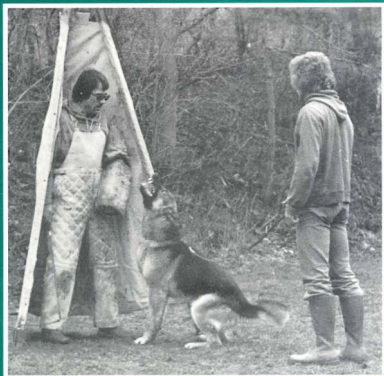


Helmut Raiser

Der Schutzhund (The Protection Dog)

**The Training of Working
Dogs in Protection Work**



Translation By Armin Winkler

DER SCHUTZHUND

(THE PROTECTION DOG)

By Helmut Raiser

The Training of Working Dogs in Protection Work

English translation by
Armin Winkler

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank Gerry Middleton and Magdalena Rangan for getting the translation work of this book started.

The publisher

The photographs for the text illustrations and the cover were taken by Reinhold Muenzner.

Cover: Vargo vom Seebachtal, SZ Nr. 1368243. Welpdate Oct. 20, 1975, two years old at the time of training, SV-Bundessieger 1979.

Armin Winkler Publishing
3503 Lakeshaw Road
RR#7, Duncan, B.C.
Canada

Published in 1996 by Armin Winkler Publishing by arrangement with Parey Buchverlag im Blackwell Wissenschafts-Verlag GmbH, Berlin.
Originally published in the German under copyright © in 1979 and 1981 by Verlag Paul Parey.

The copyright © for the English language edition was acquired by Armin Winkler Publishing in 1996 from Parey Buchverlag im Blackwell Wissenschafts-Verlag.
All Rights reserved

Der Schutzhund (The Protection Dog) / by Helmut Raiser; translated by Armin Winkler.

Printed in Canada, by Sooke Printing Ltd.

PREFACE

I have looked in vain for a book that provides insight into how to train a dog in protection work. Tracking and obedience are very well documented; but where protection work is concerned, one rarely reads more than a description of the demands placed on the dog. Very little seems to be known about the directed - sequence of training and it appears that no one wants to divulge the 'secrets' of how a dog should be trained for protection work.

The purpose of this book, which was written primarily as a working foundation for helper seminars, is to shed light into this area of darkness.

Practical work and theorizing for many years have led to the realizations described in this book. This is why I want to especially thank my fellow club members -- WOLFGANG BECHTOLD, KLAUS HUBER, and GUENTHER WASHAUSEN. Long debates and untiring practical training have caused our differences of opinion to gradually diminish and to finally realize that there are certain learning laws and theories which do exist for dog training -- laws which are summarized in this book.

The illustrations are also not solely my own work. I must thank my sports friend, REINHOLD MUENZER, who has helped me tremendously; as well as my university friend, JUERGEN VAN BUER, who furnished us with his photographic equipment.

I want to thank the publisher, Paul Parey, from whom I received much help and support. I especially thank him for his constant encouragement.

HELMUT RAISER

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	7
--------------------	---

PART ONE

I. Inborn Drives Necessary for Protection Work	9
A. The Prey Drive	9
B. The Defense Drive and Avoidance Behaviour	10
1. The Defense Drive	10
2. Avoidance Behaviour	11
3. Threatening and Other Trigger Stimuli for Defense Behaviour	11
4. Directing Defense and Avoidance Behaviour	13
5. Critical Distance, Flight Distance, and Individual Distance	14
C. The Aggression Drive	15
D. The Fighting Drive	18
II. Basic Concepts and Laws of Ethology	20
A. Appetence, Trigger Stimuli, Instinctive Action, Ultimate Action, and the Drive Goal	20
B. Leerlauf (Idle-Motion) Reaction and Gesture of Intent	21
C. Conflict Behaviour	22
D. Stimulus Summation	25
E. Action-specific and Stimulus-specific Exhaustion	26
III. Laws of Learning for Dogs	27
A. Classical Conditioning	27
B. Instrumental Conditioning	28

PART TWO

I. Prey Drive Promotion	31
A. Creating Motivation through Stimulation and Challenging	31
B. The First Bite	36
C. The Transfer onto the Sleeve	38
D. The Attack	44
E. Teaching the Dog to Fight ("Shaking Prey to Death")	48
F. The Goal of Prey Drive Promotion	52

II. Defense Drive Promotion	54
A. Raising Psychological Stress by Challenging for the Prey and by Exploiting Insecurities	54
B. Defending Against the Helper	56
1. Threatening Dog and Handler	57
2. Threatening the Back-tied Dog on his Own	58
3. Countering Defense Behaviour or Attacking the Dog	58
C. Channelling Defense Behaviour into Prey Drive	60
III. Training	65
A. The Hold and Bark	65
1. Blocking Access with the Leash	68
2. Blocking Access through the Helper	69
3. Letting the Dog Break through	71
4. Fending off	72
5. Reducing Aids and Practising Additional Difficulties	72
B. The "OUT"-Exercise	73
1. Outing the Dead Prey	73
2. In the Blind on Leash	74
3. In the Blind off Leash	75
4. Without Backcover	76
C. The Blind Search	80
1. Directing Focus to the Blind	80
2. Instilling Confidence, until the Dog Searches Swiftly	81
3. Training the Call-back	82
4. The Forced Blind Search	83
CONCLUSION	87
Bibliography	88

This book is written for people who are involved in the training of protection dogs.

INTRODUCTION

The secret to education and training lies in the proper recognition and utilization of the already present drives.

V. Stephanitz

One can skim over these words written by the father of the German Shepherd breed, however, one can also think about them for a while. His words are almost scornful and in my opinion still hold true today: "Not everybody has what it takes to be a teacher, fewer still have what it takes to be a trainer. And even today we still have a relatively small number of dogs which work reliably in all disciplines, then it is not due to a lack of ability in the dogs to accomplish the tasks asked of them, but moreso due to the inability of the handlers: the service dog question, meaning the question regarding the successful use of dogs in the service of man, all types of service not just as a scent dog gathering evidence, is, as mentioned earlier more a question of handler quality, than it is one of dog quality."

If I may presume to add to these great words, then I would say, fewer people still have what it takes to be a helper (agitator) than have what it takes to be a trainer. So it is no wonder that in protection service we only have "a relatively small number of dogs which work reliably", since the helper is the person primarily responsible for the dog's development in protection work. If one considers the fact that in most cases any willing volunteer will wear the protection equipment, usually the strongest or the one with the least fear, then the above statement isn't surprising, what is surprising is that dogs bite at all. This is probably because "the urge to 'save face' is not an exclusively human emotion, but one that lies deep within the instinctive layers of the soul, in which all higher animals are very closely related to us."

(LORENZ)

A helper must be able to do more than fight, it is much more important for example that he is able to be defeated. Most of all he must know which inborn drives he can utilize to turn the dog into a protection dog. I would like to stress at this point that theoretical knowledge alone is not enough to be a good helper, practical experience in dog training is the second absolutely necessary

requirement for a good helper. On the other hand I believe that theory helps to prevent many mistakes in practise, it helps to reach some training-goals more directly, plus it is easier to develop new techniques in theory than only through trial and error. Therefore, I would like to begin by discussing protection training in theory in order to achieve more understanding for the practical part.

The most important inborn drives which can be utilized in protection training are: prey-drive, defense-drive, aggression-drive, and avoidance-behavior. If one examines the final goal, one realizes that the combination of these drives is tested as one in the category "fighting-drive" during a Schutzhund trial. The Schutzhund trial as a whole encompasses not only the judging of inborn drives, but also that of trainability since the trained skills are judged.

If we try to follow STEPHANITZ' words during protection training, then we have to properly recognize and utilize the inborn dispositions (drives): prey-drive, defense-drive, aggression (fighting)-drive, avoidance behavior and trainability. Therefore, I would like to start by explaining these terms.

PART ONE

Chapter I

Inborn Drives Necessary for Protection Work

A. The Prey Drive

Prey drive belongs in the functional realm of food acquisition behaviour. Actions such as chasing, scare-tactics, pointing, carrying, or retrieving, tracking, trailing, and a typical shaking-to-death that dogs do while playing with a rag--as well as pouncing upon, biting, and pulling down towards them--fall into the category known as prey drive behaviour. In order to gain insight into what triggers this behaviour, one must observe the actions and movements of a hunted prey animal. Prey always moves away from the dog; fleeing from him in panic; and it is always on the move. The instinctive reactions which have been triggered by the prey's behaviour, are as follows: he hunts the prey down, pounces on it, bites into it, and pulls it down. If the bite is weak, the prey tries to free itself and get away. If the bite is firm and strong, the prey's automatic reflexes comes into action and it pretends to be dead, it "gives up". As soon as the dog's grip loosens, the prey again attempts to break free. The dog will then tighten his grip and shake the prey to death. The prey is then carried away. The prey drive is then satisfied because the end goal has been reached.

The prey drive is inborn and already present in the puppy and it intensifies as the dog matures. This innate drive is among those which can be altered through the processes of learning and its development can either be promoted or stunted. The prey drive is subject to stimulus-specific as well as action-specific exhaustion.

In this we can already see the first behavioural patterns which can be utilized for protection training: flushing the helper from the blind, chasing him, pouncing on and grabbing him, and finally, strong shaking of the helper's arm (sleeve)--all actions that every handler values in his dog.

B. The Defense Drive and Avoidance Behaviour

1. Defense Drive

The defense drive belongs in the functional realm of aggression behaviour and it can surface in conjunction with a variety of other behaviours. Threatening, staring, aggressive defense, and biting are typical defensive behaviours. The trigger-stimulus which puts the dog into defense behaviour is usually a threat of a physical or psychological nature or open aggression. The goal the dog attempts to reach through his defense behaviour is always the same--avoidance behaviour in the attacker.

Defense behaviour can be motivated by various stimuli depending on which behavioural overlap it is in. When in the food acquisition mode, it can take the form of guarding or defending the captured prey. The drive has been satisfied when the rival displays avoidance behaviour. In the sexual behaviour function, it is expressed by the guarding of children, other house pets, or puppies. The drive once again has been satisfied when the attacker shows avoidance behaviour. Finally, it can be motivated in social situations. In this case it serves to establish rank for the purpose of retaining certain privileges for example territory and personal space, defense against the unfamiliar (stranger), and for self-defense (fear-biting).

The defense drive is not subject to stimulus-specific or action-specific exhaustion. It can therefore be activated at will and should be part of the combative behaviour of the protection dog. In the training of a protection dog, many useful types of behaviour are based on the defense behaviours: for example, the countering or fighting back by the dog when he is threatened or stressed physically or psychologically.

In practise, provoking defensive behaviour in the dog can be done as follows: the helper approaches the dog and threatens him; resulting in aggressive threat behaviour by the dog (growling, barking, biting); the helper runs away; and the dog reaches the end goal of his drive. Unfortunately, a scenario such as this rarely looks like I described it, more often than not, the dog will be the one who runs away unless something holds his interest and forces him into defense behaviour; such as: prey, home turf, or the "no way out" situation when he is back-tied (fear-biting). This shows the antagonistic relationship between defense drive and avoidance behaviour--both triggered by the same stimulus. This poses a great

danger for the dog and trainer when the promotion of the defense drive is undertaken.

2. Avoidance Behaviour

Before any further exploration of the antagonistic relationship between those two inborn dispositions, both so crucial for protection training but both so delicate to deal with, I want to briefly characterize avoidance behaviour. The trigger stimuli for both are threat, either of a physical or psychological nature, or open aggression. The goal the dog tries to reach through avoidance behaviour is personal and physical safety and the avoidance of enemies, harm, and threat. The behaviours that the dog will exhibit are flight, turning away, ducking, and hiding. He might discontinue whatever activity he had begun and if confronted by a superior species member he may display submission and inferiority behaviours. Avoidance behaviour can be activated at any time and this is one of the reasons for exploiting this behaviour when training the dog for obedience (compulsion training).

From the above, we draw the conclusion that it is necessary to use open aggression and threat only in carefully measured doses in order to produce defense behaviour instead of avoidance behaviour in the dog. It is therefore important that one knows which actions by the helper the dog perceives as threat or open aggression and to what extent the helper is to use those actions in order to induce the desired behaviour in the dog.

3. Threatening and Other Trigger Stimuli for Defense Behaviour

One method used to stimulate defense or avoidance behaviour is the overt threat. Biologically, threat functions as intimidation of the adversary and is intended to cause avoidance behaviour in one opponent before it actually comes down to a physical fight between the two. The two most prominent types of threat behaviour are: increasing perceived body size and display of weapons. Confident dogs who have a high sensory threshold for the trigger stimulus affecting avoidance behaviour ("courage") will react by displaying defense behaviour rather than avoidance behaviour.

Threatening can also take place in other ways. For example, a piercing stare is another form of threat. Konrad Lorenz' opinion on the subject is:

"Most animals that are physically able to direct a fixed stare with both eyes--such as fish, reptiles, birds, and mammals--will do this only for a very short time span and then only in moments of extreme directed tension. Either they fear the object of their fixation or they have intentions which are not very 'honorable'. Consequently, amongst each other animals regard fixed stares as hostile and extremely threatening." Here too, it becomes evident just how antagonistic the relationship between defense behaviour and avoidance behaviour really is.

The marking of territory by urinating is also a form of threat; however, it is not specifically directed at anyone in particular.

