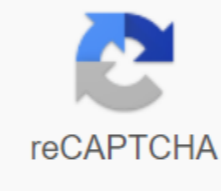




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The culture clash jean donaldson pdf

Winner of the Maxwell Award for Best DOG TRAINING BOOK (1997) from Dog Writers' Association of America. Voted #1 BEST BOOK (2000 and 2001) By pet trainers association?the largest and most influential association of professional pet dog trainers in the world. Culture Clash is quite unique, fascinating to the extreme, and literally overflowing with information so new that it virtually redefines the state of art in dog behavior and training. Culture Clash portrays dogs as they really are?stripped by their Hollywood fluff, with their love Can I eat it, chew it, urinate on it, what's in it for me philosophy. The author's huge attachment to dogs shines at all times, as does her deep understanding of the dog's mind. She tirelessly advocates for a dog's point of view, always caring about their education and well-being. To mark 20 years since the publication of Culture Clash, I spoke with Gene Donaldson about dog and dog training. Gene with Brian (front) and dog friend, Turtle Po zazi Todd, Ph.D. This year 20 years since the publication of the influential book Gene Donaldson Culture Clash. Funny, intelligent, and very much about the dog's point of view, Culture Clash is still highly recommended by dog trainers around the world. The book shows a strong commitment to learning without aversives and provides technical know-how too. Dr. Ian Dunbar called it Simple, the best dog book I've ever read! I was thrilled to talk to Jin about the book, how things have changed for dogs, and how we can continue to change things for the better. This page contains affiliate links. It's been 20 years since The Culture Clash was published. It's a book that's still in print and it's been extremely influential, and I think life is changing for many, many people. So it's definitely something to celebrate. And I wanted to ask you, how much do you think has changed for dogs since it was published? Jean: I think a lot. Things are shifting so much in terms of numbers, it would seem. It would be great if someone did a poll where we had some idea of the baseline numbers. So how many people have trained with any evidence-based attempt, and how many people have trained using mostly aversives or mixes, and then how many people are doing it now. But I'm afraid it's just not something we'll ever learn, so we have to guess based on what we see. And of course, what I see is that there are more people doing it now. Most new people coming in seem to automatically focus on learning without aversives and getting a handle on science. And of course, another thing that is clear is that there is a specialty trainer of domestic dogs, which is when the culture clash was first Pet Dog Trainers' Association was only -- it's not yet thirty years of organization -- it's still brand new. So just the idea that training pet dogs was a specialty, rather than a kind of trickle-down competitive obedience, is new. So I think both aversives orientation is much lower, and the notion that domestic dogs are a bona fide specialty in training is also almost new. Most new people coming in seem to automatically focus on learning without aversives and getting a handle on science. Sazi: One of the things you start a culture of clashing with this idea of Disneyfication dogs is about how people perceive dogs compared to how they really are. Do you think this is still the same question today? Jean: Yes, I'm afraid so. I still think that, I mean, despite all the changes in the world of training, And I would add that even those trainers who are sold through aversives, if they are in the pet world, they seem to at least believe that they should advertise that they are not training with aversives. So they use more and more obfuscation of language, they even make statements that they quote unquote positive reinforcement and then maybe they don't proceed with that. But at least they recognize that there is demand, and that's from all the heart. Yes, I think there is still this trend, people still find it somewhat frustrating to find out that they have to motivate their dog. And that, I think, is just going to be a constant struggle, we're going to have to keep pushing. Sazie: Thank you. So one of the other things that features in Culture Clash is a lot of wonderful information about dog training, which is also in your subsequent books. And I think it's not just motivation, but a lot of people think that training dogs will be easy, and then they actually find it pretty hard. Why is it so hard? Jean: I think for a couple of reasons. I mean one of them is that it's a lot more step-by-step and I think people go into it with the assumption that there's some sort of tipping point for transferring knowledge. It is, you know, dogs understand the notion of sitting or the concept that he knows he has to come to me. That we are wrong is the correct answer for full knowledge, as opposed to the correct answer, which is perhaps only because of an urge or chance, or it was an easy situation, and then subsequent defiance as an agenda driven rather than no, it was one correct answer and then there is the wrong answer. And if you want to have more answers that you like, you