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**MONOGRAPH**
**"THE MOST COMMON CANINE BEHAVIOR AND HOW TO FIX IT**
**UNDERSTANDING THE CANINE ETHOLOGY"**



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**Gratitude**

First of all I want to thank my parents for giving me the opportunity of studying in such a good school, I also want to thank my teachers, Patricia Sánchez and Claudia Lossa; I want to thank Patricia for explaining to me how the structure of the monograph works, and giving worksheets to fully understand my plan, and a special thanks to Miss Claudia, she totally understood what I wanted to present, and helped me to get in the right ideas, and make more coherent, she helped me even finding new information about my subject. My parents gave a big push because thanks to them I know who I want to be in my life, this monograph goes straight to them, thanking them and making them proud.

# Summary

Ethology is a very complicated branch of the veterinary medicine, why? It does not have a lot of research and also fully understanding a dog's mind is not easy, just as our mind, it is very complicated and it is impossible to ask a dog what is he thinking so the best way to study it, is learning from their behavior and reactions from different factors, also, correcting a dog´s bad behavior is not easy, but once we understand a little bit more about how they think is easier, the methods given are very useful, dogs are training everyday with this methods so they can become the best version of themselves, also the dogs mind is a very big map, that every day we are trying to read and learn, a dog is a good companion for ourselves, as we are for them, a dog since his birth he will always have someone that he will follow, they also need and feel love, feel sad, and ashamed, there is no scientific proof but we can feel them and describe them, the most common mistake people do is taking care of the dog as it was a baby or a person, the will get confused and mostly get behavioral problems, but they can become so consent that they can become aggressive and do what they want and never listen to the owner.

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# Introduction

The canines are part of most of the people´s life so everybody thinks they understand their animals but no, the animals don´t think as humans, so why not to learn more about ***The most common canine behavior problems and how to fix it using ethology*** that way we all can learn more about the canine behavior, even if you have problems with you dog, the ethology will help you, it helps you to open your mind, to see the dog in a whole different perspective, it can bring you more joy and mutual affection for the dog, the importance of learning about ethology is big, just like humans to learn to talk to humans and interact with you learn through the years growing you learn how people think and react to certain things, it is like that with the dogs minds, you need to learn more to be fully aware of what it needs and wants, so that the canine and you can create a big bond through the years.

The fact that new technologies are appearing is a evolution for society, so in the veterinary world the ethology is not a new but it is a rising branch, since 2011 ethology started growing and growing, the veterinary world completely expanded thanks to technology, and new questions appeared, so why not to spread the word about ethology, so people can learn new things every day.

The researches made about ethology are very rare to find, specifically on how the dog mind works, mostly you can find about how to raise them well and stories about people fully understanding a dog's mind thanks to some special condition, the new Ethologists are appearing and this specialization is growing, because natural people are always looking for the best ways to train their dog and calm them using natural methods, just understanding how they learn. *The social dog: Behavior and Recognition" "Cesar´s Way" "Animals in Translation"*

The world, needs to learn about ethology, it is not a fully known specialization or subject, especially to the dog owners, it is a need to learn about ethology, so they can understand a little bit more their dogs, and how they can connect better with them, not just giving everything to them, but to have a mutual respect, where they can take a walk with their dogs without leashes, were the dog knows he can´t run away.

The first chapter is about the canine ethology and the most common miss behavior of canines, as aggressiveness, and the different causes also how ethology can help us in a daily basis educating our dogs, the canine behavior and why they react to certain factors, and how they process things; the second chapter is about how to correct the dog´s bad behaviors, and how to raise them the right way, how to create the best bonds between the dog and his owner; the third and last chapter is about how the canine mind work, it is not exact because no one knows how it exactly works but according to some researches and linking some ideas to come with big ideas.

# Chapter 1

## Canine behavior

### 1.1 Ethology definition

Nowadays, ethology has grown in a significant way, ethology definition, it is the study of animal behavior, why is not it called animal psychology? Animal can be very similar to us but in the way of thinking they have a totally different way, humans, us, have the psyche that is our consciousness the totality of the human mind, onn the other hand, animals do not have the psyche, animal behave thanks to the instinct; when animals need to make a decision it is not always thinking about what it is the best for them, they always choose the easiest and most comfortable action but do not think about the consequences, they learn from experience, they need to have a trauma or know the situation they are up to, if not they will have a serious confusion, they gain experience, just like us, in their mind logic does not exist, they work and think in base of the things that they have seen. Millan (2006) affirms: "Dogs do not think like humans, dog´s psychology is not human's psychology people need to relate to your dog as a dog, not a baby nor a person" (p.84).

