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The Scoop

Official Newsletter of the Certification Council for Professional Trainers

"The CCPDT exists to be the industry leader in defining and maintaining competency in the and behavior profession."

March/April 2015





It's been a heckuva winter!.

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Dear Ceri ficant,

This has been a tough winter for many of our ceri ficants and their four-l members. We're not out of the woods yes, but at least Spring is just a few short

We've been hearing stories of dogs who refuse to go out in the brutal cold, o negoti ate through the deep snow (call out the pee pads!). Our own dogs are ma well, thanks to my husband's snow shoveling and plowing prowess. More thar myself... this dog trainer is darned i red of facing 4-6 hours of barn chores per di weather Our Cardigan Corgi, Lucy, likes to roll on her back in the snow anc angels, while Scorgidoodle, Bonnie, walks on top of the crusted snow.

Pomeranian, si cks to the shoveled pathways.

Are your dogs offering some novel behaviors as they cope with Winter? We'd like to see some of your winter stories in the next issue of Scoop - drop us a line!

Meanwhile, have faith... you know Spring isn't far away when you get your notification (as a CPDT-KA) of the upcoming KSA exam. Have you signed up yet? Deadline (March 3rd)... hurry!

And, as always, if you have news of any kind you'd like to share with your fellow Scoopers, please send it to us at: Writeon@ccpdt.org.

Warm Woofs,

Pat Miller, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA
Scoop Editor



(and Bonnie)

Certificants Bark Back



*Re: "Good Science; Skinner's Functional Relations and Dog Training" by Erica
PhD, PhD, CPDT-KA, and Lisa Gunter*

*The article by Feurbacher and Gunter is excellent - well researched and thought
an example of "good science". I love to read this caliber of paper in the Scoop.*

*Pat Cutler, CPDT-KA, RVT
Kamloops, BC*

Thank you, Pat, we wholeheartedly agree!

We love hearing from you! Send your reader comments to: WriteOn@ccpdt.org

President's Letter - January 2015
CCPDT Board Member Selection Process
by Bradley Phifer CBCC-KA CPDT-KSA
President, CCPDT

The CCPDT is in the middle of the election process to fill seven open seats on its Board (including current Board members who are running for another term). In case you wondered how our certificants get elected to the Board, I thought I would share this with you.

It begins with the appointment of a Nominations Committee comprised of three members of the Board of Directors who are not up for re-election. The committee develops a Call for Nominations which is sent out four months before the start of the next fiscal year. All of you received that document by way of e-mail in January. At the same time it was also posted on our website, on our listserves, in compliance with our Nominations Policy. Anyone who is interested in a seat on the Board is asked to request an application package, a copy of the CCPDT Bylaws, Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Policy, Non-Disclosure Policy, and an application form.

The Nominating Committee reviews the applications and selects those they interviewed. The selection process is based on many factors, including prior experience as a board member for other organizations, current experience within the dog training profession. Special attention is paid to specific skills that may be needed on the Board such as a background in marketing, finance or editing. The CCPDT strives to maintain a Board with a range of professional experiences and expertise.

The Executive Director is provided with a standard set of questions which have been developed by the Nominating Committee. The selected candidates are interviewed via phone and the interview is recorded so the Committee can listen to them later.

Based on the statements made on the application, the attributes of the individuals and the results of the interviews, the Nominating Committee makes a recommendation to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors then votes on the slate of candidates, and the elected members are seated.

Application deadline has passed for this year, and the Committee is now hard at work reviewing applications. Watch for the announcement for next year, and consider applying. It's important to make a significant contribution to your profession.

Sincerely,

Bradley Phifer CBCC-KA, CPDT-KSA

President, CCPDT

bphifer@ccpdt.org



EXAM NEWS

CPDT-KSA Exam

The Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers® (CCPDT®) is happy to announce that registration is open for the next testing session for the Certified Professional Knowledge & Skills Assessed® (CPDT-KSA®) examination. If you are a current Certified Professional Dog Trainer - Knowledge Assessed® (CPDT-KA®), we are pleased that you are eligible to take the examination to be recognized as a Certified Professional Dog Trainer - Knowledge & Skills Assessed (CPDT-KSA). But you need to hurry!

Successful completion of the skills examination changes a certificant's designation from CPDT-KA to CPDT-KSA. This certification indicates that as a trainer you have not only the knowledge, but you have also demonstrated the skills necessary to be successful in training dogs and coaching clients to train their dogs.

The CPDT-KSA examination is a skills based assessment. You will be assigned tasks that you will record (video with audio) and submit for scoring. The CCPDT method to make the exam accessible to all our CPDT-KA certificants. The examination is a performance examination scoring the candidate on the process, not just the product (end result).

All potential exam candidates (*Note: only CPDT-KA certificants may apply for examination*) are sent an email indicating eligibility for the CPDT-KSA examination and receive their CPDT-KA credential. That email provides a username, password, the online application form. It will arrive in advance of the first CPI administration a certificant qualifies to sit for after becoming a CPDT-KA.

