INTRODUCTION
A. Instructor:
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Training Resources:
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YouTube: GWRFeralDog Channel
Feral Dog Blog
NEW WEBSITE: www.DogCaptureandCare.com
Soon to be developed.

B. Course Participants
Introduction and interests

C. Class schedule and logistics

D. Course objectives
1. Understand the qualities and language of Dog to help achieve our goals.
2. Explore the qualities, skills, and habits of a compassionate dog handler.
3. Discuss ethical issues relating to dog capture & handling within a professional context.
4. Cover a variety of tools and techniques for catching dogs by hand in a safe, humane, and efficient manner.
5. Learn basic techniques and practice physical restraint including: scruff, lateral restraint, muzzle wrap, and hobbles without adding energy to any struggle.
6. Explore how to create a calm conscious manner to minimize the energy of conflict even with very uncooperative dogs.
7. Describe basic methods for setting a box trap and advanced techniques for catching the more difficult dogs and practice setting and baiting.
8. Become familiar with the Y pole: what it is, how it works, & how to properly use it.
9. Discuss and practice the use of nets - its construction, technique, and applications.
10. Present challenges and scenarios in an open format so all participants can discuss solutions.
11. Have fun in the labs with a net, Y pole, a box trap, and a synthetic dog!

E. Identifying Situations with Fearful Dogs
Group input to customize course

SAFETY FIRST!

DO NOT ENTER INTO ANY SITUATION UNLESS YOU FEEL IT IS SAFE TO DO SO.
WHY IS COMPASSION IMPORTANT?

- It leads to greater success for our handling.
  Who is easier to catch – dogs running fast or moving slow?
- It is safer for both dogs and people
- It creates a more positive working environment.
  How do co-workers feel after staff have been fighting with a dog?
- It builds pride in the animal protection officer.
- It is the right thing to do

THE DOG

A. Communication Signals: What is the dog telling us?
   Feel what kind of personality the dog has and work with it.
   Learn the language of Dog and try the softer techniques when it is safe and practical
   Read each part of the dog as well as the whole animal.
   - The legs
   - The eyes
   - The mouth
   - The ears
   - The tail

B. The Nature of Dog (Qualities which help us work with dogs)
1. Resolving conflict is a big part of their lives.

2. Dogs are domesticated and deeply connected to us.
   - Dogs have instinctively learned how to recognize cues about man’s behavior and attitude.
   - They have become very sensitive to how we are feeling and what we are intending. It is beyond body language.

3. They live in a hierarchy and respond to it.
   - Utilize your strength and power to lead or guide (compassionate dominance)
   - It is this nature of dog which allows us to work effectively with the Y pole.

4. The dog can be physically restrained.
   Especially useful with gathering dogs in disasters or with hoarding cases

5. What is an alpha dog?
   The alpha dog is our teacher, not a bad dog. He requires a stronger emphasis on human safety. He strengthens your skills and teaches you how to relax even when things get crazy.
THE DOG HANDLER
Qualities, skills, & habits of a successful and compassionate handler. Some of these traits we should use every time. Some tools are only for when we need them.

A. Human safety is highest priority
Dog bites are not a badge of honor.

B. Self awareness
- Understand how your energy affects the animal
- The best thing to do in handling fearful dogs is to first look at yourself, continually observe yourself as you work, and choose to stay calm and relaxed

C. Minimize the conflict
- Who is really creating the fight? We are.
- Most dogs only want to escape or protect themselves
- Create more calmness over time, not less
- Utilize natural times for pauses during your capture.

D. Compassionate Dominance (Leadership, Guidance)
- Carry strength & use body language that is powerful but not threatening or punitive.
- Good posture is powerful and less threatening.
- This in an important tool for success, safety and humane handling.
- Balance this with softness to reduce the conflict.
- Always set your ego aside & give compassion and respect to compensate the power

E. Work with very small moves.
- Dogs are very sensitive.
- Learn how to make the smallest moves.
- What is the softest petting you can give to a caught dog?
- At times, work at the dog’s pace, not yours.

