

Define Canine

Presents...

Counterconditioning
reactive behavior



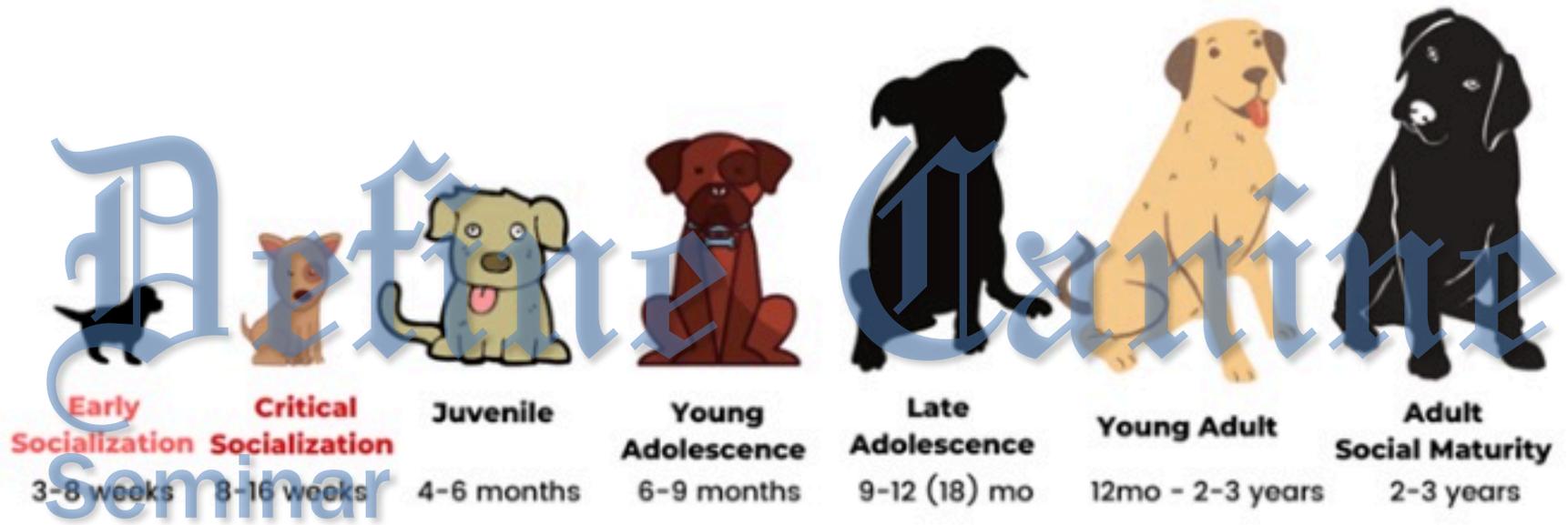
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DOG DEVELOPMENT

A Dog's Developmental Periods

Puppyhood is over by 20-weeks

Training should start at 4-weeks



Changes in behavior follow the development periods

WHAT ARE **REACTIVE DOGS**

WHAT is the main reason the dog is being reactive. Here are some of the main causes.

Manage expectations

In this seminar we will mostly focus on dog to dog reactivity. We have more complaints and reports coming in on dog to dog aggression than ever before. People today have greater expectation for their dogs' social behavior than they did 10-20 years ago. We seemed to have more tolerance of a wide range of behaviors

Lack of & or improper socialization

Some owners are encouraged to wait until all puppy shots are given prior to socializing the dog. And at this stage the puppy can be 4 months or older by then. The earlier the puppy is exposed to the real world and set up for success with lots of positive reinforcement and positive interactions the better adjust they are.

Key components to growing up confident

- Good role models
- Lots of proper socialization and exposure to the world... Social Checklist
- Obedience and development to learn how to act in situations before getting to that place
- Generalisation of that obedience from lo-hi distraction. Consistent to alternate reinforcement

WHAT ARE REACTIVE DOGS

DOG PARKS & DAYCARE

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DOG PARKS! If used properly dog parks can be excellent.

They can also be a breeding ground for poor socialization skills.

What happens with the bullying, ganging up and general out of control Behavior that often takes place.

