

## ***Dr. Dodman's "The Well Adjusted Pet" seminars are now available on DVD!***

***HSVMA members may deduct \$15 from the cost of the Cat Set; \$30 from the cost of the Dog Set. This discount may not be combined with the previous attendee discount. You must contact [linda@thepetdocs.com](mailto:linda@thepetdocs.com) to order at the discounted price.***

**"The Well Adjusted Cat" seminar consists of 5 separate DVD's: \$99 for the complete set of 5 (\$84 for HSVMA members) or \$25@ for individual lectures plus shipping/packaging.**

*Topics addressed:*

### **#1-Social Behavior of Cats and Aggression:**

In this talk, current concepts about the social behavior of cats will be addressed including how they act and inter-act with each other. The feline agenda is a subtle one but nevertheless sometimes, unbeknownst to owners, sometimes directs into some kind of ranking system with a fluid social order determined by temperament and group dynamics. Once this groundwork has been laid the presenter will explain disturbances in normal orderliness in: fearful situations, cases of mistaken identity, and sudden environmental perturbations. Specific topics that will be addressed include: territorial aggression leading to feuding between household cats, owner-directed aggression, redirected aggression, non-recognition aggression, and sexual aggression. In each case how to recognize the problem and address it will be detailed.

### **#2-Feline Fears and Anxiety: Causes, Treatment, and Expression:**

In this talk, the reasons why cats become fearful and how these fears are expressed will be dealt with. The fearfulness of strangers, thunderstorm phobia, and separation anxiety are some of the specific fears that will be covered as well anxiety-related urine marking, a formerly refractory condition that in the past, all too commonly led to the surrender of cats and their untimely demise. Fortunately, modern treatments mean that all of these anxious or fearful behaviors, once recognized, can reasonably easily be addressed so that surrender of cats exhibiting these problems is no longer necessary.

### **#3-Litter box Strategies and Furniture Scratching:**

Aside from urine-marking, house soiling in cats resulting from some kind of failure of litter box arrangements within the home is a common "misbehavior" of cats. Many owners, even ones who are really attached to their cat, too often lose patience with it and, in desperation, surrender it to a shelter. House soiling due to inappropriate litter box management is one of the easiest feline behavior problems to address. Understanding the problems and addressing them can lead to virtually 100% resolution of this problem. What can go wrong and frequently does go wrong will be addressed during this talk so that owners never again need to be in the difficult situation of having to survive the consequence of this misbehavior or surrender their cat. In the second part of this talk, furniture scratching will be discussed, including why cats do it and what can and should be done to address it. Most cat owners have no idea what constitutes an appropriate scratching post, where to put it, and how many should be positioned around the home. This failure to comprehend cats' needs can have dire consequences for the cat, including declawing or relinquishment, neither of which is necessary nor acceptable.

#### **#4-Feline Compulsive Behavior:**

Certain cats, notably but not exclusively of Oriental breeds, engage in bizarre repetitive behaviors now known as compulsive behaviors. Some of these behaviors, like compulsive nail biting, may go almost unnoticed by owners whereas others, like wool sucking or the compulsive eating of inedible objects, are hard to miss. An additional compulsive behavior that will be dealt with in this talk is psychogenic alopecia in which cats over groom as a result of anxiety and render themselves bald usually on the underside and inside of their legs. What causes cats to engage in these strange behaviors will be discussed in this talk, including measures that can be enacted to alleviate or, in some cases, cure the behavior. Videotape of the various feline compulsions will be shown so that attendees will have a really clear idea of how to recognize them.

#### **#5-Feline Medical Problems that Present as Behavior Problems:**

Sometimes altered behavior in cats is due to underlying medical problems. In this talk, the presenter will deal with pathological aggression, which may be a result of a partial seizure, perhaps hyperthyroidism, or parasitic migration in the cat's brain. How to recognize these bizarre forms of aggression will be discussed, as will treatment options. Other conditions that will be discussed from a medical point of view are: feline hyperesthesia, seizure-related tail chasing, nutritional deficiency, skin conditions and also, the flip side, behavior conditions that masquerade as medical conditions. Finally, feline Alzheimer's disease and medical causes of house-soiling will be addressed including ways in which these conditions can be diagnosed and treated. It behooves all cat owners, as well as feline behavioral or veterinary professionals, to be aware of these "curve ball" causes of altered behavior which, as the talk will demonstrate, can often be addressed.

