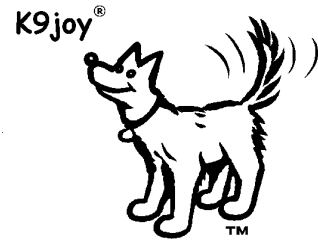




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SEMINAR:

"THE DOG'S SOCIAL INSTINCTS"

Overall frame:

Evening seminar of 3-3½ hours, for 10-50 students.

Who can participate:

Anyone who is interested in learning about the dog's natural social behavior and the way it is controlled by its instincts. Kids should be at least 12 years, preferably 15 years of age.

Objective:

To have the student understand the general relationship between behavior, needs, satisfaction of needs, key stimuli, frustration, stress, and aggression, as illustrated through "The Need Barrel Theory".

To have the student understand how these principles also apply to *social behavior*, and thus the whole relationship between owner and dog.

To enable the student to recognize fundamental Dog Language relating to social behavior, such as greeting, play invitations, dominance, submission, threats, fear reactions, indications of peacefulness, insecurity, mistrust etc.

To have the student understand the preconditions for successful dog training, including Imprinting, Socialization, and provision of good leadership, and how these demands translate to the way a dog handler should interact with his/her dog in order to make the dog *choose* him/her as its pack leader.



Content:

- **The dog's genetic background and fundamental needs**
 - The relationship between meaningful activity and stress/frustration/aggression
 - The dog brain's dependency on nose impressions
 - The biggest challenges for the urban "pet" dog...
- **How instincts work**
 - The fundamental recipe for an instinct - the relationships among needs, behaviors, and key stimuli
 - The "Need Barrel" theory - the dynamics of need satisfaction
 - Imitations of Key Stimuli and how they can be used for control of behavior
 - The "Sum Rule" for triggering certain behavior repeatedly.
- **The Pack Instinct**
 - Greeting, play, grooming, and protection reactions
 - The Imprinting process
 - The breeder's responsibilities for the dog's future acceptance of human affiliation
- **The Authority Instinct**
 - Dominance and submission
 - How fear and aggression relate
 - The Socialization period
 - Establishing taboos for a puppy
- **The Leadership Instinct**
 - The dog's need to please its leader
 - The link to learning potential and the dog's need to learn
 - What good pack leadership entails for a human.



Good reasons for participating in this seminar...

This seminar has been baptized "The driver's license to dog ownership" by our students. For very good reasons. It contains the most fundamental and important knowledge about how dog behavior is controlled by Nature, that truly no responsible dog owner wants to be without this information, yet it is not available from any common sources.

In our modern North American society, dogs are no longer used extensively for their original purposes, which - for instance in Europe - primarily involved hunting or herding (which also uses the dog's hunting behavior) or other services for man which created a need for a strong relationship between the dog and its handler/owner.

Although dogs are extremely adaptable, there are limits for how much of their natural behavior you can deprive them from without it having severe consequences, for the dog as well as for the people around it! Making the dog a toy for kids doesn't work....

This seminar gives the modern "pet owner" a fundamental understanding of why dogs do what they do and how it is possible. By knowing the way the instincts work, the owner can not only stimulate certain wanted behavior, but even eliminate a lot of obnoxious or dangerous behavior. It is done by simply ensuring proper stimulation of the dog's natural instincts, primarily the social instincts that give the dog a strong need for good leadership.

"Owning a dog is not a science" - no, but it sure is easier to enjoy the relationship with your dog when you understand what it cannot explain itself about its needs for meaningful interaction with somebody who is worthy the title of "pack leader" in the dog's instinct-controlled mind. Many misunderstandings between man and dog can be completely avoided. And many opportunities to enjoy the relationship with the four-legged companion can be safely exploited!

Although built on scientific research and several lifetimes of experience from several prominent "dog people", primarily from Europe, the seminar keeps everything on a plain level that can be understood by everybody. Really, most of it is simply "common sense", once the principles are explained and understood.

This seminar is an important prerequisite for all practical training activities with K9joy, including the workshop "Mental Activation for Smart Dogs". An expanded version of it is available on DVD/CD from

<http://k9joy.com/DogsSocialBehavior>.



What you get out of this seminar:

You will get to learn a lot of Dog language! Especially the dog's ways of communicating with its pack members - and the ways you can use your own body, face, hands, and voice to respond in a way the dog can actually understand! Many things you will learn can be directly applied as soon as you come home - and your dog will love it!

The seminar will also give you the tools to explain why your dog does many things you might wonder about the reason for. This understanding will, hopefully, give you some peace of mind - and maybe also some inspiration to changes in your way of dealing with your dog, so that both you and the dog can enjoy the relationship more fully.

You will learn to understand why arising a puppy should not be left to puppy mills and incompetent people, and you will learn what to look for in order to check if your dog's background is adequate. Although some of those results of a wrong upbringing are irreversible, it still gives peace of mind to know what you *can* improve and what is a waste of time trying to change.

You will further learn to assess your own dog and its potential for training, and you will learn what it takes to make a dog *reliably obedient*.... something only very few people actually achieve, mostly because they have far too little understanding of what it truly takes from their side.

Finally, you will get to understand that dog training does not need to involve punishment and pain. Good leadership has far more to do with applying your *superior knowledge*! Dogs are far more respectful of what to them appears to be wisdom than they are prone to respect pure force, which is far more likely to trigger fear responses or apprehension.

What your dog will get out of your participation:

We are certain that your dog will appreciate the knowledge you get from this seminar! It will happily respond to your new and more confident use of Dog Language - and it will certainly also enjoy the new opportunities you most likely will give it to use its natural instincts to a larger degree than previously.

It will enjoy being understood - and it will enjoy seeing some improved leadership from your side. This will result in a dog that is much easier to get along with and much more responsive to training.

The result will be a happier dog - which we are sure *you* will enjoy in turn!