



WHAT IS YOUR DOG TRYING TO SAY?

Dog behavior, culture and training
Prepared by [My Dog's Best Friend](#)



Nature vs. Nurture

Is it all in how we make them or all in how you raise them?

“Training versus breeding is classic nature vs. nurture stuff, though scientists have long settled the old argument. Genetics, it is agreed, determine a range in which an organism’s behavior or abilities fall while environment dictates where in that range the individual will land.”

Marc Caviglioli

Note: The Siberian fox experiments, however, indicate that “tame” vs. “not tame” is almost entirely based on genetics. Even when raised by “tame” mothers, “not tame” fox cubs remain “aggressive.” While the genetic roots are complex, the scientists have determined that there is a correlation between “tameness” and adrenaline levels. The lower the adrenaline, the “tamer” the fox. The lower the adrenaline, the lower the fear, the lower the aggression. This further reinforces the idea that most “aggression” in dogs is fear based, not “dominance” based. Of course, thousands of years into the domestication process, other factors are probably at play with the dog.



Domestication vs. Co-evolution

Did we tame the beast or did they move into a new niche?

Clip from: Dogs and More Dogs, PBS Nova, aired 2/3/2004 ([click on picture above](#))

Note: when you select against "aggression," you are in essence selecting for "juvenile" looks and behavior. So one could say the dog is a case of "arrested development" (neotony). This was then exaggerated through selective breeding.

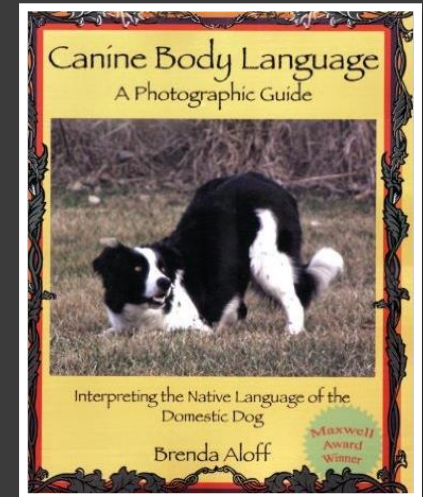
Just a couple ways to learn more about canine body language



Turid Rugaas is the author of *On Talking Terms with Dogs: Calming Signals*, also available as a DVD. She is from Norway and considered one of the top experts in dog body language. [\(click on picture left for video\)](#)



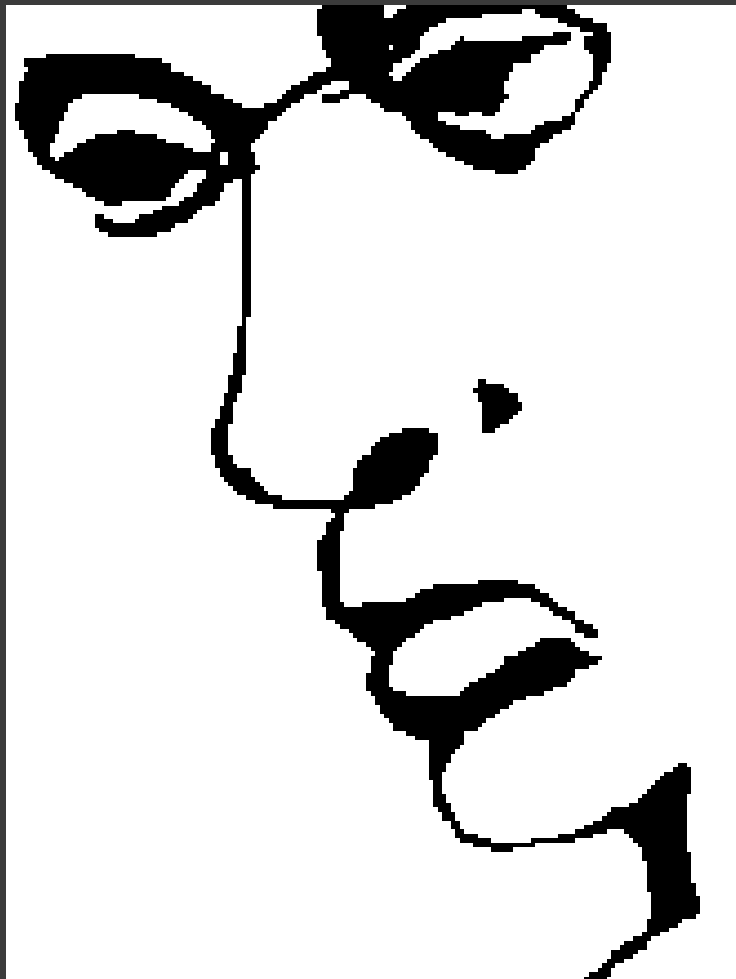
Fern is a dog trainer, the author of *A Better Life with Your Dog* and the founder of the **Fern Dog Trainer Academy**. He teaches and trains in New Jersey and New York. [\(click on picture left for video\)](#)



