



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Board and Member meeting minutes**
- **Member Brags**
- **Golden Bond Information**
- **AVSAB Statement on Dominance**

Lewis & Bark Retrieve

OCTOBER 31, 2011

Winter is approaching quickly!

As I am putting this newsletter together, I cannot believe how late I am with it and how late in the year it is! My sincere apologies for its tardiness.

I have been absent for the meetings that this newsletter will cover and I am amazed how much I have missed both in the wonderful activities and in driving to Salem late at night to eat my salad and see familiar smiling faces. Sometimes it's so helpful to see people with common interests. I really ap-

preciate that about everyone in our group. For that, I thank you for letting me be a part of it.

It has been a busy year for all involved in our club and I'd like to welcome our new members. It seems we grew by several earlier in the year... so welcome!

Speaking of our membership, are you interested in being the spotlight member? If so PLEASE send me an email! Otherwise I will simply continue working through those I see regu-

larly at meetings and then branching out from there. However, I have no preference! If you'd like to let the membership get to know you better speak up! I don't bite and we would all welcome all members willingness to share knowledge and experiences with us.

As we all are busily preparing for dog shows and holidays, I hope everyone has a season full of Joy.

-Trisha

House Rules. Sound Familiar?

1. The dog is not allowed in the house.
2. Okay, the dog is allowed in the house, but only in certain rooms.
3. The dog is allowed in all rooms, but has to stay off the furniture.
4. The dog can get on the old furniture only, but has to stay off the new couch.
5. Fine, the dog is allowed on all the furniture, but is not allowed to sleep with the humans on the bed.
6. Okay, the dog is allowed on the bed, but only by invitation.
7. The dog can sleep on the bed whenever he wants, but not under the covers.
8. The dog can sleep under the covers by invitation only.
9. The dog can sleep under the covers every night.
10. Humans must ask permission to sleep under the covers with the dog.



Golden Bond News

November Golden Walk

November 12, 2011

11:00AM

Rain or Shine!

McLoughlin House

713 Center St

Oregon City, OR

ALL DOGS ARE WELCOME
REGARDLESS OF BREED

Dogs must be on leash

5th Annual Holiday Bazaar

December 10, 2011

9:00am-4:00pm

Aurora Pythian Hall

14979 NE 2nd ST

Aurora, Oregon

If you are interested in having your own booth at this event please contact Jill Groves by email at goldenbondrescue@yahoo.com

*Next club meeting
will be held
November 9th,
2011 at 7pm in
Salem, Oregon at
Elmer's.*

GRF Free Senior Dog Testing

The Golden Retriever Foundation will pay for CERF registrations for any Golden eight years and older. Because the average age of onset for Pigmentary Uveitis is eight years, the new recommendation is that all Golden Retrievers, particularly ones that have been used in a breeding program, have their eyes checked and registered with CERF for

their lifetime. To allow Golden Breeders to make informed breeding decisions, the recommendation is to permanently register these results in public forum such as CERF. CERF shares results with OFA so the information is recorded there as well.

The Program involves printing out a simple voucher to be included with the CERF

form you send in for registration in the database. It is understood that all dogs will be included in the public database so the owner must agree to results being published.

The voucher may be found on the CERF website, or Page 118 of the Golden Retriever News. The voucher expires 06/30/2013

Homemade Dog Treats

Peanut Butter Puppy Poppers

2 cups Whole Wheat Flour

1 tbsp. Baking Powder

1 cup Peanut Butter
(smooth or chunky)

1 cup Milk

Preheat oven to 375. In bowl, combine flour and baking powder. In another bowl, mix peanut butter in milk, then add to dry ingredients and mix well. Place dough on a lightly floured surface and knead. Roll

dough to a 1/4" thickness and use a cookie cutter for desired shapes. Bake for 20 minutes on a greased cookie sheet until light brown. Cool on rack and store in an airtight container.

Member Spotlight...

Christa Thompson

Whiskey Creek Golden

When/why did you get your first golden?

We got our first golden Mandy in 1996 as a family pet, hunting buddy, obedience dog. The boys also did 4H with her. She was so much fun and a wonderful girl. We bred her twice to a nice working hunting dog. I still know where most of the puppies are from those two litters as they mostly went to fellow hunting buddies and family friends. We kept Lucy out of the second litter. She was really the foundation of our breeding program. Sadly we lost Lucy this past December.

