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### The History of Dog Training and Its Importance to Modern Day Training Techniques

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# **A HISTORY OF DOG TRAINING AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO MODERN DAY TRAINING TECHNIQUES**

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Thesis Advisor: Dr. Maddie Myers-Burg



# Overview

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ From Tools to Pets
- ❖ How Dogs Learn
- ❖ Training Methods Through the Ages
- ❖ Personal Experience
- ❖ Future Expectations
- ❖ Conclusion

# INTRODUCTION

Understanding the impact of this shared history, as well as the psychological mechanisms by which dogs learn, is crucial for the successful implementation of modern-day training techniques.



**FROM TOOLS TO PETS**



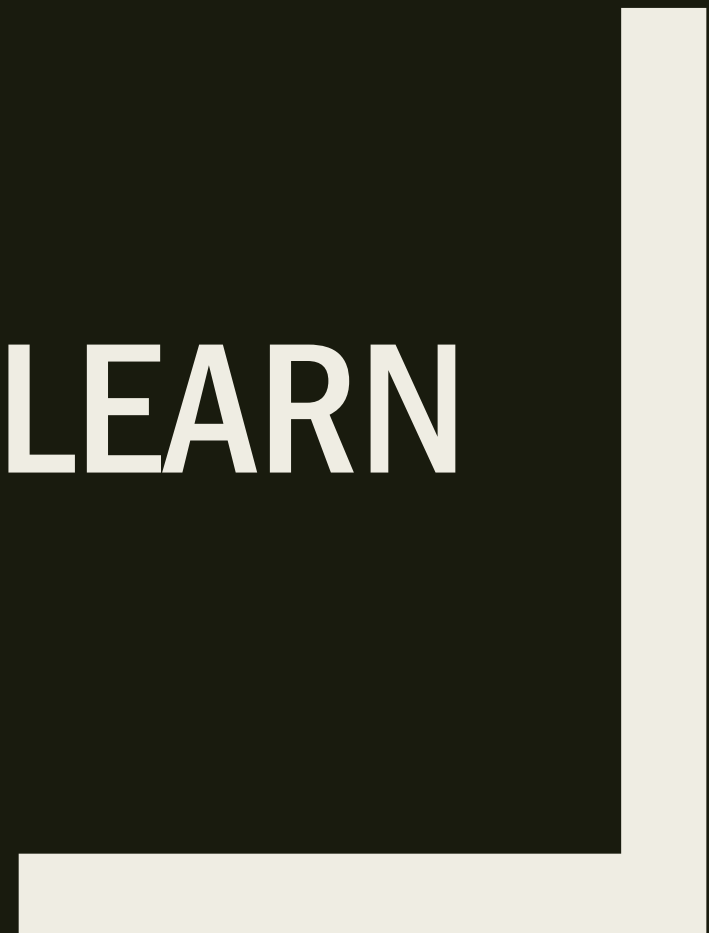
Biblical  
Times

Working  
Partners

Transition  
to Pets



# HOW DOGS LEARN



# 4 Primary Methods of Learning

A white dog, possibly a Labrador, is sitting on a bed with a grey blanket. The dog is looking towards the camera with a happy expression, its mouth slightly open. It is wearing a blue collar with a black buckle and a small tag. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting.