Brenda Aloff's book is a definitive guide.

Common missteps humans make when communicating with dogs

- Direct (and sustained) eye contact
- Walking right up to a dog (frontal approach)
- Petting on the head
- Leaning over a dog's body
- “Correcting” a growling dog
- “Towering” over a dog
- Ignoring a dog's “calming” signals, escalating interaction to unnecessary confrontation



What do you see?
Is that all there is to it?



Dogs Decoded, Nova, Aired 11/12/11
(click on picture above)



Do You train your dog every day?
How long do you spend training?
Who is “training” who?

Note: It's fine if your dog “trains” you to do something as long as you are OK with it **AND does not contradict something else you want your dog to do.**

Learn



Teach

It's a shared journey, not a destination.



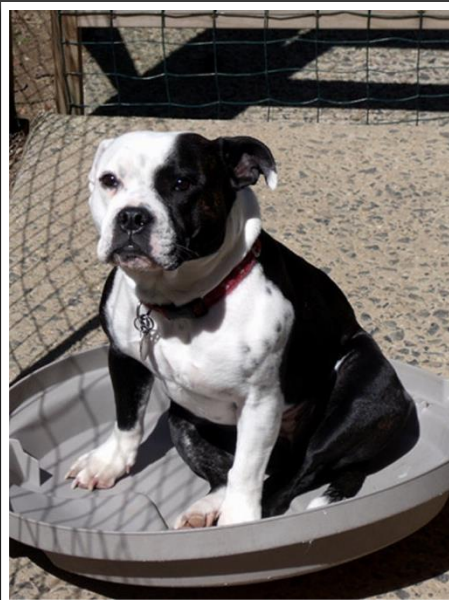
**Anyone can be a
good trainer,
even a great trainer.**

What You Will Need To Do:

- Listen to your dog
- Think outside the box
- Have patience
- Use lots of yummy treats
- Be consistent
- Practice, Practice, Practice



Andy



Carmelita



Charlie



Asa

Who is the best trainer?
Who is the best teacher?

The big secret: It's YOUR dog!



Dog being trained to detect prostate cancer.



So, whose training “philosophy” work best?

The answer is ... it all depends on:

- What you consider “training”
- What you want to “train” your dog to do
- How much you are willing to “pay”



Do you want this?
(click on picture left
for video)



Or do you want this?
(click on picture above for video)

Here is what someone who has done it both ways has decided.

You can take advantage of his experience or you can learn the lesson the hard way.

Your Choice.

(click on picture right for video)



Does punishment (traditional dog training) work?

“If administered correctly, and with perfect timing and intensity, punishment-based methods can work. However, it takes years for skilled trainers to develop the skills to administer punishment in a way that teaches the dog without causing physical or behavioral problems. The average dog owner has neither the time nor the interest to devote that much time to building their handling skills to that level.”