To complete the CPDT-KSA exam application process, follow the link provided via the testing company prior to the exam's application deadline (**Tuesday, March 17**). If you do not receive that link, username, or password in a timely fashion, contact the testing company (IQT Testing) for further instructions via phone at: (866) 773-1114 (toll-free) or 733-1110 and/or via email at: registrations@isoqualitytesting.com

To download the Candidate Handbook and learn more about the CPDT-KSA exam, please visit the CCPDT website at: <http://www.ccpdt.org>

CBCC Exam

In 2015 the CBCC Exam will be offered in May (May 2 - 16; application deadline March 15) and November (November 7 -21 with application deadline September 18). Get more information on the CCPDT website at: <http://www.ccpdt.org> and plan to challenge yourself. Share the pride that having a hard-won credential like the CBCC-KA brings!

CPDT-KA Exam

The CPDT-KA is the only NCCA accredited credentialing examination available to dog trainers. Share this information with your non-CCPDT-credentialed dog trainer friends and encourage them to take the exam!

Visit:

http://www.ccpdt.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16&Itemid=1
...to read about the exam.

The current CPDT-KA Candidate's Handbook (with details about the eligibility requirements, the application process and more), the Log (to document hours) and the Application Form are available at:

http://www.ccpdt.org/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=2

[Itemid=139](#)

You can your submit your applicai on by FAX to 212-356-0678. The fax mu required documents, including the filled out credit card informa on on the App If you wish to pay by check, you must snail mail the applicai on. Instruci o applicai on, and in the Candidate Handbook.

-The Ceri ficai on Council for Professional Dog Trainers-

Accredita on Stai si cs

The Department of Labor estimates that there are about 640 certification organ United States. However, given the fact that there are many membership organizati certification as one of their benefits, it is estimated there are actually about 1 organizations, representing approximately 5,000 different certifications.

Of those 1,000 organizations which certify individuals, only 128 are accredited l Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). That means that CCPDT is one select group of organizations which have demonstrated that they meet the highest field of certification. You all should feel quite proud to know that the certificati hard to earn and maintain, has met the gold standard in the field of credentialing.

Commii ee Call: The Work of the CBCC Comm

By Penny Milne, CPDT-KSA, CBCC-KA
Chair, CBCC Commii ee



Board member and CBCC Committee Chair, Penny Milne,
CPDT-KSA, CBCC

Despite having been a certificant since 2002, it was not until I started Committee CCPDT volunteer that I realized the really startling amount of hard work that creating, maintaining and improving the CCPDT's high quality, psychometrically :

Let's look at just some of the documents and task necessary to creating an exam enough to be recognized as a credentialing exam -- honored by being Nationally for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) accredited. (The NCCA Standards cover all aspects of certification program, including administration, assessment, development and maintenance and are consistent with *The Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing* & NCME, 1999). Examples of other NCCA accredited exams are: [American Academic Practitioners Certification Program \(AANPCP\)](#); [American Board for Certification on Security](#); [American College of Sports Medicine](#); [American Council on Exercise Analyst Certification Board \(BACB\)](#).)

A Role Definition Study (RDS) or Job Analysis examines the tasks performed and the knowledge/skills required to perform those tasks within a profession. The RDS is used in constructing a valid examination. The results of the RDS steer the content of the

weighing of that content and the qualification criteria for candidates to sit the CCPDT, following good practice, will update our RDS at 5 year intervals.)

The Content Outline lists the domains of knowledge candidates will be tested those domains or test areas are weighted, as dictated by the results of the RDS Outline is reviewed every year and updated as necessary to ensure it stays current.

The Study Objectives are a detailed expansion of the Content Outline. The Study Objectives help candidates focus their learning. This document, too is guided by the RDS and is reviewed annually and updated as necessary.

The Reference List - books and other media that may help the candidate prepare for the exam. The reference list is reviewed and edited as necessary by Committee members.

In addition to the document reviews and updates, **Subject Matter Experts** (SMEs) mentioned in **Item Review**, spend many hours checking that each test item is well written, properly constructed.

Before each new version of the Exam is released it undergoes **Exam Review**. Subject Matter Experts ensure that each version of the exam is current and correct without any errors or flawed items.

Phew! These are just some of the many tasks that go into creating a credential. As you can see, talented and dedicated volunteers are critical to the CCPDT's effort to create and maintain high quality credentialing exams. I am very grateful for the dedication and hard work of the volunteers on the CBCC Exam Committee.

In 2015 the CBCC Exam will be offered in May (May 2 - 16; application deadline April 15) and November (November 7 -21 with application deadline September 15). For more information at www.ccpdt.org, and plan to challenge yourself. Share the pride in your hard-won credential like the CBCC-KA brings!

