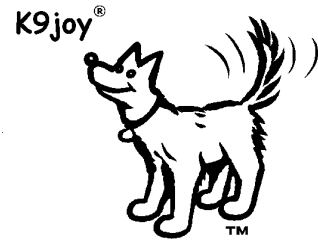




3980 C Riverview Road, Creston, BC, V0B 1G2, Canada
Fax: +1-775-890-0699 Phone: +1-403-770-1867
Web: www.k9joy.com E-mail: info@k9joy.com



SEMINAR/WORKSHOP:

"THE BASICS OF DOG LANGUAGE"

Overall frame:

Evening seminar of about 3-3½ hours, for 10-50 students, plus a practical workshops with dogs of another 3-3½ hours, split into smaller groups of 6-8 students with dogs.

Who can participate:

Participants must be at least 15 years of age. The person participating with dog must be physically capable of controlling the dog. Dogs must be brought along with an ordinary buckle collar - no choke chains or harnesses will be allowed - and they must be kept in the participants' cars during the workshops when occasionally required.

Objective:

To give the students a fundamental understanding of the most important elements of Dog Language, with particular emphasis on signals related to fear, aggression, and peacefulness, so unnecessary conflicts can be avoided. The main focus will be on *what the dog is telling you* and how you can use your human body to *respond in a meaningful way*.

You will be able to interact more fully with your dog, responding correctly to its invitations and being able to solicit important responses from the dog, taking advantage of its actual moods as shown by its postures and behavior.

You should be able to predict if an encounter with another dog is going to be friendly or not, how to deal with the situation if fight is on its way or already in progress, and you should be able to approach a strange dog in a safe way, for both yourself and the dog.



Content:

- Greeting – saying “Hi” in Dog Language. How humans become pack members. Greeting for bonding – how dogs do it and how we can imitate it when greeting our dogs.
- Warning signals from the dog’s side: fear and threat signals. When to know if it likes what you do, when and how to stop because the dog is discomforted or fearful, and how to curb undesirable behavior.
- Submission and its many ways of being communicated, also in combination with other signals. How to respond correctly, and how to tell the difference to fear.
- Hunting and fighting behaviors – when to fear them, and when to enjoy them - and how.
- Play and play invitations – how to respond, and how to initiate play. Bonding with play.
- Territorial behavior and general courtesy.
- Sounds as expressions of mood.

Good reasons for participating in this seminar/workshop...

The basis of all relationships is *communication*. It remains a fact that dogs are not very good at learning to bark understandably in English – but it most certainly *is* possible for people to learn to interpret the dog’s rich body language, the meanings of its sounds (that include a lot more than just barking...), and what the dog wants to tell you with its many gestures and looks and poses. Best of all is that it is actually possible for a human to use quite a lot of this sign/sound language to convey meaningful messages to the dog – and have them understood!

You may have to accept speaking Dog Language with quite an “accent” – but does it really matter, if you can communicate with the dog? The dog, for sure, does not care – so why should we? Actually, there are many situations where a human can convey a much stronger message than another dog can – simply because our body is enriched with three “heads” for communication: our two hands can provide many of the functions a dog would use its nose and jaws for!

When traveling abroad, most people appreciate knowing some of the fundamental words and expressions in the language of the people whose country they visit. Also, there are pitfalls in most languages – words and expressions you should *not* use, because they will get misunderstood.

Dog Language is no different. It has many pitfalls for humans, where we (without being aware of it) can seriously offend or threaten our dogs. Examples



like smiling (showing teeth!), grabbing the paw the dog “offers” to us for greeting, petting the dog on the top of the head, hugging the dog, and giving the dog a pat on the back or chest are all classic don’ts that have a completely different meaning in Dog Language than what most people intend to convey when using these signals.

It also important to understand what the dog actually tells you – and not to put any wrong interpretations into it! The typical example is growling, which is *not* a provocative threat you need to discipline! Another one is turning the bum towards you – it is *not* meant to “give you shit”. Licking is, likewise, *not* a possessive gesture you need to stop. Jumping up at you is *not* an attempt to control you or annoy you. Raising the hackles on the entire back is *not* a threat to you. Pushing the ears backwards is *not* a sign of aggression (as it can be for horses...). The list is long – and far from done! But we will get through most of it at the seminar....

What you get out of this seminar/workshop:

You will be able to see much more of what your dog (and other dogs) are communicating to you. You will be able to see how your dog interacts with other people and other dogs, so you can understand much more of “what is going on in its head” when it communicates with you and others.

You will be able to express the most fundamental sentences in Dog Language, by using your voice, your hands, your body postures, your movements, your facial expressions, etc., so your communications to your own dog can make sense for the dog. This will, of course, also help you deal with other dogs you might meet on your walks.

You will probably also gain some self-confidence – most people do, when they feel they can communicate better with those around them; if it is dogs, you will no longer have to accept being a stranger or a spectator – you can actively go in there and take part in the conversations!

What your dog will get out of your participation:

Your dog will get exposure to other people and other dogs greeting it in a peaceful way. For a timid or rambunctious dog, this can help the dog getting along more easily with other people and other dogs.

Most of all, however, your dog will gain confidence in *you* – and that in turn will make it enjoy its life more fully. It is simply more fun to live together with somebody you can communicate effectively with, and the dog will instantly demonstrate its joy – and after the seminar, you will know how to observe that....