00:01 Alright, I'm recording this little video to answer the questions that came in after today's camp matty behavior edition day 2, I thought it'd be a little faster and a little easier for me to get these done because I am jumping on a plan early tomorrow morning and my power keeps cutting out here with

00:18 the windy and rainy weather so I want to try to squeeze this in before I lost my connection to so I'm gonna jump right in question 11 is where this is starting but I'm gonna eat and I'm gonna go through each one of them and I'll read them as well so I feel like I have a harder time getting clients or

00:32 colleagues to look for pain more in-depth maybe I'm not being assertive enough about the fact that they may have a medical issue sometimes medical issues are also overlooked or misdiagnosed by a vet and may need to be reevaluated again by another vet which I find challenging to push people to look further

00:48 again. Any tips. Well if this is going for the and you mentioned clients there is uhh usually that means we're going to be referring our own clients versus the shelter environment if this is what you're talking about.

01:00 So what I mean by that is I think it's ideal to find a network of veterinarians you trust that are going to be more likely to be evaluating for those underlying medical issues.

01:11 So vets that might have a little more experienced diagnosing pain or knowing what to look for from a behavioral aspect because of course most vets are going to be knowing how to diagnose I'll see you next medical issues they may not have be familiar as familiar with the behavioral side of things.

01:25 So I often like to um try to establish a network of veterinarians you know when I was in Connecticut I had quite a few veterinarians I could refer to that I trusted.

01:36 I had some interesting behavior and that can be our job as trainers of consultants is to find those resources in part of that is developing relationships with those veterinarians.

01:45 So I can then inform the clients you know I have another vet I suggest a second opinion here a lot of these issues can be medically related and in my experiences they often are so you can talk about your own experience with cases that are similar to kind of give them a little bit of background about

02:03 what kind of pain or medical issues can cause these behavior problems. Thank so much. So that's usually my go-to response for that and getting those resources involved.

02:15 I use human analogies too, just like you know if you have like some you're having chest pains for instance you might go from your general practitioner vet.

02:24 To see a specialist of course vet. General practitioner doctor or your family medicine doctor and you would probably see a specialist if you were again the results you're looking for with a general routine exam.

02:37 Okay next question which is number 12 on the list. Is in your vast experience of dealing with aggression and that's in quotes.

02:44 Have you dealt with dogs with sensory deprivation hearing issues and vision problems? Uh not frank Linus. Um, yes the so there are dogs that can have some sensory deprivation issues hearing loss blindness um even just a diminished uh sensory you know being able to you know see things not quite well they

03:04 can still see things so at different varying degrees of these sensory issues yes and I find it can actually sometimes increase the intensity or likelihood with some dogs so now not of course not all blind or and or deaf dogs are going to have aggression issues but you do see this sometimes and my inclination

03:26 is that it's because they're um you know not able to process the particular threat as well as somebody or another dog that has all their senses so add to the degree that we're needing that's normal for them so um one of the classic examples is a client of mine that Their dog couldn't see as well at night

03:46 and the dog ended up biting the owner's boyfriend uh who the dog knew and his met many many times just couldn't recognize him and a dark evening came around a car and the dog bit him because he just couldn't recognize him and that was because probably the not being able to see him as well so um yes they

04:07 it can happen but it doesn't mean just you know it's just cause the dog doesn't have all their particular sensory senses at the level of a regular normal dog.

04:16 Then it doesn't necessarily mean aggression was going to happen but it's something to be aware for sure. Uh I should also mention going back here the other thing you to look to look for is intra household dog aggression cases.

04:28 Um sometimes when you have an older dog reaching certain stages in their life they might start to lose their hearing or their sight and what can happen is that dog's like I can't hear or see what you used to do.

04:41 Used to growl at me or give me a hard stare or something that would indicate you're uncomfortable with me getting closer.

04:46 Now I can't see her here that and that's why these fights are starting cause like this they're not able to communicate as well.

