

BEHAVIOR AND CRUELTY

CRUELTY AND BEHAVIOUR



ETHOLOGY

- The domestication of the wolves started at the same time as humans settled down and begun growing rice 10-15 000 years ago in what is now China
- Dogs are the only animal of pray that has evolved to suit human lifestyle – or is it the other way round?



EVOLUTION SPED UP

- Dr Belayev's Silver fox research in Siberia, show it only takes a short time to evolve a wild fox to a tame pet.
- After 10 years selectional breeding the foxes were not only tame but started to bark, changed colouring, floppy ears and curled tails



DOGS ARE LIKE US -THEORY OF MIND

- Dogs pay much more attention to us humans than we thought
- Dogs understand humans have a different way to see the world than them = "theory of mind"
- Two toys, one behind a glass barrier that both could see. One toy behind a wooden barrier that only the dog can see. If the owner asked the dog to fetch a toy. It would fetch the toy the owner could see! With the theory of mind it understood the owner had a different view of the situation
- It wasn't until very recently thought only humans and some of our cousins the chimpanzee bonbon monkeys had a "theory of mind".



WHAT IS ANIMAL CRUELTY?

- Many people don't mistreat on purpose. We are often quick to judge others...
 - Domestic animals used to be a *farmers working tool*. The further south we travel the more animals are
 - Some cultures eat guineapigs and dogs – we eat cows and rabbits
- Queen Victoria, England (1819-1901) changed the dog world for ever taking her dogs to dog shows.
 - Dogs now became "The rich peoples accessory" and were more often kept for the looks



SHOW DOG AND WORKING DOG – CRUELTY?



Working Neapolitan



Show Neapolitan

OTHER REASONS WHY DO PEOPLE MISTREAT ANIMALS?

- Culture
- Don't know better , always "worked" before
- Medias choice of tv shows and articles

- Psychological and mental problems
 - dog fights
 - hording

WHY SO MANY DOGS IN SHELTERS? (AMERICAN STATISTICS)

- Of the dogs entering shelters, approximately 35% are adopted, 31% are euthanized and 26% of dogs who came in as strays are returned to their owner..
- About twice as many animals enter shelters as strays compared to the number that are relinquished by their owners – lack of sterilisation projects?



FIGURES FOR 2015 FROM PORTUGUESE SHELTERS

- Shelter 1:
 - 600 dogs came in 500 dogs homed, 10% returned
- Shelter 2:
 - 111 dogs in, 91 dogs homed, 54 in Portugal and 2 returned.
- Shelter 3
 - X number came in, 43 dogs homed, none returned
- Facebook group
 - 212 dogs posted, averaging 10 / month were adopted (20 to 25 dog to the UK, with 1 returned) , 3 returned in the Algarve
- These are not complete numbers, some of the dogs rehomed has instead of returned to the same shelter, been rehomed to a new family.



BEHAVIOUR AND CRUELTY?

- INTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES TO CHANGED BEHAVIOUR
 - Pain – bad teeth, arthritis, back or hip problems are more common than we think
 - Disease - leishmaniasis, tick fever and many more
 - Stress !
 - can not control his / her environment,
 - over or under stimulated
 - high expectations from owner
 - doesn't get on with other dogs in the family



CRUELTY CAN LEAD TO A BEHAVIOUR!

- EXTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES TO CHANGED BEHAVIOUR
- Strong emotional experiences stay with the dog for ever - like a deep scar. Its a survival instinct (amygdala- reptile brain).
- LEARNED HELPLESSNESS – LH
 - Often used as a training method – “FLOODING” = abrupt and intense exposure rather than gradual e.g
 - LH changes the brains physiological state with a series of serious side effects
 - Sometimes only one incident is enough!! **Do you want to take that risk with your dog?**

SO WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP OUR DOGS?

