



Newsletter of the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior

MARCH 2005

John Ciribassi DVM, Editor

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Table of Contents

Treat & Train: Dog Training System ... 4

Book Reviews 6

The Business of Behavior 8

The Veterinarian's Role in
Pet Retention 10

Upcoming Behavioral Meetings 11

IVBM Registration forms 12-13

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President's Message

Hello from sunny California!

The International Veterinary Behavior Meeting (IVBM) committee has been hard at work organizing the meeting in July in Minneapolis! ACVB is handling the registration for the 3-day meeting, and information on this is available at www.dacvb.org. The dates for this meeting are July 14-16, 2005. The registration fee is \$295 if postmarked before April 18th, and \$325 after April 18th. There is a discount for veterinary students.

If you are unable to make it for the first 2 days, you can register for one-day only on July 16, which is the day in which we have our business meeting. This fee is \$125 if postmarked by April 18th, and \$150 if postmarked after April 18th. The full IVBM registration includes this day. More information can be found on the registration form.

We will have our annual business meeting after the scientific session on July 16th. Please send to me any items that you want to see addressed at the meeting so that we can better serve our organization.

The IVBM could not be held without the hard work and dedication of the committee. In hopes that I haven't missed anyone, here they are: Gary Landsberg, John Ciribassi, Debbie Horwitz, Daniel Mills, Jacqui Neilson, Lisa Radosta, Shelly Breadner, Kersti Seksel, Sarah Heath, Laurie Bergman, Sagi Denenberg, Margaret Duxbury, Andrew Luescher, Kathy Meyer, Patrick Pageat, Marsha Reich, Rolan Tripp, Gerry Flannigan, Robert K. Anderson, Petra Mertens, Ilana Reisner, Terri Derr, and Janice Willard. Thanks to all of them for their dedication and time. It's going to be a fantastic program.

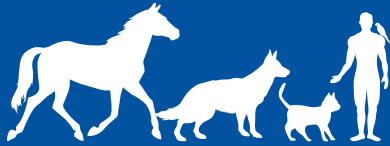
We also cannot forget that there will also be another two days of behavior during the general AVMA session on the days following the IVBM meeting.

We should begin to thank our IVBM sponsors, which include the following. Platinum Level: Campbell/Coastal Pet Products; Iams Company; and Premier Pet Products/Alpha-M Inc. Gold Sponsors: VPL/CEVA; Novartis; and PetSafe. Silver Sponsors: Hills Pet Nutrition; Petmate; and Pfizer Animal Health.

In other news, Dr. Sagi Denenberg has spent time working on developing a new AVSAB website, which should be up and running soon.

Take care and see you all in July!

Melissa



5th International Veterinarian Behavior Meeting



Minneapolis, Minnesota • July 14-16, 2005

Please plan to attend the **5th International Veterinary Behavior Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota July 14-16, 2005**. This year's meeting is organized jointly with the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists and the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior and should prove to be the premier behavior meeting of 2005.

The meeting will take place at the Marriott City Center immediately preceding this year's AVMA/WVC annual conference. Three full days, over 50 scientific presentations and 25 research posters are planned with a wide range of international attendees from over 15 different countries already scheduled to attend. Registrants receive published proceedings, an evening poster reception and daily continental breakfast, lunch and two coffee and tea breaks.

Registration information is available at: **www.dacvb.org** or contact Dr. Gary Landsberg at gmlandvm@aol.com or Dr. Debra Horwitz at Debhdvm@aol.com for further details.

The meeting is generously sponsored by:

Platinum Sponsors

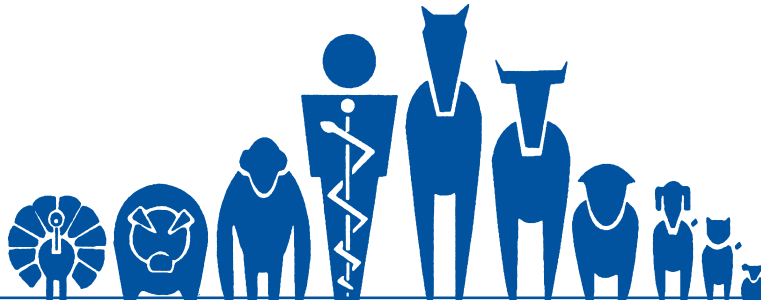
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AVSAB Student Chapter Service Award

The American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior is inviting submission of applications for a Student Chapter Service Award. This award will honor the student chapter that demonstrated the highest number of club meetings, educational activities, and individual involvement.

AVSAB student chapters should submit a detailed list of activities that the club and / or its members organized and attended between July 1, 2004 and June 1, 2005, including the following categories:

- 1) Behavior meetings that the club organized
(e.g. field trips, lectures, wet labs for students and veterinarians)
- 2) Behavior meetings that club members attended
(e.g. continuing education seminars at veterinary meetings, training seminars)
- 3) Community outreach and Public education organized by the club or its members
(e.g. volunteer activities, fund raisers, open house booth, training classes)
- 4) Volunteer activities of club members in the area of animal behavior
(e.g. shelter programs, wildlife centers, pet visitation programs, grief counseling, open house booth, fund raisers)
- 5) Behavior research projects conducted by club members.
- 6) Other relevant activities of the behavior club or its members.

The application must include the name and address of the chapter president and faculty advisor.