04:52 Sometimes it can be cognitive issues of course. Uh things like that so it's another thing to like look for if you have an intra household dog dog aggression case.

05:00 Okay question number fourteen. What do you think about the dog's diet and how that reflects on their behavior. So big question.

05:06 Um there are some studies on diet especially when it comes to aggressive behavior but it's the sample sizes are usually very small and it's very hard to study that because it's difficult to say okay it's the diet and it's dying only because with behavior there's so many influences things like environmental

05:26 influences, other underlying medical issues, history of learning. So it's really hard to say yeah it's definitely the diet or the diet's doing things.

05:35 Now I think we are getting there in the research. We're slowly moving towards understanding things like the gut microbiomes and the different influences of how diet can affect behavior not just with aggression.

05:48 More so more so studied in humans but I think it's going to be trickling down into our world of working with dogs and cats and other critters and how much it's going to impact behavior.

05:58 So to answer the question there's not enough data out there to say for me to say oh you have to switch to the, this or try that at this stage.

06:10 The only time I usually say that is if the dog is eating something really terrible and they're suffering from a GI perspective so they're you know they have diarrhea or they're vomiting and they're not feeling well.

06:21 That in itself the dog just not feeling well. It can be a fuel for aggressive responses just like people. So if that's the case that's when I'll kind of talk about diet with a client but other than that it's not something I'm going to be saying you have to do like a low protein diet and that'll fix the

06:38 aggression. There's just not enough data out there yet. Uhh, let's see. Question number 15. Are there resources in building a good sniffari with limited space?

06:46 You know what? I would um actually look at some of the good enrichment books that are out there. There's one that recently came out.

06:53 It's called canine enrichment for the real world. It's Emily Strong and Ali Bender wrote that. And it's a really great resource.

07:01 It's not only on things like you know enrichment with the nose but just enrichment in general for dogs. And then I would really look at any of the folks doing uh, nose work or sent work with their dogs.

07:11 Uh. Nancy. He raises one that comes to mind. Um. She's a well known that the nose world for dogs. And it does a lot of that.

07:21 Uh, teaches classes on that. So, uh, Nancy re yes is uh, she would be a good resource to look into as well.

07:28 Okay. Uh, number 16. Uh, your story with Sally is wonderful. Thank you. Uh, I think you said you had 80 sessions with her.

07:35 How do you set expectations with the guardians so they are open to the process and don't get in a patient or give up along the way?

07:41 And how do you approach the conversation when the family has financial limitations? And only can forward a limited number of sessions.

07:47 Um, so this was of course a very special client. I don't have any clients that I've ever done 80 sessions with day training or otherwise.

07:55 Um, it's been I think the maximum I've done is maybe 25 with as the- next closest number of sessions. So so usually we wouldn't have to have this conversation.

08:06 They were also financially prepared to do this. So they had the financial means and resources in order to do so.

08:13 But when it comes to setting expectations, I always work with the client to determine what is most appropriate for their case, their situation, their environments, their resources.

08:24 So we can come to a common goal because somebody might say, you know, I want my dog to be a therapy dog or service Again, not even.

08:32 They've been people. It's not only an unrealistic expectation, but if we were to do some sort of lofty goal, you'd have to set many sessions of course to do that.

08:41 And so we start discussing what their expectations are in the case and set what I think is a particular Thank you.

08:48 An average number of sessions for them and see, does that doable for you? Is that something you can commit to?

08:53 Is that something you want to do? Uh, or can we taper back some of your expectations? So part of it is a little bit of the experience we have in our cases and what we've, how many sessions we've done with past clients and how long it generally took and then you put, usually be able to put an average

09:08 guess on the number of sessions and talk to them about it. Now one thing we never want to do is offer a guarantee so people may be like oh can you guarantee in six sessions my dog's not going to bark on leash anymore so like that which we never want to do because that's unethical because we can't guarantee

09:25 behavior. Well we can guarantee those I'll say I'll guarantee I'm going to give you the best of my ability with the knowledge I have and I'm going to show up for you hundred percent in my effort and that's in my guarantee.