What made you go from being a casual pet dog owner to competition?

I have always been involved in one way or another I did take time away from the ring while I was in collage and my kids where young. I can not remember a time in my life that I did not have dog. As a child my parents where involved with dogs in conformation, and obedience. I competed in 4-h with my project dog a St. Bernard by the name King Voughns Bud Wiser call name Bud. It was so much fun trying to get him to do obedience, he would lumber around the ring. I remember

I had to walk really really slow for him to stay at my heal. Boy I miss him!

What types of titles have your dogs earned?

In UKC I have several that are GRCH and have been in the top ten for the breed.

AKC I have several that have earned their RN's, Mia just finished her CH. She is my first but hopefully not my last!! We are currently training a couple of our field dogs we have our first hunt test coming up soon we hope to get a WC and JH on Issa before the end of the year.

All though I do not have many titles on my dogs I have bred many dogs that are successful in hunting, obedience, and agility.

What are some of the things that are important to you when breeding and what are you hoping to produce?

Boy that is a tough question!

First it would have to be health. I never want to triad health of the breed for beauty.

Second would be temperament. I want my dogs to have that golden temperament in my opinion if the temperament is bad it is just not a golden.

Third would be the ability to do what a golden was bred to do, I want a dog that has the natural ability to retrieve water fowl.

Forth would be structure. When choosing a dog for my girls I take a hard hard look at her and see what

needs to be improved. I choose a stud that I think will improve where she is lacking.

How have your opinions/values maybe changed or evolved since the time you've started, to where you are, and what goals do you continue working towards?

I do not think my values have changed much over the years.

My Goals have changed in regards to the look of golden. I breed more for a showy looking dogs verses a dog that is a good hunting dog. Lets face it no hunter wants a dog "dripping in coat" they want a dog with drive. I really have two breeding programs when it comes down to it. The hunting dogs and the show dogs that can hunt.

For more information on Christa and her wonderful dogs, please visit her website at:

www.whiskeycreekgoldens2.com

***Since this part of the Newsletter was completed Christa has some wonderful additions to this! "MIA" has earned her Champion and Grand Champion honors! Way to go!!!

General Meeting Minutes for August 2011...

PRGRCO

General Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2011

Members Present: Judy Bachofner, Cathy Suroviak, Kathy Thurman, Sharon Thompson, Bob Ross, Shirley Ross, Tim Maloch, Debbie Berry, Roianne Cox, Lori Murfitt, Judy Shermna

I. The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM.

II. President's Report:

- a. Judy discussed good sportsmanship in and around the ring and how important it is. Club members should be conscious of representing the club as good sportsmen.

III. Vice President – Membership

- a. No report

IV. Secretary's report

- a. Minutes from the June meeting were read by Sharon Thompson. Motion to approve as read (Kathy T., Roianne) Motion carried

V. Treasurer's Report

- a. The error in payment to Sarah Maxwell for the Canby eye clinic has been corrected. After all bills are paid there is a balance of \$ 8797.
- b. The specialty account has \$9911
- c. Tim reported that he could switch the bank account to Chase. With his relationship with the bank the General Business Account would be free. The Specialty account would be free with a minimum balance of \$7500. If the account drops below there would be a small fee each month. There was a motion (Roianne) to switch the bank accounts to Chase (2nd, Cathy S) motion carried. Judy will meet Tim before the September meeting to set up the ac-

counts and sign signature cards. Ti will confirm that the club Secretary does not have to be a signer.

VI. Other

- a. Specialty: Nancy has decided she does not wish to be the Specialty Chair. Judy reported that Linda Bell has expressed interest. Judy will confirm.
 - i. The application must be submitted within the next month. It can be submitted without a chair person identified
 - ii. A supervisor is needed. Linda should contact Onofrio as soon as possible
 - iii. The President of the Chintimini Club wants to talk to Judy about Judges etc to see if some commonality exists – judges, Chintimini uses Onofrio, etc
 - iv. A suggestion was given for 'A Casual Affair' as theme. Jeans would be required
- b. GRCA column – Kathy T will send out reminder for brags for the column. They are due immediately to make the deadline of August 30th.
- c. Other – the catalog ad for the National Specialty was submitted

VII. Membership – Vote on Linda Bell – 10, yes. 1 abstain, 0 no. Welcome Linda.

VIII. VIII. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned early for the members to run the games for the Golden Bond Rescue Annual Picnic. Motion to adjourn. (Shirley, Cathy S) Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Thompson

Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes For September 2011...

