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2003-2004

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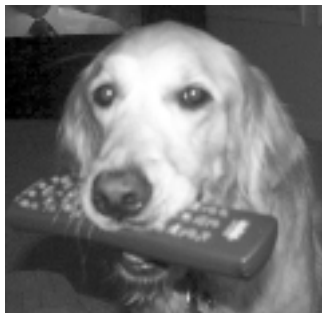
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President's Message



In Memory of "Faith"...

I hope this edition of The Behavior Perspective finds you warm, happy and looking forward to the new year.

It is with a heavy heart that I report "Faith", my son's service dog of nearly seven years, lost her one year battle with lymphosarcoma. "Faith" left this earth with the same dignity and loyalty she'd demonstrated every day of her life. We miss her and think of her daily. "Hero" (Dylan's service-dog-in-training) can not fill the spot in our hearts that the loss of "Faith" has left; he is making his own special spot in our hearts. Dylan and I have created a memorial tribute to "Faith" which can be viewed at www.vet.purdue.edu/dylanfaith.

On a lighter note, I am happy to report most of our committees are active and productive. I'd like to especially compliment our **Membership Committee**, chaired by Nancy Peterson (nanpet@starpower.net). The membership committee has been very active working on numerous projects and has recently drafted a veterinary behavior technician's oath and code of ethics which are in the process of being approved by the executive board. They are also constantly considering methods to improve membership benefits and increase our membership number. Contact Nancy if you are in need of SVBT brochures to pass out to potential new members or have comments for improving your SVBT membership.

Our **Publication's Committee**, chaired by Jenny O'Conner (jmofjr815@aol.com), has recently put a call out for article submissions to Veterinary Technician Journal, the NAVTA Journal and The Behavior Perspective. Short abstracts should be emailed to Jenny for consideration.

You will see in this edition of The Behavior Perspective that our **Scholarship Committee**, chaired by Tara Lang (taraklang@aol.com), has been busy developing the criteria for this year's DOGS! Course Scholarship. (see details page 6). The scholarship committee hopes to develop other scholarship programs in the future.

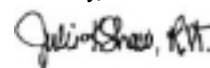
The **Specialty Committee**, which is currently chaired by yours truly (shawjk@purdue.edu), met recently to determine where we stand on beginning the petitioning process with NAVTA. We have contacted the American College of Veterinary Behaviorist through our liaison, Dr. Andrew Luescher, and are awaiting information from the college before moving forward. I hope to have more detailed information in the spring edition of The Behavior Perspective.

The finances of SVBT are currently stable but do not allow for us to develop new programs and additional member benefits. Our **Fundraising Committee** is currently without a chair. We are seeking an outgoing, organized person with leadership abilities to head this committee. SVBT's executive board envisions many outstanding member benefits but can not put these benefits into action until our fundraising committee becomes productive. Please contact me if you would like to head up this instrumental committee.

I would like to apologize to those of you who have renewed your memberships but have not received your membership cards. The delay is due to a software issue which we hope to have resolved by the time you receive this newsletter. Please contact Amy Breton (newfieldamy@hotmail.com) if you have not received your renewal packet.

I am looking forward to 2004. I have just completed my 20th year as a veterinary technician and I can honestly say that I've never been more excited about being a veterinary technician. Our profession is evolving and growing and I promise SVBT will continue to remain on the cutting edge.

Sincerely,



Julie Shaw, R.V.T.

SVBT Committees Need Your Help!

Specialty Committee:

*** MEMBERS NEEDED ***

Members must meet qualifications determined by NAVTA.

Members of this committee must:

- Be NAVTA members
- Be graduates from an accredited college or be currently credentialed as veterinary technician.
- Be recognized as exceptionally qualified specialists in the field of behavior with a minimum of six to seven years of experience in the specialty with no less than 75% of time spent being devoted to the specialty.

If you believe you qualify for a position on this committee send your qualifications to:

Donna Dyer at djdyer10@aol.com.

Fundraising Committee:

The purpose of this committee is to acquire funds for SVBT, write grants and promotional educational material. We are currently seeking someone to chair this committee. Contact Julie Shaw at shawjk@purdue.edu.

Newsletter Committee:

The **Newsletter Committee** is currently seeking a person to keep an up-to-date and on going list of behavior related continuing education opportunities. It would be advantageous if this person was in contact with both veterinary and dog training associations. Please contact me at shawjk@purdue.edu if you would like to be considered for this position on the newsletter committee.