Send applications to:

Dr. Petra Mertens
College of Veterinary Medicine
Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences
315 Veterinary Teaching Hospital
1352 Boyd Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

Merte006@umn.edu
Office: (612) 625-0227
Fax: (612) 624-0751

Submission deadline: June 15th, 2005

Treat & Train: Dog Training System

Dr. Sophia Yin submitted this review of the research and development of a product she has worked on with the Sharper Image Company. I thought it would be interesting for the members to see how this project was conceived and developed. The following was submitted by Dr. Yin.

John Ciribassi DVM, ed.

One interesting aspect of scientific research is that you never know when a simple question will suddenly catapult you into a wild race for answers followed by a lifetime's worth of ideas and possibilities. My research took such a turn 18 months ago when, out of nowhere, I received a message from The Sharper Image, a San Francisco-based gadget company. "We want to develop an electronic mood translation device," they said. "One that really works. Can you help us?"

Because my research was on barking as communication in dogs, I knew what they meant. They wanted a bark translator. But I also knew that the research and development for such a product would take many years and much more money to develop than any company would want to invest. Plus it's better to learn to translate your dog's

backed up by research to prove that it works?"

Well, 18 months later the first product is out—The Treat & Train Dog Training System for decreasing barking, jumping, door dashing, and other unruly behaviors that dogs exhibit when guests come to the door. The technogadget part of the system is a remote-controlled kibble-dispensing machine that emits a tone and immediately releases a treat which allows owners to reward correct behavior without having to fumble for the food or run up to Dozer to deliver the treat.

The gadget is surprisingly cool and the first time I used it I finally understood why men like remote controls so much. The part of the Treat & Train that really makes it work though is the carefully developed protocol for training dogs to run to a rug and lie down quietly on cue even in the face of major distractions such as repeated doorbell ringing or knocking, loud shouting, people running around, front door wide open, guests walking around, or people trying to eat a peaceful dinner.

The research was designed and carried out in three stages. I started with a pilot study using 10 dogs to look at different variations of techniques I had al-

two out of ten and repeat the step. Miss five or more out of ten and go back a step. Despite having dogs of different breeds and temperaments, all of the dogs made it through the protocol in eight days and the steps were easy enough that dogs performed each trial correctly over 90% of the time. That means they made mistakes less than 10% of the time. So now we had a protocol that we knew was easy to carry out.

The next step was the clinical trial to see how it worked in real homes. We called for the most poorly behaved door-greeting dogs we could find and made owners prove their dogs were unruly enough. Owners had to videotape their dogs at the door so we could quantify the bad behaviors. We got what we asked for. We got dogs that barked up to 50 times and jumped over 20 times a minute. Dogs that stuck their noses in people's crotches, gnawed on visitors arms, scared visitors away on a regular basis and even one who lunged so hard to get out the door that he once dislocated his owner's shoulder. Some owners were skeptical about whether the program would work, but all wanted a better-behaved dog. So, armed with an instruction manual, a rough instructional video, and the Treat & Train prototype, the owners diligently worked through the program just as a regular person might. That is, instead of practicing every day as they were directed, they took days off, skipped many days in a row, took long vacations, or accidentally skipped steps, which meant we had to check on them regularly to ensure they were staying on track. In spite of the setbacks, all dogs metamorphosed into polite door greeters within two to sixteen weeks with the average owner spending 20-30 minutes a day and taking about a month, of consecutive training days to complete the study.

The Instructional DVD

At this point we had a training program that we knew worked even when owners did the training with their own dogs but we were still only half way through with the work. Creating instruc-

"The techno-gadget part of the system is a remote-controlled, kibble-dispensing machine that emits a tone and immediately releases a treat..."

barks yourself. So, when I received their message, I basically replied, "No that idea won't work." But, unable to resist the idea of working with a company that could probably make any animal training device I conjured up, I went on, "but how about these ideas instead."

Their product idea had to do with barking, excessive barking is a huge problem for dog owners, and the current products dealing with excessive barking all focus on punishment and thus come with a number of pitfalls or unwanted behavioral side-effects. So I suggested, "How about making a device that addresses the barking issue by rewarding quiet behavior and that's

ready used. My goal was to design a program the average dog-owner pair with no previous training experience could perform successfully with as few errors as possible. The protocol turned out a bit different from what I'd originally planned, but once I had it worked out it was time to see how well each step actually worked.

In the first experiment, my assistants and I took six unruly dogs and worked them through each step. Each time we performed a repetition or trial, we recorded correct and incorrect responses. Then we followed strict criteria. Nine out of ten correct trials in a row and go to the next step. Miss more than

tional materials that would compel owners to perform the steps correctly would be the key to success. This sounds simple until you remind yourself that training is a technical skill requiring dead-on timing. And just watching someone demonstrate the correct technique isn't enough. Good instructors break the techniques into their component parts in order to reveal the important nuances.

With this in mind I designed an instructional DVD using about 30 dogs in different stages of the learning process so that viewers could see how dogs look while they're learning the exercises as

well as how they look once they know the exercises. Many steps are repeated using several dogs, each step is illustrated several times, and the finer points are highlighted with close-ups and slow motion. Additionally, mistakes are highlighted through interviews with clinical trial participants, owners demonstrating mistakes they made, and special "nerd alerts" that humorously illustrate errors to avoid.

To ensure that these additions were effective, we even tested the DVD via a focus group viewing in which I asked viewers to perform the techniques that they just observed so that I could evalu-

ate their interpretation. Of course the DVD isn't the end of it. There's also a detailed instruction manual complete with cartoons and check-off lists.

Hopefully all of this ground work has led to a training system that will help owners understand and enjoy their dogs better. It's certainly given me a better understanding of how dogs and their owners learn.

For more info go to:
www.nerdbook.com/sophia/treat&train <<http://www.nerdbook.com/sophia/treat&train>> or
www.sharperimage.com.