PRGRCO

Board Meeting Minutes August 21, 2011

Members Present: Judy Bachofner, Kathy Thurman, Sharon Thompson, Bob Ross, Tim Maloch, Lori Murfitt, Roianne Cox, Linda Bell

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:21 PM.
- II. Minutes from the previous meeting were read by Sharon Thompson.
- III Committee Reports.

Treasurer's Report: New bank accounts have been opened at Chase Bank. Judy is the backup signer. Chase issued debit cards to Tim and Judy. All bills are paid. General account has \$8,754 and Specialty account has \$9,900.

President's Report: Judy reminded everyone about good sportsmanship.

VP – Membership – Debbie absent no report

Secretary: Request for members list from the AKC has been received. Debbie will make updates to the list so Sharon can send the information in.

Website: Bob will update for the new specialty information. More discussion and a vote on the theme will be during the general meeting.

There are no committee appointments

New Business – the board needs one more workshop. Date will be October 26th, 6:30 – 9:00 at Elmer's. Judy will confirm with Elmer's.

Judy will send out an agenda and request for topic suggestions.

Old Business – none

Motion to adjourn (Lori M, Kathy T)

Respectfully submitted,

What Is A Title Really?

By Sandy Mowery

Not just a brag, not just a stepping stone to a higher Title, not just an adjunct to competitive scores.

A Title is a tribute to the dog that bears it, a way to honor the dog, an ultimate memorial.

It will remain in the record and in the memory for about as long as anything in this world can remain.

Few humans will do as well or better in that regard. And though the dog himself doesn't know or care that his achievements have been noticed, a Title says many things in the world of humans, where such things count.

A Title says your dog was intelligent, and adaptable and good natured. It says that your dog loved you enough to do the things that please you, however crazy

they may have sometimes seemed.

And a Title says that you loved your dog, that you love to spend time with him because he was a good dog, and that you believe in him enough to give him yet another chance when he failed and that in the end your faith was justified.

A Title proves that your dog inspired you to have the special relationship enjoyed by so few; that in a world of disposable creatures, this dog with a Title was greatly loved and loved greatly in return.

And when that dear short life is over, the Title remains as a memorial of the finest kind, the best you can give to a deserving friend, volumes of praise in one small set of initials before or after the name.

A Title is nothing less than love and respect, given and received permanently.

General Meeting Minutes From September 2011...

Sharon Thompson

PRGRCO

General Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2011

Members Present: Judy Bachofner, Kathy Thurman, Sharon Thompson, Bob Ross, Shirley Ross, Tim Maloch, Susan Maloch, Roianne Cox, Lori Murfitt, Robin Murphy, Christa Thompson, Gina Heitz, Rikki Kerzner, Linda Bell

Guest: Rae Damm

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

II. President's Report:

- a. Judy reminded everyone about good sportsmanship in and around the ring and how important it is. Club members should be conscious of representing the club as good sportsmen.

III. Vice President – Membership

- a. No report -

IV. Secretary's report

- a. Minutes from the Augst meeting were read by Sharon Thompson. Motion to approve as read (Lori Murfitt, Gina Heitz) Motion carried

V. Treasurer's Report

- a. All bills are paid, the general acct has \$8,754 and the specialty account has \$9900
- b. The bank accounts have been opened at Chase. The minimum balance for the specialty account is \$5,000 to avoid monthly fees. Judy is the back up signature on the bank account. Both Judy and Tim have debit cards as a convenience. There will be no charge for the check stock

- c. Members should use the same process for submitting expenses for reimbursements – submit receipts to Tim

VI. Other

a. Education:

- i. Judy is still trying to connect with Dr Paul Schierle
- ii. Gina will check on 'How Dogs Learn' by Dawn Mellon
- iii. The suggestion for a vet school tour by the Head of Oncology is of interest. Sharon will check past notes for the name of the contact person
- iv. A suggestion was made to have a talk by Michelle Cutsler related to reproduction

v. Public Education: Christa reported that the ad is always at the bottom and no one can tell her why. She has tried several things to try to move it up but nothing has worked. She also suggested that the club could just renew the ad once per month, wait 24 hours between the ads and then the ad should move to the top. Motion to renew the OregonLive ad once per month (Gina, Kathy T) motion carried