The Behavior Perspective Article Submissions

Articles should pertain to behavior and can be anywhere from one to two pages in length (500-2000 words).

Due dates are as follows:

February 15th

May 15th

August 15th

November 15th

Contact Amy Breton for more information

newfieldamy@hotmail.com



I was stressing out about life in general. It was one of those weeks where I knew I had to time everything perfectly or things weren't going to get done. It was 6:00 AM on Monday when I sat down at my computer to work on the newsletter. I looked at what I had for content and started plugging it into the newsletter. After reading "Therapy Dogs in ICU" by Amy Igarashi, AHT, I stopped and took a moment to receive some therapy from my dog.

Pets are amazing. They hold within them many of life's secrets. It is because they are simple, something most of our lives aren't. When my dog wakes up in the morning, the only thing she thinks about is breakfast. Food is the only thing on her agenda. When I wake up, I look at my appointment book, map out my day, and figure out what time I may be able to go to bed that night. When I finally get home, my pets are there, happy to see me and ready to eat again. So simple, yet so therapeutic.

As the holidays approach and everyone's stress levels increase, we know we can always take comfort in the simple pleasures of owning a pet; a cat curled up in your lap by a fire, a dog at your feet. As I read Amy's article I remembered why we own pets. They provide us with comfort because they are simple. Simple is what our lives need and often lack. Often times our pets are what keep our hectic lives from spiraling out of control. It is their simple behavior that can make our complex minds stop and relax. After I finish this, I think I will go outside and take time to smell the snow that just fell on the ground. After all, that's what my dog would take time to do in her day.

Therapy Dogs in ICU by Amy Igarashi, A.H.T.

Amy Igarashi A.H.T. graduated from Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology in 1985 and has been working as a technician for eleven and a half years. She is currently working in a Veterinary/Medical Distribution Warehouse and trying to implement puppy classes within their facilities. She is a member of APDT, Therapy Dogs International, & Red Cross Human Animal Bond. She attended DOGS! 2002 course and passed the written exam.

Who would have thought that dogs are allowed into the ICU? At Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii they are. The program, which is sponsored through the American Red Cross, is called the Human Animal Bond. To have a dog/human team accepted into the program, both partners must complete a very extensive and long process. In the end, it all pays off as the rewards for both dog and human are never-ending.

The **human** volunteers first need to go through the American Red Cross orientation which takes about 1 hour. After completion of the orientation, you must take a self-taught computer course and test on their policies which include: Fire Safety and Infectious Disease Control. Once completed, the computer test needs to be retaken annually. Next is the Tripler Army Medical Center orientation which extends almost 4 hours. After you learn the in's and out's of the hospital, you then need to be current on several immunizations. They will perform several titer checks as well as test you for TB. If you need any vaccinations, it is done free of charge. Once you are cleared, they then begin the process of clearing your dog.

About 30 dogs are currently enrolled in the program. A current CGC (Canine Good Citizen) test is required within a year prior to testing. Temperament testing is then performed. A military Veterinarian does the temperament testing. The Veterinarian must go through a Human Animal Bond Principle and Guidelines handbook along with a Veterinary Health Service handbook in order to do the testing on the dogs.

Testing is done in a veterinary clinic at Tripler. First, they leave the dog in an exam room by itself for a couple minutes. The veterinarian then enters the room to see how the dog greets someone. They also test the dog as to how it reacts when something is dropped, when someone pokes at them (for pain tolerance) and when they are ignored. The owner is then brought into the room to observe the interaction between dog and handler. They are looking for a dog that isn't bothered by noise, likes attention and will be able to handle the stress that comes from a hospital situation. The basic commands that are needed are: sit, stay, heel, stand, come and down. The dog also must be able to be calm around another dog in case two dogs are at the hospital the same time. Lastly, the dog must be current on all of its vaccinations in order to be accepted into the program.

If both handler and dog pass the tests, a Security Badge is issued for both partners. The process for receiving a badge takes another hour. This entails going from floor to floor and signing many different papers. Once you have finally been cleared, you schedule a visit without your dog where you shadow a veteran team matching the size of your dog for a day. All this is to prepare you, because the next visit your dog will be with you. The entire process, before the first time you and your dog work as a team, takes about five months. They want to ensure their volunteers are committed.