09:37 That's okay to say and that's what we can do but it's not uh it's not appropriate to guarantee a certain number of sessions for any particular outcome.

09:45 Umm okay. So next question number seventeen. How can you figure out if underlying pain is the cause of aggression if the cause stranger danger and struggles with vet visits.

09:55 So umm when you're when possible and I think I mentioned this during the presentation towards the end was trying to get video for the veterinarian because if we can show that video to the vet and just a short video cause vets are limited on.

10:08 How much time they have. Keep it like one minute or less of seeing the dog walking one way and walking towards the camera as well so that way you can catch some gait and maybe catch gait and move them in issues that's one step to take.

10:20 Well if you're seeing something that's saying that looks a little bit iffy. Maybe it's a dog getting up off the bed or walking up the stairs or something that's uh you know raising some red flags for you.

10:32 Try to get that on video so then you can you can get it to the vet cause if the dog struggling at the vet often the vet's not going to see that pain issue because they're not able to see the normal behavior of the dog.

10:43 Maybe they can't even touch the dog so uh getting that history through video is great. The next of course next best thing is the the historical history from the client describing what they're seeing.

10:56 And those those observations are really important so you can track that. Like okay for the last two weeks prior to this he was always getting up out of his dog bed within a second or two.

11:04 And the last couple weeks he's taking longer and longer and he's just kind of moving more slowly. And he also happens to grow when we go near his dog.

11:12 Dog bed now. So you're giving them behavior history. And that's again why it's important to have veterinarians that have some interest in behavior.

11:20 And that's the key word by the way is an interest in behavior when you're talking to vets. They don't have to be veterinary behavior as so to speak.

11:27 It would be nice to have that. But that's not always available in certain areas or uh within a certain amount of time.

11:33 So an interest in behavior is good to look for a vet. And that way they can identify. They'd be knowing which question asked to identify underlying pain.

11:43 Um but the most common cases for underlying pain causing aggression are dogs that are being touched or handled. Even the dogs that seek out petting by the way.

11:52 You have dogs that come nudge your hand and they want to be pet and you pet them for a few seconds and then they then they go to growling or snapping that can be sometimes.

12:00 It's just like umm it gets irritable to us if somebody's scratching you know scratch my back and then person scratching scratching scratching and they start digging in and it can get irritable.

12:09 Uh and my theory again is the same for dogs. It might feel good for them at first to get a little bit of comfort and attention but it can start.

12:17 If they're being touched or pet in a painful area. So those are dogs being touched handles, putting on leashes, collars, harnesses, those kind of things.

12:25 Umm, asking the dog to move out of a comfortable spot so it might look like resource guarding but the dog might just be comfortable.

12:32 On their bed, can be one of the dogs on a next door person and another owner approaches so it could look like resource guarding but it's actually the dog's just in pain.

12:41 So those are the more common reasons for aggression on the line pain. And then the dogs on walks that are in certain equipment also.

12:48 That starts to associate discomfort of pain with things in the environment like other dogs because they're just trying to go see that other dog and they're pulling on the harness and the harness is pinching them and things like that.

12:59 Okay. So number 18. Uhh we have a super shut down cattle dog mix that we go into a foster home and started her on some behavior meds.

13:07 She's doing okay. She has just started eating in front of her foster and will go for short walks, has been in the home for six weeks.

13:13 Alright. So we are looking for permanent home for her but we worry that moving to a new home will start back from square one.

13:19 Any tips for these shut down dogs to transition to a new caretaker. Great question. I love this question. Um I think carrying over when we when I was talking about environment today, um trying to carry over as much of that previous environment to the new environment can be really helpful.

13:35 So things like dog beds, dog toys, things that smell similar to the dog activities. Routine is also really helpful. So for this dog is used to being fed at 9 in the morning and 5 in the evening or something like that.

