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HUNDEWELTEN

The Major Errors in Dog Training



Usually, he's so cute!



The dog is only a reflection of deficits in human education.

*Who's at fault isn't the question.
The point is: who can bring about a basic change?*

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Source: Hundewelten Germany

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Firstly we would like to thank you for reading this book.

We at “HUNDEWELTEN” decided to write this book because we could no longer accept being angry and frustrated at all the useless tips, methods and so called “intelligent” help that is being passed on to honest and unsuspecting dog owners.

On the following pages, we from “HUNDEWELTEN” will give the reader an insight as to what we have encountered during our work as a Problem Dog Therapist, and hopefully by the end of this book you will agree that our statement has not been exaggerated: **You must know the facts, before you can pervert them.**

If you can still laugh after reading this book or start to cry over the sobering truth, is dependent on how honest you are to yourself. We, through the contents of these pages, will not try to pull the wool over your eyes, we only wish you to take off those rose coloured glasses, for a moment.

Should you as: **Dog trainer, Dog-communicator, Personal dog trainer, Dog psychologist,** or any other person actively associated with the training of dogs, and use any of the following methods or appliances mentioned, then we suggest that after reading this information, go outside and take a deep breath, because your way of working and thinking will never be the same again.

If, contrary to all expectations you still feel the same as before, and everything written as excessive and full of nonsense, then we suggest that you read the text once again. If at anytime, while reading the contents, you feel personally attacked, then we must add that this is not our intention. All we are attempting to do is wake up all owners! But foremost protect the dogs from unnecessary suffering, through untrained and unqualified persons, and the use of ridiculous utilities.

The dog has no problems with its owner, the owner has problems with his dog.

Let's put an end to the self named dog expert, who for so many years emptied the pockets of fully distraught and damned to inactivity dog owners. Using absolute delinquent and absurd methods try to train or therapy our four legged friends. Dog schools and Dog professionals are spreading like wild fire, persuading owners to join courses of, what they say are, "punishment- and stress free" training or re-education for the dog, but as we all know, it is generally the owner that should have the therapy, and it is this point, that so many pseudo (in) competent Dog experts cannot or will not accept the truth. In the end it is the owner that pays his money, so it is not relevant if the dog reacts naturally, it wasn't taught anything else different anyway.

With so many self thought out and highly praised training methods on the market, (most of which are as crazy as the ideas themselves) that they say can erase the negative habits already practised by the dog, without, at the same time, creating further problem behaviour.

Whereas the majority of dog owners tamper around trying to cure only the visible and unwanted behaviour, instead of dealing with the deep lying causes, it is for the self named “specialist”, or whatever they wish to call themselves, an easy matter to blind the naive dog owner with fancy explanations, and thus con them into training courses that do, owner nor dog, any good what-so-ever.

Even the “Guru’s” in dog circles are no better than their amateur counterparts, and are also not in a position to transmit, in a way that others will understand, neither their so-called knowledge nor their limited abilities, and they do not possess any spectacular talents. More so they build a wall of secrecy around the behavioural problems of these animals so that they can bluff the owners into paying large amounts of money by offering courses, classes and lectures. The worst of these are those people that only train dogs with the use of instruments of torture, and turn to these fully absurd artefacts, (these items will be explained later in the book) so that they can become any sort of reaction, from an already disorientated dog. Other trainers use a “clicker” device to praise the dog. Even though all that the owner needs, is his/her voice, body language and natural understanding of the canine species. Nothing else is required. One should deeply consider what the why’s and wherefores are, in regards to 1st) owning and 2nd) training of dogs. Here, more is needed than just methods and techniques to integrate, what is basically a predator, into the human community. A global reform is required, so that a complete change in thinking is possible. A norm, a ground rule, a universal foundation and valid form, for both man and dog.

When we wish to teach our dog to sit, we must first understand **HOW** we teach the dog to sit. Following the motto: *“So was it, so is it, and therefore so will it always be!”* tells us that dog trainers, clubs, and experts, have learnt nothing new for so many decades. Unfortunately the increasing number of spectacular training methods that continue to occur, but have little to do with the truth, are still being sold by trainers as a *“wonder drug”*. By the way, when a puppy is born it can already sit, so the question is, “How, can the owner trigger off this naturally inherited movement?” The dog has not changed in its nature, although many would like to think so, more to the point it is man that has forgotten how to act accordingly, or to react. Not all training methods are harmful, but it turns my stomach, when I observe irresponsible people trying out wonderful new methods, both in theory and practice. Strategy and tactics are mixed together, and when the dog wanders outside this framework, the usage of excessive pressures are placed upon it, until it (the dog) comes up to standard, unfortunately it is here that so many dogs fall by the wayside, but who cares, this is still only a fraction of the millions of dogs in the country and overflowing homes etc. What is more important, for master or mistress is, “as long as the dog functions, then all is right with the world”.

Definition: The household pet dog is the domesticated form of the Wolf, Biological family: Canidae. Genre: Canis, Variety: Wolf (Canis lupus). Lower variety: Household dog (Canis lupus familiaris)

When a dog speaks...

but we falsely interpret what the dog is trying to say, then it is often an endless Odyssey for the animal. The predator Canis lupus familiaris has been studying the human race for about 15,000 years and has learnt to use our weaknesses, for its own advantage, to survive. The ability for the dog to adapt to change is a master work in its evolution and shows its superior instinct for survival. Homo sapiens even with its amazing vocabulary and pin-point understanding, is not able to understand the primitive, instinct orientated predator, the dog.

With ridiculous scientific theories, we insinuate that the dog has humanistic traits, we thrust upon it mans emotional feelings and accordingly say that we understand its motives, perfectly. Whereas in real terms, we cannot even interpret the simplest of body language between ourselves and the dog.

Gestures and mimic between one dog and another are constantly misinterpreted. Unaware, owners still fall prey to opposed empiric laws, from ignorant and “resistant cognizant” experts, and have no other choice than to follow all these methods and techniques without being able to reflect on the consequences. The victim from this mistreatment here, is, the poor dog, which can only through limited reaction protect itself. If you were to take a little time and observe dogs “playing”, from a neutral stand point, without prejudgement, you maybe able to follow what is taking place. It would very quickly be apparent that the explanations given by Behavioural biologist, Animal psychologists, and other scientist are totally catastrophic, thus so many dogs have absolutely no chance of being treated in a manner justifiable to their species. From absolutely excessive demands, through unsubstantial and re-applied theories, and continuing on into the development of useless equipment, that are designed, allegedly to assist the dog find its way through the labyrinth of social structures we humans lay down, our beloved pets have little chance to escape from this craziness. The majority of animals have learnt how to counteract the whims of man by massive conflict behaviour to avoid even greater damage. For many dogs there is no other way out, of this vicious circle of pain, but to go on the attack. Unfortunately for these it is just the beginning of a long and painful existence, because the dog must deal with that most unpredictable of predators, MAN, and his perverted and deadly way of thinking.

We discuss, correctly, about predators as being dangerous, from chasing and killing for food, but who is going to protect the predator dog from that beast, man? The dog does nothing wrong, when it follows its natural instinct of survival, to chase, catch and kill for survival. We accept that lions, tigers, jackals, hyenas are dangerous wildlife, so why do we not also see the dog for what it is, but plague the dog with human emotions and place unnatural (for the dog) demands, that it as a predator cannot fulfil? Did man ever ask the dog if it can meet the necessary human requirements, or if it is in the position to fulfil our expectations. No, because the dog only knows one form of communication: body language, something that man in its evolution, can no longer read, or just plainly ignores. The dog has no such problems with communication, he has in every situation a perfectly clear understanding, that everybody can comprehend, if Homo sapiens instead of just listening would also watch carefully. **The language of dogs is visual not verbal.**

As long as man is not willing to change his way of thinking, then the dog must by itself fit into our social life, and thus will always be a danger for our environment, not only for man but also for its fellow species. Harder laws, character tests and statistics regarding bite attacks are what we are confronted with daily. Following the motto, “*He’s never bitten anyone before*”, we have for years corrected its inappropriate behaviour by the introduction of unnecessary equipment that causes the dog only more pain. A dog can do nothing for the fact that it is forced into a pack situation, a situation in that it will always be on the losing side, even though it does not give up trying to show man what its needs are. It makes us sad, and at the same time angry, that the majority of owners cannot read the simplest of signals given by their dogs (or what they are trying to convey), it is a cry for help, sanctuary, leadership and control, through the pack leader – “man”.

Every book written today on the theme “DOG” advises us to show the animal that it is safe by us, but none explain how this is performed. These authors concentrate on those ancient sayings, that they have tried to rewrite, but sell to us as new found scientific knowledge, even though we know that the dog has retained all of its basic instincts over thousands of years. The dog is a primitive, resource orientated and undemocratic predator, but for centuries we have kept dogs in our homes for various reasons, with the belief that it is a socially democratic animal, a substitute for a child or as a partner, or even as a play thing for our children.

Before we start to punish the dog again, we should learn to praise it for those things that it does correctly. Even though, according to our standpoint, its behavioural patterns are false, doesn't mean to say that the dog has the same view. We must first build a positive basis, so that we can show the dog, that there is always an alternative. Punishment is, and always will be, a cry for help when our patience runs out. When despair over one's own helplessness increases then the only logical step is to turn to violence, against the defenceless animal. This reaction against the dog is totally unnecessary, but this is often overlooked. It is we humans that should seek other possibilities to communicate with the dog, and that on a level that it understands, primitive and direct, because a dog cannot follow our complicated way of thinking, with all its hidden meanings. A dog NEVER deliberately does anything wrong, it is the role of the owner to teach it right from wrong, a dog does not live according to our values.

Education and training... the real reasons

Let us now consider the real reasons why someone buys a dog, before we start to discuss education and training. Maybe you have bought a dog because you don't wish to be alone anymore, or because you wish the dog to protect you or your property, another possibility is that you want it so you have a perception of power, or to overcome your feeling of being permanently under pressure and to release your suppressed self-confidence. Basically this is not bad, rather human. All the special demands and requirements of we humans, the “predator” dog must fulfil... human wishes and dreams that the dog can never achieve. A dog exists on a simple but effective level, he thinks, feels and handles instinctively. These are the facts, that we do not want to accept. When we communicate on a simple and unambiguous level, then the dog will understand and accept us, at the same moment, as a social partner. Principally you should learn to think differently, away from the norm and away from all those “good” ideas from dog schools and trainers, far away from the self-named dog experts and their tips. There is nothing that you cannot do yourself, or that you do not know about your dog. The entire problem in the training lays in the absurd view that we humans see our dogs. Instead of looking at our own errors and correcting them, we look for them in the dog. We continuously seek the answers and not the causes. A dog that runs off and sniffs around, as soon as it is let off the leash, and does not react to your commands, is given an electric shock or when it does return to you is immediately punished. These are the acts of desperation from most dog owners, that see no other way out, and through these actions make everything worse. Many of the methods used today result in exactly the opposite than what they are expected to achieve.

When you understand the facts, then you can pervert them.

Let us look more deeply into statements and other theories, spread around by most dog owners and experts, and we come to the conclusion that, even the newest of scientific studies do not even scratch the surface regarding the behaviour of dogs, neither in the art of their nature, nor with respect to their race.

Example: “The dog is happy when it wags its tail!” This is a ridiculous observation, and still by the majority of people held as correct. To explain what we mean, let us delve more deeply into this statement, and we ask all you dog owners to try a small experiment: Give your dog a bone, make a mental note of how it reacts. How the dog begins to consume it. Does it wag its tail? And now take the bone away from the dog, does it wag its tail now? If yes, **then your dog is happy when we take its bone away?** By now it should be obvious that a dog does not wag its tail for joy but when it is in a conflict situation, combined with the anticipation that it will be given the bone back.

At this point many experts hand out questionnaires, in connection with the problem behaviour of our dogs, that are a complete waste of time and energy. Owners are asked about the problems they are facing with their dogs and any previous history of such behaviour, as if the owner, in a purely unemotional and unbiased frame of mind, could offer a realistic opinion. How can any person, that has no schooling in the behaviour of dogs, give any sort of useful information, as these people are already overstressed and overwhelmed by what they are being confronted with. The past history of the dog does nothing to change what is happening at this precise moment. Here we are solely dealing with the dog, and an assessment regarding the dog must be correct. A good therapist can see what is required for a successful therapy from information that the dog shows, at the **first** moment of contact.

Dear colleagues, Problem dog experts or what ever you like to call yourselves

We at “HUNDEWELTEN” have taken great pains in producing a list to illustrate the diverse titles used by self-named *experts*. We feel that these misused and mostly inaccurate descriptions are unfitting for our purposes. We would only like to say, these are freely found descriptions that have no legal binding to any form of qualified training, and that anybody can call himself an *expert* regardless of his or her previous education. Basically this is not an error in itself, but, for many dog owners these terms can be most misleading and irritating when they go in search for qualified and competent help, when confronted with their dogs behavioural problems.

In the beginning we have the: **Degree in Dog Psychology or a Degree in Animal Psychology.** These courses are offered as a home study programme in Animal Psychology (Dog), a study programme that does not offer any practical contact to the animals that are difficult to handle or are aggressive, because these courses are missing the basic groundwork that is required, nor do they offer the personal contact to the owners of these dogs. They do, however, offer various documents and literature at vastly extortionate prices, that with a little research are free of charge at any good library, or can be purchased at a minimum of cost at a book store.

The “**Dog Communicator**” is now available in Germany. The title describes someone who communicates with dogs and uses the term ***Dog Expert***. How original. Here they deliberately use the English terminology...of course in German the translation does not have the same effect: **Hunde Kommunikator**. This could be misconceived as a mobile telephone for dogs. What these people do is still a mystery.