Gentle Leader® Makers Develop New No-pull Harness With Profound Results

New Easy Walk Harness™ Is Now Available From Premier Pet Products

RICHMOND, VA, February 4

You've heard of the Gentle Leader Headcollar now there's a new Gentle Leader *EasyWalk Harness*. Premier Pet Products worked closely with Gentle Leader Inventor and Veterinary Behaviorist Dr. R.K. Anderson to devise an innovative harness that is ultra-simple for owners to use and discourages leash pulling. Premier Pet Products is excited to announce that the Gentle Leader Easy Walk Harness is now available for purchase.

"Now there are two wonderful Gentle Leader 'no pull' tools for dog owners: the headcollar and now the harness," says Dr. Anderson. "The Easy-Walk Harness is perfect for the frustrated owner who is looking for a quick answer to solve their dog's leash pulling. It's incredibly easy to use and there's very little acclimation time or special technique required."

The Easy Walk Harness works by decreasing a dog's natural desire to pull against pressure. Its unique front-chest leash attachment stops pulling by steering your dog to the side and redirecting his attention towards you. Its patent-pending Martingale loop provides extra leverage for easy, relaxed control and prevents harness twisting and gapping.

"Over the years I've tested several no-pull harnesses and have had mixed results. I'm sold on this one. With the Easy Walk Harness, my students expe-

rience immediate gratification and results," says Trainer and Author Terry Ryan. "With the unique martingale attachment, a gentle tug on the leash quickly slows the dog's forward movement by steering his body towards you."

The Easy Walk Harness can be used on all dog types and puppies. It is available in 5 adjustable sizes and 5 colors including red, royal blue, black, green, fawn and purple. The Easy Walk Harness is the only non-pull harness to come with a complementary color belly strap making it easy to identify which strap goes over the shoulders and which goes under the belly. Two quick-release buckles allow for easy on and off. The wholesale harness price is \$12.49. And the product is also available in bulk without packaging.

"We are really excited about the Easy Walk Harness. The positive response from trainers and veterinarians has been absolutely overwhelming!" says Sharon Bennett, Premier's Founder and CEO. "This product provides another highly effective tool for professionals and dog owners to help with the frustrating behaviors of lunging and pulling. The Easy Walk Harness makes walking your dog a joy again!"

For more information on the Gentle Leader Easy Walk Harness, call Premier Pet Products at 800-933-5595 or go to premier.com.

Think Like a Cat, How to Raise a Well-Adjusted Cat, Not a Sour Puss

Pam Johnson-Bennett,
Feline Behaviorist

Casandra Fowler
12/22/04

The book, *Think Like a Cat, How to Raise a Well-Adjusted Cat, Not a Sour Puss*, sets an excellent tone with its opening sentence, “Cats aren’t shirts that you buy at the store and then return if they don’t fit.” Falling right in line with books such as *The Culture Clash* by Jean Donaldson and the works of Dr. Ian Dunbar, Pam Johnson-Bennett explains some common feline behaviors and misbehaviors from the perspective of learning theory (classical and operant conditioning) in a language that most owners can understand. Her strategies for dealing with these issues are insightful, intelligent and (just as important) attainable by most owners. She also appropriately refers the reader to consult a veterinarian in multiple circumstances when her strategies aren’t enough. As a former veterinary technician, the author also provides a wealth of, at times oversimplified, astute medical information throughout the book. It

book doesn’t start until chapter three with detailed instructions on how to incorporate a new kitten or cat into the household. The key word here is SLOWLY, making the experience the most positive that it can be *for the cat*, even if the kids (and Mom and Dad, too) were all excited about showing the new kitty *everything* the minute she arrives. She’ll have the rest of her life to see it all; helping her to become comfortable in her new home on her terms is the most important first step. For adult cats, Feliway is promoted for its calming influence. The idea behind the product is not thoroughly explained, but that is something a vet could explain further as the circumstances dictate.

The title of chapter five, “House Rules: Basic Training” may bring about visions of an obedient Labrador sitting attentively at one’s feet waiting with bated breath to receive the tasty morsel that he has been conditioned to expect (behavior which, let’s face it, the average owner probably won’t want or be able to elicit from the average cat). A less-misleading title might have been, “Communication: Bringing Out the

- Remote control (in the form of booby traps, never punishment)
- Redirection

Chapter six begins putting these concepts into action, focusing on play. Unfortunately, the reader is now on page 103, and my fear is that we may have lost some of them, just when we’re getting to the really good stuff. This chapter not only explains the *why* of play (from the cat’s perspective: social interaction, predatory drive; from the owner’s perspective: social interaction, exercise for both parties, and behavior modification tool) but the *how* as well. Because cats are not small dogs or small humans, it is not appropriate to play with them as if they were. Johnson-Bennett does a fantastic job here of defining play and the different behaviors, i.e. hunting skills, that the cat is performing while playing. Her most revealing example (the one that made me slap my forehead and say “Of course! Why didn’t I think of that!?!?”): real prey would never approach a cat and dangle itself in front of the predator, it would run and hide, peeking out periodically. Simulating this with a toy allows the cat to use more than her boxing reflexes to bat away a strange dangling fuzzy thing; she uses her brain!

To quote Johnson-Bennett, efficient hunting involves “patience, planning, and precision.” Letting her have successes (catching the prey periodically) builds confidence while she is exercising and building a positive association with the owner. Because play is such a reward for a cat, it can be used just as food treats are in behavior modification for dogs. This special time between pet

“Pam Johnson-Bennett explains some common feline behaviors and misbehaviors from the perspective of learning theory (classical and operant conditioning) in a language that most owners can understand.”

is perhaps more information than the average owner needs/wants to know, and contributes unnecessarily to the book’s 398 pages.