13:49 Try to stick with that as much as possible. Try to stick with the same equipment in the same type of umm you know going for a walk in the same kind of environment.

13:58 Uh. Try to keep as much similar that way transitions to the new home as best as possible would one of the first things.

14:05 And the other thing is, of course, allowing, the dog time to settle in. But what does that look like? Settling in isn't getting all kinds of snacks and training and all of that.

14:16 Sometimes it's just leaving the dog alone. So, one of the best things you do is create a safe space. And I think all dogs should have this space in their home.

14:24 That's kind of like their room. Just like we have like a space in our home. We can sometimes escape everybody.

14:30 Like let's say you have a big family and you want to escape from all the noise and for moments you can sometimes go to your bedroom or something like that.

14:37 You can kind of hide from everybody. Okay. So, the dogs need the same thing when you think about it. They need a place where they can call like this is my safe space.

14:45 Nobody's gonna bother me in here and no other dogs, no other pets, no people, no kids. This is my safe space.

14:50 I can chill out in here and feel safe because safety again is the most important thing for these dogs. Our animals and if we give that to them it can make a significant improvement in how long it takes them to acclimate to the new environment.

15:05 Okay, number 19. Uh, do you think that we are asking dogs to do things that we, or when we read that again.

15:12 . Think that we are asking dogs to do things and be what they are not naturally like as our lifestyles change.

15:18 I think absolutely. Um, I think not to say we should suddenly be like alright, let's get rid of all the dogs cause we're asking them to do things that don't fit with us anymore.

15:27 We should consider that. Though in our lifestyles, you know, so if somebody's again rescuing a dog that is a used to a needs a lot of room or lots of exercise and we bring them to like a city apartment, that's a significant change in an adaptation for that dog.

15:44 And from a genetic standpoint in what those genetics are bringing to the table for behavior. And so if we don't recognize that, that's when things can go south.

15:53 So as long as I think we're recognizing okay this dog we've bred for this type of task. We've bred long distance running.

16:00 For instance or we just have to make sure we're meeting those needs because as humans we have to kind of you know consider what our ancestors have selected for in their breeding of dogs in the work in the lifestyles of even just as short as fifty do a hundred years ago and what we're living now and the

16:20 ways we use dogs are much much differently or the way we incorporate dogs in our life is often much different than just five to ten decades ago so as long as we recognize that and we meet their needs uh because when you think about it we actually use those things to our advantage in some cases for other

16:39 reasons you know when we think about like border colleagues and how intelligent they are and how many tasks they can do and now that we're not hurting sheep all the time maybe we're doing agility with some of them or are doing tray ball and hurting balls instead of sheep so there's different things that

16:54 can uh I can still meet those needs and I think that as long as we're doing that we're okay umm it's just again the dogs that aren't when we're not considering what we selected for that it's unfair okay number 20 umm what do you think about social media and creating false expectations towards dogs I

17:12 see that all the time people not people get a dog and they don't understand all the work and dedication and understanding and love behind a while behaved dog not to mention those poor dogs that come from bad situations puppy stores abuse etc umm another big question and I think uhh I think it's well

17:30 I think social media creates a lot of false expectations for everything in life right? What do you think about? You know some material possessions or beauty or uhh uhh you know people that are strength training or bodybuilding like you name it like there's all kinds of false expectations because people

17:47 aren't even gonna put out the best of the best of what they have most of the time so if it's that perfectly well behave dog that's what they're gonna put on social media and that is a that is a significant problem so I think one way to to uhh umm.

18:01 That's the way I'm looking for a combat that or to counteract that is to show what dogs do you know I love watching channels of dogs doing things that are you know I've seen some you know with we're just talking about you know what will be selected for some some channels that are showing like livestock

18:17 guardian dogs doing what they're supposed to do or border collie's working sheep that I think is cool and that I think is going to help educate the people that are creating false expectations for you know getting dogs dressed up and walking them around like a doll on the streets and doing those kind

18:34 of things so I think we can combat some of that and the more we put out what dogs really do and what they're meant to do that can really help with that so uh yeah other than that there's for me this it's an uphill climb with in terms of education and that's what it is educating people that what they

18:55 see on social media Not only for dogs but for everything else again it's not always what what's um truly happening and I think that's just a it's gonna be a learning curve for all humans a human kind uh for the time being okay number 21 one.