“**Dog Man or Dog Master**”. Where are the “**Dog Woman or Dog Female**“, etc? One could easily be misled into thinking that this is a hot line number, and less than a competent Dog trainer, but alone the sound “**Dog Master**” has a ring about it!

“**Dog whisperer**“, in German “**Hundeflüsterer**”, is a well known phrase in the American scene. One calls simply the “**Dog whisperer**” and all is well.

“**Dog Psychologist**” or “**Dog Psycho-Therapist**”, should really be renamed as “**Dog Psychopath**”, the majority of owners, and in particular owners of problem dogs, do not have time for people that spend hours talking about problems or asking you to fill in questionnaires that make no sense, so that at the end Master and Mistress know how to sweep the problems under the carpet.

“**Dog Expert**”. This is somebody that possesses the knowledge of dogs. What does this actually mean with regard to the laws that bind these people? They should actually be named the opposite to what this title represents: Dog NON-Expert.

“**Dog host**” is the un-word of the year, with regard to dogs. It has a similarity to stable boy, someone that clears away the mess left behind, lays new hay in the box, brushes the horse (dog) down, cleans its’ hooves (paws)... or is this the manager of a Bed and Breakfast for dogs?

The list of titles that people use to describe themselves goes on and on, it is quite amazing how imaginative people can be! Such as: Personal dog trainer, Problem dog coach, Dog magician etc, to name but a few.

The practical use of Ethology

In training courses for dog instructors and in seminars for dog owners, it is always stressed the importance of ethology - taken from comparison studies between household pets and wild animals. How do (wild) domestic dogs and wolves react in like situations, faced with what we know from our household dogs? The majority of experts believe, that in the natural behaviour of wolves, lies the key to the solution with respect to problem behaviour in our dogs. Owners and trainers are, through books and seminars, informed as to the behavioural expressions of dogs, including the wolf, and that a change in the dogs attitude is only possible, when man understands the interrelationship in a supposedly untouched (virgin) wild life, and transfers this knowledge over to our pet dogs.

It is imperative to realise that studies in ethology are only concerned with the interaction of dogs, and other canines species, among themselves. Studies of the relationship between man and dogs are absent. Theories to this theme **do** exist, but scientists question their own conclusions, in that a purely subjective and emotional interpretation, of the dogs behaviour towards man, cannot be dismissed.

From the moment, we begin to explain the specific interactive behaviour to its **own** kind, and try to transform this to a man - dog relationship, there is the danger that man judges what motivates the dog, from a humanistic-emotional standpoint. Here lies our dilemma, why using these compared studies of behaviourism in the canine species for retraining problem- and misbehaviour in our household dog, is nonsense.

Nevertheless, this link is repeatedly referred to, in teaching material for animal psychologist or dog trainers. References to such study material is constantly used without any thought, outdated models and theories regarding the learning and conduct are simply copied, dog behaviour made complicated and falsely interpreted. In practical situations, man attempts to imitate the communication and body language between canines, the dog is actively subjugated and/or man tries to use ridiculous signals in such a way as to control the dog. The results are fatal for all those involved when following these rules, in dealing with the problem behaviour of our four legged friends, often with the argument, that dogs and wolves in the wild react just the same. A truly false assumption, because in an existing pack with a clear hierarchy, no member puts into question the existing pecking order. Studies from free roaming and evolved packs of wolves have shown that, the hierarchy is not defined through dominant gestures from higher animals over lower animals in order to keep control, rather it is the opposite. Lower animals react when in contact to higher animals always with an active or passive submission, showing from its actions, that it is not questioning the already existing order of rank. The thinking that, the dog is just waiting for the right moment to dominate man is false, but it continues to be prevalent.

Is a dog in a position to dominate man? Of course it is! The owner is, for the dog, first and foremost a social partner and thus is bound in its needs for a clear hierarchy and resource structure within the pack. Inseparable from this ability to dominate, is a second important fact, - the acceptance to subordinate itself - which comes from an hereditary behavioural pattern. But, this also means that the dog cannot decide alone between dominance and subordination, it requires the social partner man.

Dog owners continually have the problem to decide which trainer or therapist to choose, with the correct qualification, for the re-education of their dog. In the search for a serious offer, the majority of advertisements are full of such slogans as: *“incorporating the newest of cynologic knowledge”* or *“based on ethological studies”*. At first these announcements seem to transmit a professional impression, backed up with scientific studies. But where are the recognized ethological research and cynological workshops when the dog is trained with the following: head collar, anti-barking collar, pinch/prong collar, yanking the leash, shouting orders, metal objects thrown at the dog, and so much more. Must man, by all the humanisation and mawkishness here speak more from psychological mistreatment, against the predator dog?

A realistic biological association that the dog is seeking

For the ethology it is important, what a dog does when it comes into contact with another dog, why it does it, and what is released in its opposite number. This awareness is interesting when trying to understand your own dog. Now we are faced with a situation in that we cannot allow our dog to react uncontrolled. Even when we would receive answers to questions, why our dog does what it does, these would not help us any further. In a detailed description of dog behaviour, or how experts explain this, behavioural monitoring, a solution is not included.

Even when you have understood that your dog is insecure or afraid, in that it protects the front door, the garden fence or windows when strangers pass-by, we do not question our own behaviour but instead counter with excuses: It lies in the dogs poor upbringing, It comes from abroad, It was bitten in a puppy play group, or, It previously lived wildly. But how does it continue? You have described the dogs behaviour, also given an explanation and still nothing changes. The reason is easy to find. Because you leave your dog alone to sort out its problems, and give it responsibilities that it hopelessly cannot cope with. The only meaningful basis to change the behaviour of the dog is to begin with ourselves (man). Have you ever asked yourself what the dog wants? Does it really want to pull on the leash? Does it want to bark, bite, or be fearful? Is it not that the dog must act in such a manner, because you have not taken control?

Dog training vs. Dog therapy

Dog training is one thing, but the therapy for problem and misbehaviour is quite a different matter. Even today owners are of the opinion that dogs with bad habits can be simply retrained. Training methods that are being used in dog clubs and sport dog fraternities, are not designed as a therapy to deal with the problem and misbehaviour. Unfortunately the majority of dog owners discover this far too late, because the use of punishment, that is to say excessive pressure has been used, and the dog is already showing signs of avoidance behaviour. The results are fatal, then the root of the problem is neither being cured nor is the dogs behaviour getting better, in fact it is only becoming deeper embodied in the animal and instigating problems in other areas. A effective therapy must unlock this unwanted behaviour, so that the new information can link together and the desired conduct will be the outcome.

For example; *"continuous barking"*. To stop the dog from barking it is not enough just to shout or punish it, because this merely suppresses the reaction to the stimulus. The process of learning requires firstly to sever the previous connection. Thus when your dog runs barking to the front door when someone rings the bell, it is because the dog has learnt a connection,; the sound of the bell has triggered off a reaction to run to the door and start barking. In the mind of the dog it is doing nothing wrong, because it sees this as its job, to warn the pack of a possible danger. We have here a classic A/B connection (Doorbell / Bark). When we try to stop this reaction through the command **"NO"** or by **"grabbing hold of its muzzle"**, we have done nothing to break the A/B connection, we have just brought in a third element to the already standing situation, thus A/B/C (Doorbell/Bark/NO). Here is the difference between training and therapy (or conditioning) from reconditioning, in that a competent therapist would firstly deal with the A/B connection so that a new alternative A/C can be productive. In our case it would be thus: Door bell - remain in basket, or Door bell - eye to eye contact. Take care in future, that alleged, dog professionals really carry out a therapy and do not just swap one problem for another. Please remember that a serious Problem dog therapist deals first with the causes and not with the symptoms. Whenever a "trust worthy" dog trainer is not in a position to treat the deep lying behaviour of your dog, but just skip over the surface symptoms, then it is time that you consulted, if not for the sake of the dog, someone that has an understanding of the problems at hand. A competent PDT (Problem Dog Therapist) recognises this reaction, "Doorbell/Barking/run to the door" and can within 20 minutes erase this behaviour, permanently and without any form of assistance from outside material, or any form of punishment.

With punishment you cannot train your dog, but you can make it bark quietly!

How long does a successful therapy take?

Basically the length of time required for a successful therapy is dependent on how serious the problem or misbehaviour is, the intensity and the time at which it first occurred. As long as it did not start in the developing period (4th - 14th week), the treatment period is the same as that in which the misbehaviour was learnt, thus within a few repeated actions. After 3 - 5 repetitions the dog has the knowledge, and a further 3 - 5 rehearsals to generalize the behaviour. It is total nonsense when someone tells you to go over and over again, 15 times or more. Your dog has learnt after 3 repetitions, when it is the right time to beg for food, and that is when you sit down to eat. Why then should it take the dog longer to learn that it is senseless to beg at this time, rather it is better to lay quietly in its basket. For the dog it makes no difference where it gets its food, from the table or when it is in its basket.

The child friendly family escort dog... or the secret wishes of our dogs.

Do these really exist? The all singing, all dancing family dog, the trust worthy escort dog or the child loving dog? Where can these animals be bought? But do these breeds exist, specifically raised as family friendly and child loving, which criteria removed are required for these breeds? Have you ever sat down and thought about what emotional descriptions are used for the household predator, "DOG? And do these fit?" If the answer is YES, then what is the difference between a Family friendly dog and other types of dogs?

How many more people, who wish to purchase a dog, will allow themselves to be thought of as being dumb, in that the seller does not explain that the "family dog" is really a resource driven predator. What must happen so that the descriptions, family friendly or child loving, are removed from our way of thinking, completely, and especially from the breeders vocabulary during the sale of a puppy, or how many more dogs must be put to sleep because these terms were used by a shelter when selling a stray dog, that shortly after arriving at home it attacks someone?

So, what is a family dog? A dog with the special characteristics of, loyalty, trust, and the ability to fit into the family atmosphere, but we all know that a dog is orientated only by impulses, and do not react to human emotions as we do, or do they possess some hidden genetic talents, that show themselves only when the animal is within a family situation?

What is more difficult to accept and one of the greatest dangers, is in the thinking that a dog is child loving. Approximately 80,000 children in Germany alone are bitten by dogs per year, and this is only the number of reported incidents. That these are only from "listed dog breeds" is highly improbable.

Labrador or Love-brador, Border Collie or Child collie,

how many of the around 400 breeds are really child loving, or particularly family friendly and why is the resource driven predator "Dog" once again seen to have human characteristics, that they have no chance of fulfilling? We do not say that a dog has not the competence to fit into the social atmosphere, or that it is not willing to accept its position lower in the hierarchy, however these predators live purely on impulse and instinct, and do not possess emotions as we humans.

Even in reproduction of the species, we partake in sexual activity more out of lust than purely protection of the human race, whereas in the animal kingdom it is only a means of carrying on the race. Why then are we shocked when a dog, that has been purchased in the belief that it is child loving, attacks someone when all that it is doing is protecting its resources, territory or prey etc, and especially children are in danger in such situations, or when a family friendly dog show massive abnormal or problem behaviour, because a dog does not understand the expression of “child loving” or “family friendly” and cannot therefore react to these emotional processes.

When we observe the impulses in a typical breed of dog, we will see that guard-, hunting-, food-, and pack-impulses are the norm. So, why is it that “child loving-”, “partner-”, or “family friendly-” impulses cannot be seen? Because very simply... **they do not exist!**

Puppy play groups are important for social integration.

The picture we have in our minds of young puppies is one of; large sorrowful eyes in a bundle of soft furry fell and uncoordinated movements, that awake in us the protective mothering instincts, and we allow these young dogs to “get away with murder”, in these very important early weeks of its life.

Was the first meeting, where the puppy jumped up at us, seeking “love” and affection, so cute? but as the cost of cleaning our clothing starts to rapidly increase, then these memories soon disappear and a negative atmosphere takes its place, and when the adult dog, springs at a stranger and leaves its muddy paw prints all over their winter coat, our reaction is full of anger. We humans feel that for a puppy we are important and it needs us, and the pup can also help us out of our social isolation and thus make new acquaintances (even lasting friendships and partnerships are due to the contact made when out for a walk with our dog).

The supposedly fragile creature “*puppy*” must leave the protection of its family and is alone in the big wide world, a world of two legged homo sapiens, and this is all too human when try to make the puppies life as pleasant as possible. **Please remember, trips to Puppy play groups do not belong here!**

In the last years there has been a complete re-thinking with regard to training of dogs. A higher priority is being placed on the behaviour and social interaction of dogs. Puppies from all breeds and sizes are placed in “*play groups*” and are through the supposedly competent trainers forced into unnatural behaviour. Puppies play time is seemingly the greatest rubbish that man has devised for young dogs. What can a puppy learn from another dog the same age? Correct nothing, well at least nothing positive. Here up to 10 puppies or more are thrown together, different sizes and different breeds, to “play”. Each and every individual pup, placed alone in the group, will do all in its power to save its own skin, especially when it is seen as easy prey by strange members to the group.

Let us look at these “*play groups*” more closely and see what the puppies really learn. The puppy pulls on the leash towards another dog. The owner allows this action to continue with the words, “*He only wants to play*” Alone with this statement is the foundation for the beginning of a continuous fight with the dog when out for a walk, that will later need to be, with a lot of time and patience, corrected, so that the dog no longer fights against the owner, using a long leash method.