The first chapter dispels a few myths, briefly discusses kitten-proofing the home, and ranks the various sources from which one may obtain a cat/kitten. The actual behavior portion of the

Best Behaviors in Your Cat.” Regardless, in this chapter Johnson-Bennett introduces her three basic approaches to feline “training”, which are wonderfully consistent with the general concepts employed today by veterinary behaviorists. They are:

- Positive reinforcement

and owner can distract and redirect negative behaviors, build positive associations with things/people/situations that trigger fear, and change the association of a room or piece of carpet from toilet to play area for a cat that isn't using the litter box appropriately. There are also activity toys for cats, just as for dogs, that an owner can provide for the cat when she will be alone. Food-related as well as nonfood-related toys are available. Johnson-Bennett describes in detail her favorite toys from each category, and provides a resource index at the end of the book.

Elimination issues and scratching each have their own chapters, filled with good advice on how to modify these normal behaviors when they become a problem for the owner. Her four-step retraining program for a cat eliminating outside of the box is an excellent place for an owner to start for this particular problem. The steps are as follows:

- **Cleanup** – enzymatic cleaners are advised (although Anti Icky Poo is not mentioned)
- **Bait and Switch** – using Feliway to deem the areas as facial-marking

areas rather than urine-marking areas (obviously most appropriate for marking behavior)

- **Deterrents** – using food dishes, carpet runners, or double-sided tape to make the area unattractive as a toilet
- **Behavior Modification** – interactive play to produce a calm, confident cat; interactive play at the urination sites to change the association of the site from toilet to play-area

Chapter ten consists of mostly fluff information concerning the practice of feeding. Johnson-Bennett does make one claim in this chapter that goes against my previous beliefs: that changing foods on a regular basis prevents a cat from becoming a finicky eater, teaching her to accept different tastes. I have always held that this practice will teach an animal to be finicky, because they are taught that if they turn their nose up at one food, they will be offered another. “Why eat this when there just might be something better out there? I should hold out just in case.” I am currently undecided on this issue, as aspects of both sides make sense. It may

be an individual thing from animal to animal.

In chapter eleven it's back to behavior, using the previously described techniques to introduce a cat to a new family member (cat, dog, human, or otherwise) in a non-threatening way. There is some nice information here, but not critical to this particular book. Johnson-Bennett simply tries to cram too much in and winds up overwhelming the reader. Two books, one on behavior and one on the basics of cat care would have been better.

Veterinarians and cat-owners alike can learn a lot from this book (as long as they have the patience to wade through the excesses). Johnson-Bennett's techniques, if employed as she describes, would certainly help to “raise a well-adjusted cat”, as well as to cultivate a more satisfying relationship for the cat-owner. Overall, I would rate *Think Like a Cat, How to Raise a Well-Adjusted Cat, Not a Sour Puss* an A-, and an excellent resource for a new cat owner.

Book Review

Revolution in Horsemanship

Dr. Robert M. Miller has a long history of advancing the cause of behavior training based on learning theory. In this text Dr. Miller points out that, in equine behavior, the emphasis has to be on behavior modification since the use of anti anxiety drugs is cost prohibitive. His most recent text is titled “The Revolution in Horsemanship” and is co-authored with Rick Lamb. Chapters include information on Natural Horsemanship, Domestication of horses, Rodeos and Ranches, Wild Horses, Foal Training, healthcare and nutrition.

Dr. Miller's book can be ordered by calling 800-284-3362 or via his web site at www.robertmmiller.com

John Ciribassi, DVM

Call for Case Reports, Continuing Education and Textbook Reviews

We can't all be exposed to the wealth of behavior information that is available. There are some excellent CE opportunities, behavior text and references as well as published case histories. It would be a great benefit to our members to have brief reviews of talks, books and cases to be printed in the newsletter.

Whenever you attend a seminar, see an interesting case or read a newly available behavior text consider sharing your experience with your colleagues. Write a brief review and send it to me via email or snail mail. Thanks much in advance.

John Ciribassi, DVM Ed.
drjdvm@msn.com
1042 Mountain Glen Way
Carol Stream, IL 60188

The Business of Behavior

John Ciribassi, DVM

This article continues the series discussion on various aspects of a veterinary behavior practice. This edition focuses on a few points to consider when beginning a practice specializing in animal behavior. Any comments or suggestions regarding this, or any other topic involving running a behavior practice, please feel to send me an email at drjdvm@msn.com with your responses.

One of the questions I often get is, "how do you start a behavior practice?" The answer to that is obviously not a simple one. The first requirement is becoming proficient in the field. This route can take on many different avenues, depending on the type of practice you want to establish, what your interests are, what time restrictions you might have and the availability of behaviorists in your area. It can be as simple as reading as many journal articles and texts as possible so that you might feel a little more comfortable in talking to clients about their

pet's behavior during the context of an appointment. In addition, taking in various veterinary and non-veterinary seminars (ABS, APDT, etc.) can provide additional insight into the field as well providing opportunities to meet and network with colleagues already in the field. Enrolling in animal behavior and psychology courses at local universities can add to your ability to understand the field in more depth. Finally, if pursuit of certification is your goal, enrollment in either the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (www.dacvb.org) or the Animal Behavior Society (www.animalbehavior.org) can provide you with opportunities.