Penny Milne, CPDT-KSA, CBCC-KA
Chair, CBCC Committee



Board Member and CBCC Committee Chair Penny Milne, CPDT-KSA, CBCC, chats with visitors at the CCPDT booth, NAVC (North American Veterinary Conference, January 2015, Orlando, Florida.

"P" Is For "Professional" Beliefs and Opinions: Whose Idea Was That?

by James E. Akenhead, CPDT-KA
Board Member, CCPDT



Things always go better if we know ourselves.

As professionals, we are driven by our Beliefs and Opinions. Even those of us that we only operate based on facts are also impacted by the Beliefs and Opinions of our clients or colleagues.

"The only thing two dog trainers can agree on is what the third one is doing wrong."

Though a bit of comic relief, this comment is all too often true. Yet, for the professional, the question must always be where do our Beliefs, often strongly held and strong, come from.

Our Inner Voice

Our belief system directs us in our thinking about our dogs; how they should behave, what we should expect from them and how they should be trained. To be a handler, owner or trainer, it's important to know how our belief system affects our actions. And, we need to realize that beliefs have only the validity that we personally assign.

The Voice That Haunts Us

The data that forms the basis of our belief system is composed of information gathered through our life experience and stored within our memory mechanism. This information is what directs the little voice deep inside us as we decide the way we should behave. Sometimes, that little voice is whispering so softly that we don't even realize it's there. Other times, such as when we back our car into a light pole, it screams at us with a loud voice about how dumb we are or what a stupid place that was to put a light pole. Most of us are so unaware of this little voice that when the idea is first introduced, we deny its existence. With further examination, we may find that it is this very same little voice telling us that such a voice exists.

The question is, are we willing to consider that there is some mechanism, some and sometimes screaming, that fuels our attempts to judge what is right or then it is important to consider the origin and validity of information being used voice as it functions as judge and jury in our life.

A Computer-Based Analogy

To talk about our thinking processes in an understandable way, it's helpful to use a reference system. In his books *What to Say When You Talk to Yourself* and *Solution*, Shad Helmstetter Ph.D. develops a model that suggests our brain operates like a personal computer. According to his model, programming takes place through inputs such as sight, hearing, feeling and later by repetition of our own thoughts. I combine this idea with those of Dr. Morris Massey, author of *The People Puzzle* to consider how our thought processes are affected by the generational information experience, particularly during our formative years.

We start with the premise that when we enter this world, much of the storage in our personal computer has not yet been programmed. Since we know that there is a continuing debate about the interaction of heredity and environment, it seems reasonable to consider that some of the storage space in our personal computer may have been programmed at birth. Even so, there is still a vast amount of space available for programming that takes place as a result of environmental influences.

Our first programming comes from our parents or those we live with at the start of our lives. Further into the computer analogy, our storage files are continuously programmed by the people with whom we come into contact as we move toward young adulthood. There is a logic to the way this happens. In addition to the influence of our parents, we make contact with extended family and friends of the family. What we see, hear and feel from those people adds to our files. In addition to people, the media that is available has a strong impact.

Today, media is a formidable force. In past generations, it was less powerful. Along in life, combinations of input from all aspects of our lives, especially the people who are significant to us, expand our files. What we see, what we are told, what we feel as we interact with significant others (be they boyfriends, girlfriends, a friend we admire or a person we detest) become part of our programming. At first, w

input without question. Later, when we are old enough to think through the input we have been exposed to, and if we are stirred to do so, we can evaluate sense and what does not.

Growing Up

With a basic understanding of this model for programming, it is valuable to the nature of the information that comes to us through the process. Massey suggests that the information we take in is specifically related to the generation in which we live. During this time, we are bombarded with the political, social, family and personal information that generation. In earlier generations, dogs were more likely to be kept as outside workers. On farms, the dogs ate scraps, protected the family and herded livestock. If they chased or killed chickens, they might be shot.

In those times, dogs were more likely to be thought of as possessions than as individuals with rights. In contrast, later generations with more disposable income developed a greater interest in more material possessions, including fancier breeds. In later generations, more dogs live in the home and many dogs have no particular

I was introduced to dogs by my grandmother and her dog Skippy, a Fox Terrier. I also came to know another of my grandma's little dogs, Greta. Both were house dogs. My grandmother coached me on how to treat dogs and to watch out for Skippy because she was a little grumpy. Aside from this, most of my formative years included a model where dogs were not generally allowed in the house. We had a neighborhood dog pack. The neighborhood kids each had a dog, even if this was not officially sanctioned by their parents. In our pack, we had a Chow, a Fox Terrier, a Cocker Spaniel, a retriever and a shepherd. Every time the kids went, the dog pack went.

We all contributed food and the dogs also scavenged for food on their own. Our parents didn't want dogs in the house. As time passed, some of the neighborhood dogs were killed on the road, some disappeared, one died from disease. Good veterinary care was considered important. Keeping dogs on leash or in kennels was also not important. These experiences contributed to my early understanding of dogs and the culture I grew up living in. It was only after making a contract to improve my high school grades that I was allowed to have a dog that officially lived with my family for many years.