Most dog parks owners forget to pay attention. Trees, ponds, hills are all good interruptions. Empty spaces are bad generally as all the dogs have is each other to distract.

- Poor social development/Lacking good role models as bad experiences for a puppy/ Attacked, scared or hurt by other dogs at parks/daycares can create fear and trauma. Therefore likely becoming fear aggressive or anxious in that environment.

REACTIVITY/AGGRESSION

9 common motivators for reactive or aggressive behavior

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1. Predatory Behavior

Dogs that love to fight due to high predatory instinct. This is hunting instinct and feeding behavior. You can tell it apart because generally the dog is quieter, fast and does not necessarily warn. Facial expression is happy or tranquil. Often this is done by the Herding dogs. Collies and Aussies

REACTIVITY/

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2. Frustration

Leash lungers, fence or barrier fighters, or dogs left on a tie out. These dogs are frustrated by the restraint of the leash or fence. It wants to go say hello and play but can't go to the dog (or person). This dog will become classically conditioned to get frustrated/aroused in the presence of another dog. Frustration leads to aggression and frustration breeds aggression.

80% of dog aggression is leash aggression with unfamiliar dogs.

Some have a combination of fear as well and they learned they can scare others away

REACTIVITY

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3. Fear

Dogs that are terrified of other dogs. One of the most common causes of fear aggression is a traumatic episode in their imprinting or adolescent stage. Also a key component is a lack of early socialization.



REACTIVITY/AGGRESSION

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4. Protection

Dog's are social animals and tend to defend other members of their group. They might come between a visiting dog and a pack member both dog & human. They may feel like their pack member will back them up. A dominant dog will stand inbetween a pack. Shoulder checks and t-boning is common in play.

REACTIVITY/AGGRESSION

A black pug dog is sitting on a light-colored wooden floor. A person's hand is reaching in from the left, touching the dog's mouth. The dog is looking up at the hand. The background is a wooden floor with a diagonal grain.

9 common motivators for reactive or aggressive behavior

5. Punishment

Dogs that receive punishment on a training collar, or otherwise either on purpose or accident. Old school training or correcting a dog that is looking towards another dog without saying anything. Dog may associate punishment/pain with the presence of another dog.

REACTIVITY/AGGRESSION

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6. Territorial

Most dogs that instinctively get attached to a territory or build value to the territory through resources are more likely to chase intruders away. The more intruders allow themselves to be chased the stronger the dog becomes. A dog bit can be the result. Some breeds more than others

REACTIVITY/AGGRESSION

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7. Rank

Dogs of higher rank believe they have certain rights, such as resting places, food, furniture, and territory. They might become reactive/aggressive if they feel a lower ranking member is acting out of place. In a multi dog household most fights are by lower ranking member.

REACTIVITY/AGGRESSION

9 common motivators for reactive or aggressive behavior

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8. Bully behavior

This behavior is coming out strong due to the popularization of dog parks and poorly managed, over crowded daycare's. Dogs often learn they can overpower another dog by physically running into them, mounting them or simply terrorizing them.

REACTIVITY/AGGRESSION

9 common motivators for reactive or aggressive behavior

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9. Redirected aggression

This is a common behavior. Most often it's seen when a dog wants to bite one thing but it is unavailable, so they redirect to the leash, human or another dog.

COUNTER CONDITIONING

Changing undesired responses to stimuli into desired responses. By associating the stimulus with positive actions.

But first we must work out why there's an undesired response.

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ABC's

Responding

Examples of Dogs Responding to Stimuli

When you get your leash, your dog likely gets excited because he knows he is going on a walk.