### 1.2 How ethology can help us in a daily basis

Ethology can help in a daily basis by teaching our dog how to behave, dogs need to be taught, they can't be raised without any education, if not the dog will grow without any good behavior, they will bite anything they find, hump the persons they see, they also can grow with an aggressive behavior but that is not the only factor that makes the dog angry; by learning about ethology, you can learn how to control your dog, how to understand him and raise him in the right way so you will have less things to correct when he grows up.

Kaminski (2014) affirms:

If we consider a co-evolution with dogs and humans we would have to show the evidence that being with dogs imposed a selection pressure on humans, which resulted in a new trait emerging, and show that dogs acquired novel adaptions as a consequence to life with humans. (p.16)

Also you will learn new signs from your dog, it will always make a sign before doing something, for example, when a dog is excited his tail starts swinging around like crazy, if they are scared they will hide their tail between his thighs, if angry, they will put their ears back and show the teeth.

## 1.3 Canine behavior problems

Just like a humans, dogs also need to be taught and teach them lessons, so they know how to behave and to react to different situations and stimulations, is a dog isn't raised in the correct way, the dog could grow in a chaotic way, he will never obey any command or will destroy everything in accumulated energy.

"A dog is born knowing how to kill a groundhog but he isn´t born knowing a groundhog is food (…), a dog has to learn from other dogs that a groundhog is food" (Grandin, 2005, p.137)

### 1.3.1 Aggressive behavior.

It is said that depending on the breed the dog is aggressive, and it is not true, some dogs have a different way of playing, and some are more strong physically so they are more prone to be trained to be aggressive; Pitbulls and Rottweilers, Jhonson (2005) affirms: "Rottweilers who have attacked and killed humans but it is impossible to interpret because we don´t know how many mixed breed Rottweilers are in the dog population" (p.133) have a bad reputation because they are used for illegal street dog fights, yes, but they are sensitive in a way where if you raise them in a good, healthy and full of love space, they will give you back love but if it

is raised in an chaotic space, the dog will learn how to survive, and make his own way. Also, there are many factor that cause an aggressive behavior, and these are the most common.

#### 1.3.1.1 *Domain Aggressiveness*

This type of aggressiveness is one of the most dangerous, it is when a dog "defends" his owner from someone else, but there is no danger, the dog bites because he is not comfortable, he bites because someone is approaching his territory, this can be caused when a dog is too conceited he thinks everything is for him.

#### 1.3.1.2 *Fear aggressiveness*

The fear aggressiveness that comes from a dog is caused by a trauma, a lot of cases of this type of behavior comes from rescued dogs, that were beaten by their old owners, the dog with fear will not let you come close to you, he will bite you to protect itself, but this type of dogs when they are loved, they will love you in a unique way, they are one the most grateful animals. "When they grow up most animals are strongly attached either with a particular friend or the same social group" (Grandin, 2005, p.109).

## 1.4 Canine behavior

Every canine has a different way to behave, they have different feelings, reaction to stimulations and ways to process things, some dogs will not show love at every moment they will be more alert to take of you, some other dogs will show love every time they will see you depending on the breeds the dogs will act according to its instincts, there are many breeds with its own classification, there are; guard dogs, sheepdogs, house dogs, hunting dogs and all of them have their own way to behave, also their brain works in a similar way like humans:

Just like we see our similarities, we can also see the animal insticts working, because dogs don´t like to be petted, when you do this they remember the strokes the mother or the stimulations they had when they were little puppies. (Grandin, 2005).

## Chapter 2

## The different ways of correcting a canine miss behaviors

### 2.1 The methods

In the modern world there are many different ways of correcting a miss behavior, there are the "Old school techniques" and "Modern techniques" mostly the old school techniques are a little bit more aggressive, but the modern techniques also have their pros and cons; since the beginning of times, the person has always wanted to have company, the years passed and we learned how to tame beasts and the first one was the wolf, that later developed and became the dog.

Millan (2006) in his book *Cesar´s Rules* explains why the discipline is so important on a dog:

Your dog´s mother began teaching him rules, boundaries, and limitations from the second he took his first breath. Rules aren´t something your dog resents, they are something he craves. Your job as a dog owner, is to be clear and simple about these rules and always remain consistent about them.

### 2.1.1 Conventional methods.

These techniques are still in use but not everybody train their dog with this methods, they used these techniques because they didn't fully understand how the mind of the canine work, so they used different stimulation factors, with physical activities, also they used to hurt the dog so he will learn that he can't do that activity or else he will get beaten, another old school and also modern school is the treat way, where you show the canine what to do and after he does it you give him a treat as a reward, so he feels he is getting rewarded for doing it right.

### 2.1.2 New school methods.

The new school techniques are very helpful and less aggressive, it has its pros and cons, these methods are easier, why? Because it has the help of technology, there are devices that help dogs to eat better, even the videos teach us how to help dogs to behave in the best way possible, there are some harsh methods like the electric collar.