Once you feel you are at the point of competency of seeing clinical cases in animal behavior, the next concern is growing a client base. If you are in a large enough general practice or work as part of a specialty practice, you may be able to generate patient contacts through internal referrals. However, most of the time referrals must come from a network of veterinar-

ians in your area. In order for this to become a consistent source, it is necessary, in my opinion, to make yourself know personally to veterinarians and trainers. Joining local veterinary associations and attending meetings can provide the initial opportunity for familiarity. Writing newsletter articles on behavior topics and offering to speak at association meetings are also a good way for practitioners to become better aware of your services. Creating a brief, informative brochure describing your services then mailing these to local veterinarians can also increase exposure for you.

Finally, once you are seeing cases, word of mouth regarding your abilities becomes the most powerful tool in creating a client base. Staying in contact with veterinarians who refer to you, answering questions about cases they have sent to you, providing timely case reports to them and being willing to answer general behavior questions can increase the likelihood that they will refer to you again and recommend your services to colleagues.

Interesting Posts from the AVSAB Listserve

The AVSAB listserv is a valuable means of communication between us colleagues interested in clinical behavior. This discussion group is for the benefit of the members of our organization, and all aspects of clinical behavioral medicine and psychology are fair game for this forum.

Topic: Animal Detection of Earthquakes

Hi all,
I have a junior high school student doing a project on animals' ability to detect an earthquake before we do.

I have checked the archives of here, VIN and PubMed, with no results or discussion. Can anyone comment on this phenomenon or where there may be some research on this subject?
Up here in the great pacific northwest,

we know that Orcas increase their breeches prior to the occurrence of earthquakes in our area.

Any input or interesting comments would be appreciated in order to help this young fellow. He has a small questionnaire for vets if anyone has any comments.

Thanks,

Shelley Breadner, DVM
Saanichton, BC

Reply

I wrote an SF Chronicle pet column article on this a few years back. I interviewed Dr. Dale Lott and Dr. Ben Hart who published two journal articles on the subjected (performed 2 studies). The gyst is that they found that animals are not a reliable predictor of earthquakes. I could probably dig up the 2 papers if needed.

I also interviewed someone from the USGS who wrote a report called "A summary of the literature on unusual animal behavior before earthquakes, for the USGS symposium on earthquake prediction in 1976.

He concluded that: "Although none of the reports cited [in available published literature before 1976] meets the usual scientific standards in reporting observational data, the collective observa-

tions suggest that some animals might have acted unusually prior to some earthquakes."

He debunked the myth that animals predicted the 7.2 earthquake in Heiching, China. He met many Chinese Seismologists who said he reports were Chines propoganda during the "cultural revolution madness."

I have the SF Chron article posted on my web page at http://www.nerdbook.com/sophia/chron_arts.html It's called "pets predicting earthquakes" and it's under the dog section.

Sophia Yin

Reply

Dr. Ben Hart published a small study a number of years ago. He's been getting

a lot of press since the unfortunate tsunami.

Take care,
Melissa Bain
Davis, CA

Reply

There has been some study about this, one on the increase of "lost animals" ads in the newspapers a few days before earthquakes. This has been done on the west coast. Coast to Coast AM, a web site for the late night talk show has discussed this and probably could search on the subject. Art Bell and George Noiree (sp?) host the show that highlights strange occurrences of all types, but the animal earthquake thing has been followed for many years.

Judith H. Spurling, D.V.M.
Parker, Colorado

Websites Related to Animal Behavior

This is not an inclusive list, nor by listing these websites does AVSAB endorse their products or services (except, of course, the AVSAB website!!)

Organizations

www.avma.org/avsab

American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior

www.dacvb.com

American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (still under construction)

www.svbt.org

Society of Veterinary Behavior Technicians

www.deltasociety.org/

Delta Society

www.animalbehavior.org/

Animal Behavior Society

www.apdt.com

Association of Pet Dog Trainers

www.apbc.org.uk

Association of Pet Behaviour Counselors

Animal Welfare and Human-Animal Bond

www.censhare.umn.edu/

Center to Study Human-Animal Relationships and Environment, University of Minnesota

<http://members.aol.com/guyh7/aahabv.htm>

The American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians

www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu

Animal Alternatives/main.htm University of California Center for Animal Alternatives

<http://animalwelfare.ucdavis.edu/>

University of California Center for Animal Welfare

www.soton.ac.uk/~azi/azi.htm

Anthrozoology Institute, University of Southampton

www.tufts.edu/vet/cfa/confsems.html

Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy

www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/vad/cae/

Purdue University, Center for the Human Animal Bond

University Websites

www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/CCAB/main.htm

University of California Center for Companion Animal Behavior

www.vet.cornell.edu/abc/

Cornell University Behavior Service

www.vet.uga.edu/erc/behavior/index.htm

University of Georgia Applied Animal Behavior

www.cvm.umn.edu

University of Minnesota School of Veterinary Medicine (has Behavior Service)

www.vet.upenn.edu/cias/

University of Pennsylvania, Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society

www2.vet.upenn.edu/labs/equinebehavior/

University of Pennsylvania Equine Behavior Lab

www.vet.purdue.edu/animalbehavior/

Purdue University Animal Behavior Clinic

Products

www.gentleleader.com/

Gentle Leader

www.kongcompany.com

Kong toys

www.ah.novartis.com/

Novartis Animal Health

www.premier.com

Premier Pet Products

www.clickertraining.com

Karen Pryor's website on clicker training

www.webtrail.com/petbehavior/

Behavio Rx Pet Behavior Systems

The Veterinarian's Role in Pet Retention

**By: Dr. Charles Martin
and Dr. Brenda Griffin**

Pet overpopulation is the largest welfare issue facing dogs and cats in this country, with millions surrendered to animal shelters annually. Another sad fact revealed by surveys is that approximately one-third of these animals are relinquished by their owners — mostly because of training and behavior problems.