1. Christa was contacted by someone re fundraising for Oregon Food Bank. Christa gave him some ideas including doing a meet the breeds style.
2. Someone set up a Facebook page. Possibly the OregonLive ad could go on it with a link to the PRGRCO website as the

contact. Lori Murfitt and Christa will work out whether that is doable

- vi. **Newsletter:** Trisha was absent so no report. Judy will follow up
- vii. **GRCA:** Judy will write the next column – it is due January 1st
- viii. **Breeder Referral:** Kathy T is getting a few calls so she can handle without help. Christa will change the email in the ad to Kathy T. Judy has puppies on the ground, Christa will have puppies in mid October
- ix. **Website:** the question was asked whether the minutes should be posted on the website. Minutes are not for public consumption so will not be added to the website. Tim and Bob will coordinate to change PayPal for the new bank accounts. Linda Bell will send Bob the specialty information for the website
- x. **2012 Specialty** Linda Bell will be the show chair. Thanks, Linda!
 - 1. Date is March 30, 2012
 - 2. Onofrio will be the show superintendent. They charge \$450 plus \$9.05 per entry plus \$5.75 for sweeps entry
 - 3. The first 50 catalogs are free. Advertising pages are \$37.50 for full page ads. Someone needs to take on vendor advertising. It is \$110 for each 100 catalogs over the initial 50. Order 85, Linda will check on the cost of the extra 35.
 - 4. Applications need Judy's signature. Linda needs a check for \$150 for Obedience and \$100 for Rally

for AKC. Linda will check on credits from AKC for Rally from last years specialty

- 5. Entry fees:
 - a. Juniors \$10 – motion to approve the amount (Gina, Judy) motion carried
 - b. Regular classes \$28 – additional classes same dog \$22 - motion to approve (Gina, Judy) motion carried
- 6. Ribbons and Rosettes – all placements get a 3 strand rosette. Garvin will make the ribbons, Debbie will coordinate, Robin can deliver or pick up as she lives close to Jane. Jane knows what we have used in the past, we just need to provide numbers to her
- 7. Supported Entry – for all Chintimini events and the Judges Award of Merit and Selects. Discussion about the ribbons. Motion to make medium rosettes with 3 streamers (Gina, Lori). Motion carried. 12 yes, 2 opposed, 0 abstain
- 8. Tables will cost \$10 each
- 9. Eligibility form needs to be submitted and can be sent in separately. Gina will write up, include involvement in Golden Bond activities and part of membership dues are donated to Golden Bond.
- 10. Chairs:
 - a. Show – Linda Bell

- b. Sweeps – Alice Brown – assistance from Judy
 - c. Obedience – Linda will contact Marsha Dandrige
 - d. Chief Steward – possible Flo Brewer – Linda will ask Debbie to contact. Club paid \$75 last year. Obedience chair handles the stewards
 - e. Hospitality – Shirley – needs someone to help
 - f. Trophies – Debbie Berry
 - g. Raffle – Sharon Thompson, Christa Thompson
 - h. Grounds – Jim Berry
 - i. Decorations – Robin Murphy, Cathy Suroviak, Kari Schlecht
 - j. Education Table – Linda Bell
 - k. Hearing Committee – Judy Slayton Bachofner, Lori Murfitt, Linda Bell, Tim Maloch
- the preferred provisional judge
 - c. Conformation – Garth Gourlay
 - d. Sweeps – Anne Greenbank
 - e. Obedience / Rally – Jill Jones
 - f. Chintimini may be able to help with the \$900 flight for Garth. Garth is not charging a per dog fee
 - g. Judges who will be invited to judge for 2013 are Betsy Smith, Sweeps and Jean Fournier, Conformation. There was discussion about the need to put a backup plan in place in case a judge can not make it and determine our judges year's in advance to avoid preferred judges not being available
 - h. Motion to approve the judges (Judy, Christa) 13 yes, 1 opposed, 0 abstained

11. Judges

- a. Juniors – Brianne Major if she is available
- b. Provisional – Linda suggested Luke Bagennstros, David Hagey and Leslie Russell however, if Brianne is available she is

- i. It was agreed that we need a new ranking system for the future. Linda will present some options that she has worked with in the past