#### *2.1.2.1 Pros.*

The modern techniques are very helpful, are even easier to apply them in a daily basis, a good example is the apps available that tell you what to do and when it is necessary also there are new machines that help your dog to increase his senses, in the vet clinics, there are different toys from where the dogs can learn new things by playing.

#### *2.1.2.2 Cons.*

Thanks to the evolution in technology there are new objects that can help us teach our dog how to behave but some of them are cruel for example the shock collar, some dog breeds are more louder and like to bark more than others a good example are the Russel terriers; the purpose of the collar is that any time the dog barks he gets an electric shock so he would stay quiet, another example is the electric rod, so the canine would stay away from certain areas if he goes in there the owner gives him a little electric shock so the dog stays away.

## 2.2 The aftermath

The aftermath of the techniques are very different depending on the method used, the result may be better, worse, or the canine takes a long time to learn what he is being taught, mostly after the 15 days the dog will automatically understand what it is happening, his brain will associate when he is doing something wrong or not because he knows his consequences.

### 2.2.1 Good results.

The best results are totally recognizable the canine will behave in the best way possible and the owners objective will be accomplished, in this way will fully understand what is going on, sometimes the dog will forget about it but after showing him how it is done or even punishing him when he does it wrong he will understand and never fail again.

### 2.2.2 Bad results.

The bad results are even more difficult to correct than the last problem, why? Because he will be induced in a trauma, to an object or even a word, that he understands it means suffering, the reactions are the different in some cases a dog will become more scared to be close to people, thanks to the violence presented to him, so he will be mostly of the time hiding away from their owners and strange people, another bad result is the aggressiveness, as I said in the last chapter a dog will be aggressive thanks to the environment he grew up, like the bad method punishments, mostly hitting the dog or making suffering, he will develop his defensive instincts  and became a new aggressive dog. "Defensive aggression towards humans, whom most animals seem to perceive as predators (Bilkó & Altbacker, 2000), is thought to have been sharply reduced in most domestic animals (Price, 1999)" (Kaminski, 2014, p.44).

### 2.2.3 No results.

Is really hard to get no results from any method that the person is using, when this happens it is out of our hands, this is happening because of the brain of the canine, it is not understanding what is going on, in this very rare cases the canine should be taken to a ethologist; the ethologist will make sure why the dog is not responding to some stimulations, but will help you to correct your canine´s behavior with some other methods that the dog will respond.

## 2.3 Rules for a balanced dog

There are several rules for a balanced dog that teach us what to think and expect, whenever you bring a dog to your life you must think of it as an animal, later as a dog and then as a name, you need to understand how they think and what they like and in response they will take care of you, and help you. A dog will not be totally happy if you only give him, love, to show him love, you take care of him, exercise him and discipline him. The affection that you show your dog isn´t just petting him, the affection between a dog and it´s owner is the mutual respect and bond that starts to grow, if you follow these rules to have a balanced dog. (Millan, 2010, p.48).

## Chapter 3

### Inside a canine mind

## 3.1 The canine mind

The canine mind is as complex as our minds, many researche around the world show that dogs have very similar brain structure as ours, they have the reward system, which segregates serotonin and dopamine, they can feel stressed, happy, excited, even can feel fear and have the ability to solve puzzles, but the difference is how they see the world, the exact answer

does not exist, because we cannot fully understand their minds, the only thing that we understand from their minds it is our difference, what makes a dog an animal and a human, a human, dogs do nott have the ability to fully understand what they are, they don´t have our consciousness, they are not capable of understanding what they are and what can they do to evolve, that's our advantage from dogs, we know and are conscious of what we are; Studies have proved that the dog has a similar mind of a 3 to 5 years old kid.

## 3.2 The Canine brain vs Human brain

There is the instinctual side of our human nature. To be instinctual means to be clearheaded, open, aware of the signals we are getting from other people, animals, and our environment all the time. It means understanding our connection to our natural selves and the natural world, and acknowledging our interdependence with that world. (Millan, 2010, p.4)

### 3.2.1 Physically.

The canine brain is not so different from ours, but their structure is a little different, the halves of the globe, projections and parts of the brain have the same names and the same fundamental functions. Kaminski (2014) affirms: "A shift in canid encephalisation and architectural reorganization of the brain appears to have occurred sometime in the late Miocene o early Pliocine period"(p.4). The human brain has more folds, the canine brain has a more smooth surface, but in mutts, the parts of the brain related with scent appear they have inconceivably delicate noses. In expansion to being fundamentally comparative, MRI considers have appeared that the same segments of our brains light up when we're uncovered to different jolts. A research work done by Neuroscientist Greg burns show how the dog mind works in a MRI how they react to some stimulants how they segregate dopamine, and stress, the dogs trained to get on a MRI machine, then when they are in the MRI machine the Doctor watches how the brain reacts to the hands gestures of the person

with the dog, Greg sees which parts light up in a comparison of the human brain, stress is a appears when the hand gesture of "No cookie" appears, we can see how a dog mind works how he reacts but we don´t know how they perceive the world.