A class at Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine is seeking to alleviate this situation by educating students on the human-animal bond and methods of reducing the relinquishment of pets to shelters. Their hands-on curriculum in "The Veterinarian's Role in Pet Retention" involves visits to the nearby Lee County Humane Society, where the pet surplus is evident as more than 5,000 dogs and cats are received annually.

Taught by Dr. Brenda Griffin, students learn about the community problem of pet overpopulation, its consequences, and non-lethal approaches to control. They are introduced to the connection between the human animal bond and pet relinquishment to shelters and explore the role of the veterinarian in fostering and preserving the bond in practice, with an emphasis on behavioral counseling and training.

Students train dogs in basic obedience and handle pet cats awaiting adoption at the Lee County Humane Society. They provide a much-needed support service to the staff and animals at the shelter, and they gain experience for their future veterinary careers in which they will frequently be asked to offer advice on behavior and training.

Course evaluations from stu-

dents testify to the educational value of the class.

"Every dog is different because of varying ages, breeds, personalities, and experiences" said veterinary student Jennifer Wieneke. "It was very helpful and challenging to find ways to successfully train each dog. Working and playing with the kittens was very enjoyable, too. I think this would be a great way for people who don't see themselves as 'cat people' to learn about cat behavior and gain an appreciation for cats. I really felt like I had accomplished something each time after leaving the shelter."

The course is presented in conjunction with the Auburn University College of Education's Partners In Community Service (PICS) program, which provides grants to departments that incorporate service learning into various curriculums. It is clear through the data collected by the evaluations conducted by PICS that service learning brings the curriculum to life in ways that can be duplicated by no other process.

"We see that it is helping the students understand the course content more fully, and for some it is introducing them to the challenges they will meet in their future professions. For others, it opens their eyes to lives and conditions they've never been exposed to before," said Dr. Holly Stadler, director of PICS and department head of Counseling and Counseling Psychology.

The specific objectives of "The Veterinarian's Role in Pet Retention" class are for students to:

1. Recognize the magnitude of the pet overpopulation problem;
2. Understand the roles of individual citizens and of veterinarians in non-lethal strategies for pet population control;

3. Understand the connection between the human-animal bond, dog and cat behavior, and pet relinquishment to shelters;
4. Gain hands-on experience in animal behavior and training through didactic course instruction and experience with dogs and cats at the Lee County Humane Society; and
5. Serve the community by providing the service of training and socializing pets sheltered at the county humane society and, in doing so, to set an example for responsible ownership.

This two-hour elective course is offered in both the fall and spring semesters to veterinary and pre-veterinary students. Class size is limited to 15 students, each of whom spends at least 20 hours a semester in service learning at the shelter. At the end of the semester, each student gives a presentation on topics pertaining to a particular problem behavior and the role of the veterinarian in pet retention.

Interaction with the shelter staff and with the animals themselves enhances the students' appreciation of pet retention and civic responsibility. They see the pet surplus firsthand, experience the human-animal bond as they train and handle pets in the shelter, experience the painful reality of euthanasia as an animal control procedure, and celebrate the adoption of pets they have worked with to permanent, loving homes.

"I learned that training dogs not only helps them, but it also helped me," said pre-veterinary student Lauren Sims. "It was a great experience and I learned many roles I can play in my future career as a veterinarian to help people and animals. Promoting and preserving the human animal bond are keys."

Upcoming Behavioral Meetings

March 19-23, 2005

American Animal Hospital Association

Baltimore, Maryland
Seminars and a Gentle Leader workshop
Debra Horwitz and Gary Landsberg

April 17, 2005

Behavior Medicine Club Annual Symposium

University of California, Davis
A one-day seminar on current behavior issues. Featuring the following speakers: Dr. Lynne Siebert, Dr. Jacquie Neilson, Dr. Ian Dunbar.
Contact: Esther Chon, emchon@ucdavis.edu;
Website: http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/Clubs/behavior_club/

Thursday April 21, 2005

Animal Behavior Careers Workshop

402 N. Park Ave., Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 7:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.
Integrative Animal Behavior Careers Workshop: Breaking Through Disciplinary Boundaries Five CISAB faculty panelists will discuss some of the interdisciplinary issues they faced in their careers and will address student and postdoctoral fellow questions on how to break through disciplinary boundaries within the field of animal behavior.
<http://www.indiana.edu/~animal/>

April 28 through May 1, 2005

The 4th National Detector Dog Conference

College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama from April 28 through May 1, 2005. The major theme of the conference will be the continuing attempt to produce a consensus of good practices for selection, training, maintenance and use of detector dogs. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Gary Stamp, who has done enormous amounts of work to support and improve the U.S. Military Working Dog Program. Also during the conference, the War Dog Memorial will be dedicated at Auburn by the former Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Mundy.

There will be programs on behavior, health, training aids and novel detection programs.