When the owner arrives for the first time at the “playground”, it is expected that the young puppy behaves in a correct manner with other dogs. Now after all the participants have lined up, and with puppy by your side, the order is given to remove the collar. Now the command, **GO**, is given, and isn't it fun to see all the puppies “playing” with each other? Now what happens when they are called, “HERE, COME HERE”? Already the puppy has been allowed to take control, now it must react to the command and give up this new found “freedom” and battle against its partners and return to its owner. **Where here is the human as regulator?**

Puppies check the situation, but act out no leadership qualities, regulate the meeting of others according to characteristics, and specific breed genetics or from previously learnt behaviour with various degrees of aggression. It becomes a wild and turbulent get together incorporating different breeds, ages and accordingly different sizes. Each individual, if left alone, would fight to retain its position in the hierarchy, while the owners go off for a chat and a cup of coffee. During this period the puppies lay the ground rules for problem behaviour for the future. Here puppies will be attacked, bitten, chased etc. Suddenly it is no longer a cuddly little packet of fun but is involved in a status conflict that must be sort out. At this point the owner is aware of the situation and steps in. This behaviour is not to be tolerated. What is learnt stays learnt and the experience for all involved is embedded in their minds. The dominant puppy (and here we mean dominant in a neutral sense) would be punished by being pushed to the ground or given a rough shake, by grabbing the scruff of its neck. The puppy learns from this action that it must not show this fully natural behaviour. What it has actually learnt is the aggressive nature of man whereby it was we that put the puppy in this situation in the first place, didn't we tell it to go and “play”, didn't we allow it to make its own decisions? To fend for itself?

Those that feel insecure, or are sensitive, look for a quiet corner where they can curl up and hide, waiting anxiously for their “pack leader” to return so that they can be saved from the aggression of others. Or do you think that growling between puppies is different from adult dogs?

It has been proven that 77% of all dogs, up to the age of two years, have develop problem behaviour in these so called puppy play groups. We are speaking here from play groups not from controlled puppy learning centres. In retrospect one should consider that in the animal kingdom such play groups do not exist. Puppies from one pack do not play or socialize with puppies from other packs, the safety and survival of their own group is genetically anchored, and animals from a strange pack will be either chased off or killed. Also the falsely designated puppy protection is an idea from we humans and has no place in the animal kingdom. To believe in this, is leaving too much to lady luck.

Remember, the dog must learn that socialization has nothing to do with what breed the other dog is, but more with the social partner man. Puppies learn all that is needed in the pack from the original members through the interaction, with the bitch as umpire or referee. What you must teach your puppy is, the different environmental stimulants, ties to its owner, safety and clear leadership through the human species. Also, under control the eventual togetherness with other adult dogs, from which it can learn! This is useful and leads to a harmonious and good socialised puppy.

Have you ever enrolled in one of these groups that are often advertised as being under constant supervision? If luck has been on your side then it is possible that you have come away unscathed and your dog has no lasting negative effects. Are you attending one of these puppy play groups, from which Hundewelten's critical concept has just mentioned? Now take off your pink glasses. It lies in your hands alone. There is no better time than now to make a positive impression on your puppy. Handle your puppy in a responsible manner. Would you allow your children to be involved in a group of older, bigger and stronger youngsters, and when it comes to a fight stand there and watch your children being attacked, just because a teacher tells you that "*The children must stand firm and learn to answer for themselves*" NO? - then why do you allow the same to happen with your puppy?

We approve of puppy groups, but under supervision and in an atmosphere where the owner and the puppy work together, building a bond, as a team. The group should have no more than maximal 4 puppies with their owners. Here the puppy would be confronted with the everyday distractions around it. It would be taught the correct way to behave on the leash, this would be practised in different places, and eventually a good socialised adult dog, with its owner, would be introduced. Here we concentrate on the important items that the young puppy must learn for its future life, and this with its owner and not primarily with strange dogs. When you now look back at the reasons for the problem behaviour of your dog, it will be deducted that the grounds for your puppies actions, was that in this period, puppy play group, it was bullied by the other puppies in the group. That you left him alone to sort out its own problems, because the organiser said so, or stopped you from intervening, then it is only natural that the dog has learnt to find its own answers for situations, and that it had no other choice than to behave incorrectly.

Old wives tales about correct puppy training.

When the new born owner collects his 8 week old puppy, he is given tips on how to get it house trained as quickly as possible. Here we would like to clear one of the basic errors in dog training.

1) Rub his nose in its own shit or urine and say: NAUGHTY DOG, NO!

A fantastic idea. How would you feel if a midwife rubbed a full nappy in the face of your newly born child, and said, "Naughty baby!", so that it learns to go to the potty? Do you think that the mother would accept this as practicable advice? So why do this with a young puppy? Here the puppy binds punishment with going to the toilet, but we do not give it an alternative so it can learn where to go to relieve itself. The puppy has learnt, through this nonsense, that the presence of a human in the house, is coupled with punishment (See Avoiding behaviour), it must not go to the toilet but hang on as long as possible. Now while it is alone, when you are out shopping or visiting friends for coffee, it feels that it is safe to relieve itself in the house because it cannot be punished by the aggressor, MAN. Moral here is: learn effect = 0 points, Avoiding behaviour = 10 points.

2) Settling-in phase.

Regardless from where you buy your puppy, from breeder, kennel, stray dog home or from abroad, we continually hear talk about a "*settling-in phase*" from a few days to even weeks. What is this absolute nonsense? The puppy is within a very short time, ca. 3 days, totally at home in its new surroundings. Dogs have had 15,000 years to study and fit into the life styles of we humans. It has studied our rituals, filtered out our strengths and weaknesses and uses this information for his own profit.

Absolutely without judgement but correct according to species. When arriving home we tend to allow the dog time to relax - *in peace and quiet* - so that it will not be overstressed. Thus with the first encounter with its new home we allow the dog to make its own decisions: “*go on look around ... this is your new home*” What has really happened with this statement? The human has handed over to the dog all form of responsibility, to search out any possible dangers that may lurk in its new abode.

Thus the puppy has learnt in these first few moments that it cannot trust his owner for protection, and worst still, it must, even as a puppy or young dog take the lead role instead of being led. The dog, through this settling-in phase given the responsibility for the entire household, for which it is not prepared for. Another fully irresponsible idea made by we humans.

General punishment, or the nonsense regarding drill and violence

Punishment must be! Of course ... I mean the dumb dog doesn't listen to what you say anyway, and you are supposed to be the pack leader, and as a member of the pack the dog has to keep to your rules and even as the newest member he must be shown how to behave correctly! Therefore punishment, both verbally and physically, including extreme corporal punishment and suppression, so that things will change, training must be performed! Luckily we have a vast number of companies producing various items of torture: choke collars, spiked collars, electric shock collars, spray collars and many many more. Don't get us wrong, training is important, so that the dog can fit into our “*social activities*” and our environment. What then is “socially acceptable”? And exactly what do we humans expect from our dog?

From a human point of view:

- NO pulling on the leash
- NO aggression towards other animals
- NO jumping up at passers-by or children
- NO destruction of furniture in our home
- NO barking when the door bell rings
- NO jumping around in the car
- NO barking when people walk by the garden fence
- NO theatre at the vets
- NO protection of resources
- NO chasing of joggers or cyclist
- NO marking
- NO killing of prey
- NO begging at the dining table
- NO rolling about where dead animals lay
- NO rolling about in rubbish
- NO stealing from refuse bins
- NO marking of the sidewalk
- NO ignoring of commands
- NO lying on the couch or in the bed
- and so much more

When we look a bit closer then we will notice that the “inappropriate” behaviour of the dog is normal, according to breed, and from the dogs point of view absolute sense. Aggression against other dogs is only to protect its resources from rivals, in the same way that it would do in nature, against all other predators. We don't talk about a food friend but food rival.

The springing at any person is a sign of begging for food that is instinctive in young animals. The barking when the door bell rings is a warning sign for others in the pack that a stranger is nearby. Chasing after a cyclist or jogger, is founded in the dog instinct for catching prey, (a dog is from origin an animal that chases moving object of prey for food), the object for the dog is a food resource. Rolling in a carcass tells the rest of the pack that here food is to be found. Begging at the table is a fully natural ritual, where it protects a source of nourishment. Ignorance of verbal commands, when it is sniffing on the ground, reiterates the evidence that a dog can only use one sense at a time, absolutely logical. If we reconsider the list above it can be seen that there is nothing that shows us any positive or requested behaviour, nonetheless these are what the owner expects from the dog and later of the therapist or trainer. When we change the wording of the list, see below, it will be clear that if we adjust our way of thinking, it not only be effective but also productive.

- attentive and relaxed walk, on the leash
- neutral behaviour when in contact with other dogs
- eye contact when strangers or children approach
- laying peacefully when in the house on a designated place
- short barking when bell rings, to warn when strangers are on your property
- quiet relaxed behaviour in the car
- when in the garden close proximity to the owner, not patrolling the garden fence
- acceptable behaviour when visiting the vet
- freely allowing the owner to control food resources
- when joggers or cyclists approach return automatically to its owner
- lie quietly by the dining table and wait patiently for the owner to offer food
- totally ignore refuse bins
- relieve itself only with the acceptance of the owner and only where it is permitted
- verbal commands are now unnecessary, the dog has no reason to wander away
- lay with the owner on the couch together

In the first list you must, as pack leader, take action to correct the misbehaviour of the dog and that, almost certainly with some form of punishment, till the dog reacts in the way that you expect. Because the owners pose the incorrect questions. The question, “Why does the dog do that?” is false, then we should consider how we could punish the dog. From the second list you will see, as pack leader, that there are alternative ways to praise the dog and show acknowledgement for the correct behaviour. Why should the dog make the same error repeatedly, when it can independently react correctly? Here we have explained why it is important to change our way of thinking, or better still to praise the dog for correct behaviour with some form of treat, before we start to, (from our point of view), punish the dog for its behaviour.

What is (however) for the dog desirable behaviour? What are its expectations?

Of course nothing more than to satisfy its instincts and from its stand point the most lucrative way to achieve its targets! When, from our point of view, the dog misbehaves, then WE have nothing better to think off than to punish the animal. We, from Hundewelten, on the other hand primarily praise the dog for its errors, because basically the dog does not deliberately do anything wrong, it handles only in a correctly, target orientated and according to its characteristics. We should actually punish ourselves because we were not in the position to teach the dog the correct method of behaviour.

When we do nothing, then in the eyes of the dog: it is allowed!

What happens when we punish the dog? Exactly two reactions:

- we destroy trust, then which pack leader punishes one of its followers for correct behaviour
- we implant an avoiding behaviour. That means, it will avoid behaving in a way in which it has previously been punished for!

Correction sounds good but is actually the opposite!

Through this form of “*correction*” the problem is not erased but rather suppressed. When we start to accept growling as a problem instead of as a warning and punish the dog for this, then there will come a time when the dog will bite without giving a warning, what other option will it be left with? When we punish “*stealing*” from the table, then it would take secretly, because it had not been taught that food on the table belongs to us. If we continue to punish the dog long enough then we should not be amazed when the dog begins to show indications of stereotype: 1) lick its paws for hours on end, 2) pull lumps of hair out, 3) chase its own tail etc. This is known as a “*compulsive action*”. When the dog cannot release its problems or state of conflict through growling or similar action, because it knows that it will be punished, it would suppress these feelings inwardly and take action against itself. The majority of these psyche behavioural problems have one thing in common: **Punishment from we humans!**

Mental pressure reduces the learning ability and the motivation of the dog! Why wait until the dog makes an error, why let it walk into a trap, and then think, “How can we punish the dog?”, or maybe use, under the pretence of species appropriate, teaching instruments of torture, that the industry constantly place on the market. A pool of abysmal human characters. For the dog this means only fear, pain, stress, etc. long years of conflict, and when this becomes too much then there is always the vet, that without any further questions will willingly put the animal to sleep. Unfortunately the dog has no way out and is solely dependent on the inhumanity of its owner. We humans do a lot of things for the dog, but nothing to help the dog.

He must willingly perform for me, and not for the praise or treats

Tomorrow morning go to work without pay because you think your boss is such a nice guy, and you enjoy your work so much that you would willingly work for nothing. The next job interview that you have you wait only for the sentence: Your salary will be \$0 per year and no vacation days, you will work 12 hours a day 365 days a year for nothing, before agreeing to accept the position. Therefore why should a successful animal of prey work again and again for no reward, with total enjoyment? Not to mention the numerous advantages that can be achieved using food, I mean the dog must eat something anyway. So why give it food for just lying around all day long? Why are so many dog owners reluctant to praise, what is in the nature an animal that chases and kills for food, the dog by giving treats for correct behaviour? Naturally it is easier and more convenient to punish a dog for incorrect behaviour, than to acknowledge positive and good conduct by awarding treats. Why is it so that we humans, in our methods and thinking, are so narrow minded? In the eyes of a dog it is more logical to be rewarded for correct behaviour over the entire day, than to have one big meal in the evening, without having to perform anything. With dry food it is possible to give 200 - 300 times in one day small treats, measured of course on the entire quantity for a days food ration.

Food is the most important resource and as pack leader, who always has a quantity of life saving resources by him, will be for the dog naturally very important, and that means for the dogs future survival.

Many of the problems that people have with their dogs can be easily erased by the correct approach using food as a reward, most behavioural problems could be totally eradicated. We are talking about behavioural weaknesses like:- stealing of food, eating carcasses, lack of awareness, not coming when called and many other faults, and that within a few hours. No living creature on this planet, including man, does anything for nothing, so, “Why do you think your dog will also do something for nothing?” All circus animals, all animals that have learnt to do tricks, have been trained by using treats, this is a basic instinct in us all: Work in exchange for food, or in our case a monthly salary. “How do you think man survived before the invention of money?” We didn't work for gold, we worked, the same as a dog, for food. “Would you go to work each and every day if you didn't have some sort of advantage?” “Would your dog stay by you if you didn't give it something to eat?”