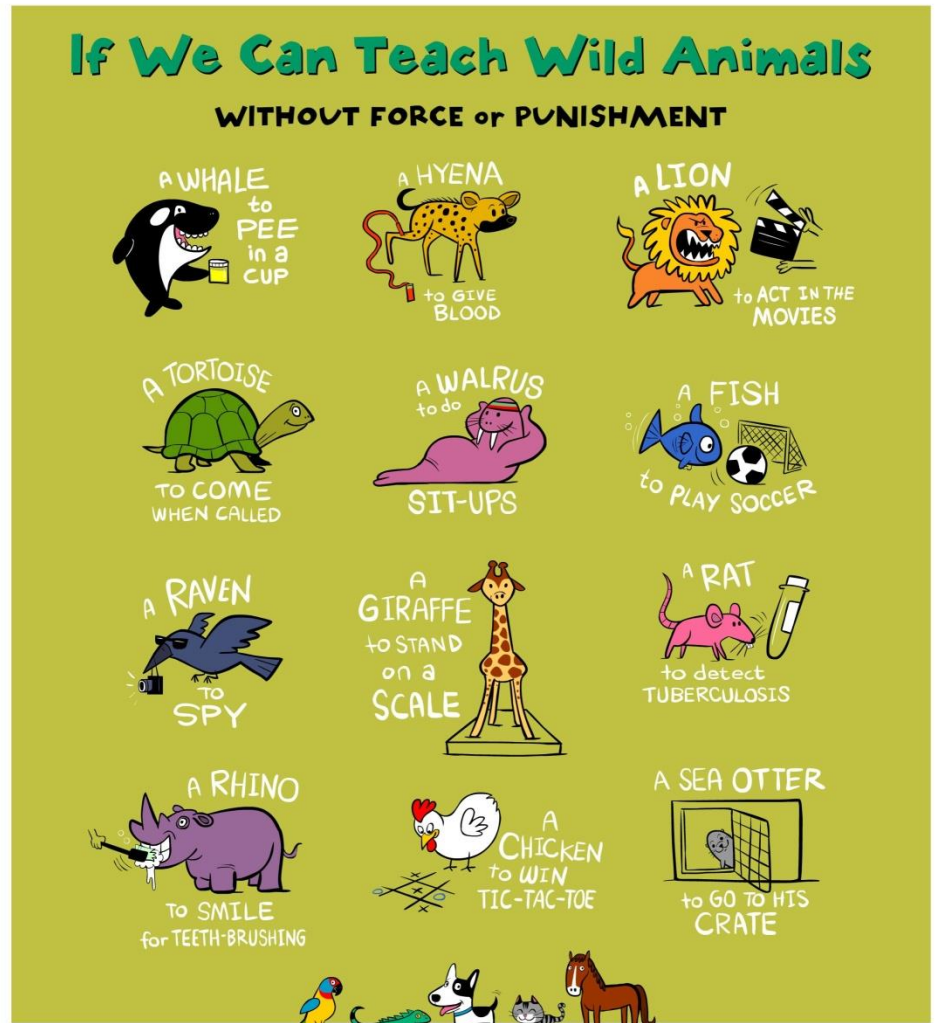
<https://www.4pawsu.com/punishment.htm>

BOOK RECOMMENDATION: Coercion and its Fallout by Murray Sidman

How about
“treat” training?

Does that really
work?

Is the Earth really
round?



We can also train our BEST FRIENDS
without force or punishment.

The drawings above were inspired by REAL LIFE examples of Clicker Training and Operant Learning.
No force, intimidation, pain or "dominance" was needed or used in training these animals.

References: www.doggiedrawings.net/animaltraining

Copyright ©2012 Lili Chin www.doggiedrawings.net
www.facebook.com/doggiedrawings

Except where otherwise noted, this work is licensed under
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/>



Even Jaws can be clicker trained!

At the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, audio and visual cues are used to call the sharks for dinner. Feeding the sharks this way encourages sharks of different species to live peacefully with one another, even though in their natural habitat they might injure or kill one another.

“The principles of training are universal. If it’s an animal and you can figure out what it wants, whether it’s an insect or the hairless primate at the top of the food chain; once you know what that individual wants, then you can go ahead and show them that the way to get that is through the things you have to offer.”