Evaluating Our Programming

It is important for each of us to take a look at what our life experience has recognized that this program is now acting as a filter through which we view and make judgments about everyone and everything-including how our dogs live and should be trained and cared for. This process of evaluating everything through programming is always with us.

This programming can be so complete that it is easy to assume that whatever we think should also be the viewpoint of others. The awareness that others may have had different powerful memory forming experiences might never occur to us.

The problem with our life file is that when it was programmed, if we could look closely, there may have been questions about its accuracy. Consider the trainer in his trade in the 1960s when confrontation and punishment were considered an appropriate way to teach a dog. If that person did not keep up with research and he may continue to use methods that are now seen as less desirable and less effective.

What's important here is that we become conscious of the information and ideas being used as reference points or "truths" when we make decisions.

It is a difficult job to suspend the judgment that quickly comes to mind based on experiences we have had. Yet, it is a necessity that we hold off those judgments until we have heard the viewpoints of others and collected current information that can support effective choices. In dog training and behavior work, this shows up as identifying problems, devise training plans and apply what is currently available through research.

In this effort, research is thin because studies are expensive. Working with minimal resources and a lot of opinion puts dog trainers and behavior professionals in a position to

Case Example: Beliefs about Training

In one discussion among professional trainers, the topic centered on the use of traditional training methods versus more contemporary methods-primarily, the use of positive versus positive approaches. One comment directed toward a traditional trainer who had switched to a more positive approach went something like this: "Didn't you see something wrong when you were using punishment?"

This is a perfect example of the way our programming works. When you are programmed to believe that a given approach makes sense, it is difficult to even conceive of an alternative. In this conversation, early programming affected both people. The former trainer had been programmed to think that punishment was the appropriate way to correct behavior. When she was presented with a substantial body of information to the contrary, she maintained her position. Here, the former traditional trainer is to be commended for remaining open to changes in research results and informed opinion.

With regard to the contemporary trainer who asked the question, her programming was complete that she could not imagine how the previously traditional trainer accepted her original paradigm. This kind of blindness can show up even in scientific research. Scientists know that a researcher with a strong bias toward a particular conclusion can be blind to hard evidence that is contrary to that bias. It is this kind of blindness that locks our mindset so we may not be able to consider the views of others.

Take operant conditioning, a model that includes a series of scientific terms: behavior, behavior to consequences. The terms used are Positive Reinforcement, Positive Punishment, Negative Reinforcement and Negative Punishment. Although the model is founded on scientific principles and the terms are scientific in nature, some professionals will not accept punishment, while others insist that punishment is a form of positive motivation.

To illustrate how difficult it can be to find consensus, think about what you believe about a dog's ability to think, do dogs have emotions or do dogs have a two-way communication system like Crows do. The science is thin on these topics, yet many of us have a difficult challenge is to remain open to what is yet to come.

Just the Facts, Please

Many of our decisions appear to be based on facts. But in reality, a large number of our decisions are not based on scientific facts but represent collected opinions, ideologies, and systems. Because of this, those with the most support can win the day and the direction in which, although popular, may not be the best decision available.

Dealing successfully with deeply held views necessitates an understanding of the

us and in others. To have a chance for success, we must be conscious of the biases we make decisions. We must acknowledge the beliefs we hold, and then suspend judgment while we listen. As we work with our canine companions, we must consider all perspectives and seek out the sources of those viewpoints before we act.

Finally, we must guard against the temptation to believe that we have been enlightened by the supreme intelligence, which funnels information to us that is irrefutable. It shows up in the intentional and careful use of statements such as "our current research seems to suggest" and even "my hunch or personal belief is." My primary goal is not to mislead anyone about the basis for my decisions.

If you have been following the "P" professional articles, you have looked at your operating style. Now your challenge is to consider where your ideas and opinions come from, how you decide if they are valid, and how you deal with others, particularly when they disagree.

In future issues of The Scoop we will address other topics that can help you evaluate your professional practice.

SCOOP NEWS CONTEST!!!!

Welcome to our Scoop News Quiz contest. We had **only** 12 entries last month (you all go???) - 11 correct ones. The winner of last issue's contest and recipient of a Dogwise gift certificate is: Rosemary Holtz, CPDT-KA, of Hunstville, Ontario. [Congratulations, Rosemary!](#)

Here are the correct answers to last issue's News Quiz:

1. How often does CCPDT have to re-apply to maintain NCCA accreditation?
Every 5 years
2. What physicist and mathematician was a significant influence on B.F. Skinner?
Ernst Mach
3. What document must the CCPDT have in order to take action against a certification violation of policies or our Code of Ethics?