The truth about dominance and "tug-of-war" games

Dog owners are beginning to understand that it is not advisable to play “Tug-of-War” games with their pets. According to the majority of experts: *“If your dog continuously wins at these “Tug-of-War” games then it will start to take over the dominant position”*. Sadly, all too often, it is not realized that this dominant behaviour presupposes that one party will allow itself to be dominated! **As “leader-of-the-pack” do we wish this situation to exist? NO!!... therefore this statement reflects no relation to our DOG - MAN constellation.**

Why then are “Tug-of-War” games not advisable?

Here is a simple fact that will help us on our way to answering this question: Anything that relates to a form of resource, but is not under the direct control of one individual, will be claimed by the dog, and rightly so. In nature an “Alpha”-animal that vacates the vicinity of a carcass, after satisfying its hunger, gives a sign to the rest of the pack that the remains of the food source is free for them, on returning to take further nourishment it would have to fight for the right to eat again. His “Alpha” status does him no good in this situation. Therefore why do we fight (play) with our dog over a resource that belongs to us, as pack leader, anyway? During this “fight” we have given the dog an opportunity to control the “food supply”, and must no longer wonder why the dog does not automatically return the “resource” to us freely. Alone through this senseless handling we invite the dog, as a primitive predator, to fight freely for the “Alpha” position with its owner. This behaviour unfortunately leads, in most cases, to the so called “Resource aggression”, targeted against us humans, and in the majority of incidents that means the weakest member of the pack - **OUR CHILDREN.**

Dominance... faux-pas or “back to nature”?

*The comment was loud and clear. “What ... again this dominant behaviour rubbish? This ridiculous pomposity about “Alpha-status” and hierarchy! MY dog **LOVES** me and I **LOVE** my dog... by me it can live like a REAL dog and THAT according to its species. You are probably some sort of “MACHO-A*****”, casting yourself as a Pseudo-man you now feel fantastically proud! That's telling you!!!*

I try to imagine the humanely-human author at the other end of this forum, reading this answer to the article posted by himself. If you ask for advice, you must, be prepared not only for good advice...

it must be satisfying to know that between the participants in these forums there are many miles between them. What I personally feel about the majority of the members in these forums, in the way that they handle each other, regarding what and how they post replies, and generally treat other users, at this point I will keep to myself. Is your dog allowed to do anything it wants, just because you want to give it a good home? Don't you restrict its activities, do you not dominate your dog, because you have the impression that you encroach on the dogs wishes? Really!? The question about dominance, its meaning, its terminology in everyday usage with regard to our fellow man, or purely the question, "Why anyway?" demands firstly one unadulterated glance at the origins of the word. Like so many other words that we use in everyday life, DOMINANCE, was not founded by dog owners, so that they can act like a dictator, but finds its origins in the Latin and means... *"the genetic character, that asserts itself openly against a weaker (recessive) opponent."*

In biology the description says: *"Hierarchical dominance is found in most animals, including primates, and also in man. e.g. individual A restricts the rights and freedom of individual B. However A claims these rights and freedom for himself, which is accepted by B. Dominance is always, relationship specific and is time and situation related."*

The previous paragraph therefore states clearly that a dominant dog cannot dominate another individual for 24 hrs. a day. It can *only* act in this manner when it *must*, in particular situations, (e.g. when it encounters a dog of the same sex = situation dependent dominance), whereas in all other daily confrontations it reacts with *"calmness"*. It maybe that the dog only shows these tendencies for one person, (relationship specific dominance). e.g. it ignores the commands from the wife, whereas for the husband, it follows to the letter, everything.

In psychology we talk about Dominant behaviour, when "an individual is in a group and would like to control or govern all the others"

With the term "Dominance" we have an additional item: the Alpha-member. *"Alpha is the term used by behavioural scientist to describe the leader of a herd or pack. Alpha animals are usually the strongest and most experienced in the group. Generally they are also the oldest male or female, and therefore they are the only ones that are allowed to produce future generations. The description Alpha-member takes its origins from the Greek or Phoenician alphabet: Alpha meaning the first letter in the alphabet: Alpha-animals are therefore the "first" (in hierarchy the highest ranking) animal in the group.* This explanation describes without prejudice - and encases the "Alpha-status", coupled with behaviour, without positive nor negative characteristics.

However man has taken this expression into its everyday speech - and more often than not uses it in a negative sense. It is generally accepted that a person in an "Alpha"-position is a person that holds authority, and will not accept any compromise regarding his demands, and is obsessed by power, and handles all those below him with a dismissive attitude. Whereas those lower see this person as arrogant and think of them in a derogatory manner. In our minds we see before us, our foreman/partner/parents, that humiliate their workers/partners/children, or even frighten them, put them under pressure, even resorting to physical and mental maltreatment.

Is this the reason why man, in respect of the following descriptions: “*Dominance*”, “*Leadership*”, “*Restrictiveness*”, “*Hierarchy*”, and “*Alpha-status*” etc, react with a negative state of mind? Something that undoubtedly in our - basic positive intellectual capacity - understanding of democracy and equality with others is entirely the opposite!

When we return to accept that dominance is one of the ground rules for the survival of our species, and therefore created by “*human grace*” neither good nor bad. We should therefore hold before our eyes - free of all values - where we everyday are dominant (even over our pets), without realizing what we are doing... without any deliberate form of positive/negative consciousness in our behaviour. Regardless if we accept or deny the concept of dominance, we should always keep in our thoughts what the word depicts. Generally we do not say one thing when we mean something else. One should observe how many times a day that you practise “dominance” (with regards to the restriction of freedom, of others for your own benefit...) over your dog (and probably not just against the dog...). Do you allow your dog to jump onto the dining table and take the steak from your plate, in front of your eyes? NO? You don't allow this? You deny this, because you have claimed the steak for yourself, and by doing so you have restricted the freedom of your dog. When you take your dog for a walk and on the other side of the street is its “*best friend*”, would you allow the dog to cross over, regardless of the traffic? However, it is on the leash so the dog biggest wish cannot be fulfilled. You have decided in which direction proceed. Does this action not constitute “dominance”? You BEAST! Yes, *just look... you are acting in a dominant manner and do not even realise it...*

Let us return to our discussion about “Dominance”, whatever the situation we find ourselves in: Internet forum, on the training ground, out for a walk, etc. A “general” dominance does not exist - each animal is an individual and as previously stated: Dominance is combined to relationship, time and situation. Most owners allow themselves to be drawn into unserious discussions around the theme dominance, but each individual reflects upon their own experiences, and according to the experiences you have had, only you can understand if it is important to be “*dominant*” or not. Is it possible to comprehend the relevance and basic necessity for a “*dominant*” leadership? Moreover... the majority of dog owners (conscience-stricken, but deeply democratically orientated) it is difficult to accept, that by restriction we have the beginnings for more freedom. BUT how?

Restrictions are the means to an end - nobody restricts the “*willingness for restriction!*” No human - No dog! Once the dog has found its place in the pack (this means where in the hierarchy it belongs) then the restrictions are progressively released. A dog that - while or because of the previous art of restriction - with security and with trust orientates itself on its owner, can be taken anywhere on or off the leash. It will have no conflict with other animals, no stress over the protection of resources etc a higher quality of life, which so many dogs (and also owners) can only dream from. Each man-dog-relationship is different - each dog must be treated as an individual; what links all dogs is the fact that, they are dogs; not cats, not elephants... and also not humans. It still retains its genetic behavioural repertoire from its ancestral forefather the “*Wolf*”- even though by domestication and/or influences falsified through breeding/genetic choice, imprints, and training, it has been tamed. Therefore it will, in its behaviour follow these instincts, which goes to explain the expected and unexpected actions (from our point of view) are still valid.

In addition to dominance, we also find the word subordination in this group of misinterpreted terminology, that by so many owners “make their toes curl”. Subordination (and here we must, from the bottom of our hearts, say thank you, to all you hard liners in training schools: here ends the irony), only a few years ago caused my hair to stand on end and break out in hot flushes, the meaning of this word I learnt from dog training grounds.

This term (ultimately) referred to Alsatian (German Shepherds) that were drilled like soldiers, and when not up to standard, additional training methods were introduced, e.g. yanking on the leash, electric shock collars, pinch collars etc. At the end both owner and trainer were satisfied with the results. You now had a dog that “*functions*”, and the object of your desires creeps over the training area, totally stressed out and in an avoiding nature.

But also here - before the concept has been robbed of its meaning - it should be explained what subordination means in the animal world. If we are to believe the “experts”, that have spent their lives studying the canine species, then we must assume that subordination is something totally the opposite to what we previously conceived. It has nothing to do with an animal being pressured from above into submission, on the contrary it is more an instinct that a dog has - it automatically recognises another individual that has a higher status, *freely* accepting it - due to the power and sovereign manner in each and every situation, and behaves accordingly.

These comparisons remind me of a foreman during my apprenticeship, who had an intense understanding of his work, but never boasted about his status, salaries were paid punctually and fairly. He led us through each days work according to his ideas, whether correct or not. We followed him gladly, as he was, in our eyes, a competent and very fair leader. After a period of time working together, it was not necessary for an explanation of each and every step - when he told to look at our work from a different stand-point we did so, while he was for us, at that time, technically fully competent, and in the situation where we were hectic and unfocused in our preparation, he has seen what we had overlooked. We humans (scholars) had, in his presence, “subordinated” ourselves - on the one hand due to our dependency (e.g. “food” in the form of our salary), but money alone was the only reason that kept us each day for 14 hours motivated and happy in our work - and on the other hand, it was more the way in which we worked together, the satisfaction of doing a good days work, of being accepted in the team, and that our leader was fully in “control”. We never questioned his authority, in any shape or form, there was no reason given to do this. In our eyes as “the Boss” he did everything correct...

Now let us return to the earlier statement:

“Individual A restricts the rights and freedom of Individual B, but demands his own rights and freedom, which B accepts. Dominance is specific to relationship and is time and situation dependant”

Restriction does not necessarily have to be negative. When you (A) restrict your dog (B) when on the leash (or with the verbal command, “HEEL”, when not on the leash), so that it does not run across the street, then you are using your “*right*” to make the decision that hinders the dogs movements, and at the same time, restricting its “*freedom*”. Through this action, by not allowing the dog to decide for itself, are you acting dominantly, in this particular situation? YES.

Are you doing this to say, “*I am the boss and you will do what I want*”? Absolutely not! You are, in this scenario, protecting the dog from making a choice that would threaten its safety (and that of others). Just as you did not allow your dog (when it was a puppy and still “*untrained*”) to eat your steak, as it used its “*rights*” to jump onto the table, to get at that juicy piece of meat, did you give in to its’ desires? If not... then you have stood by your *rights* and claim the steak for yourself, and by banning the dog from the table, you have denied the dog its “*freedom of choice*”... were you being dominant, again? YES.

I often reflect on the memories of my foreman, men like him are a rarity today, but unfortunately he was called back to head office, in the United States. A “boss” like him is my wish for so many dogs that I encounter, whether it be in kennels or homes or even private households. Dogs that willingly orientate themselves on a “natural leader”, find joy in the simple fact that, master/mistress, will supply all that it needs to make it possible to live a life appropriate to its species. **A LIFE...**

...in that it will no longer be confronted by people or dogs, that it has to bark or snap at, so that it becomes the security it expects and requires, because its owner has full control of the situation.

...in that it no longer has to follow its owner permanently all around the house, while fearing of being left alone, (loss of control). The owner glows with happiness as he considers this to be a sign of “*LOVE*”.

...in that it is safe in its new home, and does not have to fight the other dog for its “place”, (or vice-versa), and the owner does not have to worry about “*unsocial*” behaviour.

...in that the dog has the opportunity both, in the house or in the garden to release the stress that has built-up when friends and neighbours visit, because the dog has total *freedom* of movement.

...in that the dog does not continuously tug on the leash like a wild animal, in an attempt to take control of the entire neighbourhood, with all its dangers and stimuli, and an owner that gives the explanation, “his actions doesn’t bother me, after all he’s only a puppy not even 1 year old yet, and the dog is that sort of breed..., they are expected to be temperamental...” etc.

There are so many situations that I would like to spare the dog - according to its individual demands. That would assist me and thousands of others, that think alike, when owners in general would inform themselves over the behavioural circumstances of their dogs... and this without prejudice, either through tunnel vision or any other form of personal adulation for the interpretation for the (mis) behaviour of your beloved four-legged friend and the following results.

And this includes the interpretation of the word **Dominance**, both in its original and factually correct translation, regarding the deep fundamental Man-Dog relationship.

Residential training - the last hope?

The promises sound unbelievable! The dog is placed in the hands of a “trained” person, for anything from a few days to several months, and you receive at the end of this, expensive, “training” a totally lovable partner!

OK, so it did cost “an arm and a leg”, but just look at the results, and you didn’t have to get your hands dirty, did you! What could be better??? And now you dream of peaceful walks with your “best friend”. No more negative surprises when you arrive home from work, and maybe just a peaceful afternoon in the park with other “playful dogs”? **Dream on, my friend!!!**

So many dog-lovers follow all the possible information from “*experts*” and “*puppy play groups*” that they can find, and due to these institutions do everything **incorrect** that anyone could possibly imagine, with regards to training. The decision that the only correct way to train dogs, according to the information available, is to place them into the hands of an “**EXPERT**”, and at an immense cost, circa £2,200/\$3,500, give them up for as long as the training should take. Dog owners experiment with everything that is described in this book, (except Electro-shock treatment), and the results are just more and more depressing, to the point of becoming dangerous. The joy that owners dream of, quickly evaporate into frustration and despair. Aggression towards other dogs becomes so strong, that it is only possible to go for a walk late at night when the streets are empty, or where ever other dogs could be encountered. So the dog is enrolled in a well advertised and renowned school, but firstly you begin by filling numerous forms as to the problems that you have been faced with.

