

# NASDN GAZETTE

--North American Search Dog Network June 2006--

## K9 JIHAD

By Alice Hanan

I have found in my travels that dog training is like religion. People often feel downright threatened to the core of their very existence when you question or disagree with the tenets of their religion, **or the way they train their dogs.** My intent with these articles is not to have you change your Christian fanatic dog into a radical Muslim dog, but hopefully to spark discussions and exchange ideas at your next training.

Let's talk about clickers and e-collars. I have seen both used. Interestingly, I see the e-collar used everywhere, in all training venues from police K9 to hunting dogs to SAR and etc, but not the clicker. I have not yet seen the clicker used in "hard dog" venues. *I have* used both myself. I found the e-collar produced an immediate permanent result (in the way I used it), while the clicker did not. Let me say, I think the clicker didn't work because I wasn't using it right. I understand the basic premise of both an e-collar and a clicker, but really could not understand how the clicker was different from a quick "good dog". However I could definitely see the difference between an e-collar zap and a quick "bad dog". Continued on page 2

**NASDN will publish two regular editions of this newsletter yearly, plus occasional special editions. Members and non members have been invited to submit articles, reviews and other items of interest. Please feel free to contribute.**

**-editor**

## HEATSTROKE!!!

By Deb Stanton

Heatstroke is an acute life-threatening syndrome. Causes can be exertional (dog working in extreme heat), or nonexertional ( dog confined to a car or tied outside without adequate water and shade). Heatstroke is defined when the body temperature is

between 106-109F (42.8 in cannuck). The extreme elevation of temperature results in thermal injury to the body tissue, causing thermoregulatory failure. When you have the rate of heat production exceeding the bodies ability to dissipate this heat, you have the body temperature increasing and hence heat stroke.

The extreme increase in body temperature causes direct cellular injury. The body systems most affected are renal, liver, cardiovascular and central nervous system. Heat stress may result in acute renal failure, dehydration, neural damage and cerebral edema (shake and bake). The intestinal system also breaks down and releases toxins into the system.

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The 2006 Seminar in South Bend, Nebraska was a success by any measurement. We had participants from Alaska to Alabama, Ontario to Texas. Almost 90% of the teams that took Evaluations passed. Most of the participant feedback was very positive. There were some constructive comments that will be used to make future seminars even better.

Thanks to a successful auction and raffle the seminar turned a small profit. This money goes into NASDN's treasury and allows us to keep prices low on future events. Members should feel free to submit suggestions for future activities



Photo by Erin Cooper

**Spirited bidding at the NASDN Auction!!**

Heat Stroke cont. from page 1

There are risk factors, dogs that are brachycephalic (pugs, boxers), dogs with upper airway impairment, laryngeal paralysis, respiratory disease, or extremes of age (very young or very old).

Most often people will observe an excessive panting pattern, vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of consciousness, seizures or muscle tremors. The primary goal of treatment is to rapidly get the bodies temperature back to normal, and to prevent further organ damage.

As an owner or first responder you can (on your way to medical help), wet the animal thoroughly with cool water, especially the head. To enhance the cooling process you can open the car windows or turn on the air conditioner. One study reports that the mortality rate of dogs cooled by their owners was 19%, as compared to those that were not cooled by their owners at 46%. Upon arrival at the hospital the cooling process will continue, by again thoroughly wetting the animal with cool water. The use of a fan will help convection heat loss.. Massage can help by moving blood around the surface of tissue and muscles. ICE WATER BATHS can be dangerous as they may cool the animal too much. The dog should only be cooled down to 103F (39.4C). The body temperature will continue to fall after cooling measures have ceased and any further drop may cause the dog to become hypothermic. Of course the animal will be put on intravenous to correct any acid base and electrolyte imbalances, gastrointestinal protectants ( because of bacterial overgrowth), and sometimes-on antibiotics although they should be used with care.. Drugs to decrease intracranial pressure may

be indicated. Blood work will be done and frequent checks of all vital signs and oxygen delivery support will be maintained.

I have personally been involved in witnessing and treating many cases of heatstroke in my career..99% have been the result of owner stupidity and some have been the result of purposeful animal abuse. It's sad and frustrating.

Deb Stanton is a Veterinary Technologist in Millbrook, Ontario.



K9 JIHAD cont. from page 1

My greatest leap in understanding the clicker came from Marcie Koenig, and she wasn't even teaching a clicker training exercise at the time.

I was attending a cadaver K9 class with Andy and Marcie and I was out with Stryker trying to find a hide Marcie had placed. It was turning out to be a difficult hide for us and I was getting antsy and Stryker was starting to feel it. Even though neither Stryker nor I had any clicker training at that point, I knew enough to know a click was a good thing. So as the search lengthened and I got more confused, all of a sudden I hear a couple of clicks!! I knew something was right!! Since Stryker was away from me and not in scent I figured it must be me that was in the right place. I called him to me and heard a couple more clicks!!! Shortly after that, Stryker found the hide. I can not begin to describe the relief I felt at the sound of those first clicks. I also think that I am VERY glad Marcie was into clickers and not e-collars.