Steve White
www.proactivek9.com

Hyenas offer jugular vein for blood draw



Alligator enrichment



Agility Goldfish



Hippos having teeth brushed

Click on each picture for videos.



Bean

“But reward based training doesn’t work with MY dog. Or with SOME dogs”

- Sure it does, because it works with ALL living beings
- Yes, it does work with “tough” or “aggressive” dogs
- No, you don’t need some kind of special “magic” or “energy” or to be top dog or “the boss”
- Yes, anyone can learn how to do it



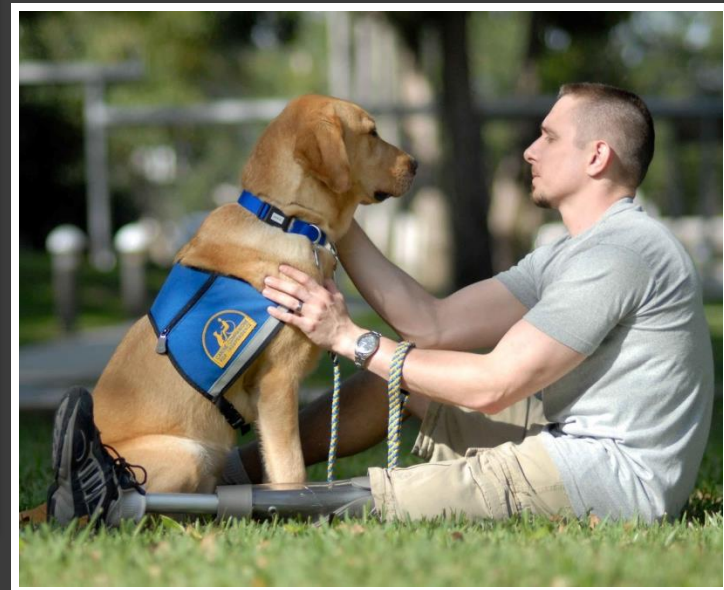
Karen Fazio – The Dog Super Nanny
Territorial aggression – Sienna, Doberman
[\(click on picture for video\)](#)



Women can do it!



**Children can do it
with adult supervision!**



Disabled persons can do it!



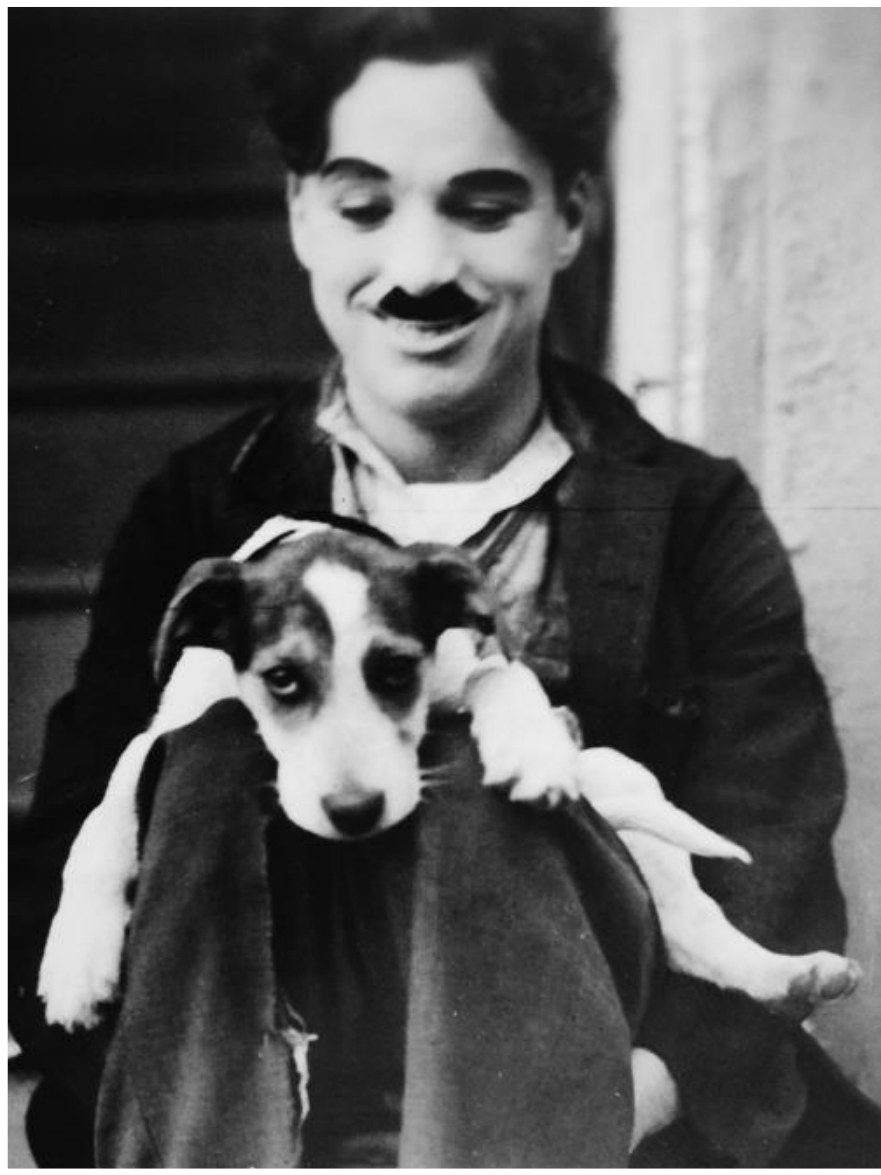
**Everyone has the “gift.”
Anyone can train a dog kindly.**
(click on picture left for video)