The gut feeling was not positive, but they were supposed to be trained people, and know exactly what they have to do! After several months of anxious waiting, the day arrived when the dog could be picked up and taken home. A gift is presented to each owner, a spiked/pinch collar, tailor made for each dog, (*to consolidate the trained behaviour*).

“Avoidance behaviour”: Type of activity exhibited by animals exposed to adverse stimuli, in which the tendency to flee or act defensively is stronger than the tendency to attack.

Within a few days the original problems will re-occur, and in fact will worse than before. Some dogs which have had brutal training will show a continuous tendency to flee or to act defensively with every attempt from the owner to approach the dog, as described in an earlier paragraph in this script, under the heading “punishment”, this will show itself in signs that the dog will act incontrovertibly, unable to show outwardly, for fear of punishment and pain, any kind of attachment. Other dogs will start to bite their paws and/or lick their skin until it becomes sore. Daily visits to the vets to bandage its paws cost a small fortune. It cannot be target of these schools, after such an elite training course, to have to pay several thousand dollars in medical charges for the dog. Other symptoms can show themselves in different ways i.e. in that they would try to find an alternative object on which it could chew for hours to relieve its stress. It never occurred to the animal in this period to orientate itself on man as pack leader, then what man had done to it during this training was fatal. Dogs could show a deep fear of their collars, no wonder, who would allow something to be worn that is associated with pain? The results of such training must be unacceptable, but trying to phone the directors and ask for an explanation is futile. Or the advice is, “Come by and we will take another look at the dog in question again, and if there is a problem, for an additional \$750, we will gladly offer a refresher course”. And just like a miracle the dogs follow these people as if by clockwork...

I can only advise all those out there who have problems with their dogs to keep your distance from any form of residential training. You have no control or influence over the art of “training” that your dog receives. What the dog shows in these establishments does not mean that the same signs will occur in its usual surroundings. All the problems that dogs show will be apparent in their normal abode, therefore this is where the therapy must be performed. Through a residential therapy an owner cannot change their attitude towards the dog, in the same mass as is possible in its normal environment, this is the basics for a successful therapy and a sustaining result. As soon as you are confronted with problem behaviour in your dog seek the help of a professionally trained therapist.

From reading this script you can ask the therapist specific questions regarding their knowledge and if the answers are not to your satisfaction seek someone who can answer your questions. If you get similar tips from those that continue to propagate ancient and out-dated methods, and cannot even explain why you should use this or that technique, or different forms of utilities, then free yourself from these ideas that a stranger could train your dog better than yourself. Take time, and work together **with** your dog, instead of fighting **against** his natural instincts.

Command NO!

Hand on heart, how many times a day do you say the word “**NO**” to your dog? Our research shows that people use this word between 40 and 80 times a day! Some dogs even started to believe that their name was, NO! This word seems to be a universal command for all situations when in contact with your dog. But for a dog what does the word NO mean? Accepted, primarily when you wish to stop your dog doing something then the word “NO”, spoken with a loud commanding voice, causes the animal to react/stop, almost immediately. But then what happens? Why must we constantly remind, through the command “NO”, the dog it is not allowed to jump onto the couch etc! When your partner wishes to sit on the couch, do you think that by using the word, “NO! the problem has been solved? Certainly not! He/she still wants to sit... What is missing is an alternative, if you offered your partner another chair first, then the use of the “NO” would be unnecessary.

Ignore the dog

“When your dog jumps up at you, then ignore it for the rest of the day” such advice people receive almost every day, including the sobering certainty, that the problem with the dog jumping up at you has not been resolved. When we are conscious of the fact that, our “predator” dog lives for the moment, thus in the present, and if we remember that the dog must be praised immediately for correct behaviour, after this time the animal has no recollection for what the praise is for, or what it has done, so we must ask ourselves, “What will it bring for me to ignore the dog the whole day, and who came up with this stupidity?” Let us return to the situation above: the dog jumps up at anyone who enters your house. Of course it gets on our nerves and is annoying, especially when our hands are full with groceries. On one side you have an overexcited dog and on the other you are trying not to drop the shopping baskets as you enter the house, then you turn your back on the dog and “ignore” it for the rest of the day. From the point of view of the dog, “What has occurred?” Through your ignorance of what has just happened you have given a signal to the dog that: *“everything that it did was OK and is allowed”* and as we casually mentioned, the dog has been given no alternative that means, the dog will make this “error” again and again, and you will be angered by this constant theatre. The dog will have forgotten within ten seconds why you ignored it, and will no longer understand the world.

Even less, it will not accept you as “pack” leader and will not earnestly serious, because a “pack” leader is anything else than passive. The connection and trust between you and the dog will suffer under these circumstances, and it is no wonder that the dog starts to take over the complete control in all situations, whereby it will become stronger and stronger through your passive attitude. Look at this from another angle and the consequences that will arise: When a dog bites and we ignore the attack. Have we won anything by this action? Definitely **NOT!**

At this point we would like to ask our “Experts” a very important question, especially those who say that we must ignore our pet, because in the practical aspect it is not clear. When we ignore our dog for three or five hours or even several days, then theoretically that means that we must not feed the animal or take it for walks, then through these actions we are “praising” it for the actions that had previously taken place at the house door, er!?! when was that? (the dog has forgotten anyway, but OK). So what do we do when it starts to plunder the refuse bins because it is hungry, or begins to do its’ “business” in the house because we do not take for a walk? Let me guess: We ignore it again! In this respect, please ignore one thing only: Those specialist or would-be-experts that propagate such theories!

An additional example, from a fully incompetent group of people, are comments from behavioural biologist with university diplomas, that in their amateurish misinterpretation and superficial knowledge are hard to top but put the following suggestions before us... At a seminar for owners with problem orientated dogs with the title, “*Problem behaviour by the canine species*”, the following statement was put forward: *When your dog bites someone then take a red head collar, it wont stop it biting people but it will warn then not to approach the dog as red means “STOP” - do not touch - therefore others will not come close enough to be bitten!* Another comment was, *For a dog to chase a cat or rabbit is fully normal and there is no aggression shown by the dog towards its prey, it makes the dog happy to chase others and performs this for no other reason. Exactly... and I’m waiting for a month of Sundays!*

But the most ridiculous declaration was yet to come: *When your dog is lying on the couch and it starts growling at you when you try to move it, say “Shame on you”, and lock it in the bathroom for at least 20 minutes, if it starts to vandalize the bathroom then extend the time to 40 minutes, until it learns that its’ aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated. Growling or snarling will result in being socially isolated.*

When “Experts” of this calibre are unleashed on unsuspecting dogs and their owners, then we should ask ourselves the question, “Would not be safer for both, man and animal, to lock these people up in a padded cell for several years?”

Please be patient for the next few pages, we will discuss several special products, whereby we are not allowed to mention specific brands or producers due to data protection laws.

Ad absurdum: the dog shows only the deficit of the owners education, but now several facilities are made responsible to correct mans failure.

The Pinch collar

In the sport dog scene also known as: Coral- or prong collar. A trainer recently explained to us that the use of such apparatus is paramount to dog education: Quote: *“One must from time to time correct the dogs “misbehaviour”* Unquote.

An excellent idea, we punish the dog's neck for doing exactly what the owner trained it to do, instead of working with the animal from ground level, so that the dog learns what the owner wants it to do and is not forced to make mistakes. “The correct usage of such a collar in this case, so was explained to us; *that man must punish the dog TWICE quickly and powerfully, and in quick repetition tug on the collar, this would be like the bitch shaking the new born puppy in the scruff of the neck and that the dog would immediately understand. Through the extra lever type action on the leash this would support the “species-appropriate” characteristics and support what the dog learnt as a puppy*“. **How stupid can one be?!**

Naturally dogs shake things by the neck - but more so it's their prey so as to kill them by breaking their neck! Which mother animal does this to their offspring as a form of learning process? **None!** Our house pet has, as we have previously said, taken time to adapt to us as a SOCIAL PARTNER, now we try to interpret *“an animal instinct”* and jerk the dog from pillar to post. What should the dog learn from this, to fall into a form of avoidance behaviour, and to be punished repeatedly from the trainer and eventually the owner for species orientated behaviour?

The next tip: *Pinch collars have a bad reputation, therefore wrap a handkerchief around it, so that passers-by cannot see it, or better still buy one that is already in a nylon cover.* Great idea, you use a device that inflicts pain and camouflage it, so that it cannot be seen, and you are not attacked by animal rights members or other pedestrians. Now the absolute top tip in the usage of these instruments: *“place the collar directly behind the ears and as tight as possible, the dog now will do nothing more!”* Correct, when the smallest of movements means that 15 or more sharp objects are rammed into the larynx, then even you would not wish to make any sharp movements. Quote, *“It is not that painful, as the points are rounded off or covered with rubber caps”* unquote. Do you really think that makes a difference? Yes, no blood flows and the usage cannot be proven. Of course the damage done to the larynx we shall not discuss, there is something far more important that the users of such instruments forget: **These people work alone on the symptoms and not on the source of the disruptive behaviour!**

Have we with a dog, that pulls constantly on the leash only the problem, THAT it pulls on the leash (Symptom) or is there a deeper source for this action: in that the dog shows us little or no respect when out for a walk, and that it does not give up the leadership during this stroll around OUR district? Would such a dog, with the above mentioned behaviour, learn through the implementation of a pinch collar, orderly walk beside us and would control behaviour in other areas (when the door bell rings, in the car, at the garden fence...) also be corrected? **NO, absolutely not!**

While the dog has learnt nothing through the use of a pinch collar, how do you think it will react when, we put a normal collar around its' neck? Correct, just as before if not worse! It is often the case that these dogs develop a fear of collars or even a fear for the human hand.

This symptom shows itself when we try to put a “*normal*” collar around its neck, then the dog does not judge the object in itself, but, the action of putting the collar on the dog and therefore the pain that the dog would incur. The following then is the results when using a pinch collar: **Problems become more intense and it can mean that additional problems will occur.**

The pinch collar originally was designed to protect dogs themselves, against attacks from wolves etc, in that the prongs were placed outwards, not inwards to impede predators biting into the neck and throat of the working dogs. These were mainly shepherd dogs.

Technical collars: i.e. Electric shock

These forms of assistance function, according to the handbook, as follows. The dog shows unwanted behaviour, the dogs owner presses a button on the radio control so that the dog gets an “*electric impulse*”, (or so it is written in the friendly operator- or producers handbook for the electric shock) and thus for its unwanted behaviour punished. So let's go; the animal gets by the pressing of the button, a preset “*electric impulse*” which can be varied, of which even set to maximum is no more than a tingling sensation, “*nothing very painful*”. According to our test we could not measure any “tingling” effect, only a very painful electric shock, but probably we are too delicate, additionally unlike a dog we do not have fur over our skin. By the usage of these instruments we encountered massive problems:

Man punishes the dog for perfectly normal behaviour according to its species, then it was we humans, that failed to provide the dog with the meaningful information, thus the only course for the dog is to show avoiding behaviour. The problems will not be erased only relocated. As long as we do not change our attitude towards the dog, so can the dog not change its attitude towards us! So that the dog does not begin to habituate the wearing of such collars the producing companies include a dummy collar. When we take our dogs out to be trained we first place the dummy collar on the animal, then at some chosen point we change the collar for the original collar and we begin to correct the reputed problem behaviour. “*Someone had a smart idea*” or so you would think. That a dog is anything but dumb, and eventually links the collar to punishment, is a natural process, then we should not be amazed when the dog begins to reject the idea of wearing any sort of collar. And once again all the dog has learnt is, pain, or do you really believe, a ringing door bell is primarily connected with the sound of the bell or the person visiting you? Would it not be true to say that, if the root of the problem is removed then the previously described symptoms would also become history. Let us ask ourselves the question; is it reasonable to punish a dog for what it sees as, species-appropriate behaviour, I.e. barking when the doorbell rings? Or should we praise the dog for making us aware that someone is at the door, and to show him that by the following: “*Thank you for making me aware, I will see who is at the door, now it is for me to take the responsibility for our safety?*”

Toys

In the never ending shelves at the pet shops you can find all sorts of toys for your dog, big, small, colourful, squeaky, plastic or furry etc, etc. How many of us have fallen into the traps, and in the thinking that we will give the dog something to play with, bought one or more toys?

We must learn to consider the canine species for what it is: an impulse driven, resource controlling and egoistic killer, and under no condition does it “play”.

The preoccupation with “toys” is, from the dogs point of view, only a substitute for: the act of killing of prey, control, possession, management, and protection of resources, nothing more, nothing less. Think about it, for a dog the squeaky sounds that come from a toy represents the voice of the animal it is about to kill, and thus the dog continues to shake the “toy” until it is silent/dead. Which responsible dog lover would wish to excite the chasing and killing of prey in their household pet? For the dog there is no difference between the squeaky toy or the pet hamster of your children. Playing, as we know, it is for the dog a waste of energy, and does not enter into the nature of the animal. If a predator was to “only” play, it would not have the energy to protect its territory or food resources when in a life and death situation. For the dog the act of “playing” has an important and serious background. You don’t believe me? Then go to your local park where dogs are allowed to “play” freely, and observe what happens: you will see that the animals chase sticks and balls, they attack each other for possession of the resource. They sniff each others scent to determine who is the stronger, and the owners blocked, if they try to stroke or feed strange dogs. **Do you find this really amusing?**

Dogs that do not belong directly to the household are seen, by your dog, always as a concurrence for resources and as enemies. Here we must ask the next question: Why do we humans wish our dogs to be occupied with “toys”? So that it cannot get on our nerves? Why then have we taken the step to bring a “pack” animal into our home?

The dog needs “toys” so that it can “run around and tire itself out, then lay down quietly in the corner and go to sleep?”