Another method to provoke defensive behaviour is the intentional suppression of the gesture of greeting--this is equal to open aggression. We can observe this among ourselves when a stranger forces himself into our group without first extending a greeting and introducing himself. He will soon experience avoidance behaviour or even defense behaviour from the members of the group. Therefore, a strange dog must first go through the entire ritual of greeting before a pack will accept him. This explains why our dog becomes so ill-tempered at home when a stranger rings the doorbell.

Another method used in stimulating defense behaviour is open aggression--to which only mature and very confident dogs respond with defense behaviour. In such a situation the defense behaviour often takes the form of desperation defense if the dog is prevented from escaping. When this happens, we speak of fear-biting which in behavioural science is described as a critical reaction. Defense behaviour can also be induced by threatening to take away the dog's prey.

Interestingly, motivational studies have shown that threat behaviour can have mixed motives consisting partially of attack and flight tendencies at the same time. This mixed motivation can be seen in the ambivalence of the behaviours that are made up of incomplete elements of attack and flight. Konrad Lorenz made this observation: "This display which is commonly known as threatening only comes into play when the tendency to attack is suppressed by fear, even if it is only a minute amount of fear. Without this fear an animal would bite without any display of threat with a virtually expressionless face that shows only a hint of tension." When I think of the racket that those dogs make who bite from sheer panic, then I must agree with this opinion.

Therefore, it is of utmost importance that a helper must never threaten a dog in a self-confident manner; but he should always act

out a mix of emotions consisting of fear and aggression. The more insecure a helper acts while threatening the dog, the more confidently the dog will display his defense behaviour.

4. Directing Defense and Avoidance Behaviour

The factors deciding which of the two behaviours dominates are the confidence and temper of the threatener and the threatened. Both are dependent on a large number of factors, to a large part the age of the animal, since a lot of instinctive behaviours don't fully mature until it is one, two, or sometimes three years old. For example defense drive, willingness to attack prey, the pointing of hunting dogs, and also in some dogs the instinct to guard and the instinct to protect.

Environmental influences also impress the dog, as well as "life" experiences. Behavioural scientists have determined that an animal's urge to protect its territory decreases from the center towards the outer limits, while its readiness for flight increases by the same measure. In the center, the defense drive is so great, that a dog will stand his ground even against very strong attacks. So it is no wonder that especially weak-nerved dogs, which when at home feel threatened by the slightest provocation and show great aggressive behaviour (the good watch dog), show anxious avoidance behaviour and fear when in a strange environment. If at that point they would actually be threatened, or more accurately feel threatened, and they cannot flee, they react with "flight forward", like a typical fear biter.

Other environmental influences such as the presence of captured prey or a mate, etc. can also motivate the dog into stronger defense behaviour instead of avoidance behaviour; as I explained earlier, defense behaviour can appear in conjunction with various other behavioural tendencies.

A dog with strong nerves is always one who is self confident and who can be stressed more heavily in defense drive. Even as puppies dogs test each other as to who is most capable of withstanding threat, which is at this time mainly psychological. They make a game out of challenging each other over pieces of food. One can only pity the one who gets intimidated instead of defending his prey defensively or unimpressed, depending on the degree of threat, for he will quickly become the "under-dog".

5. Critical Distance, Flight Distance, and Individual Distance

In connection with defense drive and avoidance behaviour the term critical distance, flight distance, and individual distance must be explained.

Every animal, especially every large mammal, flees from a superior opponent as soon as the latter approaches to within a certain distance. The flight distance, as Professor HEDIGER, the man who discovered it, called it, increases with the fear an animal has of the opponent in question. Therefore, flight distance can be classified as the smallest distance an inferior animal will allow its biological enemy to come to, without fleeing.

With the same regularity and predictability, with which an animal flees when flight distance is overstepped, it is ready to fight if the enemy now approaches to within an even smaller, but just as predetermined a distance. In nature such an overstepping of the critical distance (HEDIGER) only occurs in three cases: when the feared enemy surprises the animal; when the animal is cornered and cannot flee; or during the defense of offspring. This critical reaction is the strongest and most violent form of combat and is strongly motivated by fear; it is a "flight forward" or an attack with the courage of desperation.

In order to be complete, I would also like to mention the individual distance. This is the distance to within which an animal allows a species member to approach. It is often a measure of familiarity between two individuals or of the "mood" the animals are in. Therefore it is at times much smaller between opposite sex species members, on the other hand it is larger between same sex members. During the rearing of young some bitches don't even allow their owners near them, especially while nursing. One can also observe in very dominant and self confident dogs that they often discourage "clumsy" attempts to make friends by strangers through defensive reactions, usually growling.

This fact however already leads further, as it is easier explained through aggression behaviour as a whole, since the defense drive is, as already mentioned, only a part of aggression behaviour.

C. The Aggression Drive

The term aggression drive is more complete, as it includes the reactive form (defense drive) as well as the active form (social aggression) of aggressive behaviour. At this time I do not wish to discuss in detail the theories of aggression, as they are subject to diverse opinions as to whether or not an independent aggression drive actually exists. The observations available on the subject concerning the possible spontaneity of aggression do not permit one to draw any clear conclusions. Genuine *Leerlauf* (idle-motion) aggression that has no specific focus—which could be proof of an independent aggression drive—has thus far not been proven. On the other hand, many indicators point towards the existence of the ability to have an aggression build-up. The genetic basis for the aggressive disposition has been proven. There are three ways to explain the determining factors of aggressive behaviour:

1. The theory of learned-psychological response bases aggression on learning processes that occur in early development phases. Here, aggression is learned by copying or through successful experiences.
2. The frustration-aggression theory tends to connect aggression to deprivation experiences in conjunction with other instincts (drives).
3. The third group of behavioural scientists explains aggression as the result of an inborn aggression drive (the LORENZ-FREUD theory).

All of these theories and models are based on observations and experiments, so one is surprised how one-sided and narrow-minded the arguments of the believers of each theories are. Aggression surely results from all three processes mentioned.

TRUMLER gives this example concerning the first theory: "I know that in most cases in which a dog becomes aggressive against his own kind or against humans it is due to the unnatural development during his youth which was contrary to the way nature dictates it. Through this development the threshold for aggression triggering stimuli can be lowered to the degree that even relatively minor events can set off aggression."

But research in the field of behavioural science also furnishes proof for the second theory: Heightened aggressiveness which leads to the killing of its own kind is often observed in wild animals in captivity, in animals kept in isolation, in animals raised in isolation. It can also result from insufficient availability of food, over-population, and other stressful situations.

There are also some observations that support the third theory: One was able to create groups of varied readiness for aggression through inbreeding of house mice. The genetic basis for these differences is proven through certain hereditary experiments. When one crossbreeds the parents from different bloodlines, the aggressiveness of the F1-offspring lies midway between the aggressiveness of the parental lines.

If we wish to profit from the aggression drive and utilize it in training the protection dog, we should be less interested in these differing views concerning its cause and more concerned over attributes such as the trigger-stimulus, goal of the drive, and therefore biological significance--as well as the possibility of creating it through training and to what degree it can be influenced.

The trigger-stimulus responsible for reactive aggressive behaviour--the defense drive--has been covered in detail in the previous chapter along with the goal of the drive, and to what degree it can be influenced. Active aggressive behaviour is always intraspecific aggression--meaning, social aggression--and is the result exclusively of direct competition over objects which include parts of inhabited as well as uninhabited environment (i.e. territory, place of refuge, place of mating, food, etc.) but also species members, especially mates. Intraspecific aggression is activated by rivals and competitors as well as anti-social behaviour or "unfair" behaviours.

The goal of the drive of social aggression is to cause the fleeing, avoidance, submission, and occasionally, the physical injury or death of the rival. This social aggression does not lead to extinction of the species but its biological significance is of extreme value. First of all it ensures that available territory is evenly distributed among members of a species and therefore optimally utilized. Furthermore, it also ensures that in the case of over-population, excess members of the same species will be forced to migrate before a scarcity of food can weaken the entire population. This can result in the population of areas not previously inhabited. Thanks to this separation of competing members of a species the necessary conditions for reproduction are ensured and it makes the spread of epidemics more difficult.

CHARLES DARWIN already recognized that social aggression is used for sexual selection in that it ensures the selection of the strongest and healthiest individuals for reproduction. In species that have a social hierarchy, it ensures that these individuals, who are also the most experienced will be the leaders of the society. Many animal species have developed behavioural patterns that result in

suppressing of the negative aspects of aggression and therefore guarantee its positive results. Included in this category are threatening behaviour, dominance behaviour, submissive behaviour, making-up behaviour, territorial behaviour, individual distance, and finally the invention of rituals of combat that hold no physical danger. This much about the subjects of triggering aggression, the goal of the drive, and biological significance. Now, a few words on whether it can be trained and to what degree it can be influenced.

The chance to practise plays a definite role in the maturation and development of inborn abilities. However, even through the process of maturation alone and through aging and through the long term maintenance of a high rank will self-confidence grow; meaning the certainty of victory will grow and with it the intensity of aggression.

Beyond that, social aggression is also a trainable instinct. Through training at the right time one can increase or decrease social aggression within certain limits. Generally, the acting out of natural aggressive tendencies will lead to a "training" of aggressive behaviour, where especially success in combat will increase aggression later. Aggression can also be increased through pain (pinch collar, electric shock) but here the results may vary depending on how much pain is applied.

The readiness to act aggressively is subject to fluctuations, which among other things depend on hormone levels. The male sex hormone increases aggression of many mammals during mating season.

The threshold of the stimuli that trigger aggression is lowest in places where the animal is most secure—meaning, in places where its aggression is least suppressed by avoidance behaviour. As the distance from its "headquarters" increases, the readiness to fight decreases at the same rate as the surroundings become stranger and more frightening for the animal. This fact, therefore, not only applies to the defense drive but also applies to social aggression.

There are two other factors which greatly influence aggression that a protection helper should be aware of:

1. personal acquaintance blocks aggression;
2. the principle that passive acceptance of the dog's aggression by the helper makes a deep impression on the dog and causes unsureness—the fact that one isn't easily impressed usually leaves a deep impression.

In connection with the subject of aggression, I would like to briefly touch on the reduced learning ability of aggressive dogs. We

know that protection dogs should have strong drives and should demonstrate a high level of training. In order to achieve this high level of training the dog must go through a multitude of learning processes. But excessive stress--meaning, too much strain on his nerves--is detrimental to any learning process. The dog experiences extreme nervous stress during conflict situations, which is unavoidable during training. Aggression and fear go hand in hand with high nervous stress. If both aggression and fear are provoked--for example, in the aggressive dog who is forced into avoidance behaviour through harsh influences when teaching the hold and bark--then the dog will experience a conflict of drives accompanied by extreme stress which renders him unable to learn. Only those dogs whose drives are less strong and who are less confident, will be able to be forced into avoidance behaviour in such a situation (the resulting bark is not a result of training and has no goal, it is simply a substitute reaction). The dogs with strong drives and confidence become more aggressive through harsh influences and will always break through again and again; some dogs will through the influence of released hormones go into a kind of trance which makes them oblivious to pain this fact can be observed during dog fights, especially between bitches: blows by the owner will only spur them on, because harsh influences, as I mentioned before, among other things increase aggression.

If the dog is supposed to go through learning processes in which avoidance behaviour plays a role, then the aggression drive is conceivably quite a bad motivation. Firstly, it greatly reduces learning capacity; and secondly the dog's self confidence will surely be adversely affected.

D. The Fighting Drive

The question of whether or not an independent fighting drive actually exists in the dog is not yet clear. Some experts claim that there must be a special fighting drive which is presumed to be related to the play drive. I am of the opinion that the concept known as fighting drive is an oxymoron. The term drive describes part of an inherited trait which serves the purpose of sustaining life and species. A drive to fight implies an effort to harm and destroy an adversary and at the same time presents the danger that harm may come to oneself. Even in the aggression drive the race-sustaining function has the upper hand and injurious fights are avoided through rituals. Furthermore, one can conclude from the fact that many of these ritualistic "matches" demand much greater use of energy and

are much more time consuming than the interspecific fights which injure and kill (for instance, making prey). How strong the pressures of selection must be which are responsible for the development of non-injurious forms of combat.

Nevertheless, I believe that for our purposes, the term - fighting drive- is a very useful description of a desirable behaviour in the dog. We look for the dog that has fun fighting with the helper. But only a dog who is relatively unstressed when fighting with the helper and does not feel he is constantly fighting for his life can have fun fighting the helper. Inasmuch, I am also of the opinion that what we call fighting drive is an extension of the play drive.

If we wish to promote the dog's fighting drive,--meaning, if we want to bring the dog to the point where he spontaneously seeks to fight with the helper--then we must first know which qualities make up a good fighting drive. I know from practical experience that dogs which do protection work primarily as a result of their defense drive may still be substantially lacking in good fighting drive. I have repeatedly worked dogs in trials that failed protection because they saw no reason to fight with the helper during the hold and bark and the ensuing escape; but when threatened, displayed self confident defense drive and bit hard. In most cases, the handlers were perplexed because on previous occasions their dogs had repeatedly been rated pronounced in fighting drive. Due to the fact that I deliberately left out all defense stimuli (=help) the dogs showed that they lacked the spontaneity to "seek the fight". This desire to "seek the fight" is in my opinion an essential ingredient of the fighting drive.

