

WHY, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, IS THE DOMINANCE
AND PACK THEORY STILL AROUND?



THE DOMINANCE AND PACK THEORY IS VERY BASIC AND IS BASED
ON INCORRECT INFORMATION:-

1. DOGS ARE DIRECT DESCENDANTS FROM WOLVES AND THEREFORE THE DOMINANCE/HIERARCHY THEORY MUST APPLY TO THEM TOO.
2. DOGS SHOULD BE KEPT IN THEIR PLACE AND OBEY ALL RULES INSTANTLY (AS THOUGH DOGS HAVE SOME KIND OF HIDDEN AGENDA!).
3. DOGS ARE PACK ANIMALS, THEY LIVE IN OUR HUMAN PACK AND WE ARE THEIR 'PACK LEADERS'.

THANK GOODNESS WE'VE MOVED ON.....!

1. DOGS ARE BETWEEN 15,000 TO 40,000 YEARS REMOVED FROM THEIR DESCENDANTS, THE WOLF.
2. DOGS ARE ACTUALLY RELATIVELY SIMPLE ANIMALS AND CERTAINLY DON'T HAVE THE INTELLIGENCE TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD!
3. DOGS ARE CONSPECIFIC - IF THEY DID PACK - THEY WOULD ONLY PACK WITH THEIR OWN KIND.

4. HUMANS ARE NOT DOGS - DOGS ARE NOT HUMANS. THEY ARE NOT PART OF OUR PACK. WE ARE NOT LEADERS OF THE PACK. DOGS DON'T PACK. NOW IF YOU'RE GOING TO SAY YOU SEE PACKS OF DOGS AROUND THE STREETS SOMETIMES WHEN ON HOLIDAY, THESE DOGS ARE PROBABLY A) MOSTLY MALES FOLLOWING A FEMALE WHO IS IN SEASON B) MOSTLY MALES LOOKING FOR FEMALES IN SEASON C) LARGE GROUPS OF DOGS FEEDING AT THE SAME DUMPING GROUND WHERE A FOOD SOURCE IS AVAILABLE.
5. WHEN A FEMALE IN THIS GROUP HAS PUPS, SHE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO FEEDS THEM. THAT IS NOT PACK MENTALITY (THINK OF WOLVES FEEDING AND CARING FOR CUBS IN THEIR 'PACK').
6. THE STUDY OF CANINE BEHAVIOUR IS A SCIENCE. SCIENCE HAS MOVED ON. BY CONTINUING TO BELIEVE AND USE THESE THEORIES YOU ARE MIS-UNDERSTANDING YOUR DOG AND CAUSING BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS AND CONFUSION.

AT SUSSEX DOG BEHAVIOUR, WE APPRECIATE THAT DOGS ARE DOGS AND LEARN BY REPEATING SUCCESSFUL BEHAVIOURS WHICH ARE REINFORCED WITH REWARDS. WE TAP IN TO THEIR NATURAL PREDATORY OR PLAY BEHAVIOURS, GIVING THEM JOBS WHICH ARE REWARDING AND KEEP THEIR BRAINS ACTIVE, HAPPY AND CALM. THERE IS HOPEFULLY NO CONFUSIONS ABOUT WHAT WE ARE ASKING OF THEM WHICH RESULTS IN A DOG THAT IS NOT AFRAID, IS CONFIDENT AND IS HAPPY IN MOST SITUATIONS WE PRESENT TO THEM.

