

A FASHIONABLE SCHOOL

FOR DOGS OF HIGH DEGREE



This is our class for studying tricks with newspapers.

The dean of the dog college cracked his whip to attract attention.

"Now, then, papers, papers; fetch the papers, fetch the papers. Back there, Rolio, back. Now papers."

The seven dogs lined against the wall rushed to where as many newspapers lay in a row, and after some slight confusion distributed them among themselves. The professor's whip cracked menacingly.

"Bring them here, here, here; lay them down. Here, are your bones. Now get them."

Each paper unrolled disclosing a tempting bone. The class dropped the papers obediently, snatched up the bones and disappeared pell mell through the door. School was out for the day.

"That last exercise didn't do us credit," said the professor pleasantly, as he picked up the papers and hastily set the classroom to rights. "My pupils are always upset by visitors. But they are getting along finely. Several dogs of that class have their lesson so well by heart that I shall promote them next week. You're fortunate to have seen an entire class at recitation. Most of the instruction, you know, is done by private tutoring. But let me show you the college."

The New York College for Dogs is a completely equipped school for the education of dogs in all branches. It is the first institution of its kind in America at least. It offers a variety of courses. There are the kindergarten lessons, so to speak, making the dog house-broken and generally obedient. From these lessons a dog may be promoted to other classes where he learns to fetch the newspaper, or one's slippers; to steal and hide a handkerchief, and what is more remarkable, to find it. He also learns to sit or walk upon his hind legs, shake hands, jump through a hoop and similar accomplishments. In several post-graduate courses he may in turn learn fancy tricks enough to enable him to accept a position in a circus.

The college is situated on upper Broadway, at the corner of One Hundred and Tenth street, in New York city. It occupies a large building especially equipped for the purpose. It contains clean, commodious dormitories in the form of kennels, large airy class rooms, baths, a play ground, and even a sun parlor. The courses offered in the dog college vary in length from one month to a year. The rates of tuition vary according to the nature of instruction and the intelligence of the dog. A course which enables a dog to learn a single trick will including his board during the period of instruction cost about \$30. This generally occupies a three months term. Anything like a complete ca-

nine education is likely to cost well into the hundreds of dollars. The college is clearly one for dogs of high degree only.

There are six days of school in every week, with a holiday on Sunday. School opens promptly at 8 o'clock in the morning. At that hour the attendants first serve breakfast to the pupils. The meal is served in the private kennels. Breakfast over, the dogs are carefully washed. The morning bath is imperative. By ten o'clock the dogs are ready for their first lesson.

No single lessons last for more than an hour at a time, since a dog is likely to grow nervous under restraint. After the lesson comes a play hour, with dinner at noon and supper at 6. It is unusual to give a dog more than two lessons in the same day. They are allowed plenty of exercise, in the play ground or in the company of an attendant during long walks. The college is well patronized; at certain seasons even crowded.

As the writer was led through the college building the dean spoke enthusiastically of his work. It is but fair that he be allowed to plead his own case.

"It is much the same with the higher bred education of dogs as with men," said he. "Many people believe a dog should be turned loose on the street at an early age and get his education by actual contact with life—a self-made dog, as it were. What good, they ask, will fancy tricks do for a dog in his daily battle for bones? At any rate the higher education of dogs is sadly neglected. The country which pays most attention to the higher education of dogs is Germany, the home of universities."

"But, speaking seriously, the training of dogs does actually pay. The value of a dog which can perform a few tricks is greatly increased. For every \$50 thus spent you will increase his actual market value more than twice that sum. Besides, how much

more interesting your dog becomes. There are as many spoiled dogs as spoiled children. A course in the college makes a dog obedient for one thing, as few dogs are. They learn to be good watch dogs, good house dogs, and better companions."

The professor was asked for some hints for those who would like to give their pets the benefit of this higher education. For reply he led the way to a room where a private lesson was in progress, and explained the lesson as it progressed. It is a comparatively easy matter to teach a number of attractive tricks to any dog of average intelligence. The accompanying illustrations are made from photographs taken under the professor's directions. Here are some valuable instructions from the dean of the dog college in person:

"The secret of it all is patience," said he. "Should you get angry you will undo the work of hours in a few minutes. You must, besides, be as sympathetic as possible and must try to understand dog's moods, especially if he be intelligent. Most intelligent high-bred dogs are far more sensitive than we commonly imagine."

"Study your dog's temperament, and try to make haste slowly. There are often days when a dog is out of sorts and is much better left alone. Don't force him. Then again, don't give him too much to do. It is better to err on the other side and give him too little. These are the great mistakes among the amateurs who try to train their dogs. It explains why so few people are successful in such work."

"First of all, select some quiet room for the training, where the dog will be absolutely free from interruptions of all kinds. Should any other dogs be within sight or smell, or any bones or edible objects, the dog's attention is of course likely to be distracted.

