

Maggie Cammack

Mr. Speice

ISM 1

21 March 2019

## Behavior Regulation

### Assessment 6 - Observation

**Observed:** Karen Deeds

**Profession:** Dog Trainer

**Location:** 15559 Wright Brothers Dr. Addison, Texas

**Date:** March 17, 2019

**Time:** 9:00am-1:00pm

**Assessment:**

Karen Deeds founded her own dog training business that focused on assessing and fixing negative behavior with positive reinforcement. She claimed that it is important to fully understand how the dog responds to their owner in order to use effective training methods. It was interesting to compare the training styles of Deeds with other trainers that I have spoken with. She is very concrete in her ideas on dealing with people as someone who trains dogs, but is understanding that dog training is very fluid and very important to always stay educated in order to learn the most to help students.

Throughout the conference, there was a focus on adjusting any negative behavior the dog may have. This is something that is important for service dog training because dogs can pick up bad habits easily, and having one bad habit can make or break the success of the service dog. Learning how to fix these bad behaviors using positive reinforcement is something that is of interest because it would be easier to just say no or punish the dog for doing the behavior instead

finding an outlet, or better behavior, for the dog to do. Deeds included in her presentation that she will watch a dog for a period time in both a isolated setting without the owner as well as with other dogs before she begins a training plan to dispose of negative behaviors. This method avoids making any assumptions about the animal before they are seen in person. Although it is a beneficial idea to conduct observations both without the owner this would be difficult to do when training a service dog has to be the owner as much time as possible during the training process to make sure that they bond. It was very easy to begin noticing small behaviors that dogs do when they are stressed or content because a majority of the presentation was watching videos of dogs interactions with the trainer, their owner, and other dogs. Including videos as part of the service dog training curriculum will help with the student's understanding of what their dog is supposed accomplish in each skill being taught.

There is an abundance of behavior training that goes into service dog training. Being able to blend the two fields of training would improve success as not only is there a focus on how to train, but on how to train a specific dog for a specific purpose. Behavior training can also be used when puppies are tested to into service fields so the trainer can see off the bat if they are high stress, anxious, dominant, submissive, etc. This will help ensure that the client/student is getting a dog that fits there needs. An interesting subject that Deeds covered was euthanasia. She talked about how some dogs are just too dangerous and cannot be trained by any means, and it this happens it is best that the dog is euthanized. This is something that I disagreed with a first because no dog should be killed, but with further thought, this makes sense as some dogs meant to be pets because of their aggressive behaviors. Understanding the proper procedures for dealing with an aggressive dog will be helpful in the vet-med field to injury to other animals in the office

as well as avoid danger as a vet. There is a responsibility as someone who works in a field with animals to put the best interests of the animal first, no matter the circumstances. This is something that can be difficult, because surrendering or putting down a dog is never easy, but is something that may have to happen.

Being able to hear someone who has such great knowledge in animal behavior has allowed for a growth in understanding all dogs are different and each dog needs to be treated differently. As a service dog trainer, the programs may have to change based on the person's disability as well as what the dog is capable of doing. Studying more information on behavior training will allow me to see more of what the dog is attempting to communicate. The overall goal is to become the best trainer possible and the more knowledge that can be gained, the better.