have to sort of add grains of sand to the scale to change the probability, not you say it, it does it, boom well, that parts over now everything else is simple, unless it was And so I think there's that part of it. Then the consequence of this is that we live more and more in the day and age age age people are overworked, we have a lower tolerance to the process, everything is lightning fast, you know, computers, we want things when we want them. And there is no way that dog training will ever become such an instant speed of satisfaction. For this reason I also think it's good for us that it's very grounding. It brings us back to a natural world where there is simply no such speed. But I think it's a gross shock for people to learn that what they will have in practice, practice, practice, practice and not just explain to the dog I would like you to do it and then it will just happen. So between motivation and turn-based learning, it's a clash for most people with their day-to-day lives. Gene Donaldson with the late Buffy zazi: Definitely. So just going back to motivation again, I think more and more people are using food to train their dogs, but there are still a lot of people who are very resistant to this idea. How do we change their minds? Jean: I'm not sure. My instinct is just to repeat the truth, which is kind of a glass half full of philosophy that people can handle if we just say it and we call them an adult nature and say, look, nobody does anything for nothing, there's just not. Now we humans have some of our motives have a type that we would designate as altruistic or higher or better when we try to do things for the common good or for the benefit of others or for anything that can be philanthropic. While dogs are a bit more like 3-year-old kids as far as you know, so in it for me as it will contribute to my goal and that's bad news. The good news is that dogs are actually relatively easy to motivate. There's so many things that work. The food is pretty much universal. Unfortunately, pain and fear are also universal and we are stuck in this situation where we use food, it is harder for us to cloak that in well, it does it for you. While the pain and fear of the crowd, I think they are easier disguises, that as you know, we are just fixing his attitude and the real motivation he is doing it for you and we have just adjusted our attitude with pain and fear. Or oh no, it doesn't really scare him, it's just show him, so we have a merger of what and why issue. And I think if we insist on transparency so people say, well, that there will be motivation anyway, then your choice will be a carrot or a stick. And I think -- at least my optimistic side likes to think -- most people will then elect carrots. So these two steps have to happen. We need to make people start to be a little more important as consumers and recognize even those coaches who are trying to use their desire to do it out of altruistic motives that these people are actually bamboozling them. I think it will help. But I don't think I have any illusions, it's a lofty task. I mean, I'm a much better person than I've insisted on this for decades, and it's better than it used to be, but it's not an easy fix. I think if we insist on transparency to get people to say well that there will be motivation anyway, then your choice becomes carrot or stick. Sazie: Definitely not easy. You touched on transparency, and some time ago you started what's called a transparency issue, and we saw different dog trainers giving their answers to questions in that challenge. Can you say anything about the purpose of starting this? Jin: Yes, the goal was to think about dog training, both philosophy and competency issues, like consumer protection, which I think is absolutely right. Not only is there a problem with protecting dogs, and I think most people do things in relation to other creatures, if there is less invasive, they would rather be less invasive. And then we take a step back, and then the question arises, can we do the job? And then we have to make sure that people don't fall in love with the gobbledegook language that I've spoken before when coaches who are less scrupulous do all sorts of appeals. For example, the other day someone I know said that someone else they knew of each other basically was taken for a walk by a dog coach advertising himself as a quote unquote Buddhist dog trainer where they tried to get the dog in the center and in the right condition, etc., and then proceeded to coerce this dog. And these people who have been educated are people with degrees living in Berkeley who just, well, they assume that this person wouldn't get into dog training - dog training isn't a fantastically lucrative profession - so anyone who gets into it should be conflicted in the motives, should be altruistic, should love dogs, and also they need to know what we don't know. This tendency never to challenge a dog trainer, it's partly why dog whisperers are still on television, it's partly why people don't question, it's partly why you can say things like we're centering his energy or we're changing his centers or whatever. Well, in fact, what you're doing is pulling the dog by the chain, but if we get people to admit it, that there's going to be a specific