

What is Schutzhund?

### **What is Schutzhund?**

The literal translation from German to English of the word “Schutzhund” is “protection” or “guardian” dog, but that’s really quite misleading. To help acquaint you with this complicated, three level, three phase dog sport, we offer the following simple and condensed explanation of Schutzhund rules, regulations, and the point system used.

Schutzhund originated in Germany as a breeding suitability test for the German shepherd dog and was quickly adopted for use by other working breeds such as the Malinois and Rottweiler. It provided breeders with a method to evaluate temperament, character, trainability, willingness and mental and physical soundness and to select and use only the highest quality dogs for breeding programs. Today, German shepherd dogs in Germany may not be bred without acquiring Schutzhund titles, a breed survey, a conformation rating, hip (spine and elbow) x-rays and a certificate of endurance.

In response to political forces in Germany, in 2004 the Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) and the Deutscher Hundesportverein (DHV) made substantial changes to Schutzhund. The DHV adopted the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) rules that govern IPO titles, so that at least on paper the SV and DHV gave up control of the sport to the FCI. The DHV changed the name of the titles from “SchH” (Schutzhund) to “VPG” (Vielseitigkeitsprüfung für Gebrauchshunde which roughly translates Versatility examination for working dogs). The SV has retained the “SchH” title names, but otherwise conforms to the DHV/FCI rules.

In addition to its value as a breeding tool, Schutzhund is also an exciting sport and training challenge. It can be described as “stylized police dog training” and is the foundation training many of the imported police dogs receive before they go on to specialized training for the street.

### Schutzhund Titles

Schutzhund involves three phases: Tracking, Obedience and Protection. Each phase has specific tasks or exercises that the dog and handler must perform, and each phase is graded on a point system with a maximum score of 100 points in each phase. A dog and handler team must score a minimum number of points in each phase (70 in obedience and tracking, 80 in protection) in order to pass and earn a title. And all this must be done at the same trial on the same day. There are 3 levels of Schutzhund titles: SchH1, SchH2 and SchH3. Each title is progressively more difficult to accomplish as the individual exercises become harder and the overall level of accuracy required increases. The SchH3 is the highest level.

Prior to trailing for a schutzhund title, all dogs must pass the BH, or companion dog test. The BH is graded pass/fail and includes an obedience test as well as a temperament test. The obedience exam involves two heeling exercises, on-lead and off-lead, the sit and down out of motion, recall with front sit, finish and long down under distraction. The temperament portion of the exam evaluates the dog's traffic sureness, and general approachability and safety. The dog must not show nervousness, fear, shyness or aggression when approached by friendly strangers, other dogs, bicyclists, joggers and the like. Nor may the dog exhibit insecurity or anxiety when left alone in the presence of strangers when the handler goes out of sight for a few minutes. All of these tests are designed to ensure that the dog

is safe and reliable and has the proper basic temperament for work, prior to continuing training and trailing for schutzhund titles. The titles are:

- SchH 1 (novice)
- SchH 2 (intermediate)
- SchH 3 (advanced)

Two advanced tracking degrees are also offered: FH and FH2.

To obtain a title, the dog and handler must pass three distinct phases at a trial: tracking, obedience, and protection.

#### Phase A: Tracking

In this phase, the dog must draw from inherited abilities by using his nose to find a person's track and discover articles that have been dropped along the way. Unlike search & rescue where the dog relies primarily on "air-scenting", Schutzhund tracking is very focused on the footsteps, and is scored largely on the precision of the dog's performance. Depending upon the title sought, tracks will vary in length, shape and age. Tracking is usually done in dirt or on grass. A perfect score is 100 points, with a minimum of 70 needed to pass.

#### Phase B: Obedience

The obedience phase showcases the dog's inherent joy in the work balanced with precision and control. The exercises include heeling on and off leash, walking through a group of people, sit, down and/or stand while moving, recall, a 10+ minute long down while another dog is working on the field, retrieving, and jumping. Two shots are fired from a blank gun during the heeling and long down, and the dog must not react adversely. A set pattern is demonstrated by the handler from memory (unlike AKC obedience, where the judge calls the pattern for you). A perfect score is 100 points, with 70 needed to pass.

