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Green Acres Announces Position Statement on the Use of Dominance and Punishment in the Training of Dogs

For Immediate Release

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[***Bangor***]— Green Acres Kennel Shop has announced a position statement on the use of the dominance construct and punishment in the training and behavior modification of dogs. Essentially the statement indicates that the belief that dogs misbehave or are disobedient because they are trying to be dominant is a flawed argument not supported by science and detrimental to our relationships with dogs. Citations from prominent wolf researchers, biologists, dog behaviorists and organizations such as the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior and Association of Pet Dog Trainers at the end of the statement all refute the dominance construct. The statement also outlines Green Acres approach to training and behavior modification which is based on rewarding desired behaviors and managing dogs to prevent undesirable behaviors.

When Green Acres co-owner, Don Hanson, was asked why he felt it was necessary to issue such a statement he stated; "*The fallacy of the dominance construct has been documented in the scientific literature for years, unfortunately it is still the central tenet of dog training for many people, some of them animal professionals, and some who try to play the part on TV. These individuals continue to promulgate the dominance myth which results in people feeling compelled to train their dog with fear and intimidation because they are told that if they don't their dog will become dominant. The result is unhappy people and unhappy dogs. We want dog guardians to understand that the best way they and their dogs can become and remain best friends is through understanding and reward-based training.*"

In business since 1965, Green Acres Kennel Shop at 1653 Union Street is a Pet Care Services Association (PCSA) accredited facility offering boarding, daycare and grooming for dogs and cats, as well as pet behavior consultations and training classes. The Green Acres retail store offers a wide variety of wholesome pet foods, treats and quality supplies. For more information, please call 945-6841 or visit www.greenacreskennel.com.

Green Acres co-owner, Don Hanson, is a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant, Certified Professional Dog Trainer, and a professional member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, as well as a past president of the APDT. Hanson has lectured on dog training and behavior in the US, Canada, Japan and the Caribbean.

http://www.greenacreskennel.com/pages/Articles/ART_Position_Dominance_Punishment.html - http://bit.ly/cVTgXT

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