Great idea! That we as dog owner distance ourselves from the responsibilities and turn our dog into a “ball junky”, where it, each new day, re-learns that important resources are freely available. The results are fatal: the dog does not see you as pack leader, therefore there is no bonding, it begins to protect its resources by aggressive actions, at every opportunity it chases other moving objects (as it sees them as prey), completely independent life, and refuses to take a lower station in the household hierarchy.

Balls, that can be filled with treats, and hard rubber toys

And so functions this apparatus: fill the inside of the ball with treats, and show the dog that when it rolls around the treats will fall out, and off we go: The ultimate fun for the dog. As long as the ball continues to give out the treats the dog will be occupied for hours on end. Ideal when the owner has little time for the dog. **Correct!** it will captivate the dogs attention, as long as it “chases” the ball (prey) around the room it will be rewarded by the treats falling out! The owner will be even more blanked, and become awfully unimportant for the dog. On which grounds has the dog now to orientate itself on its owner, when the resource “food” can be obtained by the dog itself by “chasing” this “toy” around? How important would your boss be to you after you have won millions on the lottery? Answer the question truthfully: Can the dog learn anything from this action except to follow its genetic instincts of chasing, catching and killing for survival? Can the dog distinguish between the “Treat ball” or a rabbit, hamster, biker, jogger or automobile? **Why then do we buy our pets things to chase around the house, when what we really want the dog to do is: “Do not chase the neighbours cat! Do not run across the road! You must orientate yourself on me!”**

Of course the dog should motivate itself, but not in this fashion. Do we need a social pet when we leave it to fend for itself, or allow it manage its own resources? (when in the wild this is the role of the pack leader). The same results can be obtained with a solid rubber melon, which would after being thrown bounce around in an uncontrolled manner, similar to a rabbit being chased. Why do we consciously send the dog away from us, leave chase-objects on its own devices, and then wonder why, when we take the dog for a walk, that it goes its own way, and if something is disturbed the dog runs after it, and can no longer be controlled? Why is it that we resort to such objects, in the belief that the dog will walk quietly by our side, is able to stay alone while we are outdoors and therefore will no longer damage the furniture and stop “marking” in the house? Why can we not, as pack leader and owner, occupy our time sensibly with the animal, and that teach it that “prey” is connected to resource, and that we alone as the pack leader have control? Please consider this: Prey is linked to stress, the predator-prey relationship is genetically fixed and can in worst case result in the following: When the dog is allowed to “chase prey” at its own will, and to manage its own resources then, sooner or later it will begin to protect this resource by aggressive behaviour.

Training with Food bag (Treats)

How many times have you been given the tip to use either a food (treat) bag or a food dummy to train your dog, when it has problems with other dogs, hounds or chases cats or rabbits, or just ignores your recalls?

The usage: A food bag with a zip, looks like a “bag for school articles” and is filled with small pieces of food, or treats, and the dog is allowed to eat out of it. Next the bag is zipped closed and thrown some distance. The idea is that (according to animal psychologists) the dog will run after the bag and retrieve it for the owner, who will then open it up and the dog may take a treat out as a prize...

It is simply astonishing, how dumb we humans think a dog is. The way that this type of training is performed does nothing to correct the problem behaviour of the dog. This has nothing to do with the ongoing problem behaviour, i.e. aggression against other dogs, chasing cats and rabbits or any other kind of problem, and therefore can and will never be cured. A dog cannot connect several variables together. Alone the idea that you try to change the way of thinking in a dogs mind, by trying to use a decoy to end its art of chasing and hounding other animals, is at best adventurous if not dangerous, then by the throwing of the food bag so that the dog retrieves it only enhances this instinct. From the dogs point of view it has learnt: **Chase and catch the prey (food bag) and be rewarded for this action.**

Unthinkingly, as previously stated, we have only enhanced its killing instinct, and as if that is not enough, the dog (not by the owner) even praise its activities autonomously through the self rewarding behaviour. Exactly this independence is a piece of the puzzle and therefore a cause of the problems “*the dog acts independently and must learn from its mistakes*”.

Additional problems that can occur when working with a food bag:

What to do, when your dog will not give up the food bag, but aggressively protects it?

What to do, when the food bag is empty and you contact more and more dogs?

What to do, when you throw bag and a fight between your dog and another starts?

What to do, when your dog cannot tell the difference between bag, a rabbit, chicken?

This ridiculous decoy strategy produces at least: that the dog can not learn from these situations to give up control and leadership to its owner. Once again we are only treating the symptoms.

But our self-named experts have here pre-empted and propose that at the same time you should use a “long line” in conjunction with the food bag. You throw the food bag and as the dog runs after the bag you allow the line to reel out, when the dog has the bag you pull the dog back to you using the line. **Superb idea... we let the dog consciously make errors and then correct it at the same time.** *Let's look at this from a human stand point: I throw \$500 to the wind, you run after it and catch it, at the same time I pull a gun and force you to return and to give it back. Wouldn't you feel a little bit cheated in this game? And would you play this game a second time?*

Absurdity protection instincts

Here also are our experts at work. It is their theory that a dog can develop a protection instinct for its owner or even for we humans. If this was the truth that the dog would protect its owner for its own sake, this contradicts all natural instincts, especially those from our predator the dog, that in its basic tendency is pure egoistic has adjusted in such a way that it can survive safely. Not for nothing has the domestic dog avoided, for thousands of years, being removed from the face of the earth. What the dog really protects is its resources that we humans have given it. Resources are everything the dog needs to survive that its instincts guarantee such as. Food instinct, self survival instinct, territorial instinct etc. The dog, and the owner that it must protect, protect in respect to its resources, whereas man belongs to this category as well. Why should a predator also protect man, when not for its own future existence? This is confirmed inter alia that dogs will attack every invader to protect its resources and/or its owner. Curious way of protection is that the dog also, in an emergency, will even bark at and/or bite, its owner, as soon as the dogs resources are made a point of disagreement.

The flexible long-line or Rollout-Rollin line.

These products come in all variations and for all breeds of dogs. The thought behind the flexi line is that those dogs that do not react to the owner's commands, or have developed an art of hounding or chasing, still have a certain amount of freedom. Thus according to the manufacturers *“the dog is under full control but still can roam free”*. BUT do you still have control when the line is fully out? Is the safety of the dog, and others, still guaranteed when the dog is up to 24 feet away? We don't think so. In situations where, the dog becomes frightened or otherwise disturbed, the distance is too far for the owner to intervene and thus protect all involved, even in an emergency. Consider the following: you are out for a jog with your dog, that is also used by bikers, the dog is suddenly frightened by a bell ringing and springs to the side. With the line rolled out can you stop the dog from jumping into the biker? You have little chance of stopping this incident at a distance of 4 to 12 feet away. Another scenario: You are out for a walk in the city, the dog is several feet away, a child appears around a corner eating something, the dog sees this as a resource and jumps up at the child. Are you quick enough to stop your dog snapping the food away from the child? We don't think so. There are not many parents that would be happy after such an incident. Understandable, as we are aware of so many dangerous occurrences involving children and dogs. As owner of a dog it is your legal responsibility to have control of the animal at all times. A flexible line cannot conform to this, in fact it can only make things worse. Then there is the question, “Does your dog need to roam free?” Have you ever considered asking your dog?

What is certain, that through the use of such lines the safety and control are not guaranteed, and cannot be built up. The idea *“you go your way and I’ll go mine”* is neither meaningful nor responsible. Actually it’s sad, first we purchase a dog and then spend most of our time thinking about how little we have to work with the animal.
How intelligent!

The Leg leash

The manufacturers of this apparatus promises that by the use of this system a better leash control. It is specially recommended to those owners that have dogs that *“pull-aggressively-on-the-leash”, by therapy to overcome fear and by aggression against other dogs or humans*. According to the manufacturer the concentration of the dog is, through the leg leash, focused on the owner. The dog leader is then allegedly relieved, (of what it doesn’t say). The description says it all. A leg leash for your leg. Simply fix it to your leg and everything functions by itself. The dog stops pulling on the leash and all other problems in the dogs character just melt away. How simple can dog training be? **Unfortunately this is far from the truth.**

Firstly we must ask the question: Why don’t I just save my money and tie my own leash around my leg? Oh no! the GNP (Gross national production) must be increased and it wouldn’t look so trendy! The next question that occurs in our minds is: What will the dog learn from this? What alternative have we given the dog for its existing problem behaviour? Here once again the owner has given up his responsibility and purchased an article that assumedly assists, rather than to actively help the dog with its problems. Why do we even let it get to the point where the dog tugs on the leash?

What actually happens by the problem *“leash tugging”*?

The dog at the other end of the leash does not take us for real anymore, because every other stimuli around are more interesting, than the owner. Extremely dangerous by an aggression against other dogs, then this leash, or leg line, will not help to relieve the animals problems. Basically the dog still maintains the cause to attack, regardless of which type of leash system. The next step here is not difficult to see. Your leg would be ripped off and with luck you fall on your backside. Even if the dog shows less problems on the leg line, most owners think incorrectly that the problems have been cured. It is a misapprehension to believe that, with this sort of mechanism, it will alleviate the established behavioural problems. When we want to change anything in the direction on the (forced/artificial) effects then, it is important that we work on the basic understanding between man and dog. Irrespective of if the dog reacts frightened or aggressive.

According to the manufacturers: *“through the wearing of the leg leash you can control the fear of the dog at all times...”* **yea! and the sun shines out of my backside!** Any clear thinking person must know that, you cannot remove fear through the use of material aids, that the leg line is supposed to do, or can you overcome your fear of spiders, rats, cockroaches, etc., because you are forced to stand next to someone that has no fear of such creatures? It would be more helpful if you had someone by you that could remove completely the reason for your fear. The cause would be removed, safety and trust would grow between man-and-dog relationship, in that man, through the taking-over of such responsibilities, will gain the confidence of the dog.

The Anti-Bark spray collar

Declaration from the manufacturer as written in the instruction booklet:

*The Anti-bark spray collar is an excellent assistant for the educating, in several aspects of dog training, i.e. barking, aggression towards humans, unacceptable behaviour when in contact with other dogs, and other malpractices. Also in other areas is the use of this instrument practical. It is an animal friendly device that in a soft way allows the dog to fit into its surroundings. The shock that the dog becomes halts it from repeating such actions in other situations, and correct behaviour will be the result. **Yes, and Easter and Christmas fall on the same day!***

The so called advantages in short:

The Anti-bark spray collar is delivered with a non-smelling spray, and fits, through its ergonomic form to all sizes of dogs, and is therefore perfect even for small dogs. It is possible to dilute the strength and the amount of the spray, for each individual situation and size of animal. The spray is harmless and hypo-allergic tested so that the animal is not endangered. The spray collar as a “dog correcting assistant” can be used in all unwanted behavioural instances.

Anti-bark spray collar: So here we have a collar that is supposed to stop a dog from barking. My thoughts were that it is only natural for a dog to bark. OK, so now we will teach the dog appropriate to its species and in a gentle way not to bark, once again a method totally against its natural instincts... The collar is to stop the dog from barking too much, the question is when does a dog bark too much? The answer lies solely with the person observing the situation, and the usage of this instrument is not clearly defined, WHY the dog according to the observer barks too often, but regardless, at least you have the device. Naturally an excellent idea, then it can so easily be used, always at hand and you do not even have to move from your chair, to teach your dog something. The dog needs a collar, anyway, so why not spray also, set a little scent. Additionally the producers promise a quick and positive reaction, even with the first usage. The modern dog owner of today is aware of his responsibility and gladly gives more than \$100 or £100 for such an instrument. And therefore you show all others how much you love your dog, in that without physical punishment you demonstrate, what the dog is not allowed to do. By the simple action of pressing a button we see how the dog reacts out of fear and runs erratically around.

So much fun for dog and owner.

And this “low priced” teaching apparatus can be used in all situations, promises the producer! Regardless where the dog barks or runs, by the garden gate, towards another dog, behind a cat or a rabbit etc, simple, easy, and at all times available. Is the dog is on the leash, or not, this makes no difference and in addition the supplier has included an anti-allergic spray. What more can we ask for? **Our personal tip:** Even if your dog does not have an allergic reaction to the liquid, eventually it will have an allergic reaction to the collar itself every time it sees it. When man looks beyond all the sarcasm here it will be seen that these articles are just a waste of money!

With all the different smells used in the liquid as additionally equipment, even if they claim they are tested for all types of allergies, does not change the result. The question that the dog owner must ask is: “What alternative do I have as owner?”

In the first instance you must remember that a dog is a living organism and not a cuddly toy, and thus requires to be treated as such, and taught what it can and cannot do. We can compare a puppy to a new born child. We immediately understand that a baby is not a doll, and we will have sleepless nights and have to change dirty nappies etc, and this period sometimes gets on our nerves but we accept this as part of the growing-up phase. Those of us who feel that this responsibility is too much will avoid having children. But what many owners of dogs forget is that this also is the case with any living animal. A puppy is a full time job. A child will eventually be able to communicate by speech, whereas a dog uses other methods, methods that the human race has forgotten to read - body language. And when it is time to teach the puppy something we tend to find the easiest form, we think that it will learn by itself its social position with regards to living in a human family. If it does not then it does not fit into our world, we say that the animal is undisciplined and we turn to ridiculous and irresponsible teaching ideas so that it learns where it belongs. A position that we put it into in the first instance.

