdoors
- 50/50

14. How will a pet be managed in your back yard?

- Fence
- Tie-out
- Not sure

15. What will your pet's indoor areas include?

- Full access to rooms
- Limited access to rooms
- Allowed on furniture
- Allowed on some furniture

16. Where will your pet sleep?

- Crate
- Their own bed
- Family member's bed
- Outside
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

17. How long will your pet be left alone during the day?

- < 1 hour
- 4 hours or less
- 8 hours or less
- > 8 hours
- Variable

18. Where will your pet be kept when you are not home?

- Crate
- Outside
- Free access to house
- Specific room

19. How much time do you plan on interacting with your pet daily?(training, playing, grooming, exercise, etc.)

- < 1 hour
- 1-2 hours
- > 3 hours

20. Prioritize 3 activities you would like to do with your pet (jogging, swimming, agility training, ect):

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

21. How often will you walk your pet off your property for mental stimulation?

- Twice a day
- Once daily
- Once weekly
- Less than once a week

22. Who will be in charge of feeding your pet?

- Family takes turns
- Mom / Dad
- Individual \_\_\_\_\_

23. Who will be in charge of cleaning up after the pet?

- Family takes turns
- Mom / Dad
- Individual \_\_\_\_\_

24. How often do you plan to train your pet?

- Multiple times a day
- Multiple times a week
- Occasionally
- As little as possible

25. If acquiring a puppy or kitten will you take it to socialization classes?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure, more information need

26. Do you plan on crate training your pet?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure, more information needed

27. Who will be responsible for administering your pet's medical care (medication, etc.)?

- Family takes turns
- Mom / Dad
- Individual \_\_\_\_\_

28. Would you prefer to have your pet trained

- Without assistance
- With the help of a private trainer
- Group training class
- Leave pet at a training facility
- Unsure, need more information

29. What will you do with your pet on occasions when you travel?

- Take pet on trip
- Board the pet
- Hire a pet sitter
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 3: Financial Considerations**

30. How much are you budgeting **monthly** for your pet's food?
- \$20 or less
  - \$20-50
  - \$100 or less

31. How much are willing to pay for your pet?
- Free
  - Less than \$50
  - Less than \$100
  - Less than \$500
  - Less than \$1000
  - \$1000 or more

32. Do you plan on spaying / neutering your pet?
- Yes
  - No
  - Unsure, need more information

33. How much are budgeting to spend **annually** on your pet's medical care?
- Less than \$200
  - \$200 - \$300
  - \$301 - \$400
  - More than \$400
  - Whatever is necessary

34. Which of the following pet sources are you considering?
- Reputable breeder
  - Animal shelter / humane society
  - Breed rescue organization
  - Pet store
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 4: Pet Characteristics**

35. What other animals (not your own) will your pet interact with?
- Dogs
  - Cats
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - Often
  - Rarely
  - Never

36. Primary purpose for obtaining your pet:
- Adult's pet
  - Family pet
  - Child's pet
  - Breeding
  - Show
  - Hunting
  - Protection
  - Farm / outside pet
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

37. Breeds you are considering
- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_

38. Has someone in your household owned a puppy less than 6 months of age?
- Yes       No
- How long ago? \_\_\_\_\_

39. What age would you like your pet to be when you acquire it?
- As young as possible
  - 8 weeks
  - 6 months or older
  - Adult

40. Are you interested in training your pet?
- Yes, I look forward to training my pet
  - No, I would like a pet that requires little training

41. House training problems
- Could live with problem
  - Would do whatever it takes to correct the problem
  - Problem would prompt me to part with the pet

42. Shyness with people
- Could live with problem
  - Would do whatever it takes to correct the problem
  - Problem would prompt me to part with the pet

43. Aloofness with family
- Could live with problem
  - Would do whatever it takes to correct the problem
  - Problem would prompt me to part with the pet

44. Excitability
- Could live with problem
  - Would do whatever it takes to correct the problem
  - Problem would prompt me to part with the pet

45. Demands attention
- Could live with problem
  - Would do whatever it takes to correct the problem
  - Problem would prompt me to part with the pet

46. Jumping on people
- Could live with problem
  - Would do whatever it takes to correct the problem
  - Problem would prompt me to part with the pet

47. Digging / yard destruction
- Could live with problem
  - Would do whatever it takes to correct the problem
  - Problem would prompt me to part with the pet

48. Chewing / destruction
- Could live with problem
  - Would do whatever it takes to correct the problem
  - Problem would prompt me to part with the pet

49. Excessive vocalization
- Could live with problem
  - Would do whatever it takes to correct the problem
  - Problem would prompt me to part with the pet

50. How often do you plan to groom your pet at home?
- Daily
  - Weekly
  - Monthly
  - As infrequently as possible

51. How important is it to you that your pet "guards your home"?
- Very important
  - Important
  - Not important
  - Do not want a guard dog.