Complaint form & affidavits signed by witnesses

4. What four operating styles are identified by James Akenhead, CPDT-KA?
In Charge, Social, Steady & Analytical

5. Why can we *not* take action against someone who identifies themselves as a ()
isn't following the CCPDT Humane Hierarchy?
The initials CPDT were not able to be protected as a service mark.

6. What is the first step in the Humane Hierarchy?
Health, nutritional, and physical factors

See this issue's 6 Scoop News Quiz questions below. 1 will be selected randomly from all the correct entries submitted.

Send your entry to:

WriteOn@ccpdt.org

Entry deadline is April 15, 2015. One entry per person. Contest open to CCPDT only. Correct answers will be published in next issue.

Winner of the January/February contest will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Do (WooHoo!!)

6 SCOOP NEWS QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. How many open seats are currently being filled on the CCPDT Board of Directors?
2. According to James Akenhead, CPDT-KA, what directs us in our thinking about dogs?
3. What does a Role Delineation Study do?
4. How many certifying organizations are accredited by the NCCA?
5. Why was a Nashville, Tennessee police lieutenant decommissioned?
6. What is the very last step in the Humane Hierarchy?

GUEST EDITORIAL:

The Gii You Do Not Want

by Sue Alexander, CPDT-KSA, CBCC-KA

Imagine for a moment, you are sitting at your desk, ready to write an e-mail, when a package delivered to your door. You open the door, sign for the package and imagine that inside the package is a pair of spangly, high heeled pumps, two sizes with a card that simply reads "Love, Aunt Martha". You know Aunt Martha is going to expect you to appreciate the gii; and she is going to expect you to be deliberate and how special this gii is to you. There is a big problem with this however. You don't want the gii. You know if you aren't wearing them when she next sees you, she is going to comment. Not only that, your mother is going to back her up and tell you your Aunt worked to find just the right shoes for you. There is going to be a pressure for you to put on and wear these shoes, regardless of how uncomfortable they might be.

The thing about Aunt Martha's gii is that once, those shoes might have fit you even if you even have suited your taste. When you grew, Aunt Martha didn't notice that you changed. Or perhaps you were never the spangly pumps type. You might have worn them to please her when you were a child, but now, you just feel clownish and out of place wearing them. Perhaps you feel like the glimmering, very high heels are an affront to your self-identity, and they never would have been welcome. Nevertheless, Aunt Martha would really like them, and most of the family is going to give you grief if you don't wear them.

Gii's we don't want are a good analogy to images and concepts that offend. Last week I was sitting at my desk when a message from the CCDPT popped into my mailbox. "Happy Thanksgiving," it wished me. I opened it up and my jaw dropped. There in front of me was an image of a cute little dog dressed as an "Indian". I was stunned. I am Canadian and Thanksgiving comes a month sooner than the one in the US, and our traditions are different from those down south. The images and traditions we use to celebrate Thanksgiving are unique to our culture. I wrote immediately, expressing my dismay to the editor, who had generated the message. Within minutes, a retraction was sent. Thanks for that. This was a gii, but a gii I didn't want.

I spoke to a number of friends and acquaintances about the experience, and received

different responses. Some people told me that as a Canadian, I just didn't understand this was an appropriate way to honor the relationship between the people who lived in North America and the colonists in the United States. Some people told me that I have Native ancestry and they didn't mind. Some people played the "it's so cute" card and said that racism is enough to justify any image at all. A few people thanked me for speaking up.

We live in an international society where there are still people whose cultures have been co-opted, mis-represented and outright stolen. We also live in an international society where fusion Japanese-Mexican Sushi is not unheard of and as far as I know, well accepted in many societies. As an organization with membership from all over the world, we have a special responsibility to take great care to be respectful in our graphics, even when they use images that may have been accepted as appropriate in a different context or time.

Respect is an important concept. Showing respect means being aware of the feelings of someone else, perhaps someone you cannot see or do not know, and mirroring their behavior. When an image includes the sacred objects of another culture, we need to treat them with respect. I will share with you my personal experience with this particular graphic and why it is not what I want.

Many years ago, I dated a Wyandot man. He introduced me to the world of powwow and I began dancing the women's traditional dance. As a non-first-nations visitor to a powwow, everything was foreign to me. At first I made a lot of mistakes. As a dog lover, I started at the beginning by including my dog. A very kind elder took me aside one day and told me that in the traditions I was sharing, the dog should never be brought to a powwow. I was given access to ceremonial objects, such as feathers, drums, flutes or other items that would be used in ceremony. What was explained to me was that the dog acts as our communication with both the human world and the animal world, and could bring bad spirits to the animals, and thus spoil the hunt. In a culture that depended upon hunted food, this made the dog both a special friend, but one who should not be brought to ceremony.

These are the teachings I was given, in Southern Ontario. These may not be the same as what you experience in other parts of North America, or even from other elders. The image of a dog in regalia (the word I would use for the feathers and other bits that adorned the dog) was a graphic I did not want. The elders who taught me would not have either. With respect for myself, for the culture that welcomed me, and for the one to which I belong, I had to say something.