Plainly speaking this means: The owner refuses to accept responsibility, **firstly** to teach the dog, and bring it by to accept that the human has control over all situations, **secondly** pressure the dog into an avoiding behaviour by use of such apparatus (spray collar etc). The dog has learnt nothing apart from fear and to avoid situations where the spray collar could be brought into use. The final result is, that later the dog must wear a false collar so that it will not fall into its previous behaviour. When we do not give the dog an alternative to the unwanted behaviour then, the dog has no opportunity to learn. Avoidance behaviour as it says, means that the dog will avoid, but this also does not give the dog the possibility to learn, how it can do things better, otherwise it would be called "learning behaviour". **Thirdly** with the usage of the spray collar we only play around with the symptoms. Why then do the owners release the dog from the leash when they know they have no control over the dog? Shouldn't we here place our intelligence in question, when we our "friend and partner" so negative handle? We humans have, through the facility to think and reason, the ability to understand, including our dogs. So why don't we teach them more meaningful.

Result: Pre-care instead of After-care. Active learning instead of passive utility support, which only makes things worse. Build trust, rather than believing that the dog only wants to annoy you. Only then, when the dog has learnt that you have control, can it, in every situation, which could build fear and stress, relax. Between humans we call this: the basic trust. Only now are we on the right road in dealing with the cause and not play around with the symptoms.

Test report regarding Spray collars:

A lady owner purchased a spray collar for her dog that constantly acted hysterically when other dogs passed by the garden fence. She placed the collar on the dog. An unknown dog approached, and her dog started to bark and became aggressive, as if it wanted to eat the other dog for desert. The owner pressed the button, as described in the handbook, her dog reacted sharply and immediately retreated. Unfortunately this happened directly beside the refuge bins, which the dog blamed for the uncomfortable moment. In future the dog always made a wide arc away from the refuge bins, but continue to bark at other dogs. The principle of passive punishment shall only produce an indirect influence from the owner for the unwanted behaviour. Through the pressing of the button and the activation of the collar, the dog was to be punished, but the dog should not build a connection to the owner.

Therefore it can be deduced that the ridiculous pressing of the button to punish the animal at such a distance had no learning effect to that intended, on the contrary it only taught the dog not to go near the refuge bins. We have spoken earlier in this script as to the uselessness of “*punishment*”, and the “*connection between punishment and owner*” but through the use of an instrument from a distance has no healing effect what-so-ever. The punishment and the work “*against*” the dog remains just as before. Nothing works more positive than the beneficial dependence and the togetherness between man and dog when direct and positive teaching methods are used. Lastly: when you do not give the dog an alternative then the dog has no opportunity to learn and is forced into dealing with the situation itself and thus errors are the only result.

The Muzzle-grip

The muzzle grip is still constantly used as a method of punishment on dogs for unwanted behaviour. What does this achieve and how does it effect the man/dog relationship? Have you received this “*tip*” in your puppy group with the advice that this is a “*basic*” teaching method? So, if someone gives you the advice to put your hand over the mouth of your child when it speaks out of turn then you do this? No? Then you are one that goes against all others and stand with your mouth wide open at this advice, absolutely astounded that such a suggestion could be made! Inwardly the *muzzle grip or realistically muzzle bite*, is shown between to individuals within the same species i.e. dogs and only within the same species! Humans are not dogs, we would not understand the fine and complicated body language, mimic or gestures, as would one dog to another dog, and therefore not be able to use such communication correctly. Thus so more presumptuous and dangerous is the usage of such methods.

The “*muzzle bite within species*” is only used when after a complex series of communication signals between opponents have been ignored does it come to an active usage. If man was aware of this, then it would be clear that, any dog is, by the use of this grip by humans, unable to follow the logic behind such actions, and therefore the application is totally ridiculous. The results of the usage by man on a dog will be conflict, uncertainty and, in more cases than not, a negative reaction. And once again we stand in the centre, and must ask ourselves: “Who's fault is it that the dog is not able to act accordingly?” Untrained dog owners are not at fault, rather so called “*experts*” who should take a closer look at how dogs communicate, and cease these ridiculous training ideas for more practical and dog orientated methods. They should know better, they have studied this or not? The muzzle bite belongs in the repertoire of defensive aggression behaviour. When we humans apply this, then we interact in an aggressive manner and not in a corrective art.

One poses the question, “Have these people really taken courses of study, and, how many of them are “*pro*” dog? Would you put your hand over the mouth of your child if it speaks out of turn, would it not fight against you, and by future attempts would it not turn its head away from your hand in fear, to avoid being shut-up? Do we really think we can build a reasonable relationship, when we use our hand in this fashion? What results would normally occur from this action? The dog would eventually snap at any hand that tries to make contact with the dog to prevent any negative action. The alternative is a complete avoidance behaviour. Your dog would avoid any contact which it has connected with the hand, that includes all contact with you its owner, and therefore previously react with calming signals to you.

But at this point we can always say... *“the dog knows it mustn't do that”*. Does the dog really know this? Then ask yourself the question, “Why does it still do it?” Because why should it do something that it knows will only bring punishment, and additionally why should it anger you? **This does not make any sense and is thus NONSENSE.**

Shaking by the scruff of the neck

To understand the stupidity in this practice we must first state clearly what this action means in the mind of a dog. A dog is a predator/killer of prey and the final act of killing is to bite its prey in the back of the neck (by smaller rodents, and by larger prey to bite into the wind pipe) and shake vigorously until it is dead (broken neck) or unconscious. Man wishes to have a stress free and harmonious life with the dog. The dog should follow its master freely and willingly, take orders and show no fear. Are these not the aspects of expectations that we have on our dogs? How should this function when all we are trying to do is (from the dogs point of view) kill our dog. Violence produces more violence, pressure results in returned pressure... Where does man get the idea that the act of killing does not initiate aggression? Of course the dog would not try to kill its owner, just because you shook it by the neck, but, the dog would do what it must do with 100% consequence. Behaviourally the dog develops into an Odyssey. Where does it begin and where does it end? Think about how many, and which kind of, bodily corrective actions you have been advised to use on your dog. But please keep it in your mind, everything that your dog does to displease you, it does because you have not shown it how to do things correctly.

Pulling on the leash

Not enough for this reason, that through tugging on the leash the dog will not learn to stop pulling against and is still not shown how he has to walk correctly, it is just another form of violence towards the dog. Through the pulling on the dogs neck it cannot learn how it should walk correctly, in different situations it would still run forward only to be yanked back again and again. It is a never ending story that will only lead to physical damage in the end. Try a self-experiment: put a collar around your neck, connect this collar with a leash and ask someone else to yerk on it. At last this action shows only the helplessness of the owner. Seen from our point of view, the dog can learn something trivial, as to walk properly on the leash, within a few minutes. For this lesson the dog does not need any form of correction but will do so, just because of its own motivation and its own will. Why shouldn't he? Do you really think that your dog enjoys to strangulate its throat constantly when he strains on the leash or being yank backwards continuously and that combined with pain? Hardly. Give your dog a reason to walk calmly by your side and it will never pull or jump forward again.

Head collar/Head bridle

By using a head collar as another teaching method you should know that it is something to the effect as using a sledge hammer to crack an egg. This instrument derives from the training of horses, the horse is an animal that tends to flee when scared, a dog is quite the opposite, so what is the idea behind the use of this restraint? By use of this article you avoid any form of eye contact with the stimulus and therefore how can the dog learn when it cannot see what you expect of it? Let us consider the following: You are out for a walk with friends and they see that a vehicle is heading directly towards you, one of your friend holds your head so tight that you cannot see what is approaching from behind. You are afraid for your life but cannot judge the extent of the danger that you are in.

Your reaction is to try to flee, but you are forced to continue looking straight ahead. Does this make the situation, you are in, easier to handle? Now put yourself in the position of the dog: another animal approaches from behind and the dog senses the danger but is forced through your manipulation with the head collar to look only forward. As in the example you deny the dog any chance of judging what is coming from the rear. How do you think the dog can cope with this situation?

Clicker

This article that sometimes looks like a frog, and the additional equipment is used in various areas concerning the conditioning of dogs. Even puppies are not spared this ridiculous impulse set before the treat. If we build an association between: Eye contact = CLICK = treat, where lies the reason for the CLICK when we can make it so much simpler: Eye contact = treat. The argument used here is that the dog should learn the speechless and emotionless action of the human. But on which motion does the dog learn correct behaviour, on the CLICK or on the treat? Correct, on the treat, because it must learn the relationship between CLICK and treat. Thus we teach the dog an extra impulse, which is totally senseless. Even the argument that when the dog is at a distance away from the owner, the noise of the clicker will catch its attention so it can be praised in the following, is an untenable statement, when any other signal will achieve exactly the same result.

A paradoxon par excellence, if we consider then we will see that we are teaching the dog to ignore the eye contact in future and react only on the clicker. The dog would receive the treat by reacting to the click, therefore why should it seek eye contact? The dog can hear the “click” so why should he keep up the eye contact to its owner? Where lies the orientation to the owner? Does this lie that the owner needs the use of additional articles, instead of a meaningful communication with the dog?

Owners with more than one dog

The ownership of more than one dog was never so actual as it is today. We would first like to ask the question, “Why is it that more often there are conflicts and fights between animals within our own pack situation?” “What happens in the wild when an alien animal encounters a already structured pack?” “With whom does the dog live with in the first instance and what does the owners expect from the dog?” “Have you really the spare time to give to more than one dog?” these are but four question from a whole list regarding the ownership of more than one dog.

We humans are the source of problem behaviour in dogs. Here we must realise that there are two structures in such situations: Man/Dog and Dog/Dog. Unconsciously we force a conflict on the animals because we never treat each dog the same. Without thinking we tend to prefer one dog to another, whether it is not correct from the other dog’s point of view regarding the already existent structure within their generic group. We leave resources to their own devices with the result that they become more important for each dog; it begins to have more significance. Sooner or later, you as the owner/resource will start to have more importance and then under circumstances will also become a reason to protect. Lastly it is all down to the owner who causes conflict and stress by destabilising the generic “fitting together”, unknowingly. Let us return to the comment about what happens when an alien dog meets an already established pack.

Here it is regardless which species of animal, Wolf, Jackal or Lion etc, It primarily depends on the natural behaviour of predators. When a single alien encounters an organised pack, one of two procedures can occur: A) the individual would be killed, because they could see it as a danger, or B) it could turn and flee and live another day. If you bring this situation up to you and your dogs... you can imagine what you expect from them, the possibility to escape for the second dog is not available.

Thus when we consider how much time is required to train **one** dog, then multiply this by the factor 3 for two dogs, as each dog must be individually trained, then lastly trained together. Additionally you must clear your mind from the idea that one dog will learn from the other, due to the fact that in the first instance for us humans it is disagreeable behaviour that one dog learns from another. Owners are suffering from the delusion that, one dog can train/teach another one, with a similar attitude like humans would do. It is exactly the opposite, and this is why we so often find problems where more than one dog is owned. Of course there are constellations where two or even more dogs are supposed to function. The question is here, "Who controls who?" Especially when the pack consists mainly of one breed, and the human is in the minority, thus here it would always be decided and ruled within the breed first.

The (problem) dog from a shelter...

It seems to be a human instinct to try to help dogs in homes or shelter, we want to give the poor dog a new home. The basic thought is noble, however in practice rarely is this the case.

Those of us that possess a large garden, who begin with the idea of a dog as a "partner", can immediately forget this thought. We are faced with the question, "What is it that the shelter try to pass on to the prospective new owner?" Would we like to give the dog its daily exercise or a guaranteed acceptable alternative, as in the case of someone who wishes to avoid all forms of exercise?

What if the new owner possesses a large plot of land but this is an area taboo for the dog? This is also the case and is fully in order, because not everyone likes bare patches in their lawn caused by the dog urinating, or areas where the dog has dug up an ornamental plant so it can bury a bone. For us the question is, "What is the dog doing in the garden anyway?" Often the dog already has a control behaviour or, its already strong insecurity is enhanced by the additional area that it has to control and thus too much is expected of it. The majority of dogs that have the access to large gardens generally do not use them, because the human pack leader spends its time elsewhere.

Does the dog only feel comfortable, when its new owner has a large garden or a spacious apartment/house? Surely not. Dogs that live in roomy houses or have access to large gardens, are neither "*privileged*" or "*happier*" as other dogs. Quite the opposite, dogs that have vast areas to control are restless and thus very quickly overstrained. People who have a small flat have no reason **not** to own/adopt a German Shepherd. The less room a dog has to control or oversee, the better it feels. Unfortunately this has not been accepted by most sanctuaries. Have you ever asked yourself the question, "Why when a dog is left alone in a vehicle awaiting the return of its owner nothing happens, but in the house it is impossible to leave it alone?"

The ownership of a garden in which the dog can be alone in, should not be used as a release from the daily responsibilities in owning and training a dog, and is never an alternative for the animal. It is our experience that these dogs have less social life within the family as others, and in the course of time become very quickly self supporting. Why then do dogs *“that have everything”*, large living quarters, large territory or ground, start to aggressively defend these areas? Because we, from the very beginning, gave up the control to the dog. When the dog must be returned to the home or kennels due to the development of a negative attitude, because the owner is, with aggression, fear, and other problem behaviour, overtaxed with the situation, receives no assistance from the shelter from which you originally offered you the animal, rather only blame and abuse for the dogs evolution.

Useless hypotheses...

Ridiculous: dogs from homes, kennels or from abroad are *“lovable”*, are *“thankful”* and *“suffer”* in these establishments!

Truth is: He who has control over resources a dog will always follow.

Ridiculous: Dogs suffer in homes.

Truth is: In a home the dog gets food daily, attentiveness, and a place to sleep.

If a dog was grateful to be *“rescued”* why then does it show a complete change in character once inside its new home? Why does it start to pull against the leash, show a tendency to aggression against other dogs, to protect its food aggressively, to chase other animals or start to bark continuously?

We know of no home or kennel that are truthful about the problem behaviour of dogs that they have put into the hands of new owners. Informed advice in our eyes means little, when it comes to teaching the dog sit and lie down, rather systematic problem therapy increases the ability to place more dogs in the hands of good owners. But all too often we at “Hundewelten” have offered assistance to animal homes and animal protection societies, or to prospective owners, only to be, without reason, turned down. No-one likes someone else to look over his shoulder when they are trying to sell something to an unsuspecting buyer, or to be criticized.