- NO 1.
- Take your puppy with you for positive experiences – early!
- Young puppies learn about their environment best before 12 weeks. Peaks at 8 weeks then declines.
- Many problems seen later in life stem from lack of early socialisation !!!



NO 2.

STOP THINKING YOUR DOG IS CLIMBING THE
HIRARCHY LADDER - DOMINANCE THEORY
DEBUNKED,

"Alpha" Wolves



NO 3

HOW WE SHOULD CHOOSE A DOG?

- TO CHOOSE A DOG WE NEED TO TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT
 - Breed characteristics, even in a mixed breed
 - Energy level, our own and the potential dogs energy level
 - Interest and hobbies
 - Work schedule
 - Children in our close or extended family
 - Fenced garden or apartment
 - HOW MUCH TIME I WILL SPEND TRAINING MY PUPPY / DOG??



REMEMBER THE DOGS WORK HISTORY

- DOG BREED CHARACTERISTICS

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 - **Guard dogs** – German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois, Rottweiler, Doberman, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Puli, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Serra de Estrela, Serra de Aires and more
 - **Alarm dogs** – Chihuahua, Dachshund, Shih-tzu, Poodle, Terriers (e.g Yorkshire Terriers, German shepherd, Portuguese Water Dog, Poodle, Lhasa Apso and more
 - **Hunting dogs** – Flatcoated Retriever, Springer Spaniel, Podenco, Perdigueiro, Pointer, Labrador Retriever, Terriers and more
 - **Herding dogs** – Border Collie, Australian Sheep Dog, Serra de Aires, Serra de Estrela, Barbado de Terceira, Bull Terrier, Welsh Corgi
 - **Fighting dogs** – Pit bull, Akita Inu, American Staffordshire Terrier, Dogo Argentino, English Mastiff, Perro de Presario de Carnario and more
 - Now mix them all up and you have a **Mongrel**. A dog with behavior from all / any of the different "breeds" it is mixed with



WHY WE DO CHOOSE A DOG

- Someone to cuddle
- Someone who loves you unconditionally
- Someone who doesn't talk back
- Instead of a child or boy friend / girl friend
- To guard the house
- Ego
- To do your favourite hobbies with
- Work
- "The dog just turned up"



RIGHT DOG?

- Case 1:
- Dogo Argentino, 1 year old, bought from breeder, live in an apartment, both work all day
- Problem: He doesn't like my husband

- Case 2:
- Labrador mix, 4 months old, adopted, mature couple with grownup children
- Problem: He keep biting me and my wife, he doesn't listen and jump on people

- Case 3:
- Podengo, 3 years old, found on the street, now live in a fenced garden
- Problem: Escapes and takes my other dogs with her, they are gone for days sometimes



NO 4. EDUCATE YOURSELF

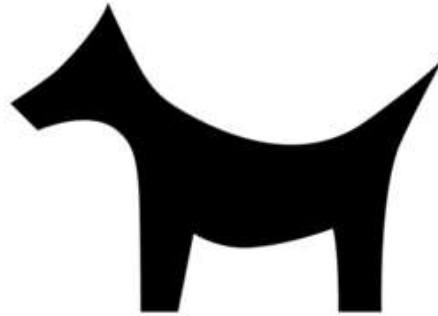
- Educate yourself in modern scientifically proven training methods
- **REWARD YOUR DOGS GOOD BEHAVIOUR!**



NO 5. FOSTER A PUPPY

- Every shelter need foster families for puppies and adult dogs
- Before you decide on a dog – foster- you have the best "sale & return" policy and still doing everyone a favour!
- If you can become a foster family you will have an experience of a life time!
- Please consider being a foster family for a shorter or longer time
 - THANK YOU!

BEHAVIOUR AND CRUELTY CRUELTY AND BEHAVIOUR



Pawsitive Dogs

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO
KARIN HOLMSTRÖM FORSTER - DOG PSYCHOLOGIST/ DOG
BEHAVIOUR