But why do some dogs develop this spontaneity? In all dogs in which I found pronounced fighting drive I also found pronounced prey drive. I believe this is a very important part of the fighting drive. Making prey is a passionate instinctive act which doesn't threaten the dog's very existence and consequently does not stress the dog in a way which could trigger avoidance behaviour.

However, prey drive alone is also not equal to fighting drive. The successful utilization of defense behaviour by the dog is the second component of fighting drive.

The fundamental component of the fighting drive however is social aggressiveness which is the active part of the aggression drive. Therefore, the dog must always see the helper as a rival. The object of the competition could vary: it could be the prey, which is probably why dogs with strong fighting drive have a pronounced prey drive; or there could be a social motivation--meaning, the dog is

the domineering type who has the desire to subdue the helper who keeps appearing to the dog as a combatant.

Therefore in order to promote the fighting drive, the dog's prey drive must be strengthened and his defense drive must be built up. On one hand he must learn how to win his prey through fighting and how to defend it. On the other hand, he must learn to defend himself against the helper. Finally, the dog must experience that he can dominate and intimidate the helper.

Based on the aforementioned requirements, it becomes clear why a one year old dog's fighting drive cannot be fully developed. I previously mentioned that defense drive, as well as the spontaneous aspect of the aggression drive, matures at a later age because the necessary self confidence develops only in the course of maturity but is an indispensable pre-requisite of the fighting drive.

Chapter II

Basic Concepts and Laws of Ethology

Before I begin describing drive promotion and actual training, I believe it is necessary to first explain some of the laws and concepts of behavioural science; and secondly to describe and explain the learning laws for dogs.

A. Appetence, Trigger Stimulus, Instinctive Action, Ultimate Action, and the Drive Goal

The behaviour through which an animal confronts his environment without having to have previous experience is called instinctive action. Two prerequisites are necessary in order for it to occur: The animal must be in the mood to follow a particular drive, it has to be prepared (motivated) to behave a certain way, or in other words have a "specific appetence". The instinctive action is determined by certain biological occurrences in the brain cells and the coordinated effort of several hormone producing glands as well as other bodily functions (internal stimuli such as hunger when the stomach is empty). For this, animals are born with physiological apparatuses that act as starter mechanisms. They don't wait around passively for things to happen, but are seeking, depending on the different moods, stimulus situations, which will allow certain behaviours to take place. Second, a trigger-stimulus must set off the instinctive action.

The instinctive action is usually completed through a simple, short, and in most cases a very rigid and inalterable ultimate action. Ultimate actions as opposed to "appetence" actions, have the effect of being drive consuming, in other words drive satisfying and tension relieving. With the completion of the ultimate action, the "biological goal"—the drive goal of an entire behavioural pattern—has been reached. When this action will be due again varies considerably in time.

An example: It could happen, that an animal is in the drive mood (which is triggered by certain internally stimulating events) to perform a certain action but it cannot perform this action because the necessary environmental trigger-stimuli are missing: A house dog is taken for a walk on the street to relieve himself. He has a high desire to urinate but in spite of that pressure, he sniffs around and sniffs on corners (appetence action). Only after he smells previously left behind urine will he have, for this body function, the necessary trigger-stimulus to cause the characteristic male leg-lifting with the simultaneous opening of the sphincter muscle. This search for the necessary stimuli to realize the drive goal is to be regarded as "appetence" behaviour.

Appetence behaviour can be expected with the most certainty when and if a drive is highly frustrated.

Learning is possible only during the appetence phase of an instinctive action. Once an ultimate action is in motion, it cannot be stopped, or at least only very rarely, through interfering stimuli.

B. Leerlauf-(Idle-Motion) Reaction and Gesture of Intent

If a drive mood, in other words the internal build-up of stimulation is excessively strong, and the specific trigger-stimulus is absent, then it may happen that the spontaneous completion of an instinctive action takes place even without its presence, or at least in the presence of a similar, alternative stimulus. This event is called Leerlauf-(idle-motion) action; it is designed to protect the nervous system from damage due to an unbearable build-up of stimulation. The opposite of the Leerlauf- (idle-motion) reaction is the gesture of intent: The drive mood is not a strong enough motivation to bring a chain of actions to completion simply because a trigger-stimulus is present. What remains is only a hint of what is supposed to happen, the mere start of an action. If the drive mood is weaker still, there will be no response at all to a trigger-stimulus.

C. Conflict Behaviour

Normally, the environmental situation and drive-mood clearly determine which behaviour is called for at any particular point in time. Occasionally, however, it can happen that two incompatible behavioural tendencies are simultaneously and almost equally strongly activated, they are therefore both called upon, but neither can clearly dominate. In this case, conflict situations can occur which express themselves in three ways: Ambivalent behaviour, redirected behaviour, or displacement behaviour. Such a mutual inhibition is known in many different areas of behaviour. It often appears when parts of different functional areas interact. It is especially pronounced in the antagonistic area between elements of aggression- and avoidance behaviour. We can frequently observe typical substitute actions. For instance, dogs which were forced into avoidance behaviour through extremely harsh treatment during the hold and bark, show typical substitute actions when in the blind such as threatening (impressive display), barking, territorial marking, tearing up dirt, yawning, etc.. All of these forms of behavioural reactions have the same effect—they lead to the easing of the tension of the situation and resolve the conflict. Re-establishing behavioural equilibrium is the goal, this is achieved through the venting, of the built up drive energy in other ways.

Ambivalent actions are a combination of several elements of behaviour that correspond to certain incompatible drives which, in most cases, are the simultaneous occurrence of their actions of intent. Sometimes they (the actions of intent) take the form of certain body postures or their rapid succession, in most cases, they are repeated without any regularity. Consequently, it is easy to detect elements of both avoidance- and aggression behaviour when the dog shows threatening behaviour.

Redirected actions are also substitute actions which are especially visible during the conflict between aggression and avoidance behaviour. The behaviour runs its course, but is redirected onto a substitute object. If for example, an animal is threatened or attacked by a superior pack member, then it will often direct its retaliatory reaction toward a pack member of lesser rank than itself, instead of the actual aggressor. This behaviour is probably responsible for the phenomenon observed where harshness by the handler causes some dogs to become more aggressive against the helper. As mentioned in the previous discussion of aggressive behaviour, pinch collars and electric shock often have the effect of increasing aggression. In my own experience, I have seen a dog become very aggressive against

the helper, when his handler shook him by the scruff of the neck for not outing cleanly. Another form of redirected action in the same conflict situation is shown by a dog that bites the boards of the blind as a result of having been beaten off the sleeve during training for the hold and bark exercise.

Finally, there are conflict situations in which the expected behaviour, meaning, the behaviour appropriate to the situation, doesn't appear at all, instead a different, in this context totally illogical behaviour appears. This displacement behaviour always appears when two incompatible behavioural tendencies are simultaneously and equally strongly activated, and they consequently inhibit each other. Now, a third, also present - eventhough weaker - behavioural tendency which was previously inhibited, breaks through. In most cases, behaviours which are always ready to be activated, like eating-, grooming-, puppycare-, behaviours, and also some avoidance- and aggression- behaviours are visible. Typical signs that indicate that a conflict situation is in progress are: frequent and unwarranted yawning, shivering, salivating, senseless jumping around, scratching the ground or walls, whimpering, defecating, and vomiting. Many dogs will repeatedly lift their leg as if to urinate. Others will lie down in unusual and uncomfortable positions like they want to sleep. They may also display a multitude of incomplete instinct actions (gestures of intent) which do not fit the situation. A well known phenomenon is the extreme and very frequent scratching of the body and shaking-off (water), as well as licking of the feet. All of this occurs for the purpose of diverting excitement in an unresolvable situation. Some dogs will use eating or drinking to diminish their excitement.

Every conflict situation results in high nervous stress for the dog. Some dogs can take greater pressure while others will experience damage to their nervous system and/or organic disorders. I want to elaborate on these types of damage, because I have often observed it in many dogs trained for protection work strictly via the traditional method which uses the dog's defense drive exclusively. I previously mentioned that the most common form of conflict occurs between aggression and avoidance behaviour. If a dog, who has been taught to bite solely through defense drive is supposed to be trained, then one has to constantly deal with this particular conflict situation. If these non-biological conflict situations persist over an extended period of time, they will lead to nervous over-excitement; resulting in fearfulness, disruption of ability to make social contact, impotence and sexual dysfunction, tendencies toward stereotypical behaviour (such as a caged zoo animal pacing back and forth in a cage),

uncleanliness, and viciousness. These neurotic behaviours can last for the rest of the dog's life. Dogs with such behavioural problems are often totally misconstrued by many dog-sports enthusiasts as being "good" *Schutzhund* dogs.

Damage to the dog's nervous system is not even close to where problems end. Occasionally, psycho-reactive signs of overstimulation can appear in organic form as organic neurosis. "These psychosomatic disruptions probably appear much more often than they are actually diagnosed." (BRUNNER). The most common organic disruptions appear as: upsets of the digestive apparatus, the circulatory system, the breathing apparatus, the renal system, and the reproductive system.

Time often plays an important role in this problem. While psychological stress, that lasts for only a short period of time, leads only to temporary physical malfunctions; extended periods of stress may cause chronic sickness with noticable anatomical organ damage.

I mention this particularly for the benefit of those people whose dogs always have a dull coat or appear to be malnourished. Many of these people have been told by their veterinarian that the dog suffers from malfunction of the pancreas, eczema, retarded healing, susceptibility to infections, premature aging, muscular tension, muscle and joint aches, and many other ailments. These "dog lovers" then often spend a great deal of money for medical remedies instead of making their training methods more "humane" and seeing to it that their dog leads a decent "dog's life". I myself experienced a revelation when I discovered this. I too have, while trying to "whip the drive into a frenzy", pushed some dogs beyond their limitations to the point where they were diagnosed with malfunction of the pancreas. Today, I administer doses of defense drive promotion on an individual basis and not often very heavily, and I believe that the dogs benefit from it. This way, one avoids harmful overloading of the dog's system, while still optimally challenging each dog.

I want to emphatically repeat: forcible influences on the part of the helper and/or the handler in conjunction with defense behaviour (defense drive promotion) pose extreme nervous stress for the dog. Stress that has proven to be fatal to dogs belonging to many over-ambitious dog sport participants.

D. Stimulus-Summation

Many behavioural patterns have not just one trigger stimulus, but several which can on their own or jointly trigger a particular action. In this case, the stimuli can mutually support each other's effects. The phenomenon of mutual strengthening is not limited to stimuli of a different nature. On the contrary, the same stimulus can, if transmitted from the same source several times in succession or from several different sources simultaneously, be strengthened accordingly in its effect. The total stimulation in a given situation consists of the combined trigger value of each individual stimulus, which may take each others place within limits. That doesn't mean the individual stimuli are simply added up; instead they only support each other, without making the total strength of stimulation in a given situation equal to the sum of the individual stimuli. We are therefore dealing with a mutually substitutive strengthening of stimulation.

In the case of appetite behaviour we have a similar situation. We saw, when examining conflict behaviour, that certain drive moods can inhibit one another. But in reality, two stimuli that are independent from each other can overlap in all imaginable types of varying relationships. Two stimuli can support each other, and they can, without being otherwise related, overlap, and, combine with one another in the same particular behaviour. A drive can therefore really be "driven on" (pushed along).

¹From these laws we gain insights which are important for protection training:

If I want to push the dog into increased prey-behaviour, I can do so by using prey-type stimulation repeatedly in succession. Furthermore, it applies for training as a whole, that if we want to help the dog reach his maximum potential in bitework, it is necessary to address all of the drives which prompt him to bite, meaning, the dog's prey-drive, defense-drive, and aggression-drive must be promoted. The logical conclusion for drive promotion is, that in the end, when the dog is fully trained, the mere appearance of the helper on the field should be all it takes to trigger the dog's prey-, defense-, and aggression-drives. To what degree and at what time it is appropriate to do this training (to be most effective), we will discuss later.

E. Action-specific and Stimulus-specific Exhaustion

Unfortunately, it is not quite as easy to stimulate a dog in the ways I previously described, because here too there is an antagonist; exhaustion.

Some behaviours can be triggered again fully, immediately after their last appearance, while others require a longer period of time (rest) between appearances. This action-specific exhaustion therefore always relates to a single specific action. The differences are directly related to the demands placed on the behaviour in question. While sexual behaviour or actions in the functional area of food acquisition (prey drive) need to only appear in intervals in order to fulfill their functions; avoidance- and defense-behaviour must always be ready to be called upon.

Another form of exhaustion is stimulus-specific exhaustion. Here it is the decrease of the capacity to respond to a specific stimulus. If a predator is repeatedly given a prey animal, it will kill it the first few times; but after several repetitions it will no longer respond to the stimulus. The fact that we are not dealing with the physical (meaning, action-specific) exhaustion becomes evident through the fact that we can trigger the drive again with a different stimulus. It is interesting to note that stimulus-specific exhaustion can occur even though the associated behaviour did not appear even once. This is why I cannot tolerate it when a dog, that is supposed to undergo only prey drive promotion, is allowed to "hang around" the helper while the handler and helper are talking, before or after the drive promotion training. Since, as I said before, the helper should become the trigger-stimulus for prey behaviour. During defense drive promotion the situation is somewhat different because the dog must learn, among other things, to defend himself only when the helper attacks him.