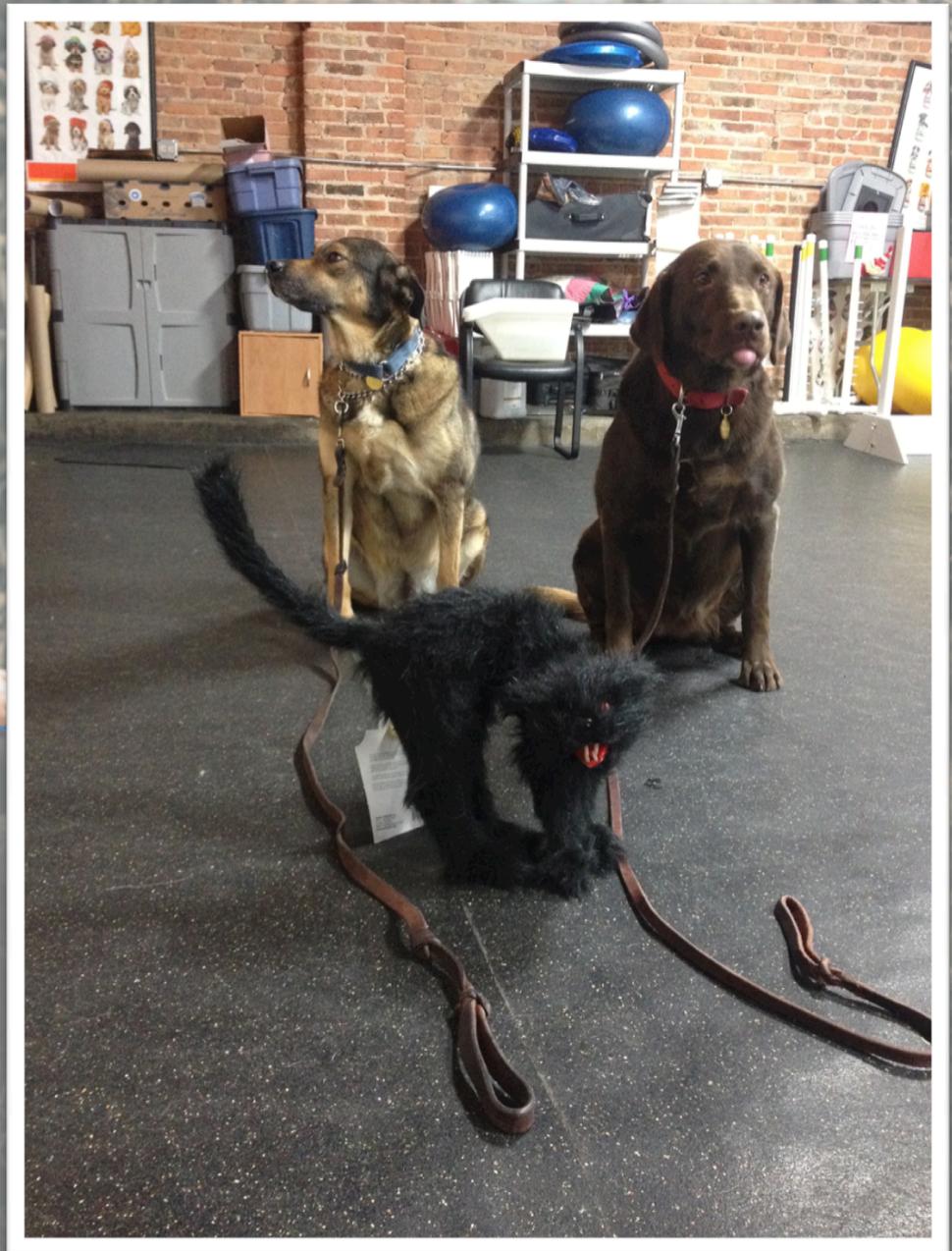
When you grab the food bowl, your dog may start pacing in anticipation of his meal.

When your dog hears the doorbell, your dog may start barking because he knows you are having guests.

When your dog sees you grab your purse and car keys, he may get anxious knowing you are about to leave.

When your dog sees the clicker, your dog may get happy knowing that his training session is about to happen.

In a similar fashion, your dog may have learned to associate something negative with a particular stimulus. Let's take a look at some examples.