Maybe this particular image doesn't offend you. Maybe this is a gift you DO a back to the shoes. Aunt Martha never intends to do harm with her gifts, but she appropriate in her gift giving choices, and sometimes she is downright application. Giving a pair of too small, spangly pumps to 16-year-old boy and telling him to wear them out to dinner and a hockey game with the family is most likely to work well. There may be some teenaged boy who would appreciate them, boys in general won't like them. That is the predictable sort of offensive behavior of us would likely engage in. We don't use racial epithets in our written correspondence because it would be broadly unwelcome and even Aunt Martha probably won't support her use of them. You might be the 16-year-old boy nothing more than a pair of small spangled pumps, but that does not make it a choice. The image that accompanied the Thanksgiving message was not intended yet it did.

We have to be careful in our gifts. In the discussions I had with a number of people well-educated in the field of helping people to communicate sensitively and came out to me and to me again is that we will likely sometimes err. There is no to follow so that you never err, but by becoming aware that someone might be taking care to respect their feelings, we start to heal the rifts between the general groups who may be other to us. When we err, it isn't up to Aunt Martha's "she didn't mean it". It is not up to the gift receiver to point out the error. It is up amongst us who DO understand, to speak up. When the Aunt Martha within us to us all to say "I am sorry; I did not mean to offend and I did not understand" and to understand more.

*Please note that very few people named Martha are intentionally giving out nieces and nephews that will be uncomfortable or unwelcome. Aunt Martha characterization I came to think of when thinking of the kind of errors that are we are not aware of the needs, values or desires of those we don't know.

With thanks to Bathabile Mthombeni for the unwanted gift analogy and the love helping me to clarify the content of this article.

Industry News

by Laura Roach, CPDT-KA

Dog Human Cooperation is Based On Social Skills of Wolves, Scientists Show

The origins of the dog-human relationship were subject of a study by behavioral scientists from the Messerli Research Institute at the Vetmeduni Vienna and the Wolf Science Center. This study showed that ancestors of dogs, the wolves, are as social to members of their species and to humans as dogs are. They found that this sociality didn't develop during domestication, as has been previously thought, but was present in wolves.

Commonly accepted domestication hypotheses suggest: "Dogs have become domesticated as a result of humans actively selecting for these skills during the domestication process in order to make dogs cooperative partners."

Friederike Range and Zsófia Virányi from the Unit of Comparative Cognition at the Messerli Research Institute question the validity of this view and have developed the "*Canine Cooperation Hypothesis*." Their hypothesis states that since wolves are tolerant, affiliative and cooperative, the relationship of wolves to their pack could have provided the basis for today's human-dog relationship. An active selection, at least for social affiliativeness and tolerance, was not necessary during canine domestication.

Dogs accept humans as social partners

The researchers believe that wolves are not less socially affiliative than dogs, however cooperate more easily with humans because they more readily accept humans as social partners and more easily lose their fear of humans.

Wolf performance in tests at least as good as dogs

Various tests of behaviors showed that wolves and dogs have quite similar social skills. Among other things, the researchers tested how well wolves and dogs can find food that has been hidden by a conspecific or by a human. Both wolves and dogs used information provided by a human to find the hidden food.

Testing dogs and wolves in packs

At the Wolf Science Center in Ernstbrunn in Lower Austria, Range and Virányi investigated

the social behavior of dogs and wolves that grew up with members of their species humans. According to Virányi, "The animals are socialized both with conspecifics and with humans. To be able to understand the behavior of dogs and wolves and to investigate the effects of domestication, it is important that the animals live in the same conditions."

Read Article: [Dog Human Cooperation Based on Social Skills of Wolves](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/01/150120085817.htm)

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/01/150120085817.htm>

Seattle Man Sues Neighbor Over Barking Dog - Wins \$500,000

February 11, 2015 - Cawper barks. This north Seattle dog woofs and yaps, sorry for a good amount of time. He's a dog. Barking happens. The neighbor is claiming the dog "raucously, wildly bellowing, howling, and explosive barking."

The neighbor filed a 36-page complaint over Cawper's yapping, stating that Cawper "intentionally inflicting emotional distress." He sued Cawper's owner, and won \$500,000 million dollars!

How did this happen? When someone sues and you get served papers, you show up to court. You can win a frivolous lawsuit and if the other side doesn't show up...

Cawper's owner didn't appear in court. Her neighbor was given a default judgment because his claims went unchallenged. "In my head, everything was so bogus that I'd been doing, I don't know why, I just didn't think it was real or something," Cawper's owner said.

It was a costly oversight, and it became very real once the Sheriff showed up with court ruling papers.

Now she is beginning the long process of trying to unravel the judgment before she loses her house. The owner has hired lawyers and made many trips to court, but so far she's gotten nowhere, though a court date is pending.