Chapter III

Laws of Learning for Dogs

Learning encompasses all processes through which a dog adapts to his environment (behaviour modification processes) that can not be attributed to hereditary mechanisms, maturation, or exhaustion. For example, a dog that finally barks after being beaten off the sleeve for half an hour has learned nothing.

A dog is capable of two very basic types of learning. He can learn emotions, in other words drive-moods and involuntary reactions (classical conditioning), and he can learn simple skills (instrumental conditioning).

A. Classical Conditioning

Classical conditioning describes a way of learning in which emotions and involuntary reactions can be learned. If one combines a neutral stimulus (a voice command such as "good boy") with a pleasant or unpleasant meaningful stimulus (praising, petting), then eventually the former will assume the same quality as the meaningful stimulus.

When a dog hears the words "good boy" and wags his tail, he expresses happy excitement; not because he can understand the words, but because he has learned something. He has learned to be happy when he hears these words because in the beginning they were always spoken in conjunction with petting and this caused him to experience a drive-satisfaction in the realm of social and grooming behaviour. If the dog now expresses happiness over the words alone, it is because these words now cause the dog to experience the same drive-satisfaction. So, he has learned to equate the original influence (petting) with the substitute influence ("good boy"). In the same manner, some dogs learn to fear the training grounds; to display eagerness or unwillingness to work; and to display certain drive-moods, for example, during protection work.

This learning law was discovered by the Russian physician and behavioural scientist, Pavlov, by conducting the following experiment: shortly after the ringing of a bell, a dog is fed. It only takes a few repetitions until the dog begins to salivate when he hears the bell ring, not only when he sees the food. The sound of the bell that once had no meaning now causes the secretion of saliva. Pavlov

called this behaviour a "conditioned reflex".

Classical conditioning describes a learning process that takes place through the altering of the original conditions of stimulation, meaning, a learning of conditioned reflexes such as emotions and involuntary reactions. Through this type of learning the helper, during protection work, can become the trigger-stimulus for prey-, defense-, or aggression-behaviour.

B. Instrumental Conditioning

Simple skills are learned according to the laws of instrumental conditioning. When we deal with training (hold and bark, "out"-exercises, etc.), we must apply these learning laws. They state:

1. Reinforcement = approval leads to more frequent appearance of, at first co-incidental, spontaneous, or manipulated behaviours, in other words, they are learned.
2. Behaviours which are not reinforced occur over time more and more rarely and eventually disappear.

These learning laws were discovered by an American psychologist named Thorndike. He locked a hungry cat in a cage. He then filled the cat's bowl with delicious food and made sure the cat could see and smell it but could not reach it. The cat became very excited and paced back and forth. She was staring at her bowl, and tried to push her head through the wooden bars, but to no avail. She tried to reach for the food with her paws, but again in vain. Disappointed and angry, she dug her claws into the wall of her cage, but she remained hungry. She restlessly moved about in her cage, back and forth, until by sheer accident she stepped on a lever which opened a hatch over a pulley system, suddenly the path to the bowl was clear. The more often Thorndike put the cat into the "problem cage", the less time she needed to work the mechanism which opened the hatch. In the end, the cat would walk directly to the lever upon entering the cage and step on it forcefully.

The dog can learn the hold and bark by employing the same learning law. The prey drive of the dog is stimulated and he gets the prey as a reinforcement only after he has barked.

In order to successfully employ this learning law, one must make sure that the dog always experiences the ultimate drive goal as reinforcement. The following behavioural functional areas lend themselves to reinforce the dog via the realization of a drive goal:

1. Prey behaviour.
2. Food acquisition behaviour.
3. Sexual and maternal behaviour.
4. Social grooming behaviour (pack drive)
5. Avoidance behaviour.
6. Defense and aggression behaviour.

Here are a few examples for illustration:

If one wants to teach the dog to bark for a stick, then one stimulates the prey drive in the dog with the stick but blocks the final act (getting the stick) until the dog displays barking. Then the dog can realize his drive goal: grabbing, shaking, and carrying the stick. This final act reinforces his behaviour, and when put in the same situation again, he will respond faster and faster with barking. The requirements for this act of learning are of course the prey appetite and the trigger-stimulus. The stronger the motivation, meaning, the more intensive the appetite and the more exciting the trigger-stimulus, the faster he will learn.

Training that is motivated by drive-satisfaction in the functional area of food acquisition behaviour has been practised by all those who put food on the track or give food to their dog after the retrieve, etc. Many people however, do not know how to use this learning law correctly, as they cease reinforcement prematurely; or they do not make sure the dog experiences the necessary degree of appetite by not starving the dog long enough.

How powerful the motivation of sexual behaviour can be, can be attested by all who have ever watched how inventive male dogs can be when trying to get to a female in heat.

Training through the utilization of drive-satisfaction within the functional area of social and grooming behaviours is also common. When a dog shows the desired behaviour, he is praised and petted, thus satisfying his drive in this functional area. Here too, one can make the mistake of keeping the dog's appetite for this satisfaction too low by constantly praising and petting the dog until he doesn't even become excited over these types of stimuli anymore. However, some dogs have such poor relationships with their masters that they don't feel reinforced at all by his petting or praising. I myself have often had the experience that my dog returns much faster during the retrieve right after he has fallen into disfavour with me. In this case, he hurries back to me to "make up" and to earn a "good boy" from me.

Avoidance behaviour is for good reason the most used motivational tool, for example, in obedience training, because it can

always be activated. KONRAD MOST describes well how to train the dog by compulsion: The dog continues to experience compulsion until he shows the desired behaviour, then he is reinforced with drive satisfaction in the functional area of avoidance behaviour. Regrettably, according to the learning laws of classical conditioning, in most cases either the handler, the situation, or the location becomes a trigger-stimulus for a "fear of compulsion" emotion, and a connection is made with this which causes a chronic sour mood in the dog every time he is in the same training situation (unwillingness to work). In spite of all this, I believe that it is impossible to teach the dog an exercise reliably ,if, at some point in time, avoidance behaviour is not used as reinforcement, meaning, complete training is not possible without any use of compulsion. The skilled trainer, however, knows very well how to administer compulsion in the correct dosage and with direction.

Defense behaviour and aggression behaviour can also represent motivation for learning. I previously mentioned that success in combat has a stimulating effect. Some behavioural scientists subscribe to the "learned-aggression" theory, according to which, aggression is learned by success, in other words, learning is a result of reinforcement.

There are a multitude of possibilities to motivate the dog to show a certain behaviour. For example, the dog can learn to retrieve through the functional areas of prey drive, food acquisition behaviour, social and grooming behaviour, and avoidance behaviour (forced retrieve). The important thing is that the handler uses the correct appetite, the correct trigger-stimulus, and the correct drive goal as reinforcement. The question - which method is the right one? - cannot be answered and one is best off determining which method gets the necessary response from the dog. Likewise, in answer to the question - which method is best for teaching tracking? At this point one should recall the phenomenon of stimulus summation and cannot help but arrive at the conclusion that one should take advantage of several motivations and reinforcements simultaneously.

I believe that the person who takes the time to think about the above mentioned concepts will be able to come up with new strategies for training dogs.

PART TWO

I am not conceited enough to assume that I am able to describe training methods in a way so that everybody can train a dog after reading this book; to accomplish that, in my opinion, one is dependent on diligence in practical training, and experience. But I would like to explain the individual training steps. Furthermore I want to point out ahead of time, that the succession of the steps in this book does not necessarily correspond directly to the sequence in practical training. It is only supposed to be a guideline, since practical work has to be tailored to each individual dog. Especially the discovering of the proper relationship between individual drive promotions and training techniques is what makes dog training interesting and successful.

Chapter I

Prey Drive Promotion

Prey-drive promotion should be started with the three months old dog. The goal should be that the dog views the sleeve as his prey and if given the chance to make prey, he will try to pull it towards himself by biting vigorously. The prey drive is subject to stimulus and action specific exhaustion, and consequently should not be worked too often. Once a week is sufficient for a young dog. While the dog is teething, this type of drive promotion does not need to be done at all. Frequency of work depends on the individual dog and can deviate considerably from the above suggestion.

A. Creating Motivation through Stimulation and Challenging

First goal: The dog is supposed to bite a rolled-up sack or rag, pull it towards himself, then carry it off the training field.



Phase one:

The small dog is physically not yet capable of biting and carrying prey the size of a bite sleeve. Therefore, we use a piece of cloth or a rolled-up sack as his prey. The handler holds his dog on leash and reinforces, through praise, the dog's desire to make prey. The rag triggers prey drive as the helper turns it into a wiggly creature which seems to be in panicky flight. A dog with normal instincts will snap at it. As soon as he does, he makes prey, the rag belongs to him, and the handler shows his satisfaction with enthusiasm. I would like to stress here that this exercise should be done in a playful manner, but it should also contain tension and excitement; meaning, it should take place without any threat and nothing should happen to make the dog insecure, yet it has to trigger strong desire and interest in the dog. While the dog is still holding his prey, or as soon as he lets go of it, the helper, who is always focused on the prey, tries to snatch the prey away from the dog, however, without ever actually succeeding. Should the dog now show a desired reaction such as shaking the prey or trying to move the prey out of reach to safety,

***Making Prey.** Even when the dog succeeds in biting, the prey moves laterally away from the dog. The bite is reinforced immediately, the dog wins the prey and gets to carry it away.*





***The Stimulating.** Prey moves away from the dog; meaning, that in the stimulation phase the sack moves laterally past the dog and then away from him. The main movement is that of the prey. The helper does not stimulate defense; meaning, he does not stare at the dog or move directly towards him. One can see the effect of the stimulation on the dog.*

the helper ceases his challenge and pretends to be deeply impressed. The handler leads his dog, who is still carrying the prey, off the training field. Should the dog drop his prey before he gets off the field, the helper should immediately challenge him for it again. During this, the handler holds the dog far enough away from the prey that the helper can actually snatch it away from the dog after a couple of unsuccessful tries. The helper then stimulates the dog again, allows him to bite, and lets him carry the prey away.

During this type of work several very important things have to be considered: If one tries to promote prey drive, then all the dog's focus should be on the prey, meaning it is the prey that does all the moving around, not the helper. Furthermore, the prey never moves towards the dog, but always away from him, even after it is grabbed. And another point, which doesn't exclusively pertain to the promotion of prey drive: **It is not the helper who dictates the action, but the dog.** During drive promotion work one has to accomplish that the dog stimulates the helper, not the helper the dog.





1



2



5



6

Throughout this one has to carefully observe the laws of instrumental conditioning: if the dog shows the desired behaviour, he reaches his drive goal, meaning, he scares up the prey, then he can catch it or carry it.

The attentive reader and one who knows what I write about defense drive will recognize that the challenging is already the first stimulation of defense behaviour, and rightfully so (compare: channelling of defense drive into prey drive). I would like to stress that training does not always take place as schematic as I am describing it. Drives overlap one another in all conceivable reciprocal relationships. Only for the purpose of clarity and understanding I have to discuss defense drive promotion separately.



3



4



7

Challenging for the Prey. The helper approaches in a frightened manner (ready to flee, with his side or his back towards the dog, dodging backwards from time to time) staring at the prey (photos 1- 3), the helper tries to snatch the prey away (4-5), the dog defends the prey by holding it and is reinforced in this behaviour; meaning, the helper takes off intimidated, and the dog gets to carry (6-7). One can see well in this series the skill of the handler, he holds the dog just short of the prey, always on a tight leash.

Phase two:

The second training step differs from the first in as far as the dog has to target and bite at the helper's midsection or chest height to reach the prey. If he does so, the prey is given up to the dog right away. Through this prey-making by jumping, the dog is taught a well aimed attack and the intensity of the grip increases. The follow-up reactions of handler as well as the helper remain the same as in phase one.

B. The First Bite

Second goal: The dog's initial bite should be hard enough that the prey cannot slip away.

This exercise also takes place on leash and should be integrated into drive promotion as soon as possible. As soon as the dog has linked the chain of events "bite, then carry away", one has to make sure he only reaches his drive goal if he bites really hard. The handler gets the strict instruction not to move from his spot and not to follow the helper; on the other hand the dog should never be jerked back. The helper stimulates the dog in prey drive, then gives him **ample opportunity** to bite as described in phase two, as he moves laterally past the dog. However, this time the prey is not immediately released, on the contrary, the helper tries to pull it away from the dog. If the bite holds, the dog gets the prey. If it can be pulled away from him, the helper renews strong prey stimulation and the dog gets another opportunity to reach his drive goal. A



1



2



5



6

skilled and sensitive helper will try, even on the initial bite, to only pull hard enough to challenge the dog but still letting him win. No later than on his second try though should the dog be allowed to keep his prey. So, the objective is not to rip the dog's head off along with the prey, but to challenge him a little before he gets to reach his goal. Should the dog, during this type of challenge, already show behaviours such as countering or shaking-to-death, then one has to immediately reinforce them. After making prey the dog is again allowed to carry away the prey. If, and how strongly the helper challenges the dog for his prey depends on how much desire the dog has to get his prey to safety. If the dog is weak in prey drive, then challenging is always a good possibility to try and increase stimulation. Here as with all exercises in protection work it is very important that the demand on the dog is not too great, but also that it is not too little.