Classical  
Conditioning

Operant  
Conditioning

Hybrid  
Conditioning

Social  
Learning



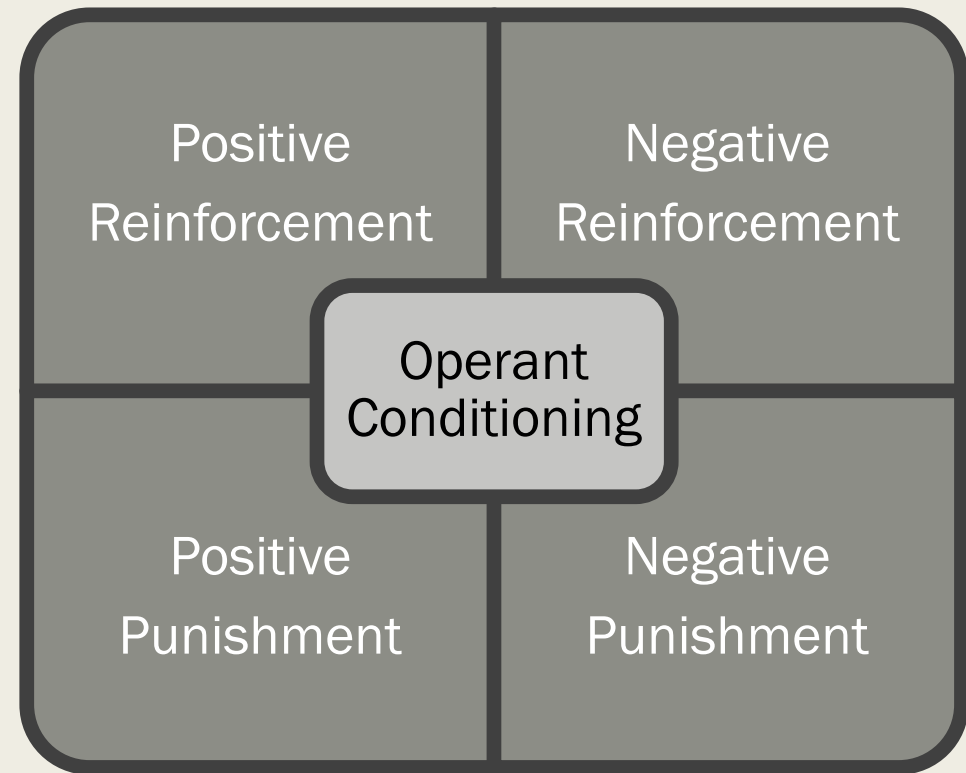


## Classical Conditioning

- Developed by Ivan Pavlov in 1890s
- Foundation for all forms of dog training
- Clicker Training

# Operant Conditioning

- Developed by B.F. Skinner in 1930s
- Original experiments utilized “Skinner’s Box”
- Involves all 4 quadrants of the Operant Conditioning Matrix





# Hybrid Conditioning

- Combines classical and operant conditioning
  - Classically condition cue words
  - Utilize operant conditioning in communication
- Recent development critical for Balanced Training

# Social Learning

- Dogs are primed to learn from one another
- Dogs are also able to learn from humans
- “Do as I Do” Training Methodology



# TRAINING METHODS THROUGH THE AGES





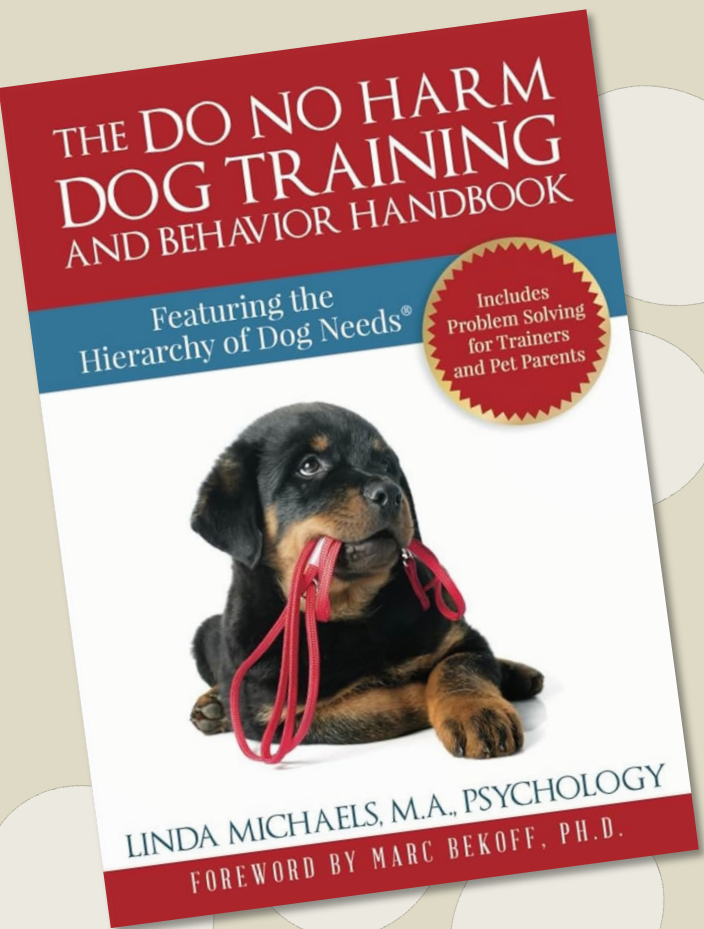
## Compulsion Based

- Konrad Most's *Dog Training: A Manual*
- Forces dogs into compliance via physical force and psychological threatening
- Very popular with military and police dogs
- Less effective than other methodologies

# Dominance Theory

- Originated with David Mech's study of wolf pack behavior
- Championed by Cesar Millan on his hit TV show, *The Dog Whisperer*
- Has been disproven; Mech has even recanted his findings





petco

PET SMART

AVSAB

# Force-Free

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- *Do No Harm*
- 2 versions:
  - *only positive reinforcements (primary)*
  - *Positive reinforcement and negative punishment*
- Lacks ability to have clear communication
- Championed by many well-known pet organizations





# Balanced Training

- Uses a hybrid conditioning platform → all 4 quadrants of operant conditioning + classical conditioning
- Allows for the clearest communication between dog and human
- Utilizes what many consider “aversive” tools in a positive way

**FUTURE EXPECTATIONS**



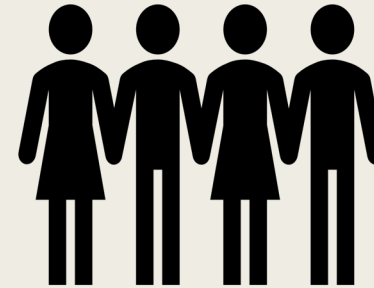
# Future Expectations



Balanced Training



Aversive Tool Bands



Societal Sentiment

**CONCLUSION**





**QUESTIONS**



**THANK YOU**