



WELCOME LETTER

December 13, 2022

Learn To Raise Your Puppy Into The Wolfdog You Were Hoping For.



Tony Nila and This Facebook Group!

This group was formed to assist Wolfdog owners in achieving the greatest possible relationship with their wolfdogs (s). This community welcomes all forms of communication, training tools, and methodologies. Other trainers and behaviorists are also encouraged to contribute their own personal experiences with their own or a client's wolfdog to assist and educate owners.

As present wolfdog owners, doing so will help secure our rights as responsible owners, allowing us to maintain a traditional balanced relationship with other Canids, as our forefathers did, and avoid having these rights taken away from us in the future. Please click this link for current events and announcements:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WolfdogBehaviorManagement/announcements>

About The Group's Creator And Administrator:

Tony Nila has over 27 years of expertise as a canine behaviorist. He works with wolfdogs both globally and domestically, through Skype and in person. Clicker training, science-based training, protection training, service and therapy dog training, conventional training, remote collar specialist, and a holistic tool-free approach are all skills he possesses. He is a behavior modification specialist who is well-versed in canine ethology, learning theory, and interpreting canine body postures. He also specializes in Wolfdogs and Coyote crosses. Tony was a mentor at Animal Behavior College, the former host of K9 Talk Radio in Flagstaff, Arizona, a community lecturer at Shasta College, and the proprietor of one of Orange County's largest dog behavior enterprises. Tony also provides business consulting and mentoring services. Visit <http://WolfdogBehaviorist.com> for additional information.

Wolfdog Behaviorist Tony Nila...

For the first time after surfing on Facebook groups for 5 years, Tony Nila properly introduces himself and his personal journey with Wolfdogs and Latent learning.

"Modern dog training is the process where great dog owners learn to understand what their individual dogs need to feel comfortable, fulfilled and complete. Simply put, modern dog training pulls your dog away from base behavioural dependencies and empowers them with a healthy mind.

"Sit, Stay, Down, Come, Heel," these are the five basic command words that most people associate with dog obedience training. Sadly, it is easy to see the simple mechanics of dog training without grasping why learning is more important than training.

Let's take a moment to think about an alcoholic, imagine if I said, "Teaching you how to paint will stop you from drinking." That would not be true. The truth is that you would learn how to paint and continue drinking. Treating alcoholism involves mastering a specialized set of skills, most of which help people deal with the underpinning emotional issues and discomfort that cause addiction to occur to escape discomfort.

"Ill-behaved dogs are obviously not alcoholics, but they are often addicted to their own behaviours in a way that is as strong as alcohol dependency. More often than not unwanted dog behaviours result from a dog's emotional need to engage in behaviours that fill a void. This void is rarely addressed with mechanical words that enforce obedience."

- Darwin Cole



The above paragraphs are not my own words. They are the words spoken to me by my mentor an Applied Animal Behaviorist PhD. But they ring true for so many owners and their canines.

Canines have been transformed into victims and the pet industry has allowed fear based ideas to shape almost everything. As a result, our canines have been lost in good intentions. Real dog breeders have been replaced with glorified backyard

breeders, Mix breeds have been glorified by a rescue industry that seems invested in keeping dogs victimized, Online crash courses and knowledge assessment tests by popular organizations are replacing trainers with actual experience, and worst of all, some of the most influential dog trainers on earth can't control their own dogs!

This is actually how I met my mentor Darwin Cole from Alberta Canada 🇨🇦 who holds a doctorate in Comparative Psychology and has studied animals extensively in the wild, my first real teacher. Who was inspired by the work from an old school trainer by the name of Charles P. Eisenmann. After reading Charles Eisenmann's book I realized what an amazing

trainer he was. A trainer that did not believe in formal training to control and manage canine behavior.

Darwin has met hundreds of trainers every year who have called him because they can't train their own dog, yet they are teaching others to train their dogs.

Because of this, my mentor and close friend Darwin has been guiding me to do my own private case studies over the past 3 years in order to help me evolve into a better version of myself and my abilities to work with canines. This journey should be finished by 2023 but let's be honest, the learning will never stop.