The High Initial Bite. The dog is stimulated in his prey drive (1-3), the high bite during a lateral pass (4-6), the helper gives a good opportunity to bite, #5 shows how the helper continues to move the prey. To improve grip strength, the helper tries to pull the prey away (7), the reward, the dog gets to carry (8). In this series one also sees skillful and sensitive restraint of the dog by the handler.



3



4



7



8

C. The Transfer onto the Sleeve

Third goal: The dog should show a firm, hard initial bite on the sleeve.

When the dog has matured more, and has gotten physically stronger, so that he can carry a bite sleeve without any difficulty, usually between the ninth and eleventh month, we replace the rag or tug with a sleeve. In order for the sleeve to trigger prey behaviour it has to stay in motion just like the rag. Once the helper is able to trigger the dog's prey drive with the sleeve, then the most important thing during the first attempts to bite is that the sleeve is presented to the dog in a way that he can easily grab it. It is crucial that the dog is not frustrated during these initial bite attempts by a sleeve which appears too large for him to bite.

Therefore, the helper stands facing the dog and stimulates him with a wiggly left to right swinging sleeve. He then laterally passes by the dog with his arm (and sleeve) bent to a horizontal position (remember, prey always moves away from the dog!) and gives the dog opportunity to bite. Especially on the first try many a dog is made unsure by the new and different prey and his bite is weak. Therefore, the helper has to release the prey as soon as the dog grabs it. The helper then immediately starts to challenge the dog for the sleeve until the dog takes his prey and carries it away. Here it is helpful if the handler wiggles the sleeve from time to time during the carry.

With some dogs it is necessary that the prey drive promotion sessions are started with a rag a few times, and that the sleeve for rag substitution is made later on in the session. Some helpers are able to help the dog to transfer by using just a sleeve cover as an inbetween step. However, if the sleeve can be made to appear as prey drive trigger to the dog and if the dog gets good opportunity to bite it, then the dog should accept the sleeve as his prey after only two or three experiences. As soon as this has happened, one concentrates on getting a firm, hard initial bite. The training method is the same as with a rag (please refer to B. The First Bite).



The High Initial Bite. The dog is stimulated in prey drive, gets the opportunity to bite during a lateral pass. He is immediately rewarded in his prey drive and is also reinforced through handler praise.



Prey Biting. The prey stimulates through movement, the helper turns away from the dog during the bite (prey moves away from the dog).



Prey Biting. *The helper laterally passes by the dog, the dog gets a good opportunity to take a high bite. The helper turns away from the dog. The skillful handler holds the dog sensitively on a tight leash (a little fight spurs the desire), and makes sure, after the dog is rewarded that he can carry the prey well, by skillfully pulling up on the leash.*





Challenging for the Prey. The helper never runs at the dog facing him during prey drive promotion. He has to show insecurity when he snatches the prey away, and even let himself be chased back from time to time. He does not stare at the dog, but at the prey (3). As soon as he takes the prey he starts prey stimulation again, the dog gets to bite once again and gets to carry the prey away. In this series one can see well how the dog gets more intense during the challenging.

Prey Drive Promotion



The Challenging. Here one can also see well how the helper fearfully (ready to flee, back turned to the dog) challenges the dog for the prey while staring at it, and then runs away in panic when the dog shows defense behaviour.

Strengthening the Initial Bite. The helper passes laterally by the dog (high bite, good bite opportunity), turns away from the dog and tries to pull the sleeve along with him away from the dog. The dog holds the prey as hard as he can, and is rewarded; meaning, he gets to carry the prey. Inappropriate kindness is shown by this handler, who gives the dog too much leash, rather than holding it tight.





Strengthening the Initial Bite. Here one can also see incorrect handling technique because the leash is slack. The dog's grip is too soft. It is fundamentally wrong to try to pressure the dog to bite by giving him loose leash. Gentle restraint strengthens perseverance, grip, and intensity.

In this series one can see the helper technique during the prey bite very well. The helper challenges the dog just enough, he offers the bite surface optimally, then he turns and pulls away and challenges the dog by twisting the bite surface up.

D. The Attack

Fourth goal: The dog should make prey through a well targeted jump and a firm grip.

The primary exercise in prey drive promotion is the attack. One can start this exercise as soon as the dog shows a hard initial bite on leash. Aside from drive promotion it also serves to teach the dog proper attacking technique. This is very important, because if a dog doesn't develop the proper technique to pounce and bite, he can hurt or injure himself, which would be a sure setback in his work.

The handler crouches down with the dog and holds him by the collar. The helper stimulates the dog at a distance of about five to ten meters, he stands facing the dog. On a signal by the helper (i.e. raising the stick hand) the handler releases the dog. At the same time the helper moves laterally away from the dog, he cocks his arm



(with sleeve) to a horizontal position, making sure that the dog can grab the sleeve properly on his first attempt. It is important that the helper compensates for the dog's initial clumsiness. If the attack is good and the bite is hard, the helper slips the sleeve right away. The handler leashes up the dog and the dog can carry away his prey.

If the dog shows deficiencies in his initial bite, we can on one hand work the dog again on leash as before, or we can continue to practise the attack, but the dog doesn't immediately win his prey, instead the helper turns away from the bite of the dog (prey moves away from dog) and tries in this way to pull the prey away from the dog. As before, remember to demand enough from the dog, but not too much. If the helper is able to pull the prey away from the dog, he flees immediately wiggling the sleeve and giving the dog a new chance to bite it. In that case, the dog wins his prey right away. Over time this exercise is altered in a way that the dog isn't attacking a laterally escaping prey, but he learns to attack "into" the helper. To accomplish this the dog is stimulated as before, but the helper remains frontal to the dog and offers the sleeve horizontally across his chest. It is important that the helper catches the dog softly by letting his body "give" backwards and slightly sideways. The helper should make sure that the dog makes his prey by attacking properly.



The Attack. Initially, the dog attacks the fleeing helper from the side. The helper presents a high bite target, catching the dog leaning backwards while still backing away. The attack is immediately rewarded; meaning, as he is gently setting the dog down on all four legs, he already slips the sleeve and the dog gets to carry. By observing the lamppost and the blind, one can clearly see the backwards movement by the helper.





***The Attack.** Soon one lets the dog attack a helper who is facing him frontally. Here too one can see how the helper leans back while catching the dog, moves backwards and sets the dog down on his feet.*



E. Teaching the Dog to Fight ("Shaking Prey to Death")

Fifth goal: The dog must learn that he can make prey by "shaking the prey to death".

In dogs with very strong drives and in some insecure dogs it is relatively easy to provoke the dog into the "shaking-to-death" behaviour. In other dogs however that might not be possible until they reach an age of about 15 months. Among other things only heavy defense drive promotion will cause the dog to counter (see under defense drive promotion). Should a dog already show this desirable reaction through the prey drive promotion up to this point, then one should always react to it, by either letting the dog win the prey or by letting the sleeve arm become limp and lifeless. If one



does not react to the dog's behavioural response, one can easily cause insecurity in the dog, since it is in all likelihood his first defensive reaction (remember: unaffected tolerance of aggression causes insecurity!), or at the very least the dog learns that this type of behaviour doesn't get him anywhere. Often dogs which have been made unsure in this manner display very hectic biting (mouthing, travelling) on the sleeve. If the shaking is always reinforced, by letting the dog reach his drive goal, the dog will learn that he can make prey by shaking. He will then learn to overcome other types of stress, introduced later in training, this way (compare: channelling defense drive into prey drive).

If the dog doesn't display this type of behaviour on his own, then we must teach him that he can make prey by shaking: To do this one lets the dog bite on leash. After his initial bite the helper does not release the sleeve, instead he simulates "dead" prey by relaxing the sleeve and at the same time turning away from the dog, so that the dog ends up behind him. For some time things should remain calm, during this the handler tightens the leash. Then the helper tries to pull away the prey by slowly flexing his arm. Dogs with strong prey drive will show the shaking to death right away, and should immediately reach their drive goal by being allowed to carry away their prey. Some dogs won't react by shaking in this exercise, instead they tug. I always reinforce this behaviour as well, because to me the most important thing is that the dog reacts at all.

In this manner, I once taught a dog to constantly re-bite, which afterwards I didn't like at all. But from this example one can see how exactly a dog's learning follows the laws of instrumental conditioning: the behaviour which leads to the drive goal is learned and becomes a preferred action.



Learning to Fight. From the prey position the dog is forced into the defense position (2), by having the helper turn towards the dog. He rewards the dog when the slightest defense reaction is shown.



1



2



5



6



3



4

Learning to Fight. In very secure or lethargic dogs the countering can be achieved by rubbing the stick on his legs, by blowing in his face, by staring at him, or by hitting him. When hitting, the most important thing is not the pain, but the fact that the helper is fighting back. One realizes this, since defense behaviour is easier triggered by using a branch with leaves on it than by just hitting with a stick. At this stage of training stick hits do more harm than good anyways.

In this series one can see, how the dog is pressured more and more by being challenged and stressed, until he finally counters: The helper tries to pull the prey away, but the dog holds on (1-2), the helper turns towards the dog, to force him from the prey- into the defense position (3-4), he then increases stress by rubbing on his legs (5-6). When the dog counters, he is rewarded. If the dog already counters in picture #3, one should naturally reward him at this point.

If this exercise of "playing dead" and then reviving the prey does not lead to the desired shaking, then we can teach the dog to shake

through defensive reactions. From the position in which the dog hangs behind the helper ("prey position") the dog is forced in front of the helper ("defense position") as the helper turns towards the dog and assumes a threatening posture. Somewhat insecure dogs will counter at this point, and by doing so will reach their drive goal. Here they already learn how to defend themselves and by doing so can overcome their insecurities.

If this method also doesn't lead to the desired shaking, then other insecurities of the dog will have to be exploited. For example, the helper forces the dog from the prey situation (sleeve behind the helper, tugging against the dog) into the defense situation (the dog in front of the helper, sleeve cocked across the helper's chest) and provokes avoidance behaviour by brushing the stick over the dog's legs or by blowing in the dog's face, etc.. If the dog displays the desired behaviour, he is reinforced (see defense drive promotion).

As I said before, in some dogs which are weak in prey drive but are relatively secure one cannot provoke the shaking to death in prey drive. At the same time they won't display defense reactions until later, when the defense drive has matured or once the dog has received training in defense drive promotion.

F. The Goal of Prey Drive Promotion

The goal of prey drive promotion has been reached when the dog, as soon as he sees the helper with a sleeve, demands his prey by pulling on the leash or by barking. When he is sent to attack, he must attack the helper fast and without hesitation, bite hard, and hold his grip as the helper holds his arm relaxed and turns away, while tugging lightly away from the dog. If the helper tries to challenge the dog for the prey by pulling stronger on the sleeve, the dog must shake, he then wins the sleeve and gets to carry it away.

How one achieves a good attack, a firm grip, and shaking I explained in the previous sections. At this point, I feel it is important to demand that the helper, during prey drive promotion, gets away from always playing the active role during stimulation. The goal of all the work should, among other things, be that the dog incites action in the helper. Therefore, the helper should always already be on the training field or at least be in a blind when the dog is led onto the field for protection work. As soon as the dog detects the helper and challenges him, the helper has to be flushed out and the prey must move frantically. The strong stimulation of the dog in the beginning is considered help and it must be eliminated. In the end the dog must flush the helper from the blind, then he is sent to attack and the dog is allowed to make prey. As soon as the dog drops the prey, the helper begins to challenge the dog for it. The

handler holds the dog in such a way that he is just short of reaching the sleeve, the helper picks up the sleeve in order to be able to give the dog another bite. After two to four bite exercises the dog is allowed to carry the prey off the field.

Therefore, the whole scene during protection work should be full of tension and excitement, as long as the dog works only in prey mode. Calmness should only occur, but then it must, while the dog carries the sleeve. It is also detrimental to let the dog dawdle around the field before or after protection work, or to even let him have opportunity to repeatedly play with the sleeve or see the helper. All who have read the chapters in the theoretical part, will know, that prey drive is subject to stimulus and action specific exhaustion, and that one can therefore only expect heightened appetite behaviour if the drive is as unsatisfied as possible. The presence of trigger stimuli alone causes this exhaustion.

From the laws of stimulus summation one can also deduce that the dog should only be exposed to stimuli such as training field, helper, and sleeve if the dog will actually do bite work. According to the laws of classical conditioning, the dog will already feel heightened prey drive appetite simply by walking onto the training field; this appetite is increased again as soon as he sees helper and sleeve. Through this method it is relatively easy to turn the dog into the agitator and turn the helper into the reactive "puppet".

Finally, I would like to suggest a training method which I practise again and again, I consider it the foundation exercise for prey drive promotion: I stand, in this case as a helper, in the blind as the dog is led onto the field. The handler stops at a distance of about 20 meters, takes the dog off leash but holds him by the collar while squatting down. I get the dog's attention by making little noises. Once the dog notices me and challenges me, I bolt frantically out of the blind, give the dog a bit more prey stimulation, and then let him be sent to attack. I let the dog attack me high and while facing me, I catch him carefully, turn away from the dog, and tug lightly on the sleeve. The handler attaches the leash and puts tension into the leash. After a brief calm period, I provoke the dog to counter, the dog shakes, he wins the prey and gets to carry it in a circle around the field. The dog is stopped at a distance of about ten meters from me (the helper), as soon as he drops the sleeve, I challenge him for it, or at times I just snatch it away. The next bite exercise starts immediately afterwards. During the last bite the dog is put on leash and gets to carry the prey off the field.