F. Practice “Give and Take”
- You do not always have to force the dog to submit immediately. There are times to give the animal time to think and make choices.
- When you are moving towards a fearful dog move in waves - add pressure (by slowly moving closer), then release (slightly lean back and lower your energy), pressure, then release

G. Time is a tool.
- There are critical moments to pause and wait for you and the dog to calm down.
- There are times when moving slower or not moving at all will lead to your success.
- Be conscious of rushing.
NETS AND NETTING
A. Construction
• Sources: Salmon nets – Beckman, Ranger, and Frabill
• Large diameter hoop - at least 0.6 meters (2 ft), best if flat on front edge for catching dogs along a fence or wall
• Coated and braided nylon netting that is 1.5 m (5 ft) deep; 2” mesh size helps the handler work the dog out of the net.

B. Techniques
• Keep the dog calm as best you can. Do not run after the dogs.
• Good body posture and a relaxed attitude will improve the dog’s behavior
• Along a wall: stand so your reach with the net is a few inches away from the wall
• Hide the net behind you and energetically invite the dog to pass. Do not crouch.
• Then quickly change your mind and catch the dog as he runs by.
• Catch a sleeping dog from behind by setting it over the animal then throw the net in front of the dog. Slightly pull the loop to touch the dog and he will run forward into the net.
• Catch a dog while he is distracted by someone else feeding the dog.
• When you can, move the dog into a smaller enclosure when using the net or Y pole.
• As soon as the dog is caught twist the net as tight as you can - over and over again
• Then call in the Y pole person and cover the dog with a towel.
• Take time to lower your energy and pet the dog in a sincere way to calm him.

C. Accessories
1. Y Pole - a Y pole person should shadow the net person. When the dog is caught quickly place the Y pole over the twist in the net to reduce the dog's struggle.
2. Towel - after the Y pole place a towel over the dog. This will reduce the dog's struggle, reduce their stress, increase your safety to handle the net, and it looks far more professional and respectful.

D. Do Bora (Two Sack Method)
• A simple capture method used in India which is inexpensive, humane, and surprisingly effective.
• Two burlap sacks are sown side by side and 6-8 rings are sown along the top edge.
• A large diameter rope is tied to one ring then threaded through the rest and a loop is made for placing around your wrist.
• The bag can be tossed over a distracted dog, and the rope is pulled to catch the dog. Add a Y pole to reduce the dog's struggle.

Lab 1: Practicing different netting techniques
• Netting along a fence or wall
• Netting a sleeping dog
• Adding a Y pole and towel
• Carrying dog in net
The Y Pole
The Y pole is an essential and fundamental tool for humanely handling fearful dogs in a shelter setting. See "One Cool Tool" of Animal Sheltering Magazine, Sept/Oct 2010.

A. What is a Y pole?
- It is a Y-shaped aluminum pole that is a safe extension of your hand.
- The tines are padded with two layers to protect the dogs teeth and gums.
- Make them in a variety of sizes for different dogs and situations.

B. What is its purpose?
- It is not made to pin an animal to a wall or cage.
- The Y pole allows us to safely enter into the dog's space to put on a leash, give a physical exam, or add physical restraint to move the animal.
- For aggressive dogs the Y pole can be used as a bite stick, if necessary, to then administer drugs with a syringe pole.
- Can be used to guide a dog into a kennel or crate.
- Can be used to replace most uses of the catch pole in an animal shelter.

C. Contrast with catch pole
- Avoids the horrible struggles & potential injuries often produced by a catch pole.
- It can only work if the animal is in a corner or room or kennel.
- It changes the relationship and message to the dog. Blends with the animal.
- Requires us to be less forceful. We offer a request rather than give a command.
- It requires us to know what the dog is telling us.
- Proper training and use can change the culture of an animal shelter.