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The staff is very familiar with the dogs. Often times, they are in need of therapy just as much as the patients are. The patients light up when they see their canine friends coming. With the exception of a couple of rooms, the hospital welcomes the dogs everywhere. Most of the military hospitalized patients do not have family in Hawaii because it is where they are stationed. Many are missing their pets at home. You can't help but get attached to some of the patients. Some of the volunteers make business cards for their dogs which they hand out to the patients (especially the kids). That way they may continue to correspond with them even after they have been discharged from the hospital.

As for ICU, it is surprising that people welcome the dogs to visit. You may think that it may not be a good place or time to have visitors (let alone a four

legged one), but often times it is the best medicine they receive all day. Sometimes even the visitors need a short break from the stress of ICU. Many times it is their own canine companion that continues to offer comfort to them. The staff is so familiar with the program that they often tell you who they feel may need a visit. While walking down the halls, there is not a time where

you are not stopped by one of the staff members wanting to pet your dog.

It is truly a wonderful experience to be a part of. It is well worth the time it takes to become a volunteer. To help with the stresses of being in the ICU, the organization does many activities together to ensure everyone finds time to relax.

We all know how therapeutic pets can be. We often find ourselves asking them for comfort. As therapeutic as it is for the patients to spend time with our wonderful canine partners, it is equally as therapeutic for us to see them smile.

For more information contact:

<http://www.tamc.amedd.army.mil/services/humananimal.htm>
808-433-1536

Welcome New Members

S. Branch Allen	Valerie Karamanis
Janelle Tripp	Alexandra Malone
Maria Kuhns	Peggy Watson
Jayne Godfrey	Tricia McBrien
Jill Nicholls	Nicole Lungberg
Vonnie Keebaugh	Heather Manning
Shannon Trouba	Judy Jesek
Karla Hamlin	Gwendolyn Garcia
Angela Winter	Stacie Launder
Kathy Fleming	Patricia Finnerty
Natashia Cross	Linda Whitmore
Laura Green-Phillips	April Wilson
Liz White	Tanya Hommerding
Rayne Reitnauer	Linda Fischer
Alison Stockdale	Kara Hodgkin
Dawn Blake	Shawn Haubenstricker
Anne Mercer	Erika Wilson
Michelle Murphy	Heather Dixon-Reimer
Robin Glascock	DJ Lorenzen
Gaye Nelle Wyatt	Theresa Gagnon
Pamela Gall	Corrinda Keezer
Laurie Robinson	

Sorry for the Delay!

The SVBT executive board would like to apologize for the delay in renewal members receiving their renewal packets.

You should be receiving the new membership cards and renewal packets in the mail in 2-3 weeks. If you do not receive yours please contact

Amy Breton, CVT at newfieldamy@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.



Book Review

by Pam Mahlie, R.V.T



Dogs are from Neptune

By Jean Donaldson
 Laser Multimedia Productions
 Copyright August 2001

As I meet clients in practice and find that pet owner who has a higher than usual interest in animal behavior, the first book that I always recommend is Culture Clash. My copy is highlighted and dog-eared, and I go back to it frequently for little pearls of wisdom to help people understand just how these canines think. Culture Clash is the book that they consistently come back and tell me has forever changed their relationship with their pet. Dogs Are From Neptune has long been on my list, in anticipation of receiving that same kind of earth-shattering insight into a dog's brain! Though it is not the book that I would recommend to clients because of the format, I was no less disappointed!

This quick read of only about 160 pages is written in typical Jean Donaldson conversational style. It is just like you are sitting in her family room and she is giving you her thoughts. The introduction tells us the beginnings of this book started with questions clients presented on her website. The title is obviously a spin-off on the Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus.

I found myself highlighting several "gems" in this book. The early chapters discuss cases of aggression and each new topic gives a detailed answer as to why the behavior is probably occurring, or most likely, how we as humans are misinterpreting normal behavior. The entire section on resource guarding was particularly good and included a beautiful set of definitive questions to be included in history taking to help an owner identify issues. Throughout the replies, important points are repeated, like remembering how to work your hierarchy of tasks from easy to difficult and not to progress too quickly, and the great value of proper rewards. She also has excellent information on using time outs and how to do them effectively, which I have

always believed is an under-used tool. Some clients posed questions wondering if the use of aversives, such as shock collars would be useful. Her ensuing discussion was always very tactful and thorough, examining the use of all types of treatment and the pros and cons of each.