19:12 Thank you. Recently saw a consult with an excellent canine physical therapist. She did an extremely thorough 16 to 90 minute exam.

19:18 Look at Eli's x-rays. Um so diagnosed issues that the vet had not been able to and is showing you exercises to do with him in addition to treating him.

19:26 Uh it was expensive but completely worth it. I agree. I've done the same for my dog. Um after she had her ACL surgery.

19:33 So after three sessions I'm seeing a decrease in anxiety and reactivity as well as an improvement in posturing gait. Uh question.

19:40 Do you commonly recommend PTE valves in conjunction with vets? Uh yes. Thank you. Whenever you have somebody like that in your neighborhood, definitely do it.

19:48 It's 100% recommended. Uh Dr. Debbie Gross-Toraka who's a world class-free canine physical rehab specialist is right in. She's actually my next door neighbor but she has a great practice right here in Connecticut and she took care of our dog.

20:00 Kastanya um and was amazing and I've seen her do amazing work with dogs that have pain issues or mobility issues, joint issues, sport dogs, police dogs that sometimes you don't see it going on.

20:15 But she's gotta- canine physical therapists have such an eye for things. Kind of like human physical therapists that are really good at their job.

20:23 They can see a person walking or you know so in Debbie's case she can watch just a dog walking. She'll watch a lot like 10 steps and be like okay there's a little small issue.

20:32 You're going on in the right shoulder. It's really amazing when people can see that so it's well worth it even for just the assessment aspect.

20:40 Uh then of course if you've got a dog that's got a history of aggression for being touched or after a certain time of doing a particular exercise that get grumpy.

20:48 You know or just after a walk they get a little bit irritable. Perfect time to see one of these folks because they can really help.

20:57 Unfortunately then they're far and few between though. It's hard to find someone umm that shh. It knows both the veterinary side and the physical PT side.

21:08 So uhh. And there's an organization. I'm sure that they're all part of. I just can't think of the name of it off the top of my head.

21:16 But look up. Um. Sarah. Um. She did a webinar for me. Sarah Keller, K-E-L-L-A-R. Now I need to look that up.

21:30 But that is one of the- she- she's just like Debbie. Um. She's- I think worked with Debbie. You're- was a student of Debbie's as well.

21:39 So. Okay. Number 22. Wow. Working in a shelter in- in a shelter. We don't have any idea about a lot of our dog's history.

21:45 We have one who freezes as his first cue. This leads to escalation in an attempted bite. Now there's talk of euthanasia.

21:52 Um, how do you bring the conversation to the staff that this dog needs better understanding? I think, uh, it's such a deep question because it- it's really difficult when there's so many dogs and some shelters.

22:04 And we're making decisions that often have to be done. Quickly in some cases but also with limited information. Uh, so I certainly empathize in the shelter environments.

22:16 There's the amount of data that you have so much less than what I have the luxury of in my consults with private clients because- I can talk to them for hours and get all information.

22:27 They've been living with the dog sometimes for years so I have much more information. So in this case uhh with let's say dog that freezes.

22:35 So that's one component of the overall prognostic factors I would look at. In fact I look at about 18 different variables if I'm assessing the potential outcomes for a dog.

22:47 Whether it's youth in Asia or rehoming or if the client is going to continue working on the case. And one of those variables is how predictable is it.

22:54 How much does the dog give sick? So that's just one variable. You also want to consider all the other things.

23:01 And so what I would have bring as a conversation to the staff is let's consider all the other things. Just because he freezes doesn't necessarily mean it's going to be a for instance a high level bite risk.

