

Chuckanut Dog Training Association Presents
Dr. Sophia Yin Workshop
Raising the Perfect Dog: Identifying and Avoiding Unwanted Behaviors
March 17 and 18, 2012 in Bellingham, WA

Meet Dr. Sophia Yin



Dr. Sophia Yin knows what it's like to have a problem pet and nowhere to turn for professional help. And she has witnessed countless fractured relationships between misunderstood pets and their frustrated human companions. As a result, her mission in life is to improve our understanding of animals and their behavior so that we can care for, appreciate and enjoy our time with them better.

Ever since she was a child, Sophia wanted to be a veterinarian, and in 1993, her dream came true. But once out in private practice, she quickly realized that more pets were euthanized due to behavior problems than medical ones. She went back to school to study animal behavior, and earned her Master's in Animal Science in 2001 from UC Davis where she studied vocal communication in dogs and worked on behavior modification in horses, giraffes, ostriches, and chickens. During this time she was also the award-winning pet columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle. Upon receiving her degree focused on animal behavior, Dr. Yin served for five years as a lecturer in the UC Davis Animal Science Department. Through these and an eclectic collection of other animal behavior experiences, she came to realize the true secret to successful behavior modification.

Sophia learned that every pet needs a human who can lead. Not like a boss, but like a partner in a dance—someone who gives clear signals, rewards desirable behavior as it occurs, removes rewards for inappropriate behavior immediately, and sticks to the plan consistently until the new, good behavior is a habit. She found that because pets don't understand spoken language, they rely on body language plus desired or undesired consequences in order to learn. This means that humans must be aware of their movement and actions because every move they make while interacting with the pet influences the animal's behavior and perception of them.

Workshop Information

Location: Whatcom Community College

Dates and Times: Saturday 17 March 2012 and Sunday 18 March 2012 - 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Costs: \$100/day or \$150 for both days; 50% discount for CDTA members

Working spot* - additional \$25; must attend both days; complete questionnaire, if interested.

\$10/day - Box Lunch (optional); there are several restaurants close by for other lunch options.

For more information and a registration form: visit our website at www.chuckanutdogtraining.org

OR contact Alecia Elvstad at email address alecia@elvstad.net or phone (360) 927 7621.

*If chosen, an additional \$25 is due payable at the workshop. The working spot dogs will be selected by speaker. The following is a description of dogs appropriate for hands on working spots. Dogs should be comfortable in the training environment. When they are not "working" they should be in a comfortable crate. They must be quiet, relaxed during lecture. Dogs should be highly motivated for treats in the workshop environment. Dogs can have fear, arousal or reactivity/aggression issues, as long as they have not bitten people or dogs (due to liability issues) and can be relaxed enough to work in the workshop environment while other dogs are in the room, but kenneled.

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Agenda Saturday, March 17, 2012

How to Train a Dog, Cat, Horse, Giraffe: Using Positive Reinforcement to Create a Bond for Life

Hands-on Exercise for All Participants

Recognizing Brewing Behavior Problems in Dogs

(Lunch)

Reversing Brewing Behavior Problems

Dominance versus Leadership: Myths and Facts about Dominance in Wolves and Dogs

Teaching Dogs to Learn to Earn: A Fun, Safe, and Quick Alternative to the Alpha Role

Demonstration with Dog and Hands-on Exercises for All Participants

Agenda Sunday, March 18, 2012

Feuding Fidos - Understanding and Mending the Rift between Household Hounds

Hands on - Canine Working Spots

(Lunch)

If Punishment is so Bad: Then Why does it Work for the Trainer on TV

Hands on - Canine Working Spots

The Many Faces of Fear and Aggression