

THE APDT CONFERENCE PROGRAM

FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER

DAY 1

08.45am – 09.00am	Conference Opening - APDT President Sandy Lack
09.00am - 10.30am	Ken Ramirez - Reinforcement Strategies Most good trainers recognize that reinforcement strategies are at the heart of successful training. This session delves deeper into many topics, including a discussion of what is a “positive reinforcement trainer”, what are the basic reinforcement keys that all trainer should keep in mind. A significant part of the session will focus on non-food reinforcers, reinforcement variety, and evaluation of reinforcers – with particular emphasis on the importance of strategic implementation of any new reinforcement plan.
10.30am - 11.00am	Morning Tea
11.00am – 12.30pm	Ken Ramirez - Reinforcement Strategies continued
12.30pm - 01.30pm	Lunch
01.30pm – 03.00pm	Steve White - Scentsational Ever seen a dog that seems to just live for the next “nose hit”? Such a scent-obsessed dog could care less about what his human is doing, wants, or where she’s going. That’s because, with more of their brains devoted to smell than to sight, dogs are hard-wired to be more olfactory creatures than visual ones. This session will show you exactly why scent propels dog behavior, and how to turn that drive to your advantage rather than fight it. You’ll learn some fun scent games, and how make a lucrative career out of your dog’s obsession for all things stinky. On the flip side we’ll show you how some common scent training methods and games can actually interfere with efforts to train a reliable scent work dog, and what you can do about it. This jam-packed session will show you how to enhance your relationship with your dog as you both have fun exploring the “scentsational” world around you.
03.00pm - 03.30pm	Afternoon Tea
03.30pm – 05.00pm	Peta Clarke - Have We Thrown Out The Baby With The Bath Water? Emotions and their place in training Do animals have emotions? Ask a group of animal lovers and you probably won’t get much argument. A resounding yes will quickly be followed by a myriad of anecdotes on which they base their beliefs. But as trainer, most of us have chosen to avoid the use of emotional states and other constructs as reasons for behavioural change and as a base for our training decisions for one good reason - emotions are private affairs and thus open to interpretation. Better to understand and use the scientific principles behind learning that give us observable, measurable data for the work we do. But as trainers, the behaviours that we work with day in day out are intricately entwined with the animal’s internal state. Oh my gosh! Did she say “internal state”? Yep.. she did, scary huh? During this session will discover where science stands on the exploration of the emotional life of dogs and what that means for us as trainers. Do we need to acknowledge them? Are they always the red herring we have learned they are? Should we discuss them with our clients? These are just some of the questions we will bravely dive into together to continue to ensure we are giving our best friends the very best life we can.
05.30pm	APDT AGM

SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER

DAY 2

08.30am – 09.00am	The Bateson Report
09.00am – 10.30am	Steve White - The nth degree Imagine what you could do if your dog could target with different body parts, or maintain the touch for minutes at a time. Targeting serves as a foundation for useful service behaviors and is critical for creating stress-free husbandry protocols in zoos and aquaria. Strong targeting skills can take your SAR (search and rescue), agility, obedience, and other sporting dogs to new levels. The possibilities are endless, and the process is truly exhilarating for the trainer and dog when you creatively tackle targeting challenges together. The session will explore a fun yet logical way to think about targeting and structure your training accordingly. You’ll see how to develop targeting as a learning platform that will bring you and your dog new levels of communication and understanding. You’ll learn how to add duration, distance, and resistance to distractions. Once you understand the principles you can develop plenty of cool and functional uses for targeting.
10.30am – 11.00am	Morning Tea
11.00am – 11.15pm	APDT 2010 Awards Presentation
11.15am – 12.45pm	Ken Ramirez - Complex tools This is an in-depth look at some of the lesser-discussed but still frequently used and debated concepts. This session will focus on the mythology behind the concept, the science that exists supporting the concept, and the instructor’s observations on the practical use of the concept. Depending on how much time is scheduled, the instructor will select from among the following concepts: Keep Going Signals (KGS), Time Outs (TO), Non-Reinforcement Markers (NRM), Redirection Strategies (DRA), End-of-Session Signals (ESS), Jackpots, Contingency Markers, Recall Signals, and the Least Reinforcing Stimulus/Scenario (LRS).

SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER continued

12.45pm – 01.45pm	Lunch
01.45pm – 03.15pm	<p>CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONCURRENT SESSIONS</p> <p>A: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Terry Theakstone - I have a dream, I am going to run a dog training business. How do I make this dream a reality? Facts and figures on small business will be discussed before looking at the overall and the industry environment of dog training. It is important to develop a vision for your business and how it will compete in the market place prior to commencement. There are different types of business models including hobby, job or business. Legal requirements to setting up a business will be discussed. Resources to enable further research and to find the appropriate bodies will be supplied. How your position within the hobby, job or business spectrum may affect some of the requirements including the importance of records and documenting your business will be described.</p> <p>Is profit a dirty word? Setting realistic fees enables your business to survive. If your fees are too low you will be unable to cover your costs let alone get a reward for your effort. An example of a start up dog training / puppy class will be presented and analysed. To succeed a customer base which continues to refer new clients is essential. Customer service as a driver of the business will be emphasized. The need to ensure that client expectations are met and exceeded will be introduced as the aim of customer service. Marketing your business and presentation to the public are important components of continuing success. The difficulties of marketing a service as opposed to a product will be discussed. Principles of marketing and how these can be applied to expanding your business will be discussed. We will discuss the importance of image and recognition.</p> <p>B: TRAINER DEVELOPMENT Teresa Crich - What's new puppy dog? This session will demonstrate and profile a range of new and lesser known products on the market or potentially coming onto the market. It will cover equipment, toys and other dog related products. It will provide information on how and when to use products and where to source them from.</p> <p>C: ADVANCED Ken Ramirez - Concept training: Stretching your dogs Capabilities There are many conceptual ideas that require a much more focused approach to training. This session will review foundation needed for training broad concepts like modifier cues, mimicry, adduction, matching to sample and other conceptual tasks. A large amount of time will be focused on step by step training procedures for modifier cue work and mimicry as a behavior.</p>
03.15pm – 03.45pm	Afternoon Tea
03.45pm – 05.15pm	<p>CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONCURRENT SESSIONS</p> <p>A: TRAINER DEVELOPMENT Debra Millikan - People Skills for Dog Trainers Effective dog trainers spend hours perfecting the mechanical skills of dog training. They attend seminars about dog training methods. They use imagination in training and have fun and games with their classes. All of this learning is vital for running a successful training class or resolving dog training issues. However, without adequate communication of this hard earned knowledge to our clients, our skills as dog trainers are wasted. To facilitate communication we also need to develop and use "attending skills".</p> <p>Attending skills are "...skills that allow you to communicate effectively and efficiently with others" (O'Heare, 2005). The prudent and successful use of attending skills serves to enhance the client/trainer relationship. Used appropriately these skills benefit communication, allow relevant information to be given and received and greatly aid professionalism. This presentation will concentrate on the basic attending skills, how and when to use them and why their use is valuable.</p> <p>B: BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE Steve White - Five easy pieces Training or behavior problems got you ... or your clients ... down? Have all the neat scientific theories fallen short when it comes to making life better for you and your dog? Well, that's because the real world is not a lab, and you can't control all the variables. Problem-solving skills are crucial if we and our dogs are to enjoy life together. We'll explore the five steps to solving any problem, three ways most problem-solving efforts fail, two ways to lock in the good results you've just achieved, and the one tough decision every trainer must face before starting any problem-solving protocol. This session will also specifically address what many people perceive as problems with clicker training.</p> <p>This session will show you a simple and effective model that works as well for enhancing skills as it does for solving training and behavior problems or adding new skills. You'll see how to pass these skills on to clients so they master problem-solving. Come see how fun it is to turn stumbling blocks into stepping stones as you, your clients, and dogs everywhere meet challenges with new found confidence and aplomb.</p> <p>C: ADVANCED Ken Ramirez - Concept training continued</p>
07.30pm	Halloween Party - Bankstown Sports Club