23:12 Thank you. Now there was an attempt in bite but maybe this dog has stellar acquired bite inhibition. Maybe the dog's not going to bite anybody.

23:18 So how do we know that? We have to do more assessment. Umm now obviously we don't want to assess to the point of biting but maybe you can get more signals out of this dog.

23:25 Maybe we can get you know more and more of a relationship. The dog starts to give other signals and signals don't have to be bad.

23:32 They can be like I'm going to give you a little lip curl. I'm going to maybe give you a whale eye or hard stare or something like that.

23:38 That will give you more information. I mean like okay this dog is now giving signals but he's also umm. No history of aggression towards any other animals that we've seen.

23:47 He handles well. He's affiliative. He plays well with other dogs. We start to get all of these other uhh components of the prognosis.

23:55 Those variables we assess. That'll give you a much better picture of truly what- We're facing rather than just looking at only like the body language or the predictability.

24:05 Or we're looking at just the bite history. Or we're looking at just you know uhh the- the- how long the dog's been in the shelter.

24:13 Those kind of variables are important. but not they're not the only variable. So umm when I have that conversation with- with folks it's usually educating them about the other variables we need to look at.

24:25 Not just one component. As scary as it can be too you have to think about the- the impressions that people- people have with certain types of dogs or certain body language.

24:35 Cause who knows? Couple of people could have seen okay when we see freezes that's a terrible thing. Even though as trainers and consultants we love a freeze because it gives us time to- to move away.

24:46 Once we see that freeze we're like okay something's about to have been uh so let's get prepared versus a dog that just goes from nothing to biting.

24:54 So that those people like a negative association with a freeze because they've been bitten right from the freeze. And so that's the picture in their mind of what a, undesirable dog would look like air quilts there.

25:08 So consider that as well. Alright question number 23 and I think that's the last one here. So um thanks so much for doing this Mike.

25:17 Thank you for joining in. Uh in my anecdotal observations that you feel far of dogs are dogs are kind of free ranging across properties, especially in Europe, that tend to have no formal training seem to be more responsive to coming when called and look less stressed overall.

25:29 Uh do you think this is similar to what you're talking about with street dogs just having so much more agency in their lives and probably more enriched overall than dogs?

25:36 In homes and shelters? Yes. Um you know, I can't necessarily speak of the recall but it does make sense if a dog that's going to come to their, uh, I'm assuming their guardian here when you're saying come when called is because they're less uh, punishment.

25:55 I mean I mean punishment, I mean something that can make it less likely for the dogs to come. So I'm not saying that people are hitting the dogs or yelling at their dogs could be the dogs just like that are so restricted in our society.

26:07 Maybe they get to go out to the backyard two or three times a day and spend five minutes out there.

26:12 That could be significantly a valuable experience for them. And then when the person tries to call them in, they're like uh-uh.

26:19 I don't want to come inside yet. I'm having fun out here. So uhh, that d- is not going to be experienced with a dog that's been out all day experiencing life.

26:27 It's like this is Disney World out here. Now I get to go home and rest. It's not a punisher for them in the sense that they're not getting necessarily taken away from something they experience so little.

26:37 They get to experience it all the time. So umm, that might be the case there. And I do feel that dogs are also, when they have that freedom of movement, that flight option.

26:46 So if you, what happens when we remove the flight option, like put a dog on leash or they're restricted more?

26:52 Umm, they're more likely to have issues with the party. And if they're worried about them or the other dog, because it's restricting their flight option.

27:01 And if you remove the flight option, you're left with the other freeze or fool around or fight. So that's the, the other problem with, with, with restriction of movement.

27:12 Whether it's a leash or gates or fences or whatever it is that's restricting a dog's movement. The more likely we're going to see the flight option or one of the other options come into play.

27:21 So, um. Alright, so I'm gonna wrap it up there. I think I got to all the questions. So, I will post this.

27:28 Link in the group now. Thanks again for joining me today and thanks for your great questions and thank you for all the work you're doing out there.