physical motivator of the world, and you, as a consumer, can test it yourself, you can be a consumer scientist. And say: well, if you are actually training this dog with Buddhist energy rays, do it without a metal chain around your neck; if you dog whisper to actually do it with the energy of that special collar, let's see, do you do it without kicking it? If get people to people that's just a market talk, at least in the U.S. there's I think a very strong instinct and I think it's a good one that we don't want to be taken. We want to know the ingredients in the bank, we want to know what's being done, we want transparency, we want to know before spending money on goods or services, if someone is doing something not ethical in this regard, they need to be held accountable, literally and metaphorically, that it shouldn't happen. And I think it's an instinct that we can benefit from by forcing people to recognize that there's always a specific real-world motivator, it's probably going to be one of those five or six things to define it, and be especially careful of those coaches who don't claim for what they're doing. I mean, it's really a kind of model of informed consent that I think can help the cause. I mean it remains to be seen whether he will do it, but that's the rationale. Three questions for dog trainers zazi: So based on this, do you think dog training should be regulated? Jean: Yes, I think it's time and it's really almost an embarrassment that it's not yet regulated. Given the interest that people have in public safety, so whenever there is an incident, a dog bites or someone sadly injured or killed by a dog, there is a huge amount of interest in spending taxpayers' money doing things like banning breeds. And yet, despite this apparent interest in public safety, the fact that dog trainers are not regulated seems to be a disconnect. And there should be a minimum education, minimum standards of competence and, hopefully, ethical requirements. I think it's probably going to happen in our lives, it's just a matter of getting past the political difficulties that are inherent in cleaning up the profession. Sazi: One of the arguments that people who use aversives often they claim that there is no choice that this case of aversives or death is how we can kind of generalize it, that they should use, sometimes, aversives, otherwise the dog will have to die. What do you think of that? Jean: I think that's a strong argument. If the issue was, and I'm the one who doesn't want to use aversives, however I reserve that if there was literally a question where someone said watch we're going to use aversives on this dog or we're going to kill it, I think I'd say yes, of course, let's use the backlink. But then we get down to reality, and the reality is that then we have to account for the thousands - if not probably tens of thousands - of practitioners who are already there, daily, getting jobs like in training, behavior modification, animal management, a full range of case types, and they do so without aversives. And so, as if aversives or death ... they will have to report for to account for me, they will have to account for thousands and thousands of other trainers. And they seem to get around this issue altogether by making this false claim that we're just talking well, you know, lulling an animal - and it just doesn't happen. And so I think there's a denial on this side. What's clear, I mean, if you think about the situation that they're in, they choose to use aversives in a climate where there's this huge chorus of people saying you shouldn't do it. And so their choice, psychologically, is either they elect aversives in vain, which is a kind of psychologically untenable, or we -- on the other hand - kill dogs. So I think psychologically it's about their survival, and so it's not surprising that they make that statement because the alternative is unbearable. We have to consider the thousands of practitioners who are already there, daily, getting work in both training, behavior modification, animal management, a full range of case types, and they do so without aversives. Sazi: Switching topics is a bit for ordinary people, for ordinary people when they are training their dogs. If they are committed to using reward-based learning methods but they are still learning, what is the most common mistake, what do people do and how can they improve? Jean: The most common mistake - and everyone will have to forgive me for having such a broken record - is not enough of a solution to motivation. So to put a not too thin point on it, basically not being able to cough up chicken. Either not using enough reward, often enough, being armed with them when needed, having a high enough reward cost, manipulating the economy so that the dog is not full, so if you use food making sure the dog is not yet filled. It's the number one thing that even people who are nominally bought into using rewards, then can move on to kind of gradually slow-drop the way you try to use as little as possible as often as possible, as low cost as possible, and things end up not so good and they say well reward-based learning doesn't work. And it's really kind of like I'm supposed to do my job, but I've just got a pay cut of 90% and I have bad working