## UNDERSTANDING OBEDIENCE

**Overall Picture:** *harmony, cooperation, and joy between dog and handler*

| EXERCISE   | THE IDEAL PICTURE OF THIS EXERCISE  |
|--|---|
| Heeling pattern with gunfire, changes of pace, 2 about-turns, 2 right turns, a halt, a left turn, heeling through people | Joyful, correct, upbeat heeling with excellent focus on handler; dog is indifferent to gunfire and to people; dog maintains proper position at all times while moving and when halting; every 'basic' position is straight and correct. |
| Sit out of motion  | Proper buildup ("buildup" is the number of paces taken before the command, 10-15 steps); upon command dog sits fast and straight, waits calmly for handler's return.  |
| Down out of motion with recall   | Proper buildup; upon command dog immediately downs with no forward motion, remains calm but attentive; upon 'Here' command the dog comes eagerly to the handler.  |
| Stand out of motion (IPO2) with recall (IPO3)  | Proper buildup; dog immediately stands on command with no extra steps, remains calm but attentive and waits for handler's return (IPO2), or for a 'Here' command (IPO3).  |
| Retrieve on the flat   | Fast going out and coming back, firm grasp on dumbbell, sits calmly in front of handler.  |
| Retrieve over the hurdle   | Dog jumps cleanly and powerfully, firmly grasps dumbbell and returns over the jump cleanly, sits calmly in front of handler.  |
| Retrieve over the wall   | Dog climbs wall powerfully, firmly grasps dumbbell and returns over the wall, sits calmly in front of handler.  |
| Send away  | Proper buildup; dog runs out quickly in a straight line when sent by handler; with one command the dog downs immediately, waits calmly for handler to approach.   |
| Long down under distraction  | Dog stays in a down without his handler during the next dog/handler team's performance; dog remains calm and indifferent to gunfire, does not move until handler returns.   |

### Phase C: Protection

This phase of Schutzhund training is the strongest test of the dog's basic temperament and character, with the emphasis on control. It should not be confused with guard or "attack" dog or personal protection training. A dog competing in the sport of Schutzhund must show courage without viciousness. He is rated on self-confidence, ability to work under pressure, toughness and resilience, steadfast nerves, well-balanced drives and willingness to take directions and be responsive to the handler. Obedience and control are demonstrated throughout the protection phase through off-lead exercises and through guarding without biting. The "bad guy" or "helper" as he is known in the

sport always wears protective pants and a special sleeve with a burlap cover. The dog is allowed to bite this sleeve and he must bite this in the correct manner. On command, the dog MUST release the bite — the ultimate in control criteria. A dog will fail if it does not release the bite when commanded to do so. A perfect score is 100 points, with 80 points needed to pass.

| <b>UNDERSTANDING PROTECTION</b>   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Overall picture: <i>controlled power, with a strong, stable, and confident dog</i></b> |  |
| <b>EXERCISE</b>   | <b>THE IDEAL PICTURE OF THIS EXERCISE</b>  |
| <b>Blind search</b>   | Dog is directable, closely checks each blind as directed by the handler, remains obedient to handler throughout the exercise.  |
| <b>Hold &amp; Bark, with call out</b>   | Dog guards strongly and cleanly, with strong, convincing barking. Dog must return immediately to handler upon the call out command. Dog shows self-control and self-assuredness in guarding the passive helper.  |
| <b>Escape Exercise, with 'out'</b>  | Dog engages with a full strong grip, actively fights to stop the helper from escaping; dog releases cleanly on command, guards strongly and convincingly while remaining prepared for a potential attack.  |
| <b>Re-attack and drive, with 'out'</b>  | Dog firmly and convincingly defends himself and handler with a full, calm grip on the sleeve that remains strong and calm under pressure of stick hits; dog still outs cleanly on command and guards after the pressure phase, showing a clear mind even under stress.   |
| <b>Back transport and attack on handler (IPO2, IPO3)</b>                                  | Dog is controlled, focused on helper but responsive to handler during escort. Dog confidently defends himself and handler from another attack, and actively stops the attacking helper with another strong, full grip. Dog once again must release on command.   |
| <b>Courage test/Long Attack</b>   | Dog comes down the field with courage and conviction, drives through the threatening helper, and maintains a strong, full grip; dog outs on command even at a distance from his handler, and guards the helper strongly. At the IPO3 level, the dog then defends himself courageously from another attack by the helper, this time at a great distance from his handler, and must again show a clear 'out' on command. |

Throughout all three phases the dog's temperament is constantly being evaluated by the judge. Aggressive dogs and those that lack obedience and control will be failed for faulty temperament.