Chapter II

Defense Drive Promotion (Increasing aggression against the helper)

Defense drive promotion is considerably more difficult than prey drive promotion, from a helper's standpoint. Because, as I already mentioned in the theoretical part, defense- and avoidance behaviour have an antagonistic relationship. If a dog displays defense behaviour, the helper must always act impressed. Quite often it goes undetected that a dog is already showing defense behaviour. This will inevitably lead to frustration in the dog, which will in turn cause insecurity. Defensive behaviour can be motivated by different factors: Either the dog defends an object (prey), or he defends himself against the helper. As mentioned earlier, the defense drive matures later; however, once defense drive against the helper has been awakened, it can usually never be extinguished again. Therefore, it is important for the training to include defense drive promotion at just the right time. Since a dog should on one hand learn how he can defend his prey, and on the other hand how he can defend himself against the helper (in other words since his whole self confidence should be strengthened), it is of great importance not to let avoidance behaviour occur during defense drive promotion. I therefore believe, that a dog must have learned the hold and bark exercise before any major defense drive promotion takes place. It should be obvious that a dog cannot be taken into a Schutzhund trial until he has also been worked in defense drive, even if he learned all the protection phase trial elements almost exclusively through prey drive work. Otherwise protection work is reduced to a prey game, and the dog is not sufficiently prepared to overcome real adversity (such as: a strange field or a strange helper).

To state it in very clear terms: Defense drive promotion does not mean to make a dog insecure, but to show him on one hand how he can overcome insecurities, on the other hand how he can counter against adversities. Here too, the dog learns according to the laws of instrumental conditioning: Actions which lead to success are given preference.

A. Raising Psychological Stress by Challenging for the Prey and by Exploiting Insecurities

First goal: The dog has to learn how he can intimidate the

helper who is challenging him for his prey and how he can meet psychological and physical stress head on.

The first kind of defense drive promotion is based exclusively on the object oriented defense reaction of the dog; meaning, the dog has to learn that he can intimidate the helper, who is challenging him for his prey, by countering. Now the attentive reader knows what I was trying to say when I mentioned in the chapter on prey drive promotion that the challenging and the provoking of the shaking-to-death are connected to the defense drive. In the area of defense drive promotion the challenging has to happen much more intensely. Indeed, the insecurities of the dog are exploited to the brink of avoidance behaviour. But since the antagonist of avoidance behaviour is defense behaviour, one can produce defense behaviour by causing momentary insecurity in the dog, this then appears in the form of "countering". After that the dog must be reinforced in prey drive, meaning, he must be able to win the sleeve by countering.

In order to promote the dog's defense drive in this manner, the helper must determine the dog's insecurities. Some dogs become unsure if one rubs the stick against their legs, others if one pulls them through bushes, again others by patting them with leafcovered branches, or when one presses one's knee against their lower jaw while they are biting the sleeve. Also the knocking over of blinds stresses a lot of dogs. There are no limitations to the imagination of the helper. The most important principle is as always to stress the dog enough, but not too much; meaning, the dog must be pushed to his limit, then he will counter, then he can be reinforced in prey drive. This type of work has three distinct advantages: First, the dog overcomes his insecurities; second, he learns to handle psychological but also physical types of stress; and third, protection work becomes significantly more intense. Aside from the phenomenon of stimulus summation, the defense drive strengthens protection work, since it can always be activated, just like avoidance behaviour.

A training exercise could for example be: The handler holds his dog on leash, the helper gives next to no stimulation, and lets the dog bite without a lot of action. Here the dog's bite will be relatively weak. The helper tries to pull the sleeve out of the dog's mouth, but only hard enough so that the dog can still hold on. Immediately, the helper forces the dog in front of him and rubs the stick over his front legs (if that is what makes the dog unsure). As soon as the dog counters he wins the sleeve. I cannot emphasize enough that in this exercise the dog is the one who determines what happens. Should the dog show a tremendously "overpowering" first bite, or he

counters already when the helper tries to force the sleeve into a frontal position, one naturally has to reinforce this behaviour right then. Only once the dog has learned to counter confidently, can the helper reciprocate the dog's counter and create even more stress by not reinforcing the dog until he counters a second time.

B. Defending Against the Helper

Second goal: The dog has to learn, that he can defend himself against the helper by attacking and biting. The inhibitions concerning the helper as a person should be eliminated.

This method of defense drive promotion takes place in three levels, where the last one, the most intense form of defense drive promotion, should only be done with mature confident dogs; under no circumstances should a dog be younger than 15 to 18 months, because in it, the dog is faced with open aggression. As opposed to the first two levels, where he is only threatened.



Defense Stimulation. A dog without defense drive experience who has had some prey drive promotion reacts confused when the helper approaches slowly without using any movement to stimulate him. As soon as the helper starts to threaten at the edge of the flight distance (staring, threatening posture), the dog reacts in defense drive. The dog is reinforced in his defense behaviour through the immediate flight of the helper. In this series one can clearly see how the reinforcement (=flight) brings the dog forward.

1. Threatening Dog and Handler

The handler enters the field and sqats down beside his dog, whom he is holding by the collar. The helper walks towards them without a care, he is not wearing a sleeve but only protective pants, he acts as if he doesn't even know they are there. At a distance of about 15 meters (flight distance!) he suddenly spots them, he startles and stops, then he crouches but flares himself out to appear wide, and threatens. From this moment on he stares (!) at the dog constantly, as he moves in a semicircle back and forth in front of the dog, slowly moving closer. The helper must have a threatening but also frightened appearance, as if he wants to do harm to the dog, but he is scared of him at the same time. The handler backs his dog up by encouraging him confidently and decisively to defend himself. Here too, the helper has to stress the dog through threatening only so much as to not push him into avoidance behaviour. If the dog shows any kind of defensive reaction, the helper takes off and runs out of sight.

If a dog was previously worked in prey drive, he often isn't intimidated by threatening and he will bark at the helper demandingly, which has nothing to do with defense behaviour. The



helper should ignore this and continue to approach the dog more boldly. A short distance from the dog, the helper simulates an attack on the dog (critical distance!) during which he might inflict light pain, then he flees out of sight. As soon as the helper is out of sight, the handler praises the dog and leads him off the field.



Defense Stimulation of a Back-tied Dog. The passive dog is activated in his defense drive through threatening, the reinforcement "builds" the dog up tremendously.

2. Threatening the Back-tied Dog on his Own

In this exercise the dog is back-tied and the handler remains out of the dog's sight. The dog therefore must depend on himself and defend himself. The helper once again creates the same stimulation, if the dog shows a defense reaction, the helper flees out of sight. It is important to reinforce the very first defensive reaction the dog shows; even if the helper barely has a chance to threaten, he must flee immediately when the dog defends himself.

Here too, the helper must recognize how far he can push the dog without challenging the dog too much or too little. The dog must be stressed during this work, but he should under no circumstance be pushed into avoidance behaviour. If it is difficult to elicit defensive behaviour from a dog, usually insecure gesturing has more success than threatening.

Once the helper is out of sight, the handler returns to the dog, leashes him up and takes him off the field.

3. Countering Defense Behaviour or Attacking the Dog

With increasing confidence the dog can be stressed more and more until a short fight takes place at a distance. Here the helper approaches the dog, who is again back-tied and relying only on himself, without threatening him. The helper may even pretend to be friendly. Once he is within two meters of the dog (critical distance!), he simulates an attack on the dog, during which he may inflict some pain on him if necessary. If the dog displays defense behaviour, the helper startles and jumps back, pretends to be



impressed for a moment, but then simulates another, a bit more tentative attack. If the dog shows increased defense behaviour, the helper flees out of sight.

As I explained in the theoretical part, aside from threatening, open aggression can also trigger defense behaviour (careful avoidance behaviour, too). The heaviest form of defense drive promotion, during which only older dogs (15 - 18 months at the earliest) counter confidently, is the actual attack on the dog by the helper. The helper approaches as before, but this time he doesn't simulate an attack, but he actually attacks the dog. Here it might be a good technique to lightly kick the dog in the shoulder musculature and thereby giving him opportunity to bite the protective pants. If the dog takes a bite, the helper tries to flee immediately by trying to pull his leg away in a constant flapping motion. As soon as the dog's bite slips, the helper flees full of panic out of sight. The handler quickly returns to the dog leashes him up, praises him and leads him off the field.

As a result of defense work the helper becomes a constant threat for the dog, and the dog will feel psychological stress every time he sees the helper. It is important, in order to maintain this agitated state, to only have the dog on leash or heeling strictly whenever he is in the presence of the helper. From now on the handler also takes on an important role during protection work, because he has to make it clear to the dog through obedience when he is allowed to show defense behaviour against the helper and when he is not. This will help to avoid letting the dog become an overstimulated bundle of nerves. In some dogs I have noticed quite negative side effects. After heavy defense drive promotion they "fired off" at anyone who approached them head on. This can be brought under control quickly, as the handler lets the dog know where his boundaries are;



1



2



5

The Simulated Attack. Pictures 1-2 show that the dog feels somewhat overpowered (the leash is slack), because the helper approaches the dog confidently. Slight backing off by the helper in picture #3 reassures the dog, the leash tightens. Picture #4 shows a timid simulated attack, which the dog counters confidently. This picture deceives a bit, since the dog doesn't actually get to bite, and the helper is not really attacking. In picture #5, the helper rewards the dog's defense behaviour.

through this the dog will learn to differentiate in which situations defense behaviour is permitted and in which it is inappropriate. Since we all want a fairly social dog it is helpful to quickly discipline the dog in such instances and then take him off the leash so he can be greeted by the stranger.

C. Channelling Defense Behaviour into Prey Drive

We all know that dogs which savagely snap and bark at everything in sight are disqualified, and rightly so. It is therefore important that the dog learns to utilize his defense behaviour properly. The dog has to be taught to use his defense drive in order to satisfy his prey drive.

To explain it in terms of behavioural theory, the process unfolds as follows: Specific drive energies are pent-up and their release is channelled into an action, which isn't even natural in this particular



situation, as a relief reaction - also called artificial transference (or displacement).

To apply this process practically it looks like this: the dog is stimulated in defense drive, and while he is held back by the handler, defense drive energy builds up. The helper then allows him to bite and make prey.

So, after defense drive promotion, drive promotion in general takes place in a different manner than before. From now on the dog is stimulated mainly through defense drive stimuli, such as threatening, simulated attacks, or real attacks. Furthermore, the dog won't be worked exclusively in prey situations anymore (the dog behind the helper, the helper tugging on the prey), instead, the dog is forced in front of the helper during the bite and is threatened. If the dog counters stresses of physical or psychological nature, he is reinforced in prey drive. He fights for and wins the sleeve by countering, and gets to carry it off. It is also important in this training method that defense reactions of the dog are not ignored, so that he won't be made unsure. At least the stress should end when the dog counters, and the prey should appear dead during this prey situation; meaning, the sleeve arm should be relaxed, not tense. Although the helper can himself try to counter against a confident dog, the countering should be a constant back and forth between helper and dog.

In conclusion, I would like to mention that defense drive work brings with it the distinct advantage that a dog can always be turned on (compare defense drive in the theoretical part), and the sight of the individual who is the helper stimulates the dog. The great danger in defense drive promotion is that along with it one always deals with the possibility of avoidance behaviour. Only dogs who have the sufficient genetic and developmental foundation endure this work without negative side effects, become more confident and therefore better.



1



2



5



6



Attack on the Handler. The leash remains tight. After the initial bite the helper reassures the dog by trying to flee fearfully. The helper struggles backwards when the dog bites him frontally.



Attack on the Dog. Picture #1 shows confident defense behaviour, which is reinforced by the helper's backing off in picture #2 (very important!). Pictures 3-5 show the attack by the helper, which is countered by the dog. Pictures 6-7 show the reinforcement by the helper, who tries to flee full of fear.







The Courage Test. A dog fully developed in his defense drive, with the proper genetics, doesn't necessarily look for the sleeve in the courage test, even though he usually bites the sleeve if it is easily reachable.

