



MINNESOTA CANINE SOLUTIONS
SPECIALIZING IN BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION AND
MOTIVATIONAL DRIVE-BUILDING FOR ALL BREEDS

Tapping into your dog's Motivational Drive to Obey and Respect you.

Canine Rank Order

Animals living in groups usually establish an order inside the group where each individual has a position and purpose in relation to the others. The main purpose of rank order, or hierarchy, is that it insures the survival of the pack as well as the species. However, it also serves to prevent fights and daily conflicts from developing into serious combat. In a wolf pack or dog pack, the leader, or Alpha, is typically an older male. Often there is an older female, who shares overall leadership with the male and is “number one” among all the females.

Dog owners often regard their “pack” as comprising of the dog, or dogs, as well as human family members. The dog should regard itself as lower in rank than all human members and not regard the children as lower ranking puppies. Even if a human family were to function as a pack in many respects, it is highly doubtful whether dogs regard the family as a real or natural pack. It is even more doubtful as to whether a dog will act towards the family as it would towards other canine members of a pack.

The bond between canine members is created, developed and maintained by the performance of daily survival tasks and strategies (“prey acquisition sequence”)- hunting for prey, catching it, killing it and devouring it, to mention a few. It is when participating in these vital operations, that the rank order is established, reversed, or maintained. Pet owners do not participate in such activities and neither do their dogs. Generally, feeding procedures are routine and mundane in terms of not providing the triggering and release mechanisms of the dogs innate “prey acquisition sequence”. These domesticated tasks do not place a demand on any instinctive skills besides opening the mouth, chewing and digesting- activities which have little to do with deciding factors related to rank ordering.

In order to achieve and maintain the “Natural Alpha Role” in the family pack, the owner must therefore use Artificial Situations and Exercises especially designed for this purpose.

Recreated by Rod Bombalier, CPDT (KA)
Original works published by R.Abranz, PhD