#### WHAT ABOUT THE STICK HITS?

The "stick hits" (stick stress test) are a crucial element of testing the individual dog's temperament, strength of nerves, courage, and composure. During the attack on the dog by the helper, the dog is struck twice with

a padded stick over the well-muscled withers, shoulder, or back area. The helper must use only a specific amount of force, enough to pressure the dog, but not enough to harm the dog. The presence and use of the stick creates a higher level of threat from the helper, and creates a pressure on the dog that reveals his true genetic temperament and nerve strength. The dogs with the strongest temperaments and nerves remain composed and confident despite the pressure from the helper during the stick hits. These dogs stay unfazed; their grips remain strong, firm, and calm, and they continue to make every effort to control the helper. Dogs with weaker temperaments and weaker nerves may become intimidated and lose their composure, and may weaken, loosen, or even release the grip. For more information on the protection phase of IPO, how it tests temperament and “nerve”, and how this relates to having stable, confident family companions, please visit:

[www.germanshepherddog.com/about/schutzhund-training/protection-explained/](http://www.germanshepherddog.com/about/schutzhund-training/protection-explained/)

### Putting it all together

Schutzhund is a wonderful sport. It is fun for the dog and trainer, it’s challenging and it’s rewarding. Where else in the dog sport world must the dog prove himself in three dramatically different phases in one day?

But more than a sport, the schutzhund evaluation is the best way we have of testing a dog’s temperament. There’s plenty else we can tell about a dog off the trial field too — for instance, aversion to slick surfaces, dog aggression, gun shyness and other temperament and character faults that degrade working ability — but it’s the best tool we have to evaluate breeding stock if we’re honest with ourselves about what we see.

The true temperament test of Schutzhund isn’t (or shouldn’t be) about points or how tough or extreme the dog is — it’s about how well the dog puts it all together.

On trial day, the dog (theoretically) will demonstrate his level of training, his guide ability, self-confidence, courage, sovereignty, nerve soundness, etc., to an impartial evaluator on a strange field with a strange helper. He should be committed to the track (which is a highly stylized exercise); he should be joyful but precise and controlled in the obedience; and he should be confident, active, powerful yet obedient in the protection.

By the time the dog gets to the trial field, especially by SchH3, there have been countless hours of training, repetition, stress, problem solving, handler mistakes, etc. The dog has had to learn to control his drives and urges through obedience. A dog who comes out strong and full of himself, shows joy in the work yet is still controlled and precise... is awesome. That’s working temperament.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. Do I have to have a German shepherd or Rottweiler to participate in Schutzhund?**

A. The sport is designed for all athletic dogs with correct working abilities and is not restricted to a particular group or breed of dog. The dog must be physically able to jump the one-meter jump holding a dumbbell, but there's a lot about what is in the dog's head, too.

**Q. I have a German shepherd I bought. Can it do Schutzhund?**

A. Many factors — one of which can be breed — determine what makes a successful Schutzhund dog. Stable temperament, desire for play, physical soundness, confidence, and many other characteristics must be considered. We would be happy to help you evaluate your dog for the sport if you're interested.

**Q. Is it true that training my dog in Schutzhund will make it want to bite people or that the dog will be unreliable around children, visitors, etc?**

A. Absolutely not! Many of our club members have small children, and all of us have our Schutzhund dogs in the house all the time. We have found that the dog's basic temperament has much more to do with his manners around strangers than any training. If anything, the training we do makes most dogs that are suited to the work more confident and secure, and less bothered by unusual circumstances.

**Q. My dog has bitten several people and I think he'd make a great Schutzhund dog.**

A. The polite answer is that it depends a lot on the circumstances that induced him to bite. The direct answer is that your dog almost certainly has temperament flaws that make the dog totally unsuitable for Schutzhund. The rude answer is that if your dog bites people and you LIKE that, then YOU have temperament flaws that make YOU unsuitable for Schutzhund.