Read the full article: [Neighbor Sues Over Barking Dog and Wins \\$500,000](http://www.dogster.com/the-scoop/seattle-man-sues-neighbor-over-barking-dog-wins-500000)

<http://www.dogster.com/the-scoop/seattle-man-sues-neighbor-over-barking-dog-wins-500000>

"Dog Whisperer" Cesar Millan Sued in Pit Bull Attack

February 4, 2015 - Cesar Millan, the star of television's "The Dog Whisperer,"

sued by a woman who claims she was attacked by a vicious pit bull that had prematurely released by Millan's dog training center.

The woman claims she suffered "disfiguring open wounds, deep muscle and lacerations" and bone fractures in the Sept. 23, 2014, attack, just six days after had been released by Millan's Dog Psychology Center. Arguments for Alison Bitt in the complaint that she permanently lost feeling and function in her leg after the attack at the dog owner's home in Santa Clarita. She is seeking punitive damages.

Jen Woodard, the director of the Dog Psychology Center, said the dog's owner removed the pit bull "against the strong advice and objection of his trainer." After the attack, the pit bull was returned to this center where it was placed in quarantine, Woodard said.

But Millan and his center are being accused of negligence for prematurely releasing the pit bull with a known history of attacking people and other animals. The canine, Gus, was seized and impounded in Texas in 2013 and was found to be a danger to the public and ordered destroyed, according to the complaint.

"Thereafter, Cesar Millan and his Dog Psychology Center, agreed to take over custody and control of the pit bull and not to release it until it was "fully deemed a responsible member of society," the complaint said.

"When the dog's owner fell behind on monthly payments to keep it housed at the Dog Psychology Center, the center prematurely released the known vicious and dangerous pit bull back into the public domain and entrusted it to someone with no training or experience in the handling of vicious and dangerous dogs," the complaint said.

Full Article: [Dog Whisperer Sued](#)

<http://www.lames.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-cesar-milan-pit-bull-lawsuit-2015-story.html>

Nashville Lieutenant Decommissioned After Dog 'Rescue'

February 13, 2015 - Nashville, TN - A Metro police lieutenant has been decommissioned after officers under her supervision broke into an abandoned house to remove a dog. Officers believed were living in deplorable conditions.

"As much as they could tell, this home had been abandoned and the conditions

the home appeared to be extremely poor, with animal feces everywhere," Aaron said. "Officers believed the health of the animals to be at risk."

The lieutenant later directed that the dogs be taken to an animal hospital in Goodlettsville and she later took one of the dogs home herself, according to the police department spokesman. The dogs were later deemed healthy and returned to their owner.

"There were significant issues with the way she exercised supervision and decision making," Aaron said. "Upon reflection, there was one poor decision made and another in this instance."

He said that while looking in the neighborhood officers heard dogs barking at 3426 Brick Church Pike. He said the home had been damaged by floodwater and no one was living in it, but that when officers looked inside they saw a mother and seven puppies. He said the officers requested that Metro Animal Control come to the house to get the dogs but that Animal Control did not believe the dogs were in an emergency situation and declined to come.

"Lieutenant Ford did not come to the scene, but directed that the dogs be brought to her at the Madison precinct," Aaron said. "Once the dogs got there, Lieutenant Ford had them taken to an animal hospital in Goodlettsville."

Ford and another officer each took one of the puppies home for the night, Aaron said. He said the animal hospital found the dogs to be in good health and that Metro Animal Control retrieved the dogs the next day and that they were returned to their owner.

Aaron said the actions of Ford, a field training officer and a rookie cop, were investigated and that Ford was the only one decommissioned.

"Ford did not go to the scene. She did not alert the on-duty field captain as to what was occurring. She had the dogs brought to her and taken to an animal hospital," Aaron said. "I think we all are passionate about animals, but this is a situation that in my opinion by police department procedure, got out of hand."

Read the full article here: [Police Lt Decommissioned for Dog Rescue Incident](http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/2015/02/12/police-lt-decommissioned-dog-rescue-incident/23303937/)

More Proof That Dogs Can Read Our Facial Expressions

February 13, 2015 - Fluffy really *does* know what that big grin or frustrated frown on your face means. At least, that's according to a new study that suggests dogs can read a facial expression whether a person is happy or angry. Scientists are calling it "cross-species facial recognition" research -- which was published in the journal *Current Biology* on Feb. 12, 2015.

first solid evidence that humans aren't the only ones who can recognize expressions in another species.

"Our study demonstrates that dogs can distinguish angry and happy expressions humans, they can tell that these two expressions have different meanings, and they do this not only for people they know well, but even for faces they have never seen before," study co-author Dr. Ludwig Huber, head of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna's Messerli Research Institute in Austria, said in a written statement.