Responding

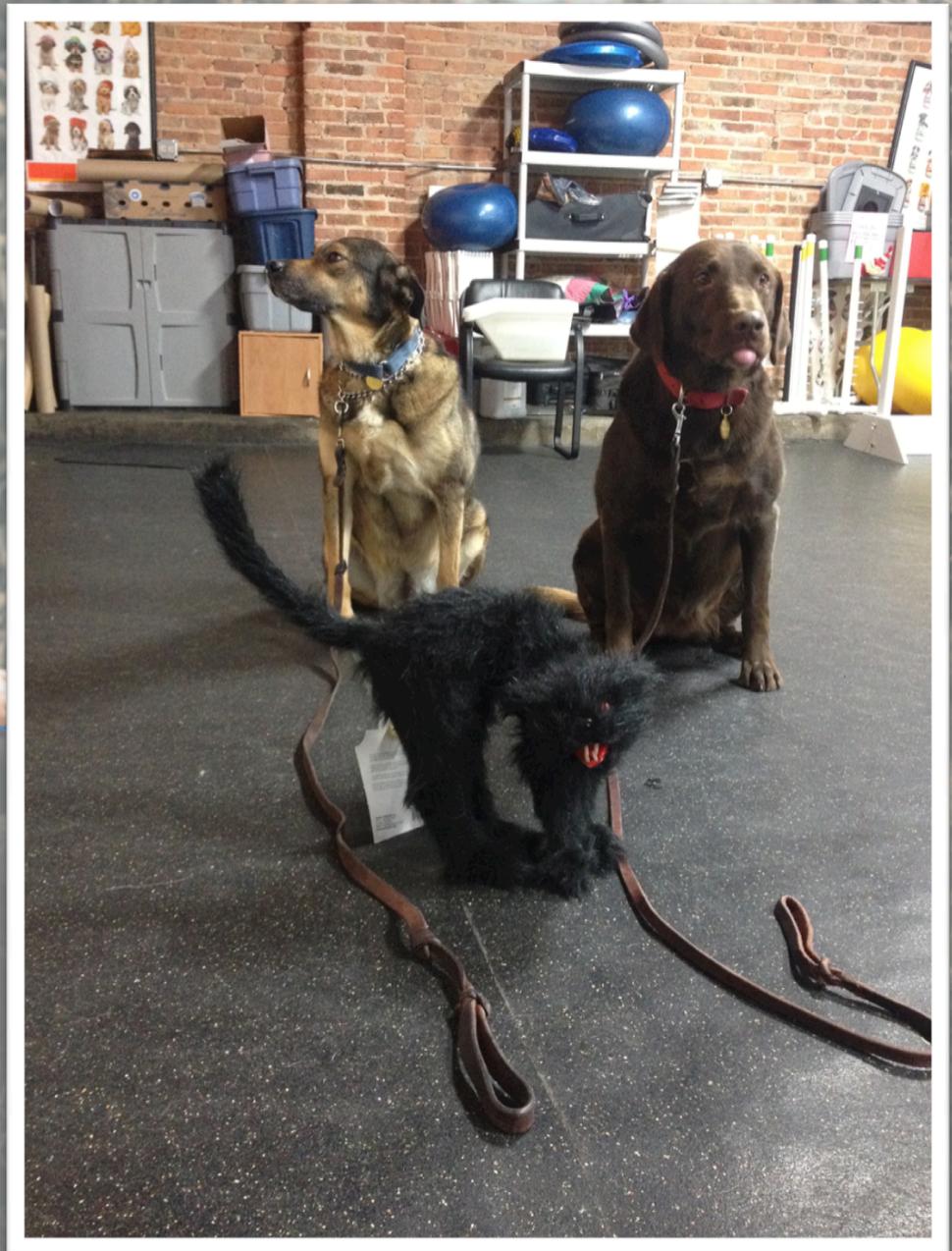
Examples of Dogs Responding to Negative Stimuli

If your dog is scared of cats due to being scratched by them. Then your dog may well generalize all cats as being scary.

If for instance, your dog is afraid of thunderstorms, he may have learned to associate subtle changes in the static electric field with an upcoming storm.

If your dog is worried about guests, he may have learned to associate the doorbell with guests.

If your dog was attacked by another dog, he may have learned to associate their presence with bad things.



THANK YOU



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Please feel free to use me as a resource and a behavior specialist at any stage.