### 3.2.2 Ethologically and psychologically.

In the modern days it still is impossible to know how the dog thinks, but thanks to the ethology we are learning step by step, just like in the early days the psychology helped us to learn how we think and react to certain factors, now is our turn to expand and learn about them; New ethologists are coming up and getting known, ethologically the dog´s brain work with the instinct, which has developed over the years, domestication has changed dogs so drastically that it looks like they have especially adapted to our lifestyles, the dogs have shown how they skills change depending their growing up scenery, most dogs that have grown in a house with a good family show more respect and sometimes are less aggressive to new people, it is the only carnivore species that, even though has the potential of killing a person, we allow them to live with us, in the other hand with have the street dogs, that are more aggressive to strangers because people are always kicking them out of places and have to fight for food and defend themselves from other problems, they learn and adapt just like us, in some behavior and cognitive skills they look like they the functionality as the human skills, even they have learned to solve puzzles showing us they know how to deduce. (Millan, 2010, p.15)

## 3.3 Their feelings

People who have dogs always say their dogs have "feelings", there is no proof of it, but living along with a dog can show how they live, a good example is when the dogs "eat" your shoe, you will always see that your dog is very weird, he is not looking at you at the eyes, he is waving his tail in a weird way, this is a good example of a feeling, it is very similar to our

feeling called guilt, it was a guilty pleasure for the dog, he enjoyed destroying the shoe but he knew it was not correct to do, there is no evidence or research that has affirmed that they feel guilt; another big feeling that the dogs and humans share is love, the connection between the dog and his owner is something that cannot be compared, remember, not affection means that you have to give everything to your dog, the real affection comes the dog and his owner have respect and the dog knows his boundaries.

## Conclusion

In conclusion dogs are harder to understand than we thought, they are love beings, the best gave to show them love is to create a special bond with them, a dog is company, support, love, so our best way to thank them is to show them our love and thank them, aggressive dogs have a reason to be aggressive, they have a trigger the best way to avoid any kind of aggression is by loving them and teaching them how to behave, no to do whatever he wants, a canine is part of the family, as any member in a family has rules, the dogs must have rules and boundaries to, the method to show the dogs how to behave are easy, there are a lot of them, if they are trained since an early age it is easier for them to learn, you have to keep

them occupied, like running, playing with a ball, so they lose energy and can rest, their minds, in the other hand is a new terrain for humans, we are learning how to read a dog's mind, how to understand them, why they act the way they do, why they love so much, people who has dogs at their home love their dogs, but they don't always know about the ethology, it is necessary, as we know how human minds work, dog owners need to know how their dogs think, it is possible to compare human and dog´s brain, it mostly has the same parts, but how it works might be different, maybe they dogs are smarter than us  in their own way, thanks to the instincts, they born knowing how to do certain things, an example, the dogs whenever they defecate, they bury it with their back legs, no one teaches them how to do it, they just do it, the canine world is another total learning process, another medicine branch known as Veterinary Medicine, more people need to specialize and learn how to treat dogs, know their benefits, they even have psychological benefits for us, years ago dogs were not taken that serious, they were just known for being the human helper, sledding, transporting medicine, and hunting partners, they a whole history with the human, it has a reason why it is called "The man's bestfriend".

There are a bunch of different teaching methods, the old school and the new methods, the results always may vary so you must have to adjust to your dog´s necessities, even for their feelings, dogs can also feel uncomfortable, and that's causing them stress when a dog is under stress their defenses come down and can get sick, they can feel lonely and sad, people can see that whenever they leave their home and their dogs behind, but dogs never stop loving, we can see how they react to certain stimulants thanks to the MRI machines, the dogs are trained for a few months so they can go and take an MRI and we can learn from the to discover new possibilities.

**Recommendations**

● Investigating about the ethology and its different parts and how it growing it the actual days is a very helpful tool, maybe you learn more about this subject, teach your dog new things, help your dog with some misbehaviors, helping grow the ethology research center in your hometown, anything helps in a new growing medicine branch, it has a long way to go, the best book to read about ethology in another perspective, is reading cases of recovering dogs used for street fights, they have a severe trauma where they can hurt or even kill anybody, by calming them down is giving them a new life option, a peaceful option, it is like a human´s Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, it is always good to learn new things everyday.

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