conditions and my productivity starts to flag and so my boss assumes that money is therefore not motivating, etc., while all this stuff about motivation doesn't work and now we have to resort to electrically shocking me so I think it's still epidemic scale. The most common mistake is not enough of addressing motivation. And then that there are various mechanical things, but they are so pale compared to the reluctance that people should it's worth a dog while like the question is, why would I do that? That's why you have to do it. Sazie: Great. So just to give a very specific example, you have a very cute dog named Brian, and I think probably some people will look at him and just think: It's very sweet, why should you motivate him? When you really need to motivate it, what do you use? What's his favorite award? Jean: He's very much about primary feathers. It's about this stuff called Rawbble, which is a bit of a freeze-roasted raw stuff. It will work very well for the chicken breast and I cut it into tiny bones. It will sometimes work on a toy but not so much, it is not incredibly toy-driven, and so I usually train it with food. And he can go and go. When I first got it before it was very hooked on training, it would have been good, maybe 10-15 minutes. Now he's to the point it's been over a year and he can probably go within an hour or so of the class situation and still keep working. And I have to say for the record, although he's a little dog and I train him loads, he's not the slightest bit overweight. And most of the dogs I know that belong to food trainers, their dogs are in excellent condition, and there are many people out there who don't train with food whose dogs are obese. So I'd venture to say that if someone would study this, I predict that there is no correlation between the use of treats for training and the dog's medical condition or weight, that it just doesn't happen. Zazi: Go Brian, that's very good! So if someone gets a dog for the first time, they haven't had a dog before, what do you think is the most important thing for them to know? Jean: That's a big question! I would say that the most important thing for them is to know that they bring a different look to their home and that all kinds of things that a dog is going to do will dog things. And so even before they realize the preparation and contingencies and so on that they will hopefully discover up the actual kind of miracle of having this other being. You know, we pay good money for cable channels so we can watch a show featuring crocodiles and rhinos and other creatures and any kind of being that is different. We're fascinated by it. And I think we've become a little contemptuous of dating dogs, but they're very different, and I think part of the beauty is welcoming that they're going to do doggy things, and so, I just pre-normalized a lot that people can access accurate information about what dogs are doing and that it's not all kind of a treacherous conspiracy that's just a dog being a dog and if we can kind of celebrate it. There's all these things that for me it's changing the landscape from you have your dog under a great compared to you doing right on it? And You Are You Are you sure he's happy? And I think it's also a change that is very happy. Earlier, when I first started in dogs, it was long before Culture Clash, a sample of a good dog owner was someone who had their dog quote unquote under control that your dog was quoting well himself, which meant that he was not inconveniencing people, not moving too much, etc. now, more and more we put dogs in everything from MRI scanners, and we try to distinguish whether the dog is happy. So sign now of a good dog owner is someone who actually fulfills the dog's basic needs. So, allowing a dog to be a dog, training with the least invasive ways possible, making sure he has a veterinary experience that won't be full of fear etc. Are you making sure he's happy? And it will not harm the public good in any way, it is not. These are perfectly aligned targets. You can still have a dog that is a quote unquote well behaved, not dangerous, not a nuisance, etc., still being happy. The fact that we're factoring in the quality of a dog's life is now in a real way and we're trying as objectively as we can and as true as we can figure out what it is. I think it's a huge development that I don't think anyone could have foreseen 30 years ago. Sazi: And you touched on veterinary care as well, so how can we make dogs better visits to the vet? Jean: Part of this is going to be very difficult because sometimes vets - and groomers too I might add - have to do things that are sure to be painful and scary. Dogs will get sick, get injured, they have to do emergency procedures, they have to do surgery on dogs. But I think the increasing awareness of fear, the medications that we can use to manage pain, to manage anxiety, to pre-train dogs, I think all these things can go a long way to mitigating the fact that dogs should be very difficult. And I think the Fear Free movement deserves a call that this pigeon-tail is very nice with what those of us in the behavior have been saying for a long time, which is what fear is something we need to take very seriously. And if it can be prevented, mitigated and improved