Astonishingly, in Austria and Switzerland, dog homes and kennels that have been tutored by our organisation have increased the dogs that they have found new homes for by 40% or more and the number of dogs returned have been reduced by 50%. Which dog owner would not like an honest appraisal of their new “partner”, what makes it TICK, how you should handle the dog, and information regarding any future problems that may occur and how to cope with them? Unfortunately to many organisations are opposed to these offers.

Instead of that the new owner gets tips from the personnel working in such establishments, untrained and unhelpful, or contact addresses about dog training schools. It is in these schools that more problems arise than are solved. But there is no need for it to get this far, with correct information from properly trained persons who understand how a dog thinks. Homes and kennels have access to management and organisation. Why then do they reduce their knowledge to only; *“Accommodation, cataloguing, as mediators and accepting returned dogs”*?

“Not enough time or personnel” is generally the answer to our questions, about why they do not work actively in dealing with the problem behaviour of the dogs or why they don't take a serious prevention to any kind of possibly upcoming behavioural issues in their care. Our information seminars will explain to you that no more than 10 minutes per day is needed to work with your dog, 10 minutes that will satisfy the mental ability of your dog. One could insinuate, most homes and kennels live on the quick placing of dogs in new homes, through the charges and fees they pass on to the owner with every new housed dog. Before you decide yourself to take a dog from a shelter go a step further and turn to professional assistance from our therapist at “Hundewelten”. We are trained to give an expert report on the dog in question, we can see in a few minutes what makes the dog, you have chosen, tick. We will support you in every step through the first phase, from collecting your dog from the home to arriving in its new domain, and explain to you all the pitfalls that could arise, which the majority of homes, or other organisations, ignore or forget to pass on.

Rumours and Realities concerning Dogs

Rumour: “My dog doesn't follow my instructions”

Reality: A dog cannot teach itself therefore it is we humans that give false instructions.

Rumour: “My dog would never hurt anyone”

Reality: This statement is made by we humans, not from the dog.

Rumour: “He has a thing about men”

Reality: Someone must have taught it this.

Rumour: “I cannot stop my dog from doing this”

Reality: You should not have taught him this in the first place.

Rumour: “My dog can stay all day alone, no problem”

Reality: The dog doesn't have any other choice.

Rumour: “It is enough that my dog understands the 5 most important commands”

Reality: A dog that is not allowed to learn is a pitiful dog

Rumour: “My dog is very similar to me in many ways”

Reality: A dog is no supplement for the unfilled wish to have children

Rumour: “Our dog became hard of hearing so we had it put down”

Reality: Don't worry too much, even your grandparents would understand.

The most ridiculous comments regarding the upbringing of dogs...

Comment: It still has protection because it is only a puppy...

Hundewelten replies: Nonsense, when does this begin and when does it cease?

Comment: It is only aggressive because he must be put on the leash...

Hundewelten replies: Nonsense, the dog has taken over your responsibility.

Comment: When a dog lies on its back any fighting immediately stops...

Hundewelten replies: Nonsense, why then do dogs continue to inflict injuries?

Comment: The dog always knows when it has done something wrong...

Hundewelten replies: Nonsense, if the dog knew what was wrong it wouldn't do it.

Comment: You should only work the dog for a maximum of 10 minutes a day...

Hundewelten replies: Nonsense, when not forced the dog would gladly work for hours.

The Speechless Dog Training System (S.D.T.S.®)

S.D.T.S.® was developed from the practical work with dogs and the studying of its natural behaviour. However, it is not the result of any form of scientific studies, but explains clearly what we consider a dog to be, and what we should modify, so that the dog has a chance to accept, and offer, a change in its behaviour.

S.D.T.S.® is a registered trademark and is protected by law.

The Speechless Dog Training System requires **no** verbal contact or additional equipment for communication with the dog, rather the dogs conditioning will be achieved through body language, hand signals, gestures, expressions, and additionally with food. S.D.T.S.® develops a three point therapy system with which it is possible to, with only a few hours concentrated work, and **WITHOUT** punishment, to correct negative symptoms. Even a behavioural problem that has been evident over many years can be treated. The three point system contains: Restriction, Alertness and Inducement

Problem therapy using S.D.T.S.® must, within a very short space of time, show results. "Why?" Because of the way a dog learns, and because all dogs learn the same way. Additionally the results from such a learning process are always the same, because what counts is the success or failure of any given action.

So why should it make any difference for the dog, either to run to the door when the bell rings or remain quietly in its basket? Thus, as fast as the dog has registered a success, (doorbell = run to the door), it can also be taught just as quickly, an alternative (doorbell = stay quietly in its basket). However, what the dog does here, must be worth its while, then it is only through this correct behaviour that we can praise the animal, instead of punishing it for unwanted behaviour. Then, trying to correct the actions of the dog through punishment, or shouting at with ridiculous commands, (such as "NO" or some other remark), can only lead to failure, because here there is missing a meaningful connection. The question here is: **Why shouldn't it do this?**

Misbehaviour begins, where methods and additional "supporting" equipment have failed. It is not important, what the dog is doing, but why it is doing it! For example, if the dog pulls on the leash, it only does what you have taught it to do. Therefore you should be seeking an answer to the question, "Why does the dog pull on the leash?" Maybe you will find a conclusion, but you will not find a solution as to how you can offer the dog an alternative. As long as you continue to play around the symptoms, (pull on leash = change of direction), and neglect to work on the cause of the problem behaviour, you cannot expect to find a lasting result. "Where lies the reason for this behaviour?" Where the owner has not taken the first step, but the dog has already taken two!

Whereas other “experts” are trying to manipulate the dog with dangerous and meaningless equipment, we begin at ground zero, from the very basics of the dogs behaviour. Is the dog held on a six-foot long leash, it has very little chance to walk properly next to me, not for one second. However, if by limiting the leash to a minimum of two feet, and place the leash behind your back, then the possibility for the dog to pull forward is not given and he will always be by your side. He has no chance to pull you along, and therefore the dog has no chance of success.

Now, if you praise the dog for this behaviour, instead of punishing for the previous action, then you give the dog the opportunity to freely walk next to you, because it would be in the dogs interest to continue to do so. “This sounds so simple doesn’t it?”, and so it is. Maybe too easy, this is because the human race has learnt to think in a complicated fashion. Whereas, the dog thinks only in a primitive way, (but do not fall into the trap of thinking it is dumb!). What is the dog thinking when it is pulling on the leash? From the dogs stand point it is important, it must be first, so that it can control any eventual situation. However, whose responsibility is it in a functioning “Owner-Dog-Pack”? The owner must be the controlling party, because you have the responsibility for what occurs in your district, and not the dog.

However, if you hand over this responsibility to the dog, then we must not be surprised at the results, when the dog accepts this mission permanently and with force. This will include aggression against humans or other dogs. A dog, which can walk relaxed on the leash, because it does it freely and willingly, will not bark at another dog it meets on the next corner.

In S.D.T.S.® we talk about Problem dog therapy. Restraint, doesn't persist for the whole life of the dog, in fact, it is quite the opposite. Once the dog learnt, what we want him to do, can we allow it, slowly over a period of time, have more freedom, by extending the length of the leash. Only then will the dog show how it will react in any situation, if he is allowed to decide between right and wrong itself. Yes, you have read correctly, the dog makes the choice, not the owner. Or put in other words: the dog **acts**, the human **Reacts**. What you will have at the end, is a dog which will have all the freedom in the world, because it is in the position to cope with what it has learnt, it has the ability to regulate, to correct and control itself without being constantly remembered by its owner. It is the target, after training through S.D.T.S.®, to establish a change from neutral behaviour and then in the next step to offer an alternative behavioural pattern.

At this point, the highly skilled Problem dog therapists from Hundewelten enters the scene, individuals that are proficient in the dialog between dog owners, and can convey to you, one of the most effective training systems for man and dog! The request regarding qualified dog trainers and competent Problem dog instructors is ascending steadily. Thus, it is our aim to build, not only a nationwide team of Problem dog therapists, but also an international network of people to work with our **Speechless dog training system S.D.T.S.® from Gerhard Wiesmeth.**

S.D.T.S.® Because we speak a common language!

We from Hundewelten are setting new quality standards in cynology, turning antiquated and out-dated training methods ad absurdum and breaching new paths in dog education/training. We show you effective ways in Problem dog therapy and will convince through violent free results. Maybe you have informed yourself about some institutes, which offer you courses for dog training, and you found out that there are uncountable systems and even more methods, whose quality is doubtful. Gerhard Wiesmeth was, 10 years ago, the first man who dealt successfully with the Problem behaviour of the dog, using a speechless system with communication only through body language. Through his experiences, he developed the now existing system. Today there are numerous copycats running around who pretend to work speechless and violent free, as I said a copy, and these do not get anywhere close to the original.

The Hundewelten group uses Quality management control, so that all therapists and tutors are always at the highest level regarding safety and offering our service. Our schoolings and courses have a high level of transparency and offer sureness in dealing with dogs, allowing participants to open up a business for themselves. If you decide to do a course through Hundewelten you will get a comprehensive tutorial with an excellent price-performance ratio.

Now you will ask yourself, what is so special to make schooling with Hundewelten

- ✓ we impart knowledge, what others won't tell you, or have forgotten to say
- ✓ we direct a international working team
- ✓ we have a proven 97% success rate
- ✓ we are teaching dogs **and** their owners
- ✓ we are working with a system and not with tricks and tips
- ✓ we don't know everything...but we can teach you a lot of what you didn't realise

The advantages by a Hundewelten schooling

- ✓ you will receive a practical work-related training, not only theory
- ✓ you will achieve within 3 months the knowledge to work alone after this course
Successfully
- ✓ you will be able to work with a system which is demonstrable and portable
- ✓ you will be, after your apprenticeship, not alone, we will support (not financially) you during the process of building your own business
- ✓ you will profit by our knowledge and qualified colleagues, for all kinds of question
- ✓ each and every time, you contact one of our therapists and ask questions, you will receive help

Do you need more reasons?

What will be the benefits for the owner

- ✓ the dog owner benefits from a common worked out solution
- ✓ the dog owner has the safety of constant high quality
- ✓ the dog owner receives a really practical work-related therapy, no “claptrap”
- ✓ the dog owners are consulting an established company, no no-name “experts”
- ✓ the dog owner has the opportunity to inquire further experts i.e. nutritionist

Therefore we have everything you need... what we cannot offer you, you don't need!

S.D.T.S.® Simple communication – communication made simple

To understand fully the domesticated family dog and what motivates it, we must delve into its ancestral past, for this we must consider its origin: the wolf. Gerhard Wiesmeth observed, the various species of wolf, such as the Arctic Wolf (*Canis lupus arctos*), Eastern Wolf (*Canis [lupus] lycaon*), also known as Eastern Canadian Wolf or Eastern Canadian Red Wolf, and the Grey Wolf (*Canis lupus*). Below is an extract from his findings. Wolves, unlike the dog, live separately and independently from us humans. They can fully fend for themselves, and are not committed to the same expectations that we want from our pet dog. Everything that does not belong to the pack is considered as a concurrence, irrespective of its origins, including, we humans and wolves from other packs, especially when this involves territory or resources. We humans expect our pet dog to accept all other pets as equal, regardless of that is a cat, rabbit, hamster etc, even though in normal circumstances these fall into the category of prey for the dog. It must accept the presence of unfamiliar other dogs, and also “play” with them. Our dog is considered as happy and contented, when (according to our definition of freedom) we take it for long walks, off the leash, where it can roam around and make its own decisions. The result of this thinking is that the dog becomes even more independent, there is no reason for the dog to orientate itself on its owner, or any other human person, because we overwhelm it by constantly stroking it, giving it lots of toys, too much food and allowing it as much free room as it wants. From the wolves point of view all this makes no sense, the waste of energy that is required for this “playing” and useless rampaging around. It can only lead to a conflict situation. Notably with regard to saving its own skin, defending its own territory, protecting its food resources, and ultimately the survival of the rest of the pack. We on the other hand wish our household pet to “play” and have exercise, without thinking what significance all this has for the dog.

Communication in wolf packs is reduced to complex body language, whereas we humans have learnt to use speech and generally overreact with useless gestures. Thankfully the wolf, due to the fact that it has little or no contact with us humans, is totally independent, it does not have any relationship with speech, the way we move, or our weaknesses, therefore conflicts between humans and wolves are minimal should an encounter occur. In the first instance it is in the character of the wolf to flee whenever coming into contact with humans. The domesticated dog on the other hand seeks our nearness. The hierarchical system in nature, works in the opposite direction than we homo sapiens generally expect, that means an animal that is weak will automatically accept a stronger one, and the stronger does not need to demonstrate his position continuously. This genetic tendency is accepted by all breeds of wolf. A pack leader never needs to fight for his position, as he sees no grounds to weaken the group by unnecessary injuries. When we compare the wolf to the domestic dog, it is clear from these studies why the training methods, used by alleged experts, cannot be applied on our household dogs. Not only is this negligent it is also extremely dangerous. If we acknowledge that: a speechless, peaceful, bodily intensive, and distance ourselves from active involvement, is absolutely necessary for the meaningful and appropriate association with our dogs, then the results would be much effective.

Quote from Gerhard Wiesmeth, Head trainer Hundewelten, Germany.

The human race can learn an immense amount from the wolf, but even more from the carnivore that we take for a walk each day.

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You are the chairperson or working dog instructor at the dog training club?

Our script aroused your interest in a workshop with Hundewelten (min. 3 days) within your accustomed surroundings?

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