The information and registration URL is:
http://www.vetmed.auburn.edu/index.pl/detector_dog_conference

July 15th-19th, 2005

2005 SVBT Annual Meeting and Reception

Held in conjunction with the AVMA's annual conference in Minneapolis, MN. Watch the newsletter for the exact day, but it will be one of the evenings between July 15th-19th. The dates for the AVMA are July 16-20th.
http://www.svbt.org/pages/annual_meeting.htm

July 14-16, 2005

The 5th International Veterinary Behavior Meeting (IVBM)

July 14-16 July 2005 at the Minneapolis Marriott City Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota. This year's meeting is organized jointly with the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists and the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior and should prove to be the premier behavior meeting of 2005. The meeting will take place at the Marriott City Center immediately preceding this year's AVMA/WVC annual conference. Three full days, over 50 scientific presentations and 25 research posters are planned with a wide range of international attendees from over 15 different countries already scheduled to attend. Registrants receive published proceedings, an evening poster reception and daily continental breakfast, lunch and two coffee and tea breaks.
<http://www.dacvb.org/>

August 6-8, 2005

Northeast Veterinary Conference

Providence, Rhode Island
Tufts University Sponsored Seminar on Behavior
18 Hours of CE
Vint Virga
Contacts:
Office of Continuing Education 508-887-4723
susan.brogan@tufts.edu
<http://www.tufts.edu/vet/nevc>

August 24-28, 2005

Wolf Park Behavior Seminars

Battleground, Indiana
Since 1988 Wolf Park has conducted wolf behavior seminars based on behavior research carried out at Wolf Park since 1972. This five day seminar consists of lectures, discussions, films, video and slide presentations, extensive observations of wolf behavior and instruction on observing behavior objectively, and hands-on experience with wolves singly and/or in a pack situation. Demonstration of proper handling and training procedures have been included, IE. leash training, handling for medical treatment, etc. Dog owners have found this seminar very useful for understanding dogs, the descendants of wolves. Those involved in wolf research and education, and those working directly with wolves in zoos, have all benefited from this unique program. In recent years we have been expanding the range of our seminars from that one Wolf Behavior seminar, so that people involved in many different aspects of wolves can come out and learn about wolves and get close to them. These seminars are aimed at those who are primarily involved with the wolf's dog relatives, to the artists who want to paint them, as well as folks who don't have time to stay here for five days.
<http://www.wolfpark.org/seminars.html>

Sept. 14-18, 2005

Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT) Annual Conference

New Orleans, LA
Irene Pepperberg will keynote with new work with Alex and other African Greys on language/cognition research
<http://www.apdt.com>

October 15-16 2005

Veterinary Psychopharmacology

University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine, Athens, Georgia
Contact: Sandi Kilgo; Phone: 706-542-1451; E-mail: skilgo@vet.uga.edu

2005 American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior Annual Meeting Registration

Saturday, July 16, 2005

Marriott Minneapolis City Center • 300 South 7th Street • Minneapolis, MN 55402 • 612-349-4000

If you are registering for the International Veterinary Behavior Meeting (IVBM), you are already registered for this day. This registration is if you plan on attending ONLY on this one day.

Check Prefix: Dr. Mr. Ms. Check Degree/Suffix for badge (one only): DVM VMD Ph.D. RVT LVT other _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City and State/Province: _____ Zip code: _____

Country: _____ e-mail: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____ - _____ Fax: _____ - _____

AVSAB member? No Regular Affiliate Student

REGISTRATION CATEGORIES/FEEES

Fee includes continental breakfasts, lunch, refreshment breaks, proceedings and all scientific and poster sessions July 16 at Marriott Minneapolis City Center Hotel. AVSAB business meeting will follow, and is open only to AVSAB members. For updated conference information visit the AVSAB website at: www.avma.org/avsab

	Advanced Must be postmarked by 4-18-05	Pre-convention Must be postmarked by 6-17-05
Conference registration	\$125.00	\$150.00
Conference registration – veterinary students	\$85.00	\$110.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

No refunds after June 17, 2005

Registration does NOT include admission/attendance to IVBM Meeting July 14-15

Go to www.dacvb.org for details and registration information for IVBM

Payment must accompany this registration form. Check one of the following:

VISA MasterCard Check or money order (Payable in US Funds only to: **AVSAB**)

Note: A valid credit card number with expiration date through 07/05 is required

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder Name: _____ Signature: _____

Send registration to: Dr. Lisa Radosta
3 Fox Valley Lane
Glen Mills, PA 19342

For further details regarding registration information contact: Dr. Melissa Bain at
mjbain@ucdavis.edu or by phone at: 530-757-8440

Do not use this form if you are a registering for the full IVBM Meeting!

If you want to register for the full IVBM and AVSAB meeting (July 14-16, 2005), fill out the registration form in this newsletter or go to www.dacvb.org. Contact mjbain@ucdavis.edu for details.

5th International Veterinary Behavior Meeting Registration

July 14-16 2005

Marriott Minneapolis City Center • 300 South 7th Street • Minneapolis, MN 55402 • 612-349-4000

Please mail or FAX form and payment to:

IVBM / AVMA • 1931 N. Meacham Rd. Suite 100 • Schaumburg, IL, 60173 • FAX: 847-925-1329

Check Prefix: Dr. Mr. Ms. Check Degree/Suffix for badge (one only): DVM VMD Ph.D. RVT LVT other _____

Last (family) Name: _____ First (given) Name: _____

Address: _____

City and State/Province: _____ Postal code: _____

Country: _____ e-mail: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____ - _____ Fax: _____ - _____

Students: College _____ Year of graduation _____

REGISTRATION CATEGORIES/FEEES

Fee includes continental breakfasts, lunch, refreshment breaks, proceedings and all scientific and poster sessions July 14 to 16 at Marriott Minneapolis City Center Hotel. For updated conference information visit the ACVB website at www.dacvb.org

Conference registration	Advanced Must be postmarked by 4.18.05	Pre-convention Must be postmarked by 6.17.05	
Veterinarians/technicians/nurses	\$295.00	\$325.00	_____
Veterinary Students	\$195.00	\$225.00	_____
		TOTAL ENCLOSED	_____