12. Obedience classes

- a. Regular Classes plus Beginner

Novice, Graduate
Novice, Graduate
Open, Veterans
(over 7 yrs old),
Versatility

submitted without a chair person
identified

- xi. **Old Business**
 - 1. No AKC activity
 - 2. Trophies – nothing else needed, no known issues
- xii. **New Business**
 - 1. Christmas Party – Robin will ask her parents if they will host at their house. It will be about a month before she will find out. The date was agreed as December 3rd at 4:00 PM
 - 2. Nominating Committee – volunteers needed
 - 3. CCA Event – discussion that the club needs to sponsor an event. Further discussion is needed
 - 4. Tracking Seminar – it was announced that there are still a few openings in an ‘Introduction to Tracking’ seminar on October 23rd. The seminar is being put on by SDTC and costs \$75
 - 5. Robin announced that there is a B match at My Dog’s Gym in Salem on October 9th. She is judging.
- xiii. Motion to adjourn (Kathy T, Judy). Motion carried

ii. A supervisor is needed. Linda should contact Onofrio as soon as possible

iii. The President of the Chintimini Club wants to talk to Judy about Judges etc to see if some commonality exists – judges, Chintimini uses Onofrio, etc

iv. A suggestion was given for ‘A Casual Affair’ as theme. Jeans would be required

d. **GRCA column** – Kathy T will send out reminder for brags for the column. They are due immediately to make the deadline of August 30th.

e. Other – the catalog ad for the National Specialty was submitted

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Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Thompson

Christmas Party Information is coming soon!

- b.
- c. Specialty: Nancy has decided she does not wish to be the Specialty Chair. Judy reported that Linda Bell has expressed interest. Judy will confirm.
 - i. The application must be submitted within the next month. It can be

Braggs...

Shyan's Double Trouble

WB 1 pt Eugene KC 9/10/11

Breeders: Tim and Susan Maloch

Owners: Susan Maloch and Debbie Berry

CH Allsea's Famous Harry Potter

BOS Eugene KC 9/10 & 11/11 (both days)

Owner: Rikki Kirzner

Sunshine's Bright Nothern Light(s) "Rory"

Best Puppy @ Evergreen Specialty

Owners Kathy Thurman, Judy Sherman, Debbie Berry

Sweet Water's Just An Apple A Day CDX "Justin"

Finished RN title @ EGRC – score 100, 1st place

Owners Robin and Tim Murphy

Windrigt's Bit O'Honey – "Candi"

Best in Matcg @ Olympia Dog Fancier Assoc Sept 17. Owner Debbi French

Trilogy's Believe in Your Dreams CD "Darby"

1st Leg Graduate Novice – Enumclaw Olympic Kennel Club, 1st Place Score 190

2nd leg Graduate Novice - Salem, Mt Hood Keeshund KC, 1st place Score 196

Owner: Sharon Thompson

Wood Duck Sister Hazel "Hazel"

BOW/BOS Enumclaw, EGRC Specialty from BBE; handled by Judy

Owned by Judy Slayton Bachofner & Lori Murfitt

Wood Duck Sister Hazel "Hazel"

BOW/BOS Nisqually on Sunday, EGRC Specialty from BBE; handled by Judy

Owned by Judy Slayton Bachofner & Lori Murfitt

Shayan 'n' Trilogy's Legend of Sleepy Hollow "Legend"

WD/BOW/BOS on Sunday at Nisqually

Owned by Susan Maloch & Lori Murfitt

Handled by Len Hoare

Shayan 'n' Trilogy's Legend of Sleepy Hollow "Legend"

WD/BOW/BOS on Saturday @ Eugene KC

WD on Sunday @ Eugene KC

Owned by Susan Maloch & Lori Murfitt

Handled by Len Hoare

Shayan 'n' Trilogy's Talk about Luck "Gabby"

WB/BOW Sunday at Eugene KC

RWB Saturday @ Eugene KC

RWB Sunday @ Longview Kelso

Owned by Susan Maloch & Lori Murfitt; Handled by Len Hoare

Sunset HHF Hunting For Quarters BN, RN, CGC

Rally Novice Title with a 97 Eugene 9/10/11

Beginner Novice Obedience Title with a 198 at Ridgefield 10/30/11

Owned by Trisha Jennings

Sunset HHF Pebbles RN, CGC

Rally Novice Title 10/29/11

Owned and Bred by Trisha Jennings

Braggs continued...