On page 65, as she is talking about motivation in dogs, I found one of my favorite paragraphs in the book that truly "spoke" to me, "What always goes unspoken is that if dogs have an inherent desire to please us, then avoidance training – i.e. special collars – should also be unnecessary". She then goes on to discuss "nonconforming" dogs, the ones that don't want to please, and the use of corrections, and things that may help with stubborn or willful behavior. Often the argument that we hear is that too much of the so-called food nonsense destroys the relationship, to which her reply is "So, why does liver cheapen the human-animal bond where pain does not?" Donaldson just makes sense.

The last half of the book covers many of the daily issues that we hear about including: coprophagia, counter surfing, pica, obedience issues, fear and anxiety. I have heard the author publicly speak a few times and she is generally very down to earth, however, I did hit a couple of words that sent me to the dictionary, like obfuscating (confusing) and fisticuffs (fight with fists). This book is part of her Dogs Behaving Badly interactive CD-ROM that I have not had the chance to view, but after reading this book, it will be on my list of "to-do". I would consider this book to be a required read for any technician who is regularly advising the public on behavior issues. Donaldson has a great way of talking to the general public and just making sense. This book will definitely help you do the same in your job.

DOGS!



SVBT Scholarship Contest

The Society of Veterinary Behavior Technicians is co-sponsoring a scholarship contest for Purdue University's DOGS! Course: Principles and Techniques of Behavior Modification, May 22-26, 2004.

The winning applicant will be awarded tuition (a \$700 value) for the acclaimed DOGS! Course. This scholarship opportunity is offered to any SVBT member in good standing.

For scholarship consideration, please submit:

- A completed application
- At least one letter of reference
- An original essay (1500 words or less) addressing the following question:

“How do you hope to use the information you gain from the DOGS! Course?”

Visit the SVBT website at www.svbt.org Scholarship applications may be printed by clicking on the CE Scholarship link under New Member Information.

Essays must be submitted in both hard copy and computerized form (disk or CD-Rom).

Submit application, reference letter and essay to:
SVBT Scholarship Contest
Pam Mahlie
50667 Haven Hill Court
Granger, IN 46530

Submissions will be accepted from January 1, 2004 through March 1, 2004

The SVBT Scholarship winner will be announced in the April edition of *The Behavior Perspective*, along with their published essay. If you have any questions please contact the Scholarship Committee chair, Tara Lang, by e-mail at taraklang@sbcglobal.net or (573) 243-3711.

*ALL submitted essays become the property of SVBT. Submitting an essay for this scholarship indicates your agreement to allow SVBT to publish your essay or any portion of your essay in *The Behavior Perspective*, on the SVBT website, or in any other SVBT publication.*

SVBT Executive Board Nominations

It is time to begin the nomination process for the 2004-2005 year. Elections will be held before the annual meeting in July 2004. Results will be announced at the AVMA Conference in Philadelphia, PA. All candidates must hold a Professional membership (student and subscription memberships are not eligible for nomination) in SVBT and be members in good standing, have reliable email and internet access, respond to executive board emails within 48 hours and attend on-line or phone conference board meetings 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

The following executive board positions are available for nominations. Please visit 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.

Treasurer: 2-year term. The Treasurer is responsible for keeping an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements for the SVBT accounts. The treasurer is also responsible for supplying the Recording and Corresponding Secretaries with regular new member information.

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 to make nominations electronically or mail in the nomination form on the last page of this edition of *The Behavior Perspective* by March 1st, 2004.

Continuing Education Opportunities

Clicker Expo (see page 7 for review)

ClickerExpo West: Berkeley CA, January 23-25, 2004

ClickerExpo East: West Chester, PA March 26-28, 2004

Visit http://www.svbt.org/pages/discounts_ce.htm

for discount details.

March 13-14, 2004

Training and Shelter Dog Seminar

Naperville, IL

Sue Sternberg

If for registration inquiries contact:

events@puppyworks.com

For local information contact: narniapets@aol.com

May 6-9th, 2004

Dr. Ian Dunbar's Four-Day Instructor's Workshop

SEX & AGGRESSION, SECRETS & GAMES

Downtown Walt Disney World

Orlando, Florida

<http://www.puppyworks.com/events/dunbar/id0504fl.html>

(707) 745-4237

May 22-26, 2004

DOGS! Course

www.vet.purdue.edu/animalbehavior

Purdue University, Animal Behavior Clinic, West Lafayette, IN

Andrew Luescher, DVM PhD, ACVB

Julie Shaw, R.V.T., CPDT

Continuing Education Review

Clicker Expo Chicago, IL

by Julie Shaw, R.V.T. and Kim Clark, BS, R.V.T.