52. What size pet do you prefer?
- Micro (less than 5 lbs.)
  - Very small (less than 10 lbs.)
  - Small (11-25 lbs.)
  - Medium (26-50 lbs.)
  - Large (51-90 lbs.)
  - Giant (greater than 90 lbs.)
  - No preference

53. How important is it to you that your pet wants to sit in your lap, follow you around, etc.?
- Very important
  - Important
  - Not important
  - I would rather have an independent dog.

54. Would you have your pet Professionally groomed?
- Yes
  - No
  - Occasionally

55. How much does hair on your clothing or furniture bother you?
- Can not tolerate
  - Can tolerate somewhat
  - Does not bother me

54. Please list any questions or concerns you may have:

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# The Society of Veterinary Behavior Technicians (SVBT)

## Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  CVT  RVT  LVT  DVM  Other

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer Address \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

If employer is a member of the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB) indicate member number \_\_\_\_\_

Did you attend a Veterinary Technology School?  Yes  No School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year Graduated \_\_\_\_\_

License number or certification number (required for professional membership) \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to serve on a SVBT committee?  Yes  No How did you hear about SVBT? \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe special areas of interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your current position include work in animal behavior? Please tell us a little about what your job entails. (We hope to feature members in upcoming newsletters.) \_\_\_\_\_

What books, seminars, journals, etc. would you recommend to fellow behavior technicians interested in learning more about animal behavior? (We include a section of recommended reading in The Behavior Perspective). \_\_\_\_\_

What would you like to gain from being a member of SVBT? \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate the importance to you of being recognized as a specialty field (Veterinary Technician Specialist-Animal Behavior)

Not Important 1 2 3 4 5 neutral 6 7 8 9 10 very important

### Membership Levels (all membership levels include a subscription to The Behavior Perspective):

**\*\*If applicant is an employee of an AVSAB member deduct \$5 off the membership fee through March 31, 2003\*\***

- Professional Membership \$25.00/year:** Open to any veterinary technician who has graduated from an AVMA approved and accredited college or school of veterinary technology or any currently credentialed veterinary technician. Annual membership fee includes listserv access and discounts for SVBT sponsored CE events. Professional Members have voting rights and may serve on SVBT's board of directors.
- Student Membership \$10.00/year:** Open to those students currently enrolled in an AVMA accredited program for veterinary technicians. Student Membership fee includes listserv access and may include discounts for SVBT sponsored CE events. Student Members may not vote or serve on the board of directors.
- Subscription Membership \$25.00/year:** Open to persons who do not fit into any of the above membership criteria. A Subscription Membership does not include listserv access but may include discounts for SVBT sponsored CE events. Subscription Members may not vote or serve on the board of directors.
- International Memberships (memberships outside the US):** Add \$10.00 to the above appropriate membership level (US funds only)  
Send Your Completed Membership Application and Tax-Deductable Membership Dues to:

SVBT  
C/O Kimberly Clark, BS, RVT  
227 Holiday Lane  
Greentown, IN 46936

Applications are welcome anytime during the calendar year, but membership expires every July 15.



**Editor:**

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



**2003-2004  
Executive Board  
Nomination Form**

The Society of Veterinary Behavior Technicians (SVBT) is seeking executive board nominations for 2003-2004. Each nominee must: Be an active member in good standing, consent to being nominated, commit to attend at least 6 executive board meetings for the 2003-2004 year and be available to the executive board via email and the internet.

Please complete the following form and mail it to Kim Clark or complete the form on-line at [www.svbt.org](http://www.svbt.org).

All nominations must be completed by March 1, 2003.

SVBT Nomination Committee  
Kim Clark, BS, R.V.T.  
227 Holiday Lane  
Greentown, Indiana 46936

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ Credentials:  LVT  RVT  CVT Other \_\_\_\_\_

States Licensed: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_ Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time / Method to Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by:  Self  SVBT Member \_\_\_\_\_

Office Nominated For (CHECK ONLY ONE BOX)  President Elect (1-yr term)  Secretary - Recording (2-yr term)  
 Secretary - Corresponding (2-yr term)  Member at Large (1-yr term)