D. How does it work?
- The Y pole is 75% psychological "restraint" and 25% physical restraint
- We are asking the dog to participate and guide them to comply
- The dog is a pack animal and learns as a pup to submit to stronger dogs
  The Y pole utilizes this behavior in a compassionate way.
- We must be confident so it has a reason to comply, but we must also be compassionate so it feels safe to comply.
- This is not punitive.

E. Setting up the situation
- The dog must be contained (i.e. in a kennel) or cornered
- Have good posture for strength that is not threatening. Lower your energy.
- Greet the animal. Focus on earning trust rather than on catching the dog.
- Tines up and down. Move the upper tine toward the corner of the mouth
- Read the animal at all times. Move in waves & slow down or briefly stop when the animal shows nervousness. Also when you first enter the kennel, stop and settle.
- Stop at times if the animal is panicking, watch for him to settle then move again.
- Sometimes pet the animal then rest the Y pole over the neck. No force is needed.
F. Y Pole Steps (for physical exam or adding physical restraint)

- Y Pole on neck, place second Y pole on hip, lay towel over head
- Use the legs to lower the dog. Pick up the far front leg and hold in the most comfortable position for the dog. Pickup the near back leg and hold it in the most comfortable position for the dog.
- Stay calm and relaxed and wait for the dog to tire and settle to the floor.
- Animal Handling Options – physical exam, treatments, physical restraint for transport, drugging

G. What not to do

- Don’t use the Y pole in a negative way.
- Don’t look away when you are holding the Y pole on the dog & people are working.

H. Dogs it may not work with

- Alpha dogs and free-ranging dogs
- Dogs beaten with sticks may not trust the Y pole
- Flighty dogs with closeness issues – at a certain distance they will spook and jump
- Dogs once pets who don’t really care

I. Where do I get a Y pole or how do I make it?

- Directions for making a Y pole are at https://wildliferesources.com
- A light 2-piece aluminum Y pole is for sale from Global Wildlife Resources. Visit GWR Products page at https://wildliferesources.com/g-w-r-products
- A large and heavier 1-piece Y pole (designed by Mark Johnson) is for sale through Animal Care Equipment Services - http://www.animal-care.com

THE CATCH POLE

The catch pole may be one of the most commonly used tools for catching and controlling dogs, yet they should be considered the last tool of choice.

A. Proper construction

- A rigid metal pole with a plastic coated adjustable cable loop.
- A swivel head and an instant release mechanism are most important.

B. Proper techniques

- Those who have acquired the skill working with a Y pole recommend using the catch pole as if it is a Y pole.
- The crazier the animal gets the calmer we should be.

C. Things not to do

- No lifting. No pulling.
- Do not hang catch poles by their loops.
HAND CATCHING
Always use the least aggressive method when you can. Evaluate the dog, then choose the equipment and technique – be safe, humane, respectful, and compassionate

A. Coated Cable
   • Loops stay open for working close to walls
   • Good for crawling into small spaces – catch pole without the handle
   • Slowly slide the loop closed.

B. Leads and other tools, i.e. snappy snare
   • Flat leads, braided leads, double leads

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT
Emphasizing calm physical control rather than forceful action.

A. Scruffing (see video on YouTube channel GWRFeralDogs)
   Three steps: 1. Ear in notch of thumb, 2. Fingers to corner of mouth, 3. Curl fingers
   Thumbs stay parallel between ears

B. Leash Muzzle Wrap (see video on YouTube channel GWRFeralDogs)
   • Best with light leads
   • Add a towel

C. Lateral restraint (see video on YouTube channel GWRFeralDogs)
   • Elbow at the base of the head.
   • Hold lower front leg above the elbow.
   • Elbow touches knee or body.

D. Hobbling (see video on YouTube channel GWRFeralDogs)
   • Use short soft boat strap.
   • Cross lower front leg and upper hind leg.
   • Once around the top leg, once around the bottom leg, once around both legs
   • Always wrap towards the body and above the carpal and tarsal joints.
   • This is only intended for brief transport such as in a disaster rescue.