**Whiskey Creeks Look But Don't Touch
Is a new Grand Champion!
BOS at the Vancouver Show
Owned/bred By Christa Thompson
(Lorene Jones & Lindsay Wendel)**

Wood Duck Sister Hazel

WB and BOW from the BBE @ Vancouver

9 points and 1 Major

Owned by Lori Murfitt & Judy Slayton Bachofner

Allsea's Famous Harry Potter

Is a new Grand Champion!!!

Earned 3pts at the Vancouver Show

Owned/Bred by Rikki Kirzner

Is your name missing from this page? Most likely it is because I didn't have enough info on the dog/owners! (I don't know who "Gridley" is!!!) Exclusion from this section is NEVER on purpose. I just don't know everyone yet! Please be thorough with the info that needs to be included. My email is trisha@sunsetgoldensoforegon.com

Who You Gonna Call?

President: Judy Slayton Bachofner 360-837-3909

Vice President: Debbie Berry 541-746-1687

Secretary: Sharon Thompson 503-778-0703

Treasurer: Tim Maloch 503-362-8137

For email, or Board Member contact info, please visit www.pgrco.org for a complete listing.

For newsletter submissions OR if you are interested in EDITING the newsletter before it goes out please email me at: trisha@sunsetgoldensoforegon.com. I welcome suggestions and a swift kick in the rear when I'm late:)

Position Statement on the Use of Dominance Theory in Behavior Modification of Animals

AVSAB is concerned with the recent re-emergence of dominance theory and forcing dogs and other animals into submission as a means of preventing and correcting behavior problems.

For decades, some traditional animal training has relied on dominance theory and has assumed that animals misbehave primarily because they are striving for higher rank. This idea often leads trainers to believe that force or coercion must be used to modify these undesirable behaviors.

In the last several decades, our understanding of dominance theory and of the behavior of domesticated animals and their wild counterparts has grown considerably, leading to updated views. To understand how and whether to apply dominance theory to behavior in animals, it's imperative that one first has a basic understanding of the principles.

Definition of Dominance

Dominance is defined as a relationship between individual animals that is established by force/aggression and submission, to determine who has priority access to multiple resources such as food, preferred resting spots, and mates. (Bernstein 1981; Drews 1993). A dominance submissive relationship does not exist until one individual consistently submits or defers. In such relationships, priority access exists primarily when the more dominant individual is present to guard the resource. For instance, in a herd comprised of several bulls and many cows, the subordinate males avoid trying to mate when the dominant bull is near or they defer when the dominant bull approaches (Yin 2009). However, they will mate with females when the dominant bull is far away, separated by a barrier, or out of visual sight. By mating in this manner, subordi-

nate bulls are not challenging the dominant bull's rank; rather, they are using an alternate strategy for gaining access to mates.

In our relationship with our pets, priority access to resources is not the major concern. The majority of behaviors owners want to modify, such as excessive vocalization, unruly greetings, and failure to come when called, are not related to valued resources and may not even involve aggression. Rather, these behaviors occur because they have been inadvertently rewarded and because alternate appropriate behaviors have not been trained instead. Consequently, what owners really want is not to gain dominance, but to obtain the ability to influence their pets to perform behaviors willingly—which is one accepted definition of leadership (Knowles and Saxberg 1970; Yin 2009).

Applying Dominance Theory to Human-Animal Interactions Can Pose Problems

Even in the relatively few cases where aggression is related to rank, applying animal social theory and mimicking how animals would respond can pose a problem. First, it can cause one to use punishment, which may suppress aggression without addressing the underlying cause. Because fear and anxiety are common causes of aggression and other behavior problems, including those that mimic resource guarding, the use of punishment can directly exacerbate the problem by increasing the animal's fear or anxiety (AVSAB 2007).

Second, it fails to recognize that with wild animals, dominance-submissive relationships are reinforced through warning postures and ritualistic dominance and submissive displays. If the relationship is stable, then the submissive animal defers automatically to the dominant individual. If the relationship is less stable, the dominant individual has a more aggressive personality, or the dominant individual is less confident about its ability to maintain a higher rank, continued aggressive displays occur (Yin 2007, Yin 2009).

People who rely on dominance theory to train their pets may need to regularly threaten them with aggressive displays or repeatedly use physical force. Conversely, pets subjected to threats or force may not offer submissive behaviors. Instead, they may react

with aggression, not because they are trying to be dominant but because the human threatening them makes them afraid.

Third, in the wild, even in dominance submissive relationships that are well-established, the relationship lasts only as long as the higher-ranking individual is strong enough to retain this rank. Thus, high rank may be short lived in both human-animal and animal-animal relationships.