For the study, 11 dogs--including Border Collies, a Fox Terrier, a Golden Retriever, a German Shepherd, and some mixed breed dogs--were trained to discriminate between images of the same person making either an angry or happy face, National Geographic reported.

Some dogs were rewarded with a treat for picking out the happy face while others were rewarded for picking out the angry face, and some dogs were shown only the upper half of the face while others were shown only the lower half.

Then, in a series of four experiments, the researchers tested the dogs' facial expression detection abilities by showing them slightly different images than the ones they were trained on.

The researchers found dogs discriminated between the two facial expressions more often than chance would predict. The dogs who were rewarded for picking out happy faces during training learned this discrimination faster than dogs rewarded for picking out angry faces.

"This new work continues to build the case for just how sensitive dogs are to our facial expressions and behaviors," Dr. Brian Hare, an associate professor at Duke University, who was not involved in the study, told the Los Angeles Times in an e-mail. "This is the strongest evidence yet that dogs may even read our facial expressions."

Read the full article: [Proof that dogs read facial expressions](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/02/13/dogs-read-faces-study-video_n_6672422.html?utm_hp_ref=dogs)
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/02/13/dogs-read-faces-study-video_n_6672422.html?utm_hp_ref=dogs

The Humane Hierarchy

Here is the one referred to [Humane Hierarchy](#)(1) (from our website) to which our members are expected to adhere:

Application of the Humane Hierarchy

PURPOSE:

The Humane Hierarchy serves to guide certificants of the Certification Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT) in their decision-making process during dog behavior modification. Additionally, it will assist the public in understanding the standard of care to be applied by dog training and behavior professionals when determining the implementation for applying training practices and methodologies.

POSITION OF THE CCPDT:

The standard of care for CCPDT certificants is that the Humane Hierarchy will guide them in their decision making process when implementing training and behavior modification. This standard of care should be followed when the certificant is working directly with a client, creating a training plan for the client to follow, or assisting a colleague.

HIERARCHY OF PROCEDURES FOR HUMANE AND EFFECTIVE PRACTICES

Please utilize the following steps to modify or manage a behavior:

1. Health, nutritional, and physical factors: The certificant ensures that any possible medical, nutritional, or health factors are addressed by a licensed veterinarian. The certificant also ensures that factors in the physical environment that have a negative impact on the dog's health, nutrition and physical condition are addressed.
2. Antecedents: The certificant implements environmental management strategies to prevent the behavior from occurring.
3. Positive Reinforcement, Classical Conditioning (not listed in order of preference)
 - a. *Positive Reinforcement*: The certificant ensures that reinforcement is delivered for desirable alternative behavior, and that such reinforcement is of higher value than the reinforcement the dog has received in the past for the unwanted behavior.
 - b. *Classical Conditioning*: The certificant changes the dog's association with a stimulus while presenting the aversive stimulus at a sub-threshold intensity.
4. Live With or Manage the Behavior, Negative Punishment, Negative Reinforcement

Exinction, Consult Another Professional (not listed in order of preference):

- a. *Live With or Manage The Behavior*: The certificant elects to cease modification and implement a management plan.
- b. *Consult Another Professional*: At times, it may be beneficial for the certificant to consult another professional such as a dog trainer, veterinarian, or behaviorist for additional advice. Consulting with other professionals can be beneficial, particularly if a problem behavior does not resolve with the previously mentioned interventions.
- c. *Negative Punishment*: The certificant withdraws a positive reinforcer when an undesirable behavior occurs to reduce the probability that the behavior will occur in the future.
- d. *Exinction*: The certificant withholds reinforcement of a previously reinforced behavior with the goal of extinguishing the behavior.
- e. *Negative Reinforcement*: The certificant withdraws an aversive stimulus when a desired behavior occurs in order to increase the probability that the behavior will occur in the future.

5. Positive Punishment: The certificant delivers an aversive consequence in response to an undesirable behavior in order to reduce the probability that the behavior will occur in the future.

Please direct any questions regarding this standard of care to our administrative administrator@ccpdt.org.

(1) Adapted from *What's Wrong With This Picture? Effectiveness is Not Enough* by Friedman Ph.D., *Good Bird Magazine*, Volume 4-4; Winter 2008.

CPDT or CPDT-KA?

We routinely hear from certifiants alerting us when they have seen a *CPDT* exhibit behavior inconsistent with the CCPDT Code of Ethics and Humane Hierarchy. We appreciate the pride each of you take in your certification and your willingness to let us know when a colleague may not be adhering to the professional code of ethics.

The initials *CPDT* were not able to be protected as a service mark. They can be used by anyone who is a "certified professional dog trainer." However, the CPDT-KA, CPDT-KSA, and CBCA

protected as service marks and the CCPDT has the right to legally pursue anyone who falsifies initials. Please be sure you are using the full initials of your credential on all of your materials in order to distinguish yourself as someone who has been independently tested and show knowledge and skills of a professional dog trainer and/or behavior consultant.

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