E. Headcover
   • Wolf Quickmuzzle: Four Flags Over Aspen, St. Clair MN, 800.222.9263
   • Towel when carrying dog
   • Cover nets, traps, and crates as well.

F. Cloth Carrier
   • MegaMover Portable Transport Unit - strong and light, maybe less durable.
   • from Graham Professional www.grahammedical.com

Classroom Lab: Practice scruff, a leash muzzle wrap, and lateral restraint with imitation dogs
**BOXTRAPPING**

*Training video available: “Humane Box Trapping of Dogs” at GWR Products*

Recommended Model: Tru-Catch 48F Folding dog trap for its versatility and durability.

Keep traps clean!

**A. Setting the Trap**

- Label trap with message to public and trap number. Trap should be **clean**.
- Always set a trap as if you are trying to catch the smartest dog.
- Place the trap out of sight from people. Against a building. Not in the open.
- Scrape the ground by dragging the trap to make a flat surface and to gather duff.
- Make the trap solid with no rocking.
- Cover mesh with duff.
- Consider covering side & top with plywood or branches to make an inviting den.
- **Wire the trap** open until there are signs that the dog is entering often to eat the food, but check the trap daily to attend to any accidental captures.
- Consider locking the trap to a tree or telephone pole with a cable.
- Follow a daily routine when checking and baiting the trap. Dogs like routine.
- Monitor the trap with a trail cam.

**B. Baiting**

- Trapping lures can be hung near a trap to bring a dog in but may attract too many!
- Smelly baits attract well. All bait should be small to prevent a dog from carrying it out of the trap.
- **Placing bait:** 1) Scatter in 2 meter area in front of the trap to bring the dog toward the trap, 2) place a few pieces just in front and just inside the door, 3) place a few pieces just in front of the pan, 4) place the most attractive (scent and sight) food on or under the trigger pan. Do not place bait near the back where the dog may try to get food and spring the trap from the outside.
- No dog food cans!
- Consider adding worry/chew toys or Kongs. Make them scent free.
- Some dogs may never be caught but in most cases keep trying different foods or scents until you have success.
- Adjust trigger to hold strong but release easily.

**C. Record Keeping**

- Always make a written record of every trap that is set. You may need someone to cover for you.
- Give the trap a name. Draw a picture of the trap and surrounding area and write directions well enough so another person can find it.
- Everyday list every trap, where it is, what activity it had, and what you did. i.e.: left wired open, wired no activity/w activity (describe), set trap, empty no activity/w activity (describe), baited, checked only, dog captured (describe dog).
- You can keep track of trap days/nights for recording effort.
D. Concerns/Precautions
• No food cans or carpeting in traps. Sometimes blankets w/ owner's scent is used.
• Lost traps - record keeping is mandatory: maps, number traps, GPS
• Human disturbance - people and traps don't mix
• Stolen or released dogs - hide a trail cam?
• Non-target captures - be prepared for all possibilities.

Advance trapping
F. Catching specific or difficult dogs and other tricks
• Always set a trap as if he is the most difficult dog.
• Create bait stations and determine dog's travel routine.
• Place bait stations where individuals can observe the dog, box traps will be left undisturbed, and maybe where it can be darted from a window.
• When you are leaving bait or setting box traps, ignore the dog. Never step toward the dog if it is afraid or try to offer food. Your scent will be on your box traps.
• Wire a trap open for several days/week until the dog is comfortable eating from it.
• Use urine from female in heat or scat from a known companion dog. Place in a shallow hole under the trap before setting the trap.

G. Other ways to use the traps.
• Set a trap for 2 dogs by placing 2 traps side by side pointed in opposite directions.
• Active box trapping - drive until you see dogs resting in the street, offer food without approaching him, if he takes the food, then set a trap nearby and lay a trail of treats.
• If the people do not want a dog in their area, encourage them to throw treats rather than throw rocks.