**"The Well Adjusted Dog" seminar consists of 10 separate DVD's: \$199 for the complete set of 10 (\$169 for HSVMA members) or \$25@ for the individual lectures plus shipping/packaging.**

*Topics addressed:*

#### **#1-Dominance versus Conflict Aggression:**

In this talk, Dr. Dodman will address the current controversy regarding the terms *dominance* and *conflict* used to describe owner-directed aggression. Clinical signs of both types of aggression will be described and differences between the two will be highlighted. Treatment of owner-directed aggression and the likely outcome of treatment measures will be addressed. Dominance struggles occurring between dogs in the same household, a condition known as *sibling rivalry* or *alliance aggression* will also be discussed, including itemization of a treatment regimen that has proven most successful.

#### **#2-Fear, Territorial, and Predatory Aggression:**

Dr. Dodman will address the role of fearfulness and territoriality in generating aggression to strangers both on and off the owner's property will be described with emphasis on the critical importance of early socialization even before vaccination is complete. Territorial aggression will be discussed as that arising from fear or dominance or a combination of these two factors and different treatment approaches for both will be outlined. The natural behavior of predatory aggression will be featured toward the end of this talk and its unnatural expression when directed toward people and moving objects. Proper control and treatment of predatory aggression will be discussed.

#### **#3-Canine Fear-Based Behaviors featuring Diagnosis and Treatment of Separation Anxiety:**

The centerpiece of this presentation will involve a thorough discussion of separation anxiety in dogs, how it arises, when it arises, and what can be done about it. Other situational fears will also be addressed in this talk including fear of car travel and veterinary visits including treatment options for both of these latter conditions.

#### **#4-Canine Phobias/Post Traumatic Stress Disorders:**

Noise phobia, in particular, storm phobia, will be the main subject of this presentation. The enigma of how storm phobia arises and what factors are involved will be covered, as will effective treatment options ranging from the use of various types of storm capes and wraps to environmental provisions including that of companionship.

#### **#5- Case Presentations and Discussions on topics 1-4**

#### **#6-Canine Compulsive Disorder – Spinning, Sucking, and Snapping:**

A leader in canine compulsive disorder research, Dr. Dodman will discuss the cause of these sometimes confusing and difficult to treat conditions. The latest findings regarding the genetic underpinning of compulsive disorders as well as environmental input and the expression of well-known canine compulsive disorders such as acral lick dermatitis and tail-chasing will be detailed. Treatment of the various compulsive disorders will also be described, including what can reasonably be expected in terms of results.

#### **#7-Medical Causes of Behavior Problems – Things You’ve Got to Know:**

Dr. Dodman firmly believes that trainers and veterinarians, alike, need to be aware of the possible role of medical conditions in generating what appear to be purely behavioral problems. In particular, he’ll discuss what is and is not known about the all-to-common state of borderline hypothyroidism and its role in generating aggression, anxiety, and possibly even compulsive disorders. Various types of partial seizure disorder will be described also including how these problems can contribute to a rage-like state of aggression, fly-snapping, indiscriminate eating of inedible objects and even extreme and irrational fear. Canine cognitive dysfunction (canine Alzheimer’s) will also be discussed, including how the diagnosis is made, what other diagnoses can be confused with it and how to manage it. Nocturnal separation anxiety occurring in older dogs will also be described as an entity and one in which must be recognized by all. Other known conditions, including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, narcolepsy, liver problems, and kidney/bladder problems will also be mentioned.

#### **#8-Psychopharmacology of Behavior Problems – What works and why:**

Dr. Dodman will discuss how and why behavior modifying drugs work and will run through an assortment of them in terms of when they can be applied, how they can be applied, and what are reasonable expectations of their use. Specifically in this talk, pharmacological treatments to modify aggression, separation anxiety, and compulsive disorders, will be detailed, including specifics of titration of these medications and possible side effects.

#### **#9-Well-Adjusted Dogs – Seven Steps to Producing a Happy, Healthy, Well-Adjusted Dog:**

In this presentation, Dr. Dodman will go through the seven steps that he has enumerated as being something that all dog owners should know and apply in order to maximize the physical and psychological well-being of their dog. The steps include exercise and diet, clear communication, proper leadership, proper control, assuagement of fears, and provision of a suitable indoor and outdoor environment and activities. Each one of these subjects will be gone through in detail explaining why the various interventions work and the resulting improvement that can be achieved.

#### **#10-Case Presentations on 6-9**

**\*\*Previous attendees of Dr. Dodman’s “Well Adjusted Pet” seminars may purchase one copy of the DVD’s for the seminar(s) that they attended for 50% off! Please contact [linda@thepetdocs.com](mailto:linda@thepetdocs.com) for discount orders. For regular orders, please visit [www.thepetdocs.com](http://www.thepetdocs.com) and click on the events or products buttons; information about ordering the DVDs is at the bottom of each of these pages.**

#### Shipping/packaging costs:

\$6 for 1-5 DVD’s

\$12 for 6-10 DVD’s

\$18 for 11-15 DVD’s