Overall, the use of dominance theory to understand human-animal interactions leads to an antagonistic relationship between owners and their pets.

The Standard of Care

The AVSAB emphasizes that the standard of care for veterinarians specializing in behavior is that dominance theory should not be used as a general guide for behavior modification. Instead, the AVSAB emphasizes that behavior modification and training should focus on reinforcing desirable behaviors, avoiding the reinforcement of undesirable behaviors, and striving to address the underlying emotional state and motivations, including medical and genetic factors, that are driving the undesirable behavior.

How Leadership Differs

from Dominance

The AVSAB clarifies that dominance and leadership are not synonymous. In the human-related fields of business management and sociology, where leadership is studied extensively, leadership is defined broadly by some as "the process of influencing activities of an individual or group to achieve a certain objective in a given situation" (Dubrin 1990, in Barker 1997). Despite this definition, which includes influence through coercion, scholars in these fields recommend against the use of coercion and force to attempt to gain leadership (Benowitz 2001). Coercion and force generate passive resistance, tend to require continual pressure and direction from the leader, and are usually not good tactics for getting the best performance from a team (Benowitz 2001).

Additionally, those managers who rule through coercive power (the ability to punish) “most often generate resistance which may lead workers to deliberately avoid carrying out instructions or to disobey orders”(Benowitz 2001).

Similarly with pets, leadership should be attained by more positive means—by rewarding appropriate behaviors and using desired resources as reinforcers for these behaviors. Leadership is established when a pet owner can consistently set clear limits for behavior and effectively communicate the rules by immediately rewarding the correct behaviors and preventing access to or removing the rewards for undesirable behaviors before these undesirable behaviors are reinforced. Owners must avoid reinforcing undesirable behaviors and only reinforce the desirable behaviors frequently enough and consistently enough for the good behaviors to become a habit (Yin 2007).

Finally, AVSAB points out that while aggression between both domesticated and wild animals can be related to the desire to attain higher rank and thus priority access to resources, there are many other causes. These are discussed in detail in multiple veterinary behavior textbooks (please see www.avsonline.org for helpful articles). Consequently, dominance should not be automatically presumed to be the cause of such conflicts, especially when the conflict occurs within a human household. Instead, a thorough medical and behavioral assessment should be conducted on all animals involved in the conflict to determine the true cause or causes of the aggression.

Conclusion

The AVSAB emphasizes that the use of scientifically sound learning principles that apply to all species is the accepted means of training and modifying behavior in pets and is the key to our understanding of how pets learn and how to communicate with our pets.

KEY POINTS

- Despite the fact that advances in behavior research have modified our understanding of social hierarchies in wolves, many animal trainers continue to base their training methods on

outdated perceptions of dominance theory. (Refer to *Myths About Dominance and Wolf Behavior as It Relates to Dogs*.

- Dominance is defined as a relationship between individual animals that is established by force/aggression and submission, to determine who has priority access to multiple resources such as food, preferred resting spots, and mates (Bernstein 1981; Drews 1993). Most undesirable behaviors in our pets are not related to priority access to resources; rather, they are due to accidental rewarding of the undesirable behavior.
- The AVSAB recommends that veterinarians not refer clients to trainers or behavior consultants who coach and advocate dominance hierarchy theory and the subsequent confrontational training that follows from it.
- Instead, the AVSAB emphasizes that animal training, behavior prevention strategies, and behavior modification programs should follow the scientifically based guidelines of positive reinforcement, operant conditioning, classical conditioning, desensitization, and counter conditioning.
- The AVSAB recommends that veterinarians identify and refer clients only to trainers and behavior consultants who understand the principles of learning theory and who focus on reinforcing desirable behaviors and removing the reinforcement for undesirable behaviors.

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Do you have an article that would be helpful to our membership? PLEASE forward it! It would be great to include articles that could be about show, obedience, health, or any other dog related subject. What a great way to share resources!

My dog greets me by jumping up , steals food behind my back, tries to climb into my lap to be petted, and often ignores me when I call him to come. Are these signs of dominance?

