Toowoomba Dog Club – INFORMATION SHEET 1
'Introduction Night'

The CANINE EDITING PROCESS
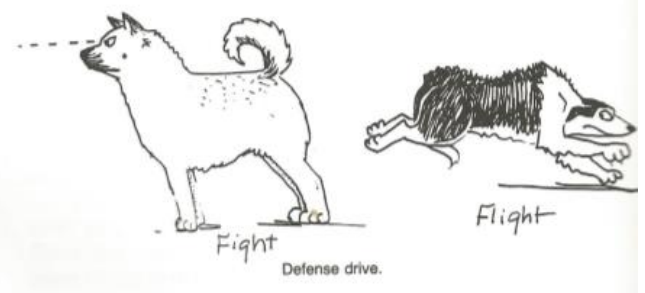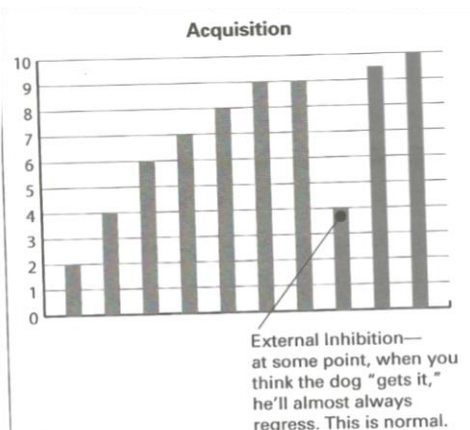
Four Stages of Learning:

There are four stages of learning. When training a new behaviour, you must address each of these stages before you can consider the behaviour 'trained'. The four stages are:

- **Acquisition:** the process of learning the new behaviour;
- **Fluency:** perfecting the behaviour and having the behaviour become automatic;
- **Generalisation:** the process of learning to perform the behaviour under a different condition and/or a different environment;
- **Maintenance:** practicing the behaviour on an ongoing basis to ensure the behaviour continues

Shaping Through Successive Approximation

Shaping through successive approximation simply means that you are shaping a behavior by taking baby steps toward the goal behavior. By setting realistic, achievable criteria, you will make steady progress toward the goal and will reach it more quickly than if you set goals that are too difficult for your dog to attain.

Throughout this book you will see statements such as: "If your dog does not perform, you have moved ahead too quickly; go back a few steps and start again." What this means is that you have set an unattainable goal for your dog. If your dog always achieves the goal, you are probably setting your criteria too low; if your dog frequently does not achieve the goal, you are setting your criteria too high. Aim for at least an 80:20 ratio of success to failure. Your dog should succeed 80% of the time.

Prey drive.

Pack drive.

Fight. Flight. Defense drive.

Acquisition

External Inhibition— at some point, when you think the dog "gets it," he'll almost always regress. This is normal.

Sources:
"Positive Gun Dogs" – Jim Barry, Mary Emmen & Susan Smith
"Open & Utility Training – The Motivational Method" – Jack and Wendy Volhard