**Q. My dog loves to play tug, has a lot of energy, and I want to do more with him than just throw the ball once in a while. How do I find out whether my dog and I should try this?**

A. Training for Schutzhund is a lot of fun, and tremendously rewarding, but it is also very time-consuming. Our club has no particular breed prejudices — even mutts are welcome! — but the time commitment can be daunting. To find a club in your area where you can visit and see if this sport appeals to you and your dog, [click here](#).

**Q. What age can I start training my dog?**

We start training puppies as soon as they come home. There is a lot you can teach a baby puppy: targeting helps with go-outs and blind searches later. You can teach sit, down, stand, sit in front, come fast, attention and focus and lots more with a baby puppy. Tracking can also be started at 8 weeks old, and tug play; learning that a quick out leads to more of the tug game — is also important for a youngster. (Don't play too much rough tug while the puppy is teething.)

Socialization with people (some are tall, some are small, some have loud voices, some come in wheel chairs), other puppies (take a puppy class for its socialization opportunities), and exposure to the big wide world with different places, slick floors, noise, etc. are all important.

**Q. How do I get started?**

The first thing you need to do is locate the Schutzhund clubs in your area. It is very difficult to advance in Schutzhund without training with a club. You can find lists of clubs by state at the USA site and the DVG site and by province at German Shepherd Schutzhund Clubs of Canada.

Visit the clubs in your area to see where you feel most comfortable and how you like the people training there and their training methods. Find the best fit for you and your dog. There are many different training styles and hopefully you'll find a club that uses methods you like.

**Q. How do I find out what the requirements are for each level, including the BH?**

Both USA and DVG have rule books which describe all exercises and explain what is needed for all titles. The DVG rulebook is also available on their website.

New Titles Available!

The United Schutzhund Clubs of America is now offering six new titles at all USA sanctioned Schutzhund trials. These titles are TRACKING 1, 2 and 3 and OBEDIENCE 1, 2 and 3. While they do not count towards the requirements for breed surveys or conformation shows, these sport titles provide an additional way for members to become involved in trials, gain experience and enjoy the sport.

The "BH" (Begleithunde), which demonstrates that the dog has basic obedience and a sound temperament, is required prior to entering tracking or obedience. A scorebook is required for all dogs attempting the BH. Click [germanshepherddog.com](http://germanshepherddog.com) to order a scorebook or rulebook from USA.

The TRACKING 1, 2 and 3 and the OBEDIENCE 1, 2 and 3 will be judged by the same rules and regulations that apply to these phases in the Schutzhund 1, 2 and 3 degrees. Dogs may compete at any level of these titles regardless of their current, if any, schutzhund degree.

The sports medal point total for these titles will be 1 point for the TRACKING and OBEDIENCE 1 level, 2 points for the TRACKING and OBEDIENCE 2 level and 3 points for the TRACKING and OBEDIENCE 3 level. Qualification for the points only applies to a passing score.

The United Schutzhund Clubs of America hopes that by offering these new titles, more people will have the opportunity to trial their dogs, gain handling experience in a trial situation and participate in the USA sports medal program in a wider range of activities.

| English commands | German commands | Pronunciation  |
|------------------|-----------------|--|
| Heel             | Fuss            | Fooss (long o sound as in moose) Frequently gets conjugated as if it were an English verb, as in "Did you see him fussing with his dog?" |
| Sit              | Sitz            | Siitz (rhymes with "fits")   |

|                          |        |   |
|--------------------------|--------|---|
| Down                     | Platz  | Platz (rhymes with "cats")  |
| Here (or Front, or Come) | Heir   | hee er Hang on the "eh" sound slightly longer than usual, and roll the r (if you can).  |
| Fetch, Bring, Get it     | Bring  | Brrring. Roll the "r"   |
| Search, Seek, Track      | Such   | Tsuuk, soo, The final k sound is almost silent.   |
| Out, Drop it, Let go     | Aus    | Owss, rhymes with "house"   |
| Jump, Up, Over           | Hopp   | Hop.  |
| Go out                   | Voraus | For owss (rhymes with "for house")  |
| Hunt, search the blind   | Revier | Reh veer  |
| Go on                    | Voran  | For awn. Some people use "voran" as the command to the dog to run to the blind and search it for the helper, others use "revier". |

### What is Pfui?

Pfui, phooey, (pronounced foo-ee) translates to "shame" as in "shame on you, you know better." It is used to tell a dog that his behavior is not acceptable at this time - as opposed to "No" which means the behavior is never acceptable. For instance, if you wanted to tell the dog to stop barking at someone, without telling him to never bark at anyone.