3 years ago my mentor encouraged me to work with well bred dogs. I instead decided to focus on the wolfdog community to research Wolfdogs and their ability to learn everything Latently. But this meant that I would have to Create a data base of owners and trainers to pull from, with common experiences and the common answers given by the wolfdog community weather they were valid or not.

My first attempt was disappointing after being subjected to Facebook drama and rivalries from people fighting to be the authoritarian of everything wolfdog related. It's a shame, there was so many of us that could have worked together and possibly had their names included in my sources.

That was the purpose of my Facebook group Wolfdog Behavior & Management (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WolfdogBehaviorManagement/>). This way I could control the interactions for more productive conversations and learning opportunities.

Over the years with help from my mentor I have been attempting to learn a method of training for wolfdogs that relies exclusively on Latent Learning. With his help I hope to present these ideas to the wolfdog community very soon. But this meant that I had to first rub elbows with trainers of all modalities. I had to be one of them! I had to prove how well versed I was in clicker training, positive reinforcement, traditional training as well as e-collar training in order to earn the communities respect, despite the controversy amongst each other .

I needed to learn more about trainers in the community. In order to not mistakenly influence their thoughts I had to try to understand what people believe and then work within the confines of their own belief systems. I try not to change people, it defeats their ability to evolve as a person or trainer.

Latent learning is an effective way to shape behaviour, I honestly believe that canines learn almost everything they know latently, but that's another conversation.

Latent Learning has already been researched by the scientific community and it has been proven to work much faster than operant conditioning. Yep, you heard right. Science has proven that latent learning works much faster than reward based training and non rewards training. However too many trainers only hyper focus on operant conditioning.

"Dogs are never triggered by things outside of their bodies, the triggers are inside the dog's mind. That means you can handle the triggers without having other dogs or people around. You don't need to "proof" a dog that learns latently. "Proofing" is an obedience/training thing. It does not apply to the work done latently."

- Darwin Cole

Hence a canine can be a great member of society with absolutely zero training! A dog you can take anywhere! Weaning yourself off of restrictive training tools and discovering what it feels like to own a dog you honestly trust.

My first step was to show the wolfdog community a relaxation protocol I labeled as the "calming exercise" in order to get feedback on how it improved their wolfdogs behavior and how it crossed over to other behaviors that we haven't even worked on yet. Since I was limited on volunteers I had to do this via a free 1 hour webinar, hoping that after watching it, owners would be intrigued to contact me.

Recorded webinar link below:

<https://grumpypuppy.clickmeeting.com/behavior-modification-pt-1-with-canine-behaviorist-tony-nila>

In my own wolfdog experience I added this exercise to my clients training curriculum and in many of my sessions with wolfdogs they improved much faster or were able to comprehend and respond to their environment. So many of my results with clients went from 8 sessions to 3-4 when they did that exercise. Some wolfdogs just started behaving better even though we had not worked on the behavioral issue yet. Often they just didn't display the bad behavior at all before I had the chance to work on it.

"When trying to alter the behaviour of any animal it is vital, absolutely essential, that the selected course of action is stronger than the source of the irritation. This means, if your pet learns to bark wildly in a few days, the cure must be powerful enough to remedy the problem

just as fast. If not, the problem always grows faster than the solution and people get stuck trying to solve a problem for years. This is perhaps the most common error trainers make with their own dogs."

-Darwin Cole

With latent learning you never need a tool, you are ALWAYS safe, and you can achieve profound alterations in a canines behavior without ever seeing any ugly behavior manifest.

"Think of behaviour like this:

We will use aggression as an example. Each and every dogs behaviour is connected on a chain.

Now imagine that there are 20 links on that chain.

Your job, as a behaviorist, is to find what link comes before the aggression.

If you are treating the aggression itself, then you place yourself on the very link that you are training to destroy. That puts you in great danger of destroying yourself.

So, you need to jump off the link that you wish to eliminate.

Here is the problem, most trainers don't know what link to jump to. There are very specific links that attach a dog to its own aggression, once you know how to influence these links the aggression will vanish, and you NEVER need subject yourself to any threat."