Chapter III

Training

A. The Hold and Bark

The most effective way to teach the hold and bark is to use prey work as a foundation. The dog has to learn that he can flush out a helper, who is standing in the blind, by barking, and consequently make prey. The dog learns a direct action to reach his drive goal, the bark takes on a very demanding tone. If one practices the hold and bark with a dog who bites primarily out of defense drive motivation, then one has to activate the defense behaviour's antagonist - avoidance behaviour. The dog experiences a drive conflict (see the theoretical part) of extreme psychological stress. Causing deeper insecurities, but also greater hardness is hard to avoid. All kinds of



1



2



5



6



9



10



3



4



7



8

The First Hold and Bark on Leash. The helper stimulates the dog in prey drive (1-2), while the helper runs to the blind, the dog is sent after him with the search and bark command (2-3), the handler allows the dog to come very close to the helper, but holds him back through a leash pop (4-6), the dog barks and chases up the prey (6), the dog gets more leash when he takes the bite (7), he is rewarded and gets to carry (8-10).

undirected substitute behaviours (barking, scenting, scratching, yawning, and pacing around) are often the inevitable result. Because of this unavoidable stress situation the dog's ability to learn is seriously impaired. In good dogs this exercise usually becomes a problem, because the provocation of avoidance behaviour inevitably activates the defense behaviour even more strongly. This is also the reason why the hold and bark exercise should be mastered fairly well before the dog is worked too far in defense drive. The following methods can be used:

1. Blocking Access with the Leash

The handler holds his dog on leash, the helper stimulates the dog and runs to the blind. The helper stands outside the blind so that the dog can see him, he remains still and with the sleeve alongside his body. As soon as the helper is about five meters from the blind, the dog is sent on leash with the search and bark command after the helper, but the handler doesn't quite let the dog reach the helper. The dog will try to make prey, but the handler prevents him from doing so by restraining him with the leash. The dog now stands on a tight leash, choking himself with his collar to the point where he couldn't bark even if he tried. Therefore the handler has to slowly relax the leash. If the dog tries to attack the helper, he gets a pop with the leash and the command to bark. The leash is immediately relaxed again. At the same time as the leash is popped the helper once again stimulates the dog by taking on tense body posture and hinting escape behaviour ("fearful shivering"). The dog is prevented from making prey through short leash pops. Through prey drive appetite and strong stimulation the dog is under strong nervous tension, which has to be relieved through some arbitrary substitute behaviour. As soon as the substitute behaviour - barking - (light or high pitched barks are sufficient in the beginning) is shown, the dog can reach his drive goal. On the first bark sound the helper jerks the sleeve up in front of his body, the dog gets to bite, wins the prey, and gets to carry it away. During this the handler has to be careful not to jerk on the dog's leash as he (the dog) lunges at the sleeve. After only a few practise sessions the dog will have grasped that barking leads to his drive goal, and he will soon use this action very directed. This exercise should not be repeated more than once, because barking becomes difficult for the dog when he becomes physically tired. Furthermore, it has been found advantageous to follow this exercise up with an attack exercise, so the dog can learn to differentiate between the two situations. I would also like to add that the hold and bark exercise shouldn't be practised nearly as much as the attack exercise. Also, one should only practise the hold and bark once the attack has become very proficient.

Longer Barking on Leash. The leash must be slack.



2. Blocking Access through the Helper

Once the dog has learned to bark purposefully to reach his drive goal, he is sent off leash to do the hold and bark. The handler holds his dog back by the collar and the helper stimulates him again briefly. Then he runs to the blind and positions himself in front of it. When the helper has almost reached the blind, the handler sends the dog off leash after him, with the search and bark command. The helper denies the dog the prey by blocking it with his body. A triangular blind is most suitable for this exercise, as the helper is able to hide the sleeve behind his body. Through slight blocking with his body or the knees and simultaneous stimulation one is quickly able to entice the dog into using the success bringing bark. As soon as the first barking sound is audible, the helper once again jerks the sleeve in front of his chest, the dog can reach his drive goal by biting and pulling down the prey, he then gets to carry it away and is leashed up.



Hold and Bark. The helper draws the dog closely in front of himself through stimulation (which unfortunately is not visible in this photo series). The dog jumps on the helper and demands the prey by barking, he is rewarded immediately.



Blocking Access through by the Helper.
The helper hides the prey between the lamppost and his body. Through stimulation the helper positions the dog in front of himself. The dog barks and chases up the prey, he bites, and the helper rewards him by slipping the sleeve.



3. Letting the Dog Break through

If one practises the above exercise several times very consistently in succession, the dog will soon cease to attack, instead he will start barking immediately. I don't think that is ideal, because the dog should already be "fighting" during the hold and bark. The longer the dog is left with the uncertainty of whether he has to bark or whether he is allowed to attack, the stronger and more forceful he

will learn to bark. Therefore, I don't teach dogs the hold and bark in four training sessions, which would probably be possible, instead I deliberately stretch the learning process over several months. Just as the dog shows signs that he might not attack right away, I stimulate him to the point where he will break through and give him the opportunity to do so. In this case he is rewarded just as if he had barked first. Furthermore, one should practise the exercise in a way that the dog gets to bite just as the helper reaches the blind. Through this the dog will learn that it is not biting in the blind which is taboo, but instead that a helper who stands still should only be barked at. One is often surprised at all the things the dog learns; he often learns things we didn't even intend for him to learn.

4. Fending off

Before one starts this exercise, it is advisable to work the dog somewhat in defense of prey motivation. After the motto that "a little fight spurs the desire", this exercise accomplishes two goals; the dog practises the hold and bark and at the same time experiences defense drive promotion. This usually leads to a harder bite and more intense prey-making after some initial, slight unsureness. In this case, avoidance behaviour has no detrimental effects, because the dog has already learned how he can be successful in the blind.

The dog is once again sent off leash to do a hold and bark, the helper holds the sleeve across his hip and remains motionless. If the dog bites the sleeve, the helper beats him off the sleeve with his fist, then starts immediately to stimulate him again. If the dog barks, he gets to bite immediately, the helper doesn't release the sleeve, instead he simulates dead prey (arm relaxed), pulls the dog into the defense position (in front of his body), simulates another hit, but instead pets the dog's head and releases the prey as soon as the dog counters. With this method the helper right away helps the dog overcome the potential problem of hand-and stick-shyness.

5. Reduction of Aids and Practising Additional Difficulties

After the dog has experienced the fending off a few times, the hold and bark is pretty much mastered. The dog has adopted the hold and bark as a fighting technique which he uses, without being insecure, to challenge the helper. This exercise should also not be practised too rigidly; it is advisable from time to time to let the dog bite immediately in the blind. Once one can be sure that the dog has adopted the hold and bark as a fighting technique, one starts to

reduce the amount of help the dog receives, slight variations are practised, and the barking is prolonged. For example, the stimulation by the stationary helper becomes less and less, and should only appear if the barking is weak; or the helper holds the sleeve horizontally across his body for a change. One also practises the approach by the handler; the handler steps beside the dog, strokes him briefly, then steps back again. If the dog breaks through during this exercise, the handler can correct his dog by grabbing him by the scruff of his neck and shaking him; he releases the dog immediately and the helper provokes him to bark. All these variations should remain exceptions, normally the dog gets to bite after the hold and bark. It is also wrong to always require the dog to bark as long as possible. Even if the dog has become a steady barker, the helper should from time to time let him bite on the first bark.

The stimulation by the stationary helper should only occur in a manner in which to the dog the helper is still clearly standing motionless. Body tension, light shivering in the shoulders, and hissing are sufficient and don't blur the situation. Every helper should take the time to observe a cat and learn from her how she keeps a dog at bay, once she is cornered.

B. The "OUT"-Exercise

Most dogs who refuse to out do so because they are afraid of what happens after they do. Since they didn't learn how to deal with the helper when they are not biting, they experience extreme psychological stress, which they prefer to avoid by not letting go in the first place. Only very few dogs don't out because of their strong fighting drive, with them the handler usually doesn't have enough authority which stems from inconsistent training. I consider it good training to teach the dog to do a hold and bark after the out, since the dog has on one hand already learned that behaviour, on the other hand it gives him the opportunity to relieve his pent-up aggression by barking. He therefore doesn't experience a drive build up which makes him break through again. After all, he has adopted the hold and bark on the motionless helper as a directed form of combat.

1. Outing the Dead Prey

The voice command "out" is taught to the dog by the handler on the conquered prey. For example, when the dog carries the sleeve on leash after the attack exercise, the handler stops him and gives him, at the very moment the dog is ready to drop the sleeve on his own,

the voice command "out". Once the dog lets go, the handler praises him but doesn't give him a chance to bite the sleeve again. During all of this, the helper remains passive. Then the handler takes the sleeve and throws it to the helper; protection work continues. Once the dog has learned the voice command "out", the handler gives the command earlier on. After the dog has carried, the handler tells him to "out" before the dog drops the sleeve on his own. In the beginning, the handler uses mild compulsion, by repeating the command with more emphasis. Later, the compulsion is escalated to a leash jerk without further repetition of the voice command. It has proven to be advantageous to step on the sleeve with one foot and to administer the leash-jerk with both hands. Once the dog lets go, he is praised in a calm manner. The helper remains passive and waits until the handler has thrown him the sleeve. In this exercise, it is also advisable not to come down too hard on the dog, or to demand perfection, so he doesn't start being unsure of himself while he is still biting. Furthermore, the compulsion should not be applied at the same time as the voice command, but about a second later, so the dog has the opportunity to obey. Once the dog releases in response to the verbal command alone, the exercise can be practised on the helper.

2. In the Blind on Leash

The handler has his dog on leash and the helper lets him take a bite. He tries to pull the prey away from the dog by running into the blind. In the blind the helper exudes calmness, he brings the sleeve in front of himself a bit off to the side and lets the dog vent his aggression. After a short pause, the handler gives the command "out" and if the dog disobeys uses compulsion in the form of a leash jerk. As soon as the dog lets go, the typical blind hold and bark situation is created: the stationary helper stimulates the dog and by doing so provokes him to bark, while the handler prevents the dog from attacking with leash pops. On the first bark, the helper jerks the sleeve up to his chest, lets the dog bite, and the dog wins the prey. The handler praises the dog and lets him carry the sleeve. Whenever the handler uses compulsion, he must be very sensitive to the dog. Just like during the hold and bark on leash, the leash pops should be as soft as possible and only as hard as absolutely necessary to prevent forcing the dog into avoidance behaviour.

3. In the Blind off Leash

Once the dog no longer needs physical compulsion to out and releases on the voice command alone and begins to bark promptly, then we can practise the above exercise off leash. So, the dog practises the attack, the helper pulls him into the blind, allows the situation to become calm, and after a short pause the handler gives the command "out". It makes sense to practise this exercise in combination with the attack in the blind exercise. Since the helper can distinctly feel in the dog's grip when he is ready to let go, he should give the handler a signal when to use the "out" command. As soon as the dog lets go, the helper quickly pulls the sleeve behind his back, and by doing so blocks the prey. The dog will immediately jump at the helper, but since he is being blocked he will start to bark. Now it is important that the helper rewards the dog at the moment he barks at the helper, preferably in the sitting position. Many dogs start sitting on their own, as it is a type of lurking (prey) position. The more intense the dog is in this situation, which depends largely on the helper's actions, and the more strongly his prey drive is motivated, the more the dog will behave in a lurking manner in front of the helper. If the laws of instrumental conditioning are used very accurately and consistently, the dog will learn quickly how he can reach his drive goal. I consider it advisable not to let the dog dance around in front of the helper, as he might use his energy for movement instead of barking. Here it is important to observe every dog's individuality, if a dog tends to jump and bark at the same time, I wouldn't try to change that behaviour.

Once the helper finally gets a demanding and challenging bark, and he doesn't need to influence the dog through stimulation and blocking any longer to keep him from dancing around, he stands perfectly still after the "out" command is given. Now we practise the handler's approach as we did during the hold and bark. If the helper notices that the dog is somehow distracted, he will depending on the level of drive promotion, either let the dog bite (prey bite), or attack the dog (defense drive!).



4. Without Backcover

Once the dog is steadily barking and lurking in front of the helper, and once the handler can approach without distracting the dog, we can do without the blind as backcover.

Generally speaking, the handler has to ensure the dog's release through the use of compulsion (force). It doesn't matter if the compulsion is in the form of a leash jerk (long or short) or by shaking the dog by the scruff of the neck ("flying objects" are not suitable, because they distract), it has to happen very briefly, and afterwards the dog has to be able to position himself off leash (or unrestrained) in front of the helper again. Fending off by the helper is in this case not appropriate, because at this level of training he has already had his defense drive strengthened and he should have increased self confidence; meaning, that he should counter any pressure from the helper.



Outing with Backcover. The helper goes into the blind while the dog is biting. He calms things down, the voice command "out" is given, and the dog eventually, with helper assistance, starts to bark. The handler steps up to him, praises him without distracting him, and steps back again. The dog is rewarded.

The helper should concentrate 100% on the dog, when he is ready to let go, he signals the handler. Afterwards he makes sure the dog stays as intense as possible (with as little help as possible!). If the dog shows the desired behaviour, he is rewarded through "prey biting", winning the sleeve, and carrying it away. The helper works completely independent; even if one practises the approach by the handler, the helper can reward the dog before the handler arrives, for example, if he notices that the dog is letting himself be distracted. As soon as the dog has mastered the out- exercise, I would, whenever the dog is being handled according to trial regulations, always step beside the dog, tell him to sit, and tell the helper to step back. So that the dog doesn't even get used to looking for the approaching handler.



1



2



5



6



9



10



3



4



7



8

This series once again shows all the important components of a bite exercise with a dog who has been trained up to this level. Catching up with the helper and the ensuing high attack (1-2), the helper catches the dog and turns away from him (prey biting)(3-4), the helper counters against the dog and acts impressed by the dog's own counter (defense drive promotion)(5-6), things calm down (7-8), the handler has given the command "out" (9), the dog does a hold and bark (10).

C. The Blind Search

The blind search is taught to the dog only after the Schutzhund I level has been achieved. Like all exercises it is made up of a learning stage, a drive promotion stage, and an obedience stage. The blind search can only be taught on a field where the dog has a clear view: meaning, the dog cannot learn a clear blind search on a field cluttered with apparatuses and jumps. A meadow and portable blinds provide the best situation for successful training. The dog must be able to recognize the blinds as obvious targets.