**What about "Stay?"**

Schutzhund considers "sit-stay" and "down-stay" to be a double command, which is not permitted in a trial. In addition, it is redundant.

For more commands, phrases, and other languages.

<http://www.uwsp.edu/psych/dog/languag1.htm> pronunciation sound files

### A DISCUSSION WITH SV JUDGE ELMAR MANNES

By Eugenia Kellenberger

April 4, 2010 The setting was 4 beautiful spring days at the Phoenix Schutzhund Club. In attendance were German shepherds, American Bulldog Terriers and of course their handlers. The work was intense but fruitful and thanks to Elmar, his philosophies and expertise there were apparent changes in the dogs in a few days. At the end of the seminar a whole discussion ensued, the focus was in protection and how the dog and handler team could achieve the highest levels. Following is a synopsis of the discussion.



**Q. Question: Can you talk about imprinting and teaching the puppy in the early stages of protection training.**

Answer: You (the owner) can do a lot of work in the first few months, you can start by playing with a soft material like a sack, a tug or burlap; avoid hard items as they can cause pain and have a negative effect on bite





development. I have seen people use a fishing rod make the dog catch, then pull, then give it. The helper must not give it for nothing, the dog must pull/fight to win.

These activities give the dog its first ideas on how to fight. The first impressions are the most lasting in the dog's life. The most important is to teach the dog how to pull and win through pulling. Through play the dog learns how to fight through the pulling. The pulling develops the fight for later in life and prevents the dog from moving the grip and gives him success and in turn makes the dog more secure. If a dog is started properly it makes it easier for the helper to start because the dog knows everything. All dogs can be started this way.

**Q. Question: Can you talk about developing a dog in the protection phase of schutzhund.**

Answer: The most important thing is the mixture of drives, prey drive and aggression. The right level for that one dog. Some dogs are nervous and you should not give more pressure, instead you may add more prey drive to make the dog more secure.

The drive is like a "muscle" you have to train each properly. If you overdevelop prey drive you won't get real fight drive. You need a balance between drives, if the prey drive is too high then you have to train the other side; helper and handler need to read their dogs well, this is one of the biggest problems in our sport.

Today there are many sportive helpers that focus on prey drive to make the dogs look good and to make the handler feel good about his/her dog and the helper. These dogs are so high in prey drive they don't learn how to fight. The work is done by the helper not by the dog. When the helper is not moving the dog does not know what to do.

That is why I can work 15-20 dogs without having a problem, because I am not jumping around. It is the helper's responsibility to give the dog the right attraction for working. It is a game for a helper to appropriately read and react to the dog, the dog tells you what it needs. And the helper should react.



When I work dogs in protection, my goal is to try and make the dog bring the fight to me, no movement of the sleeve unless it is necessary to make the dog secure or to add more prey drive. When the dog pulls then I make the sleeve loose by a loose shoulder. Careful use of the whip can make the dog astonished and bring fight against the helper. Improper use of the whip can also make the dog insecure. So helpers be careful!

**Q. Question: Why are some people uncomfortable with having their dogs hit during training?**

Answer: There are different reasons for hitting a dog. It may be to stimulate the fight drive or to make the dog more serious. It is also important to think about where you are hitting the dog. The hit is not for damage it is to develop drives, the main thing to understand is to develop the dog with slight touches. The dog doesn't need more. The dog must feel self assured from inside.

Also if the helper is afraid of getting bit then he/she moves and the dog learns from that that the helper is unsure so the dog will not show the right reaction. The dog will test the helper at the trial and learn out of his reactions how to impress the helper. As a helper you must be security.