By the same token, I have never used an e-collar for any training

outside of straight up aversion therapy. I used an e-collar to train Stryker not to chase deer. Since the majority of his searches were done off lead and usually out of my sight, I needed him to stop chasing deer, even when "I wasn't there" in his mind. I didn't want him to associate ME or the COLLAR to any discomfort when chasing deer. I wanted him to associate the discomfort with the DEER itself. This was done by first putting the collar on and not using it for 5 days so the weight and feel of the collar could not be associated with the correction that came from it. Second, when I did apply the shock, I did not give any verbal correction, or in anyway lead him to believe I had anything to do with the shock. And third I only applied it when he was actively chasing. It only took one session and 3 shocks total. To this day Stryker believes that the DEER (not me or the collar) causes the pain. I could be in the next state and he won't chase them. I do not think I could have accomplished this with a single clicker lesson, or even before Stryker managed to chase a deer into a road and get hit by a car. Or, that the single clicker lesson would have lasted his entire career. By the same token, I would use a clicker before I would use an e-collar for other training methods outside of aversion therapy.

Even though, I myself, personally, have been completely and effectively clicker trained by a pro, I do not consider it a panacea for K9 training. Here is what I think; there is a time and place for both of these training aids. Exclusivity to either extreme is poor technique. There are some dogs who will say "click this" as they mark your couch and there are some dogs that would shut down with an e-collar. And, there

are a plethora of techniques in between the two. It is up to you as the handler to know when each is appropriate and to understand the behavioral premise behind the training technique. Know what's out there, know how to use it and keep an open mind.

Alice Hanan is a Corporal with the Maryland National Capitol Park Police.



## IF A DOGS PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED...

**A Book Review** by Deb Stanton

### ***BONES WOULD RAIN FROM THE SKY***

BY SUZANNE CLOTHIER

What is possible between a human and an animal is possible only within a relationship. To that end Suzanne Clothier takes us on a journey that is at times breathtakingly simple and breathtakingly complex, but always shows us how to answer our dog's prayers.

To begin the dialogue between human and animal, so that a relationship may develop is like starting any conversation. You have to pick a starting point, and if that doesn't work, you pick another one and if necessary another, until at last you find a point of agreement. You then begin to explore common ground, feeling your way as you go, always listening to the animal, the only one that can tell you when you've got it right.

Suzanne even provides us, with her own recipe for success with our canine companions. "Take on a lifetime with animals. Grind it hard against mistakes and misunderstanding. Season heavily with the desire to get it right, and layer generously with the forgiveness of every animal that has passed thru your hands. Stew

for years, being sure that gifted teachers (animal and human) stir the mess from time to time as needed so it keeps cooking. Serve it when it begins to clear. Yield a few precious drops worth having."

This is a book that will help you discover, how our dogs see the world, from their uniquely canine perspective and how we can meet their needs for leadership without using force or coercion. Thru the grace of our dog's forgiveness, this book gently guides us to look back on our lives and past relationships with animal souls. We sometimes have to acknowledge our less than stellar behavior with our animal companions, and know that they left us a legacy of knowledge. More profoundly, they forgive us.

This is a book written with gentle humor and endless gems...Read it, learn, and pass the book on to a friend.

Available at most major bookstores. And easy to order from the small business bookstores.

★★★★★ out of 5 stars



## **CANADIAN EMBASSY ENTRANCE QUIZ**

By Dawn Sword

It has become a tradition at NASDN seminars that a Canadian Embassy is established in one of the buildings complete with flag, munchies, refreshments and Ambassador who is exceedingly polite, rather insecure and a barrel of laughs. In order to gain entrance into the Embassy and become an honorary Canuck, it's important that you

pass the entrance quiz. It is also a way to understand the differences between Canadian and American language and become partially bilingual. The questions were drawn up based on wide-eyed looks and whispers from our American friends when we uttered such words.

Kevin Young and I prepared our Basic Mantrailing class for the test and we are proud to report that they all passed with flying colours.

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN A CANADIAN SAYS:**

- (a) Where is my "toque"?
- (b) Please pass me a "serviette".
- (c) He lives about 10 "clicks" from me.
- (d) I'll have a "double-double" please.
- (e) She ordered fish and "chips".
- (f) I want a "24" (pronounced two-four) of Molsons.
- (g) The "poutine" is delicious.
- (h) Can we meet this "aft"?
- (i) Get me some "Screech".
- (j) I would like "tea" with my meal.

And the final 2 questions that must be answered correctly are:

- (k) What is the capital of Canada?
- (l) Who is the Prime Minister?

Answers in the next newsletter.

Dawn Sword is an expert on the Canadian Language.

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