



## THE BITING DOG

### UNDERSTANDING AND WORKING WITH AGGRESSIVE DOGS

One of the main problems plaguing pet dog owners in today's world is aggression. An increasing number of dogs are being re-homed, abandoned or euthanised in the name of aggression.

Often, all the problem needs is a bit of understanding, correcting at an early age and education.

Dogs need a lot of time and patience to understand them. Not many dog owners take time to understand that their pets have descended from wolves and despite being very different in shape, size and colour, they have retained about 85% of wolf behaviour patterns and have different needs and abilities to those of humans.



Research has shown that three times as many dogs are abandoned because they have behaviour problems than those that die from cancer.

Since 1996, India's leading professional canine behaviourist – Shirin Merchant has worked with dogs in India and has realised a growing need to educate and help dog owners understand the true cause of canine aggression and the simple remedies that can help correct the imbalance in the dog-human relationship.

Through this – India's only course on canine aggression, she hopes fewer dogs will be abandoned or euthanised for aggressive behaviour and there will be more happy endings for dogs and humans.

## **CURRICULUM**

### **UNIT 1**

#### **LAWS OF LEARNING IN DOGS**

This topic will include a detailed study of:

- Understanding the different ways in which a dog learns behaviour.
- Patterns of canine behaviour
- Operant and Classical conditioning and its impact on aggressive behaviours.
- Positive and negative reinforcement and their use on aggressive behaviours
- Why punishment does more harm than good.
- Learned helplessness
- The role the dog's environment and upbringing plays in its behaviour.

### **UNIT 2**

#### **UNDERSTANDING AGGRESSION**

The course will discuss:

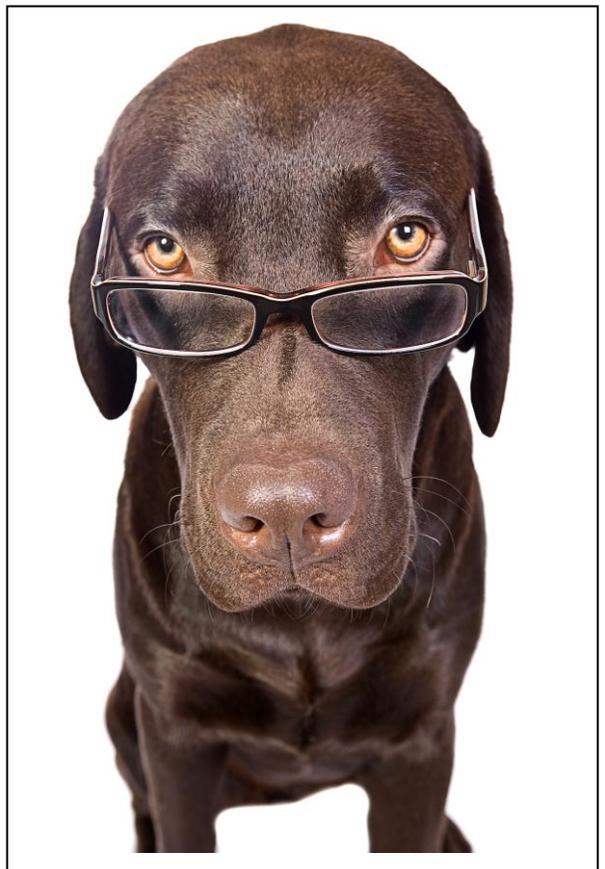
Factors that influence aggression such as:

- The role of the pet parents in aggression
- Breed traits
- Genetics vs. Learned behaviour
- Hormones and the role they play in aggression
- Social development periods
- Physiological factors
- Resiliency and Trauma
- The role of play in aggression
- The role of fear and frustration in aggression
- Health related problems that could contribute to aggression
- Reading and interpreting early warning signs in puppies

### **UNIT 3**

#### **WORKING WITH AGGRESSIVE DOGS**

- Prevention of dog bites
- Understanding a dog's body language
- Calming signals and the role they play in aggression
- The alpha roll over – does it really work?
- What to do if you get bitten
- How to break up a dog fight



## UNIT 4

### THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF AGGRESSION

The course will cover the three basic types of aggression -

- Aggression towards humans
- Aggression towards dogs
- Aggression towards other animals

The following types will be discussed in detail:

- Territorial aggression
- Possessive aggression
- Dominance aggression
- Dog to dog aggression
- Protective aggression
- Predatory aggression
- Nervous aggression
- Aggression towards children
- On leash and off leash aggression
- Food aggression
- Re directed aggression



## UNIT 5

### TRAINING TOOLS

The course will discuss the various training tools in the market, including muzzles and tethers, head collars, e-collars and the pros and cons.

### STRATEGIES OF WORKING WITH AGGRESSION

The course will take an in depth look at the different ways of dealing with the problem. Which training methods work and which do not. Case histories will be discussed in detail.