H. Checking the traps
1. If the trap is empty
   • Door open or closed? Is bait there or gone? What tracks or activity?
   • Check the trap is stable and set up properly, rebait, double check trigger.
   • Document; Consider monitoring the trap with a trail cam.

2. If the trap has a dog - protocol for your program?
   • Transfer to crate and reset trap. Whose scent is on the trap?
   • Transfer the dog in the trap - be sure to cover the trap to reduce animal stress, be respectful, and look professional.
   • Drug dog in trap and transport - requires additional training and animal care

I. Trap Covers and Accessories
1. Trap cover - always cover a trap with a dog to be compassionate, to reduce stress, and to be professional.

2. T-D 1 Trap Divider - can assist with chemical immobilization but cross sticks can be just as effective.
VARI-KENNELS (CRATES) - as a capture tool
• Crating a Dog with long line - Some fractious dogs can be handed to you on a leash by the owner.
• Place a crate along a wall so the door swings toward the wall.
• With 2 people, tie the leash to a long rope and thread the rope through the crate.
• One person holds the end of the rope and takes in all slack. Do not pull.
• Second person releases dog & walks dog along wall with Y pole then closes door.
• In large area, place crate in a corner and use a line of people (with nets) to move the dog toward the crate. Without a crate, the Y pole is usually effective.

CAPTURE PENS
• Capture pens, developed by Global Wildlife Resources, have been built to capture entire packs of dogs.
• Portable pens are made from eight 8ft by 8ft chain link panels assembled with saddle brackets.
• One panel has a guillotine door and one panel has guillotine and a human doors.
• Both guillotine doors are dropped with a remote airplane control unit which must be line of sight. A control box which pulls a pin is bolted to the edge of dog doors.
• Greatest success requires keeping open and pre-baiting for one week.
• Dogs can be drugged with Y pole/syringe pole (quietest approach) or netted.

Lab 2 - Box trapping skills
• Creating an inviting den, baiting, and adjusting trigger
• Transferring a dog to a crate or to another trap
• Using a long line to crate a dog
• Drugging techniques for a box trap
• Catching dogs in a large area - practice walking a line

WORKING FEARFUL DOGS IN A LARGE AREA
A. Walking a line
• People can be assembled in a long line. Everyone must stay calm and relaxed. Minimize arm or body movement. No talking. Follow one person's lead.
• Move a few steps at a time. Do not pressure the dog. Give him time to see options.
• Position people with nets and shadow Y poles at both ends of line along a wall.
• Move dog toward Y poling corner or crate(s) or smaller enclosure.

B. Canvas Barrier - for guiding dogs to a Y poling corner or crate
• The best material is a re-usable dark brown (?) cordura fabric 25 feet long by 5 feet high. Grommets are set along both ends and along the top edge.
• Plan, plan, plan. Long planning leads to quicker and maybe successful capture.
• Use carabiners to hook to fences, or make a chain of them to wrap around trees.
• At times weigh down the lower edge with the fold on the ground toward the dog.
• Add calm people (with low energy) and Y poles.
CHEMICAL CAPTURE
The most basic points about chemical capture.

• Requires trained personnel who regularly practice their delivery systems. This training includes knowledge for selecting drugs, animal care, and transport.
• With remote drug delivery only use delivery systems (dart guns) with CO2 and a pressure gauge and practice at least once a month.
• When a dog is contained use a Y pole before giving drugs with a syringe pole.
• Oral drugging is typically ineffective or inconsistent.

GROUP DISCUSSION (WRAP UP)
Covering specific scenarios

Watch for our new training website:
www.DogCaptureandCare.com full of links, resources, an online dog capture and handling course, and our Feral Dog Blog for anyone in animal welfare who needs to catch a dog. Arriving in fall of 2018.

COURSE HANDOUTS
2. Making a Y Pole
4. HSUS Catch Pole Guidelines
5. Wolf Quick Muzzle Handout