

PRO ACTIVE K9

Poisoned Cues

What they are and what to do about them

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WHERE WE'RE HEADED

- General Principles
- Humans
- Animals
- Remedies
- Prevention
- Toward a better world

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GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- **Definition**
"A poisoned cue occurs when a dog associates unpleasant things with a cue. Because of these unpleasant associations, the dog will either hesitate to perform the behavior or not do it at all."

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WORKING DEFINITION

- A poisoned cue is any stimulus that should mean “Do thing A and it will work out well” but through its history has been tainted to mean “Do thing A and it might work out badly.”



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MY JOURNEY

- Imported police dogs
- UNT research
- Nicole Murrey
- Cues as reinforcer
- Recall experiment—Ven, Punir
- Subconscious/involuntary POO drop



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HUMANS

- Avoidance
- Sabotage
- Globalized avoidance
- Displacement
- Anxiety
- Submissiveness
- Checking the boxes



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ANIMALS


- Avoidance
- Sluggish
- Displacement
- Default behaviors
- Anxiety
- Submissiveness
- Rushing



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REMEDIES


- Dilution
 - Never completely gone
- Re-shape & re-cue
- Other behaviors
- Eliminate judgement
 - People
 - Animals
 - TAGteach



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PREVENTION

- Maximize choice
- R+ -based
- R- systems may work
- Harness R+ hierarchies
- Progress, not perfection



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TOWARD A BETTER WORLD


- Acknowledge & allow
- Self-directed approaches
- Recognize & respond
- New research?



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WRAPPING UP . . .

- Principles trump methods
- Avoidance is your early warning sign
- A solution to pollution is dilution
- Out with the old in with the new
- An ounce of prevention
- Maximize choice



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FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

Visit
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. . . and, of course go to
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