**Q. Question: Can you talk about the presentation of dogs at trials during protection.**

Answer: In protection the biggest problem is that many dogs are too high in prey drive and they lack real fight. This is seen when there is a strong helper in a trial and he is coming to the dog hard and giving a stick hit for the defense



portion the grip loosens and the dog backs up. The dog then becomes nervous. In training the dog needs to learn how to counter the stick hits and fight into the helper.

With that being said, the same mistake could be made with overdoing the aggression. Within the defense drive the grip moves and it is not calm. If the dog has weak nerves and doesn't know how to fight you see the same problem. The dog does not know how to counter the pressure from the

helper. Hence the picture is very similar.

**Q. Question: What is your philosophy in protection? How has the "work" changed?**

Answer: I started in 1966, in those days in the protection work we used no prey drive, it was more of a philosophy of "bite or no bite". The dogs used to bite anywhere and the stick was used for the out and for keeping the dog away from the helper.

We would hit for a bite and the dogs did not win the sleeve. Today, our training has changed and the dogs are very clear of the work. The dog needs to be stimulated using the different drives appropriately.

**Q. Question: What are some common misconceptions that concern you in dog sport?**

Answer: Many people look at dogs with top scores and want to use them for breeding. But these dogs are not necessarily always the best dogs for breeding. I talked with many top dog handlers. They don't like the handler strong dogs. They prefer the weaker prey dogs, because it is easier for them to bring them to a higher level. They are easier to handle and people look for points. Many strong dogs out of good breeding's may have problems in obedience. Strong dogs will typically have problems in obedience and be harder to handle. The quality of breeding has been going down because people go to the winner for breeding because it is easier to sell the puppies, but the quality of breeding and the strength of the German Shepherd Dog will go down very soon if this continues.

**Q. Question: Becoming a helper**

Answer: I feel that helpers are brought up to positions too quickly. They lack experience. The most important is to pair a young up and coming helper with an experienced helper. Each helper must develop through working dogs. Each dog teaches that helper something new, every dog shows you a different reaction. If the helper is receptive and sensitive to the dog's changes and reactions during the work, he will learn. I have been doing this sport for forty plus years and I still learn from working different dogs. You are never finished learning! If you think so you will be finished soon!

**Q. Last Question, lets switch gears from protection to obedience. What do you think about using the ball in obedience training?**

Answer: The owner should be more involved in playing with the dog and developing a connection/bond with the dog. It makes you the interest when making that interaction. The focus should be the handler and not an object like the ball. The ball is a good tool but should not be the primary motivation for the dog. If you are the focus in these beginning stages, later the dog will be happy to work for you., not the ball the ball is dessert. It is the difference between a parent giving a child ten dollars to go to the movie or actually going to the movie with him.



In closing, Elmar's focus is on balancing a dog's drives and appropriate training to get the final result, an excellent dog with sound nerves and a balance between fight and

prey drive.

Recommended Reading

**ADVANCED SCHUTZHUND**

By Ivan Balabanov and Karen Duet

Publisher: Howell Book House

Edition: 1999 Hardback , 198 pages

Includes photos taken at Big Sky Schutzhund Club training sessions!!!

Problem-solving approach to Level III work that will help competitors bring their dogs to the highest level. Tracking, obedience and protection are dealt with individually, analyzing specific problems that crop up in each skill and offering step-by-step solutions. Uses operant conditioning techniques that steer clear of compulsion methods and build confidence, courage and problem-solving ability.

**HANDBOOK OF APPLIED DOG BEHAVIOR AND TRAINING**

By Steven Lindsay

Publisher: Iowa State University

Edition: 2000

Recommended by Ivan Balabanov & Michael Ellis as a must-have for the serious student of dog behavior and training.

A comprehensive introduction to the basic applied and scientific literature underlying effective treatment and training programs. Material is organized in a technical and scholarly manner that will appeal to the animal behavior specialist, while remaining relevant and accessible to the nonbehaviorist veterinarian, professional dog trainer, breeder, and serious hobbyist. Describes theoretical issues that impact learning and training in dogs, including the influence of evolution and artificial selection, development and the biological basis of canine behavior, learning and sensory abilities. Clear readable style, but technical.