Try to have your dog in a good humor, for if he be snarling one might as well give up the lesson for the day. One thing more, don't whip your dog unless it be absolutely necessary. A harsh tone will be found much more effective. You can coax a dog into obedience oftener than you can force him.

"One of the most elementary tricks is that of teaching a dog to sit up. When all is ready place your dog in the desired position and hold him there for a moment, patting him on the head meanwhile to secure his confidence. Select some word or short phrase such as 'sit up,' 'attention,' or something of that sort, and repeat this over and over again to the dog each time suiting the action to the word. It is well to have a small stick in your hand, but it is best to use it merely to fix his attention upon the work he is expected to do. In the sitting up exercise the dog's consciousness should be fixed upon his chin. If you can succeed in making the dog hold up his head, the training for this particular trick is more than half accomplished. Should he drop his head, as of course he will repeatedly, touch him lightly under the chin with the stick. The word of command and the sitting up process and the tapping of the stick must simply be repeated over and over again until the dog minds."

"Suppose that the trick of shaking hands is to be taught. The same general method must be employed. Grasp the paw in the conventional manner and repeat the word of command. The stick in this case could be used to tap the polite paw until the pupil raises it involuntarily at the word 'shakes' or whatever it may be to avoid the stroke. With a little practice this sort of instruction can of course be continued indefinitely. To teach the dog to wear a hat, hold a pipe in its mouth and so on, it is only necessary to follow the same directions. Remember that the word of command

must be a single word if possible and must be spoken quickly and decisively.

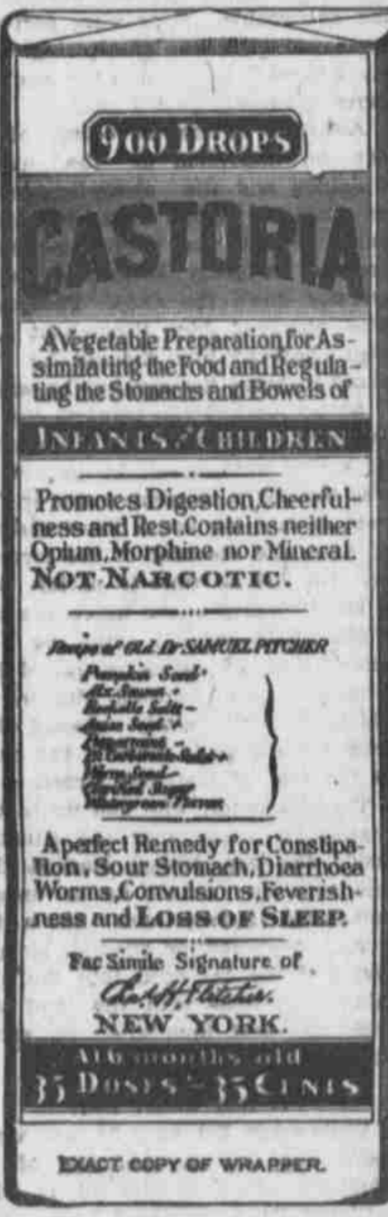
"To teach the dog to carry a basket, hold his head well up, and, if necessary, use a stick to explain the command. Place the handle of a small basket gently in the dog's mouth and hold it there for a few moments, repeating the word of command. This same process should be repeated over and over again. If the dog drops his head he is likely to drop the basket, so that his consciousness should be directed to keep his head up. Should the dog persistently refuse to take hold of the basket, it is well to tie a piece of meat to the handle. In teaching a dog to fetch and carry a newspaper, the method is exactly the same."

"A very attractive trick is for a dog to steal and hide an object, returning it at the word of command. Such lessons should be commenced with a piece of meat. Show the piece of meat to the dog first and give the command and put him through the exercise endlessly, but keep the meat until the end of the lesson, before giving it to the dog. In teaching a dog to run for one's slippers, for instance, the piece of meat will be found very useful. In teaching a dog to catch any object as it is thrown to it or pick up anything

from the floor it is well to use a piece of meat in the same way.

"A wrestling dog is generally considered a curiosity, yet the trick as a matter of fact is very easily taught. A large dog should, of course, be selected for such things. First place him on some raised object, so that his head comes about on a level with your chest. The dog should be plagued by pulling his ears or pinching his neck until he playfully retaliates, throwing his paws over the trainer's shoulders. As the trainer wrestles the dog, of course, wrestles in return and in time learns to imitate the methods of the wrestler. Great Danes are the best wrestlers. A piece of meat may even be attached to one's shoulder during the first lesson."

"Jumping dogs are always interesting and the trick can be taught to any dog of ordinary intelligence. To make a dog jump through a hoop or over one's foot at a word, first teach him to jump over a low board. It will be necessary to assist him over first by tapping the foot he is to lift. The bar can then be raised or varied by degrees. It will be found advisable to attach a small piece of meat to the dog through which the dog is to jump. It will be seen that these tricks may be combined and varied indefinitely with a little ingenuity and much patience."



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