Numerous SVBT members recently attended Karen Pryor's inaugural Clicker Expo in Chicago, Illinois. The Clicker Expo is currently being offered in various parts of the country. The Expo proved to be an enthusiastic and positive learning experience tailored to both the dog training and veterinary public.

The event was appropriate for both novice and professional clicker trainers. The information ranged from methods for using a clicker to train pocket pets to new avenues being explored such as using the clicker to teach children gymnastics skills. Lectures were given on clicking problem horses, research being done on clicker training and common training pitfalls.

Quality continuing education should create or renew excitement for the subject matter plus deliver practical information which participants can't wait to put into action. The Clicker Expo accomplished both and much more. Congratulations Karen Pryor on creating an outstanding continuing education event. The is a "must attend" conference for any SVBT member.

ClickerExpo

SVBT Member Discount

Karen Pryor has generously offered a discount to SVBT members to Clicker Expo.

Visit http://www.svbt.org/pages/discounts_ce.htm for discount details.

Ask The Expert



This edition's Expert is Clicker Expo lecturer, Kathy Sdao. Ms. Sdao holds a master's degree in experimental psychology and was part of a research team that trained dolphins to solve complex cognitive puzzles. These dolphin "mind games" were designed to allow analysis of the animals' language-processing capabilities. Kathy also trained U.S.

Navy (Department of Defense) dolphins to perform applied, open-ocean tasks and was a marine mammal trainer in Tacoma, Washington. Ms. Sdao currently presents educational seminars to trainers and pet owners, develops behavior modification plans for "difficult" dogs, and teaches private training lessons. She is an enthusiastic clicker-training advocate (or zealot, according to some), having experienced its awesome power to communicate clearly with so many different species.

Question: I have taught my son's service-dog-in-training to tug open various doors using a short slip leash attached to the door handles. "Hero" has done well with this but now opens doors WITH OUT a verbal cue. This behavior is self-reinforcing to him

since he can now open doors to come visit us while we are in the restroom or even to let himself outside. He does NOT attempt to open doors which do not have the slip leash attached. How do I correct this problem? *Julie Shaw, RVT, Lafayette, Indiana*

Answer: Hero's door-opening behavior is already on cue, to some extent. The cue is the presence of the slip leash attached to the door handle, rather than your verbal cue (e.g., "OPEN"). So the key is to get Hero to pay attention to your verbal cue and to ignore the sight of the slip leash. Here are some suggestions:

- 1) Take the slip leash off the door. Hold it in your hand. Reinforce tugging only after you've said "OPEN" Ignore any tugs Hero performs if he hasn't received the verbal "green light" first. After he gets good at this discrimination — tugging only if verbally cued to do so; refraining from tugging if not verbally cued — gradually move the slip leash closer to the door handle. Do some sessions with the tug in your hand near the door, and then with the tug tied to the door. Hero gets clicked and treated both for tugging when asked to tug and for waiting in between verbal cues.
- 2) Try attaching slip leads to several "handles" that Hero can't open (e.g., locked doors, eyebolts attached securely to the wall). This will help extinguish his behavior of tugging any time he sees a slip leash he can easily grab.
- 3) While you're training Hero the importance of the verbal cue "OPEN," remove the slip leashes from any doors that lead to goodies (e.g., the refrigerator, the door to the outside). You don't want Hero getting reinforced for "running a red light" — that is, for doing the behavior without first getting the verbal "green light" from you.



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Membership Information:

www.svbt.org



2004-2005 Executive Board Nomination Form

The Society of Veterinary Behavior Technicians (SVBT) is seeking executive board nominations for 2004-2005. Each nominee must: Be a Professional member (student and subscription memberships are not eligible for nomination) in good standing, consent to being nominated, commit to attend at least 6 executive board meetings for the 2004-2005 year and be available to the executive board via email and the internet.

Please complete the following form and mail it to Ginny Price or complete the form on-line at www.svbt.org.

All nominations must be completed by March 1, 2004.

SVBT Nomination Committee
Ginny Price, BS, C.V.T.
6422 29th Way North
St. Petersburg, FL 33702-6227

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) Treasurer (2-yr term) Member at Large (1-yr term)