**COMPETITION OBEDIENCE: A BALANCING ACT**

by Judy Byron & Adele Yunck

Publisher: Jabby Productions

Edition: 1998 Paperback , 380 pages

This is an excellent reference manual that explains how to teach, motivate, and proof obedience exercises from Novice to Utility. Describes how to move from training to showing with a wide variety of breeds; methods presented

reflect experiences with training dogs that have different personalities and temperaments. Well illustrated with line drawings and photos. Very readable! Useful for instructors as well as those training their own dogs.

### **SMART TRAINERS: BRILLIANT DOGS**

by Janet R Lewis

Publisher: Canine Sports Productions

Edition: 1997 Paperback , 165 pages

Learn how to have a brilliant dog! The key is to understand how dogs learn. Explains step-by-step how dogs perceive our commands and respond to them. Guaranteed to improve your training skill and strengthen your bond with your dog. Also demystifies all of the new training lingo like “positive reinforcement,” “negative punishment,” and forced” vs. “induced.” No matter what your interest: obedience, agility, tracking, herding, conformation, or just to have a well-trained companion, this book will make you a smart trainer!

### **EXCEL-ERATED LEARNING**

by Pamela Reid

Publisher: James & Kenneth

Edition: 1996 Paperback , 172 pages

Explains in plain English how dogs learn and how best to teach them! Contents: Motivation, stages of learning, why study learning, science of behaviorism, classical conditioning, operant conditioning, single-event learning, factors that affect learning (timing, schedules of reinforcement), stimulus (signal) control, aversive control of behavior, negative punishment, the application of learning principles to changing behavior, social learning, and more.

### **HOW DOGS LEARN**

by Mary Burch & Jon Bailey (See other books by author)

Publisher: Howell Book House

Edition: 1999 Hardback , 224 pages

Explains the science of operant conditioning, the psychological principle upon which almost all animal training is based. Operant conditioning is the place where science and dog training meet, and the authors bring you there in terms anyone can easily grasp. Every scientific concept is explained clearly and precisely, and its relevance to your dog is laid out. Includes a history of animal training, the basic principles of behavior, behavioral diagnostics (why does the dog do that?), increasing behaviors (teaching your old dog new tricks), decreasing behaviors (dealing with canine delinquents), differential reinforcement, antecedent control, and using punishment. A must-have book for the more serious dog person or behaviorist.

### **THAT WINNING FEELING**

by Jane Savoie

Publisher: Trafalgar Square

Edition: 1992 Paperback , 143 pages

Train your mind to achieve more in competition using psychocybernetics—the science of positive mind power. For training horses but top competitors in dog sports use it!

### **BEYOND BASIC DOG TRAINING, 3RD EDITION**

by Diane Bauman (See other books by author)

Publisher: Howell Book House

Edition: 2003 Hardback , 288 pages

Shows how dogs learn, what they do with what they learn, and how a stimulated canine mind, along with a trampled canine ego, makes for a dog that is a joy to live and work with. Covers competitive obedience exercises novice through utility, but the emphasis is on novice. Even covers how to choose a puppy for competitive obedience, special techniques for large and small dogs, proofing. Exercises are discussed individually. There is a section on using match shows and tips for your actual ring performance.

### **PLAYTRAINING YOUR DOG**

by Patricia Gail Burnham (See other books by author)

Publisher: St. Martin's Press

Edition: 1980 Paperback , 260 pages

This book, in my opinion, started the revolution in motivational training. Dog Wise says: Obedience training can be fun for both dog and handler! Topics covered include: instructors and training classes, training time, motivation, advice for showing a dog, cues and body language. Realize the full potential of both the dog and the dog/owner relationship; provide an alternative to the violence that conventional teaching methods inflict on the minds and bodies of dogs. One of our most popular training books, it features greyhounds.

### **SCHUTZHUND OBEDIENCE: TRAINING IN DRIVE**

by Sheila Booth

Have fun while training! This method gives your dog choices, then you simply reward him for making the correct choice. This gives him credit for being an intelligent, sensitive creature who enjoys working when we allow him to think for himself. This happy attitude assures your dog will work joyfully and correctly—in other words, he will love to work!! Stresses the drive instinct in the dog, and is a step-by-step manual to teach you how to train your dog for winning obedience. Popular with both Schutzhund and competitive obedience customers. Deals with the novice exercises: heeling, sit, stay, down, stand, recall.