when it is on board, it will have a big impact on improving the quality of life of the dog and maintaining veterinary staff and public safety. Sazie: Thank you. So you have been a teacher for years and must have been taught by thousands of dog trainers. What are the qualities of a good dog trainer? Jin: Oh, wow, that's a good question, too. I think that now first of all is someone who enjoys, loves has the skills to communicate with a beginner beginner People who don't have the same kinds of motivation as dog trainers. When you train dog trainers, part of the thing is trying to get the dog trainer to be effective and not train like a bat from hell and work the dog for two hours etc. you know we are set up for training, we love the process and we are about dogs and we have decided to dedicate our lives to it. Owners love dogs and they adore their dog, but they don't have the same inner motivation as us. And so I think the ability to take and meet owners where they are, and enjoy the task of making all the intricacies and pieces of dog training available to owners. So that includes the ability to sort, the ability to empathize with the owner in a genuine way, so as not to be subjective that the owner is not a dog trainer. The only people who are entitled to have dogs in their homes are not people who already have dog trainers. We can be such a translator and we can get the quality of life of the dog, we want to protect the public good, and the owner enjoys his dog more. This is a very difficult profession. And the people who cover this part, as opposed to just wanting to advocate for dogs, I think it's the dog trainer of the future. And then of course there's all that technical knowledge, but I think first - and that's something that no one can teach - it's someone who is really genuinely curious and loves handling people's end. So you run the Academy of Dog Trainers. I was very lucky to win a scholarship and then finish school, so I know it's a great school. If someone reads this and they think about learning more about dog training, what's system that at the Academy? Jean: I think probably what makes it very different are the standards, both in terms of the length and scope of the program, the requirements that it makes. It really asks a lot. This means that for some people they are going to find themselves in their element, but I think it's not for everyone. I think it's a bit of a shock to the dog trainer system that until recently - in fact in the last ten or fifteen years - the standard for entry into the profession was an extremely low bar: read a few books, maybe put some titles on some dogs, go to a few seminars, put out pebbles. And we say that's not enough. We want a lot more, we want it structured, we want it to be appreciated and we want it to be two years worth. And I think for some people, as I said, they're going to find themselves right in their element, but it's not for everyone. So people who think about the Academy need to be really confident that they're up for a big commitment, and I think a challenging profession like ours needs that, but people need to be prepared for that kind of challenge. Thank you so much for answering my questions! You can read about the Academy for Dog Trainers or follow them on Facebook or Twitter. Companion Animal Psychology has published interviews with talented scientists, writers, trainers and veterinarians who work to ensure the good well-being of animals. See the full list or subscribe to learn more about how to have happy dogs and cats. About Gene Donaldson: Gene is the founder and principal instructor of the Academy for Dog Trainers. Since 1999, the Academy has trained and certified more than 600 dog evidence-based trainers, training and private behaviour counselling. She is a four-time winner of the Dog Writers Association of America Maxwell Award, and her books include Cultural Battle, My! Guide to protecting resources in dogs, Fight! Guide to dog aggression, Dogs from Neptune, Oh, behaved! Dogs from Pavlov to Premak Pinker, and train like a pro. Born in Montreal, Canada, Jean founded the Montreal Flyball Association, and Renaissance Dog Training, the first positive reinforcement-based school and counseling service in the province. Her own dogs and dogs she has produced have earned numerous titles and victories in various dog sports including OTCh (Obedience Trial Champion), UD (Utility Dog), TDX (Tracking Dog Excellent), FDCh (Flyball Champion), CGC (Canine Good Citizen) and HIT (High In Trial). As a student, she worked as an adoption consultant at the Montreal SPCA and later served on the board of directors. Prior to the founding of the Academy, Jin made exclusively transfer cases of aggression for six years. She lives in Oakland with her dog, Brian, adopted in 2015. Sazie Todd, Ph.D., is the author of Wag: The Science of Making Your Dog Happy. She is the founder of the popular blog Companion Animal Psychology, where she writes about everything from teaching methods to human-dog relationships. She also writes a column for Psychology Today and won the prestigious Captain Haggerty Award for Best Educational Article in 2017. Todd lives in Maple Ridge, British Columbia, with her husband and two cats. 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