08.30am – 09.00am	ACAC brief
09.00am – 10.30am	<p>Ken Ramirez - Problem Solving</p> <p>Solving behavioral problems is usually at the heart of most consulting jobs. The instructor will share his flow chart or matrix for getting to the bottom of behavioral issues, no matter how complex. This session will focus on a step by step look at how to identify a problem, determine the cause, look at motivation, then implement a plan to resolve the issue.</p>
10.30am – 11.00am	Morning Tea
11.00am – 12.30pm	<p>CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONCURRENT SESSIONS</p> <p>A: BEGINNERS/INTERMEDIATE Ken Ramirez - Cross Species Training</p> <p>This presentation will focus on many of the basic skills and techniques that are needed to train any animal, regardless of breed or species. The instructor will use his experience in working with multiple species and compare and contrast approaches to training. Ultimately, the background and skill set needed to train any type of animal are very similar.</p> <p>B: INTERMEDIATE Steve White - Raising The Bar[®] — The positive approach to power and precision</p> <p>Have you ever watched another trainer and wondered how he or she got so much out of a dog? Have you ever felt like you had hit a training roadblock and didn't know how to move forward? Have you ever wondered how to develop the kind of relationship with your dog that makes top performance as relaxing as a day at the beach? Then this session is for you.</p> <p>No matter how long you and your dog have been training you'll learn how to take your skills to the next level. You'll be shown a simple system for objectively assessing your . . . and your dog's . . . true performance baseline, the six essential qualities of fluency, and the four conditions of stimulus control. In this fast-paced session you'll see how to break out of training doldrums or build excitement to even higher levels.</p> <p>C: ADVANCED Peta Clarke - The Choice is Yours. Understanding the matching law and the power of choice in dog training</p> <p>In the real world we need our dogs to respond reliably and quickly to learned cues. It's in these situations, however, that we are inevitably asking them to choose us over something far more exciting and interesting. Let's face it, from their point of view we are often real party poopers. Even if our clients are comfortable with carting cheese and sausage around in their pockets for the rest of the dog's life, it is still not going to come anywhere near the reinforcement of the thrill of chasing a wild rabbit ... or the neighbour's cat.</p> <p>So what's the secret for having amazing off leash control? Can we train our dogs to want to chose what we are asking? Can we get them to willingly ignore the call of the wild and instead chose the more socially acceptable behaviour? Is there really such things as fairies? Together we will look at what science tells us about the nature of choice and why one decision is chosen over another when two or more options are on offer. We will see how exotic animal trainers develop up in their animals the desire to choose work, sometimes for many hours in the face of a huge array of reinforcing stimuli. We will discover what we can do to establish the belief in our dogs that we are always the life of the party and are always worth paying attention to.</p>
12.30pm – 01.30pm	Lunch
01.30pm – 03.00pm	<p>Steve White - Hit the Road</p> <p>Did you ever watch a dog suddenly drop its nose to the ground and move forward sniffing with such purpose that it seemed nothing else in the world matters to her? That's what tracking is all about. The trick is in getting her to do it when, where, and in the way we need. It would seem an easy task since dogs are a scent-obsessed, right? Well, not so much . . .</p> <p>19 out of 20 who take the American Kennel Club's Variable Surface Tracking (VST) test fail! In this presentation you'll see how you can easily beat those odds with a system so simple, well-structured, and fun that it is revolutionizing the world of police K9 training.</p> <p>This information-packed session will turn traditional tracking training on its head and show you how you and your dog can have loads of fun tracking in the real world, be it the city or the outback.</p>
03.00pm – 03.30pm	Afternoon Tea
03.30pm – 05.00pm	<p>Ken Ramirez - Evolution of the modern trainer</p> <p>A Personal Perspective. The instructor will look at the changes that have taken place in the training community through his own unique personal perspective as a zoological trainer and dog trainer.</p>
05.00pm	Conference Close - APDT President