1. Directing Focus to the Blinds

The dog must learn that when it comes to protection work he will find the helper in a blind, from which he can flush him by barking. It is advantageous for the handler to put the dog in the mood for protection work through some trigger, so the dog knows what situation he is in while he is still heeling. Some handlers do so by stronger voice commands or compulsion, others are able to make the dog very intense through commands like "watch", if the dog hasn't already recognized the situation. Here we can learn from riders in equestrian events, they also try to "collect" the horse before entering the course. If the handler always performs the same "rituals" when going into protection work, the dog will, after the laws of classical conditioning, feel the appropriate appetite because of these rituals.

The first thing the dog has to learn is that the helper is always hiding in the blind to which the handler points. To do this, the handler and dog line up with the blind that has the helper in it. The handler holds the dog by the collar, faces the blind, extends his arm in its direction, and tries to focus the dog on the blind. The helper steps out of the blind, stimulates the dog briefly, and jumps back into the blind. At this instant, the dog is sent with the search and bark command off leash to do a hold and bark. It is now the helper's job to make the dog do a hold and bark right away through stimulating and blocking in a way, that makes the dog take on the most desirable hold and bark position. If the dog is clean during the hold and bark, which one should hope at this stage, it is best to motivate the dog more with defense type rather than prey type stimulation, so that he is very intense when he is sent to do the hold and bark, and as a result will bark promptly. Throughout this the helper has to react with hinted flight behaviour, as soon as the dog begins to bark; meaning, he (the helper) shows insecurity. It goes without saying

that these types of help are reduced over the course of the training as soon as possible. After the dog barks briefly, he gets to bite and is rewarded in his prey drive; he can fight for and win the sleeve and carry it away.

It is important in this type of work that in each session it is only repeated as long as the dog is fresh and physically able to do so. Furthermore, one should always use a different blind. It is also wrong to always make the dog bark as long as possible. After doing a long hold and bark, the dog should also get the chance to bite on the first bark. It is recommended, not to draw the hold and bark out at all, since the main emphasis of this training is the blind search.

2. Instilling Confidence, until the Dog Searches Swiftly

After the above exercise has been practised several times, the dog is sent to the blind with the helper in it, without getting to see him first. The handler holds the dog by the collar again and focuses him on the blind. Only when the dog is definitely looking at the blind, should the handler give the search and bark command and send the dog; he may run with him for a few steps if necessary. If the dog doesn't run at it swiftly, the helper stimulates the dog as much as necessary. The behaviour of the helper in the blind remains the same as in the previous exercise, he has to make sure the dog goes into a hold and bark right away. Although the helper should strive to make the situation as close to the way it is in a trial as possible. However, KONRAD MOST already made these qualifying remarks: "The end goal of training is to make all exercises close to a "real life" situation as possible. But, if repetitive "real" scenario exercises cause undesirable associations as far as the training goal is concerned, then they must be restricted to very occasional use." In dogs with strong drives this is usually not a problem, they have learned how to achieve their drive goal in this situation, and demand the prey very quickly and persistently by barking.

In this phase it is important that the dog becomes confident in the fact that the handler always sends him to the right blind, and that he recognizes where the handler is pointing. The handler also has to teach the dog to sit in the heel position off leash while he focuses the dog on a blind, and that he only gets to run off when the bark command is given. The handler also has to be careful that he doesn't send the dog until he concentrates on the proper blind. Under no circumstances should the dog learn that he can run in any direction at his own discretion. Because we want to avoid

compulsion as much as possible in this phase, the handler should only send the dog when he is certain that the dog will run to the proper blind.

This exercise has to be practiced a long time to give the dog the learning experience that his search is always successful if he watches and follows the handler's signals. Even if the dog is already quivering feverishly in the heel-sit position just waiting to be sent, and even if he focuses on the blind as soon as the handler turns towards it before he even extends his arm, the exercise has to be practised for quite some time, because the dog should also experience an increase in his drives after he has learned the handler's signals, in order to develop to a swift searching technique.

3. Training the Call-back

One can't start practising the call-back until the dog performs the previous exercise adequately. To get started the handler goes near a blind, focuses the dog's attention onto the opposite, empty blind, and sends the dog as soon as he is focused on it with the search and bark command to the empty blind. As soon as the dog reaches the blind, the handler praises the dog and calls him back. The handler cannot tolerate any breaking away by the dog; if the dog disobeys, the handler has to use compulsion (force). In the case where a handler has poor control over his dog, it is advisable to practise this as well as the previous exercise on a long line, so the handler or another person can influence the dog through leash jerks. If a handler has good control over his dog, the handler can use compulsion in the form of harsh voice commands to make him obey. He can also command the dog to down, if he doesn't return to the handler when called. He then goes to the dog, shakes him by the scruff of the neck, runs back to his original position and recalls the dog. As soon as he comes to the handler, he is praised and is put into the heel position. Now the dog has to remain in the "heel-sit" position, then he is focused onto the blind with the helper, then he is sent to do a hold and bark. In this exercise already the dog has to learn that he has to return to the handler at once if he doesn't find the helper in the blind. It is important that the handler always makes the dog heel after he returns to him. If the dog reaches the blind and then returns to the handler again, he should always be praised. Any breaking away by the dog has to be stopped in its infancy.

This exercise should be practised alternating with the exercise where the dog finds the helper in the first blind; predominantly one should practise finding the helper in the first blind though. As a result the dog will be convinced, at least in principle, that the helper is in the first blind.

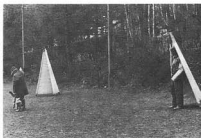
4. The Forced Blind Search

Once the dog views the blinds as distinct targets, and he always waits to be sent by the handler, and he also returns obediently and happily when the handler calls him back from the empty blind, then it is time for him to learn that he has to be obedient not only during the call-back, but that he also has to obey the handler's signals while he is being sent to the blind. The forced blind search is in the beginning best practised on a small field; meaning, that the blinds are not further than 20 meters apart. That way the distance the dog has to run from the handler to each blind is only about 10 meters. Firstly, the dog is easier directed over a short distance, and secondly, the dog won't associate the normal size field with the force training. Even if the dog only trots during the forced search instead of galloping, he will gallop again when he is back on the full size field. The handler walks with his dog onto the imaginary center line of the field; the dog will now watch as the helper goes, without stimulating the dog, into a blind. The handler walks with his dog, heeling off leash, until he is in line with this blind, takes the dog by his collar, and focuses him onto the opposite blind. If the dog doesn't let himself be focused onto that blind, compulsion is used, first weaker (jerking on the collar), later stronger (shaking by the scruff of the neck), to show the dog which blind he has to focus on. Only if the dog accepts the empty blind, is he to be sent with the search command (usually the same as the bark command) and a push in the right direction on the collar; the handler can also run along for a few steps.

Any breaking away by the dog has to be stopped with compulsion, even if the dog has already reached the helper, the handler can still shake him by the scruff of the neck, make him heel, and repeat the exercise. The dog is pressured toward the blind with voice and hand signals until he runs around it. When he does that he is praised and called back to heel. After a short heeling pause, he is focused on the right blind and gets to run towards it with the search and bark command. If the previous exercises were practised for a long enough period of time and with enough attention paid to



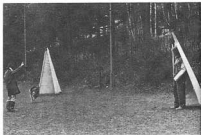
1



2



5



6

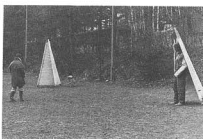


9

The Forced Blind Search. The dog is walked at heel between two blinds (1), he is focused onto the rear blind (2), he is sent (3), the dog is praised "good boy" and called back (4), the handler leaves his arm down to make the dog come close (5), the dog comes close to the handler (6), and is immediately sent on (7), in the blind the helper "takes on" the dog and gets him with some help (stimulating, blocking), to do a sitting hold and bark (8-9). When the desired behaviour is shown, the dog is rewarded.



3



4



7



8

detail, one usually doesn't even need heavy compulsion, and the dog runs willingly to the empty blind. Once this has been accomplished, meaning, the dog knows he has to run to the signalled blind, eventhough he knows there is no helper there, then one should praise the dog as soon as he reaches the blind, call him back, and then without requiring him to stop send him to the helper with the search and bark command, kind of as a reward. Once the dog understands he has to take this detour to get to the helper, he will soon hurry to get around the first blind in order to reach the second. If we then practise the exercises "finding in the first blind" and "finding in the second blind" for some time, the dog will swiftly search the signalled blinds, without showing any negative side-effects from the force training.

Now on one hand, the trainer should strive to maintain high drive during the blind search by letting the dog search successfully, meaning, under normal circumstances the dog finds the helper in one of the first few blinds. On the other hand, he has to continue to

get more control over the dog. This can be achieved by always discouraging breaking away through compulsion, and by always making the dog heel after the call back.

Repeated sending to empty blinds should be practised in the beginning only on a small field. Quick criss-crossing on the field to be searched should only be practised occasionally, and only then, when the dog comes very close to the handler during the call-back and starts to heel on his own. It is advisable to let the dog search swiftly between the first and second, the third and fourth, and the fifth and sixth blind, while making him heel in between, as one walks to line up with each pair of blinds, then focus and send him new each time. If the dog learns in this way to search the opposite blinds in pairs, he later doesn't even try to run directly from the first to the third blind.

But I think those are training nuances which go beyond the framework of this book; because the explanations should only be a description of the basic, methodical exercises and their foundation. I also believe, that no helper will be able to properly train a dog in protection work after merely reading this book, after all, body movements of the helper were only described in only a few brief examples. In spite of this, I hope these explanations are more than what has been available to read about protection training so far.

CONCLUSION

I am sure a lot of dog lovers will laugh that one can write so much about teaching a dog such "nonsense". Some also ridicule this type of training because "the dog won't protect his master anyway while he is out walking in the woods", others will find ammunition for their arguments in which they call dog sport participants fascists and primitive. I won't discuss this problem any further; however, I must admit, that dog sport as a whole has to tolerate these accusations, but that they (the accusations) are not well thought through and pretty superficial.

I am convinced that one can not only participate in dog sports in clear conscience, but that one can even justify it. A predator, like the German Shepherd, has a pretty miserable existence if he doesn't get the chance to act out his drives. TRUMLER also said: "A dog that doesn't have the opportunity to learn and to use his inborn abilities, degenerates in spirit and is a pityful creature." If we don't give the dog the opportunity to act "naturally", we can at least channel his pent-up, specific drive energies into an action, which may not necessarily be "natural" in the particular situation, as a relief reaction; in other words, an artificial transference (displacement). Dog training offers a good opportunity for the dog to relieve tension. If one has fun dealing with dogs, and the reason is not to compensate for one's own insecurities, then one can consider dog sport a hobby with a clear conscience. With those people in mind this book was written, I know there are only a few, but it is all the more interesting to discuss dog training with them.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BBRUNNER F., 1975: Der unverständene Hund. Melsungen: J. Neumann-Neudamm
- EIBEL-EIBESFELDT, I., 1976: Der vorprogrammierte Mensch. München: Deutscher Taschenbuchverlag.
- FATTKAU, B., 1976: Reader, pädagogisch-psychologische Grundlagen der Unterrichtung. Pädagogisches Seminar der Universität Göttingen.
- HEINZLER, J.: Medizin von heute. Grundriß der physiologischen Chemie. Zweiter Teil, Heft 4. Köln-Mülheim: Troponwerke.
- IMMELMANN, K., 1976: Einführung in die Verhaltensforschung. Pareys Studientexte. Berlin und Hamburg: Verlag Paul Parey.
- LORENZ, K., 1975: So kam der Mensch auf den Hund. Wien: Berlog Borothal-Schroeder.
- LORENZ, K., 1976: Das sogenannte Böse. Zur Naturgeschichte der Agression. München: Deutscher Taschenbuchverlag.
- MOST, K., 1956: Die Abrichtung des Hundes. 13. Aufl. Braunschweig: Verlag Gersbach & Sohn.
- STERN, H., 1974: Bemerkungen über Hunde. Reinbek: Rowohlt Taschenbuchverlag.
- STEPHANITZ, M., v., 1923: Der deutsche Schäferhund in Wort und Bild. 7. Aufl. Jena.
- THEWS, K.H., 1976: Verhaltensforschung die uns angeht. Gütersloh: Bertelsmann.
- TRUMLER, E., 1971: Mit dem Hund auf du. München: Piper.
- TRUMLER, E., 1974: Hunde ernst genommen. München: Piper.

Helmut Raiser deals with the training of working dogs in protection work in his well illustrated book (159 photographs), he gives equal consideration to the duties of handler, dog, and helper. In part one, the theoretical part, prey-, defense-, aggression-, and fighting drive, the innate drives of a dog, which are used in the training of protection work, are discussed. Part one goes on to explain basic ethological terms and laws, such as: instinctive action, trigger stimulus, drive goal, Leerlauf (= idle motion) reaction, conflict behaviour, stimulus summation, action- specific and stimulus-specific exhaustion. In conclusion, classical and instrumental conditioning are shown as the typical methods through which dogs learn. In part two, the purely practical part, Raiser gives methodical instruction on how to develop and train dogs in protection work. Whether it is prey-drive or defense-drive development, the hold and bark, the out exercise, or the blind search, methodically and technically correct helperwork is always important. 29 briefly but informatively captioned picture sequences, with between three and ten photographs, taken in succession in extremely short intervals, clearly demonstrate how handler, dog, and helper have to work together in the different exercises.