No. In animal social systems, dominance is defined as a relationship between two or more individuals that is established by force, aggression, and submission in order to gain priority access to resources (Bernstein 1981; Drews 1993). Most unruly behaviors in dogs occur not out of the desire to gain higher rank, but simply because the undesirable behaviors have been rewarded. For instance, dogs jump on people and climb into their laps because when they do so, they get attention. Similarly, dogs fail to come when called if they are being rewarded by the objects or activities that are distracting them. Even stealing food when humans are not watching is not a play for higher rank. In the wild, lower-ranking animals steal resources when higher-ranking animals are not around to guard the resources. This is an alternate strategy for obtaining the resources they want. Those who are rewarded by success are more likely to continue stealing in this manner. **Because dogs are related to wolves, we should use wolves as a model for understanding dogs.** While we can get ideas of the types of behaviors to study in dogs based on what we know about wolves, the best model for understanding domestic dogs is domestic dogs. Dogs have diverged significantly from wolves in the last 15,000 years. Ancestral wolves evolved as hunters and now generally live in packs consisting most often of family members (Mech 2000). Pack members cooperate to hunt and to take care of offspring. In a given year, generally only the alpha male and alpha female mate, so that the resources of the entire pack can be focused on their one litter. Dogs, on the other hand, evolved as scavengers rather than hunters (Coppinger and Coppinger 2002). Those who were the least fearful, compared to their human-shy counterparts, were best able to survive off the trash and waste of humans and reproduce in this environment. Currently, free-roaming dogs live in small groups rather than cohesive packs, and in some cases spend much of their time alone (MacDonald and Carr 1995). They do not generally cooperate to hunt or to raise their offspring, and virtually all males and females have the opportunity to mate (Boitani et al. 1995). Marked differences in social sys-

tems, such as those just described, inevitably lead to notable differences in social behavior. **I hear that if you think a dog is dominant, you should roll him on his back in an “alpha roll” and growl in his face because that’s what an alpha wolf would do..** In a pack of wolves, higher-ranking wolves do not roll lower-ranking wolves on their backs. Rather, lower-ranking wolves show their subordinate status by offering to roll on their backs. This submissive roll is a sign of deference, similar to when someone greets the queen or the pope by kneeling. Consequently, a more appropriate term for the posture would be a submissive roll (Yin 2009). **Even if wolves don’t roll subordinates on their back, it seems to work in some cases. Should I try it anyway if my dog is aggressive?** The most common cause of aggression in dogs is fear. Pinning a dog down when he is scared will not address the root of his fear. Furthermore it can heighten the aggression (AVSAB 2007). In fact, a recent study of dogs (Herron et al. 2008) found that confrontational techniques such as hitting or kicking the dog for undesirable behavior, growling at the dog, performing an “alpha roll,” staring the dog down, and enforcing a “dominance down” frequently elicited an aggressive response from the dog. The aggression may also be redirected toward inanimate objects, or other animals or people besides the owner. Even non-physical punishment, such as a harsh verbal reprimand or shaking a finger at a dog, can elicit defensive aggression if the dog feels threatened by it. **I have heard that to be the boss or leader, you have to go through doors first: walk ahead of the dog like wolves do.** In a wolf pack, the highest ranking wolves only lead the hunt a fraction of the time (Peterson et al. 2002). Furthermore, when they are hunting, they do not keep a tight linear formation based on their rank. **Since the alpha goes first, should you eat before your dog?** Higher ranking wolves don’t necessarily have priority access to food. Once a wolf has possession of food, he may not give it up to another wolf regardless of his rank. When food is not yet in possession of either wolf, ritualized aggression (snarling, lunging) may still occur, with the higher-ranking wolves usually winning.

Feeding dogs treats will cause them to become dominant. Even among wild animals, sharing of food does not relate to dominance. Adult wolves frequently regurgitate food for

puppies. Males of other species frequently court females by bringing food to them. Giving a dog a treat when he jumps up or barks at you can result in unruly behavior. However this does not teach him that he is higher ranked or has priority access to resources. If you would like to teach him to wait politely for a treat you can wait until he sits or lies down patiently and then give him a treat. **Will growling or trying to bite a dog or making a claw with your fingers mimic what a wolf does when he growls at or bites a subordinate?** There are no studies on this. However, as an experiment, you might ask a friend who has been bitten by a dog whether poking him with your fingers bent in claw formation has an effect that’s similar to when he was bitten, or whether your growling or biting seems similarly ferocious. In general, we shouldn’t assume that our actions mimic those of a dog or a wolf. Rather, we should evaluate each of our interactions with our pets and observe their response to determine how the pet perceives it.

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