- Measuring and monitoring aggressive behaviour
- Control and management
- Counter conditioning
- Teaching an incompatible behaviour
- Tackling aggression with aggression
- Neutering the aggressive dog- when it works and when it will fail
- Using clicker training and shaping with aggressive dogs
- Avoiding common mistakes in behaviour modification programmes
- Discuss real life cases and work through case histories: from simple and common problems to complex cases
- Devise comprehensive behaviour programmes
- Devise associated training plans

## UNIT 6

### WORKING WITH THE OWNER

A large step in correcting an aggressive dog's behaviour is working in tandem with the owner. The course will look at:

- Teaching the owner how to reduce instances of aggression
- Teaching the owner how to be safe around an aggressive dog
- The role of the owner in aggression
- Diet and exercise and their relation to aggression
- Teaching the owner how to retrain an aggressive dog
- How to format a programme for a problem dog.
- How to read a dog's behaviour during a consultation
- How to conduct a behaviour consultation with an aggressive dog
- Case histories
- Unrealistic expectations
- The instant fix

### TRAINING FACULTY

The course will be conducted by India's pioneering canine behaviourist and trainer – Shirin Merchant

Since 1996, she has helped dog owners in England, India and Sri Lanka with behaviour and training problems ranging from dominance, housetraining, chewing, aggression, destruction to boredom and compulsive behaviours.

She has trained over three thousand dogs with breeds ranging from the feisty Pomeranian to the shy Samoyed. She is currently renowned as one of the top dog trainers in the world (quoted by John Rogerson – Northern Centre for Animal Behaviour).

In 2013, Shirin gained her accreditation to the prestigious Kennel Club of England Accreditation Scheme for Trainers and became a fully accredited member of the KCAI (Kennel Club of England) holding an accreditation in Companion Dog Training and Behavioural Training at the advanced level.

She is the only person outside of Europe to have achieved this distinct honour and is one of nine people in the world to have the accreditation in Behavioural Training.

Shirin was awarded the KCAI International Commendation for Trainer of the Year at a ceremony at Cruft's Dog Show in England in 2014.



## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The comprehensive 6 week Course will be conducted in 2 stages.

### MODULE 1 (A period of 2 weeks)

This stage will include the introduction to the course and theory classes. Students will be expected to attend the 12 day Behaviour course in Dadar, Mumbai 10 am to 2pm everyday



This stage will include theory classes.

Shirin merchant will personally demonstrate, teach, guide and supervise the students.

No certificate will be awarded on completion of this stage

### MODULE2 (Study and practice) (A period of 4 weeks)

In this stage, the student will be required to go through study material at home.

Students will be provided online study material in the form of books (will need to be purchased separately), videos and articles.

Students will be sent cases to work on, write out programmes, canine behaviour videos to analyse and do further research.

This module can be worked at the student's convenience but must be completed within 2 weeks.

Students will be expected to invest around 42-52 hours of study in this module.

Requirements - a computer and an internet connection.

On completion of this stage, students will receive a certificate of successful completion.

**Please note, if the student does not complete module 2, no certificate will be awarded to the student.**

## DURATION AND DATES

**AUGUST 2020**

### 1<sup>st</sup> MODULE

**VENUE** - Dadar, Mumbai

Students are strictly expected to attend daily.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> MODULE

This module can be studied at home, at any time convenient to the student. You do not need to be in Mumbai for this module. All teaching in this module will be done online.

## APPLICATION

The comprehensive course is ideal for anyone keen on furthering their knowledge of canine behaviour – either to expand their own canine communication skills or as the commencement of a whole new career. Students will understand why dogs behave the way they do and how to change a dog's behaviour without resorting to punishment. The

detailed course will consist only of theory and is the foundation course for people interested in pursuing a career as canine trainers and behaviour counsellors.

**Only students who have been actively training dogs for at least 2 years can apply for the course.**

The course will be conducted only in English and students are required to have a good understanding of the language. Applicant must be over 18 years of age. This course is only for those people who genuinely want to learn more about dogs. Only those seriously interested should apply.

### **FEES AND MODE OF PAYMENT FOR THE COURSE**

The fees for this course are Rs. 118,000/- inclusive of GST

Payment can be made in the form of cash / cheque / DD in the name of 'SHIRIN MERCHANT. All payments to be made in full before the commencement of the course. Part payments / post dated cheques will not be accepted.

Registration charges Rs. 10000/- (non-refundable and non-transferable to another course) to be sent along with the admission form (available on request). Registration amount will be adjusted against final payment.

**Students must confirm participation on the course latest by 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

### **CERTIFICATION**

Upon successful completion of both the course modules, students will receive a certificate of successful completion.

**For more details, or the application form for the course contact:**

**Shirin Merchant**

**Tel No.: 98210 54690 E-mail- [k9cancare@hotmail.com](mailto:k9cancare@hotmail.com)**