No refunds after June 17, 2005 – all refunds subject to \$40 processing fee

Registration does not include admission/attendance to AVMA/WVC July 16-20 Annual Convention

Contact www.avmaconvention.org for details and registration information for the AVMA

Payment can be made by mail or FAX and must accompany this registration form. Check one of the following:

VISA MasterCard American Express Check or money order (Payable in US Funds only to: **AVMA**)

Note: A valid credit card number with expiration date through 07/05 is required for hotel reservations

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder Name: _____ Signature: _____

HOUSING INFORMATION FOR IVBM PARTICIPANTS

Rooms are available at the Marriott Minneapolis City Center \$135.00 USD per night. If you wish to reserve a room at this hotel ONLY, please complete the following information and be certain to provide an email address for confirmation. Credit card information must be provided for room reservations. AVMA attendees who wish to book an alternative hotel can do so at www.avmaconvention.org.

Arrival date: _____ Departure date _____ # people in a room _____ # of beds \$ one \$ two

Room type request: Connecting Accessible Smoking Non Smoking Other Special assistance:

List all occupants sharing room including children and ages:

For further details regarding registration information contact: Dr. Jacqui Neilson at abcjndvm@hevanet.com or by phone at **503-358-6701**

Do not use this form if you are a presenter or exhibitor receiving complimentary or reduced fee registration.

Contact abcjndvm@hevanet.com for details.

**Do you have an interest in animal behavior?
Would you like to dazzle your colleagues with your brilliance?
Would you like to win \$\$\$\$?**

If you answered “YES” to any of these questions, apply for the:

**American Veterinary Society of
Animal Behavior
Award for Student Excellence in
Applied Animal Behavior Research**

Recent winning topics included:

- Beef cattle responses to noises
- Non-aversive trailer-loading training for horses
- Owner compliance and the treatment of aggressive dogs
 - Feline toy preferences
 - Scent marking in primates

For more information check out the AVSAB website at: www.avma.org/avsab
or contact Dr. Laurie Bergman, DACVB by email at: lbergman@ucdavis.edu

AVSAB Student Research Papers must meet the following criteria:

- The applicant must be a **current veterinary student**.
- The paper must be in the format for application to a scientific publication. i.e., it must have a cover page, an abstract, materials and methods, discussion and references.
- **Research must have been completed while in veterinary school.**
- The paper should not have been previously published, and not yet received final acceptance for publication in a journal prior to the submission deadline.
- Three copies are to be submitted to Dr. Bergman, typed, and double spaced.
- Alternately, the paper can be submitted via email or computer disc as a Microsoft Word document. Send to the above

address or email address.

- All identifying references to author, location, clinic or university must be deleted, except for on the cover page of the document.
- The winner must attend and present their paper at the AVSAB paper presentation session held in conjunction with the AVMA Annual meeting in Minneapolis, Mn on July 18, 2005. The award will be given at the AVSAB meeting after the winner presents their paper.

The recipient will be notified by May 15 prior to the AVMA Annual Meeting. An abstract of the award winning paper will be printed in the AVSAB newsletter. The cash portion of the award shall be a **\$1500.00** from which the student can be used to help defray the cost of attending the meeting. An abstract of the winning paper will be provided for the meeting attendees and printed in a subsequent issue of the AVSAB newsletter.

American Veterinary Society Of Animal Behavior Membership Application

(Check one): Renewal New Member

If this is a renewal, is your address information on this form correct?

Yes No

Please add fax number and e-mail address below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Country: _____

Telephone: _____ - _____

(this number will be given to potential referrals if requested)

Fax: _____ - _____

E-mail: _____

Professional Memberships:

Current Employment:

Major interest in animal behavior:

Academic Degrees, schools and dates:

I hereby apply for membership in the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior

- \$40.00 Active Membership. Open to veterinarians only.** Includes Newsletter, Yahoo Group and registration for annual meeting (voting privileges included).
- \$40.00 Affiliate Membership. Open to non-veterinarians who have been approved by the executive board.** To be considered for approval **you must have a Ph.D. in animal behavior or a closely related field** and be currently active in research and/or practice of applied animal behavior. Your curriculum vitae must accompany your application. You will be granted membership if approved by the board. Also includes newsletter, Yahoo group access and registration for annual meeting (voting privileges included). *Renewing affiliates who have not submitted a curriculum vita in the past 2 years, please submit one with renewal form.*
- \$7.50 Student Membership. Currently enrolled veterinary students.** Includes newsletter, Yahoo group access and registration for annual meeting (no voting privileges).
- \$30.00 Quarterly Newsletter** Subscription only (no voting privileges).
- \$10.00** Additional fee for membership or subscriptions outside North America.

\$ _____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED. MUST BE IN U.S. FUNDS. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "AVSAB"**

e Credit card (international and U.S.) and checking account direct debit payments (U.S. checking accounts only) can be done via PAYPAL at the following web site: www.paypal.com. Remit PAYPAL payments to our account, avsabe@yahoo.com.

Check here if payment is being sent via PayPal.

I agree to abide by the principles of the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior.

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of faculty if a student: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____ Institution: _____

May we release your name to the public for referrals? Yes No

➤ **Return to: Lisa Radosta DVM, 3 Fox Valley Lane, Glen Mills, PA 19342.** For questions, email Dr. Radosta at avsabe@yahoo.com.

Lisa Radosta-Huntley
3 Fox Valley Lane
Glen Mills, PA 19342

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Permit No. 2609