-Darwin Cole

In conclusion I really think operant conditioning is can mistakenly be an abusive philosophy in itself. If we were being studied and trained this way no one would really understand the true essence of ones soul or capabilities.

Dolphins and orcas are incredibly intelligent. And sea world turned them into dancing monkeys

You would never know how incredibly intelligent they are by watching the sea world show. Seeing them do tricks makes them look less intelligent and you can never really see their problem solving skills or how they perceive the world.

"If owners and trainers are going to educate themselves by reading books or Facebook posts, they should be the same books that students are required to read in a university. They SHOULD NOT be reading dog training books, rather, they need to be books about animal behavior and learning theory.

Dog training books are always bias, always. I feel it is important for students to learn about the behavioural science first, before they start to learn about dog training. That way they will be better able to see why some dog training methods are flawed.

If more dog training students took the time to learn about behaviour BEFORE they started training dogs, they would better understand why the "positive-only" movement was so flawed. People need to learn the universal truths about observable behaviour, and that's not happening."

-Darwin Cole

Most trainers don't understand the difference between "altered behaviour" and "learning".

A dog is not trained if you still need to use training tools or treats. If the training tools and treats are still in use, that is management.

Please Familiarize Yourself With The Group Rules:

1. NEED PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIORAL ADVICE OR HELP?

The advice and opinions of the members DO NOT represent the views or professional advice of Wolfdog Behaviorist Tony Nila with <http://WolfdogBehaviorist.com> please contact the admin Tony Nila directly for professional advice. Please Visit: <http://WolfdogBehaviorist.com> To Schedule an 1 hour phone consultation with Canine Behaviorist Tony Nila. All sessions are private & Confidential.

2. COMMENTING

RESPOND TO THE POSTER ONLY! Follow the [Ask] and [Give] philosophy. Use a post to ask a question, respond to a post if you want to volunteer information. DO NOT ARGUE WITH OTHER MEMBERS OR CLIENTS OF WOLFDogBEHAVIORST.COM ABOUT THEIR COMMENTS! Contact an Admin If You

Are Concerned About Someones Comment. Do Not EVER Criticize Or Shame a Poster For Their Ignorance Or Lack Of Education. Be helpful and supportive.

3. Posting

This Group Provides a range of theories and methods. All communication, training tools and methods are welcome in this group. We also encourage other trainers and behaviorist to share their own personal experience either with their own or a clients wolfdog to help educate owners.

Selling Of: Books, Videos, Services, Seminars, Go-Fund Me, T-Shirts, MUST BE APPROVED BY ADMIN: Tony Nila

Please Do Not Post Dead/Trapped lupine animals. Remember The FOCUS of this group is behavior & management.

4. WOLFDOG'S IN ILLEGAL AREAS! 🚓👮

Members please be advised we are an educational support group, not law enforcement. If someone is posting from an illegal state please contact admin immediately, for their education and safety. Any member screenshotting posts to other groups or involving authorities will be permanently banned from wolfdog behavior and management.

5. THAT'S NOT A WOLFDOG!!

If a poster is claiming they have a wolf or wolfdog, do not under any circumstances offer "your expert skills in phenotyping" unless the poster asks for readers educated guesses. However you can kindly suggest or promote a DNA test for themselves and the animals safety to avoid misrep and labels.

6. PUPPIES, BREEDING, RESCUES, CONTACT TONY FIRST!

Searching for a puppy? Or selling puppies? Be sure Tony adds your kennel or rescue to our pdf file shared with members.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU POST YOUR RESCUE, LITTER OR UPCOMING BREEDING ON THE COMMUNITY PAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE CONTACTED TONY NILA

7. DO NOT BLOCK ADMINS OR MODERATORS

8. NO RANTS, HATE SPEECH OR BULLYING

9. DISABLING COMMENTS

Disabling comments is allowed with a written message to an admin as to the reason you are disabling comments. We would like to have a reason for our records to help us create a safer environment.

10. NO SCREENSHOTS!

This is a Private Group, for the safety of our members and clients of WolfdogBehaviorist.com, you are not permitted to share screenshots to other groups for the purpose of bashing or complaining. This will result in immediate disciplinary action or termination of your membership privileges.