“Here’s the fundamental truth: If a dog doesn’t perform as expected it’s simply because you’ve asked him to do something for which you have not adequately prepared him . . . yet.”

Steve White
www.proactivek9.com



Oh ... that was
YOUR hot dog?
Next time, please
put your name on it!



Think about training like filming a silent movie

“Clarity counts, and it begins with explicit, deliberately given signals that let the dog know what you do and do not want.

If your signals and rules aren't clear in your silent movie, chances are very good that your dog will be confused.”

Suzanne Clothier, author of *Bones Would Rain from the Sky: Deepening our relationship with dogs*



We all need to feel safe,
even your dog

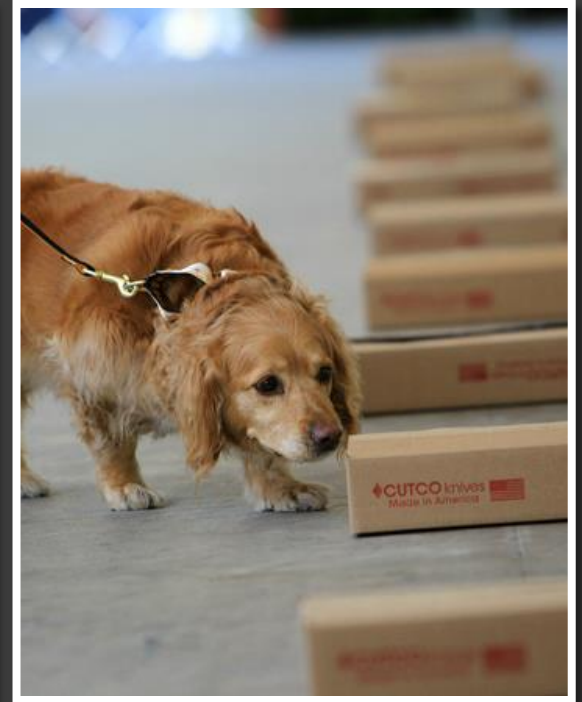
“One of the quickest
ways to get your dog
not to trust you is to
keep overriding your
dog telling you he
does not feel safe.”

**Suzanne Clothier, author of
*Bones Would Rain from the Sky:
Deepening our relationship with dogs***



**Just a few of
the excellent dog
training videos
found on YouTube**

**Clockwise: Kikopup, Training Positive
(Tab289), Chirag Patel (Domesticated
Manners), K9 Nose Work**



Click on each picture for videos.