**Psy 331.03 Advanced Laboratory in Operant Conditioning**

**Dr. Val Farmer-Dougan**

**Study guide Week 11: Attachment**

**Udell & Brubaker (2016). Are dogs social generalists? Canine social cognition, attachment, and the dog-human bond.**

1. Why is studying the dog-human bond important? What types of questions might these investigations answer?
2. What is meant by the term “social generalist”?
3. One of the most common tests of social cognition is the ability to follow a point. What kinds of canines can follow a human pointing towards an object? Can all domestic (pet) dogs follow this point? What variable seems to be important for dogs that do not follow a point?
4. What is “behavioral plasticity” and why might it be so important for dogs and social cognition?
5. How do researchers study attachment in dogs? Is this similar to how researchers study attachment in human infants?
6. What three general styles of attachment do dogs tend to show? Are these similar to the general attachment styles shown by humans?
7. Wy do you think there is such a high degree of similarity in how dogs and human children show attachment to adult humans? What does this tell us about attachment in general? About dogs in general?

**Gasci, Topal, Miklosi, Doka & Csanyi (2001). Attachment behavior of adult dogs (canis familiaris) living at rescue centers: Forming new bonds.**

1. What is social attachment? Why is it so Important to both human children and dogs?
2. What are the primary behavioral indicators of social attachment in dogs and children?
3. Describe the strange situation test developed by Ainsworth.
4. At what point in development does attachment occur?
5. Describe what is meant by a sensitive period, and how does a sensitive period affect attachment in humans and dogs?
6. What is the hypothesis for this study?
7. Briefly describe the subjects and procedure for the study.
8. Did the different handling situations and conditions result in different attachment?
9. Why is this a seminal (extremely important) study for those working with dog shelters? What do these data tell researchers and clinicians about how to help shelter dogs become successful pets?

**Pryor, Don’t Shoot the Dog, Chapter 5.**

1. Where besides dog training do behaviorists use reinforcement programs and behavior analysis? (Perhaps the question should be, “where do they NOT use it?”).
2. What kinds of animals/locations have behaviorists worked? What makes a behaviorist different than a trainer?
3. What are some concerns voiced by the general public about using reinforcement techniques with humans?
4. Are there side effects of behavioral programs? What kinds, and are these “good” or “Bad”?