

References for Dr. Rolan Tripp

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Comments from Michael Haas, DVM

Rolan is an extremely engaging speaker. As the sessions went on, word got out and each succeeding lecture brought more and more people until, by the end of the second day, the room was standing room only. As Rolan spoke, I heard a unique practice approach. Yes, of course we should be addressing behavioral issues involving our patients, but more than that it is incumbent upon us to set the proper example by engaging them in the most positive ways while they visit and reside in our facilities. I attended the PVMA meeting with two of our staff members and we put some new procedures into place immediately and saw very positive results right away.

Dr. Tripp has also developed a system that allows the *general practitioner* to incorporate behavior medicine into the practice, or to augment a program that is already in place, by utilizing an on-line consultation, client education, and library system (www.AnimalBehavior.net). The *veterinarian* can become involved as much or as little as she likes while solving clients' behavioral concerns. Our *staff* loves this approach and they truly get greater enjoyment from the work day. *Clients* are pleased when they see their pet actually enjoy the visit rather than responding to doctor and staff member with fear. I can't say that we no longer have frightened *patients* but I can tell you that we have won over many that in the past would have put us on their fecal roster.

After the PVMA meeting we hired Dr. Tripp and his wife, Susan to spend two days in our practice giving our team hands-on demonstrations. The event was a morale builder beyond the excitement of learning applicable behavior knowledge to better our relationships with our personal pets at home and the pets that visit our practices.

Comments Meg Alonso, VMD

The number one leading cause of death in pets in the US is not heart disease or kidney disease or cancer, but BEHAVIOR. Sometimes that is due to lack of owners' knowledge of the behavior of the species or the breed, sometimes to a lack of preventative socialization and shaping of behavior at the natural developmental windows, sometimes due to animals being kept under conditions that are not compatible with their natural behavior, sometimes due to lack of knowledge or resources for modification of behavioral habits, etc.

But the bottom line is that thousands of animals each week are euthanized, given away, sent to shelters, neglected or abused because of behavioral issues. These issues can encompass many behaviors such as housesoiling, aggression to humans, aggression to other animals, destruction of property, excessive vocalizing, hyperactivity, nocturnal disruptions, activities due to separation anxiety, incompatibility of intrinsic species or breed characteristics with owners' lifestyles, etc, etc. If we could handle behavior in the way that we handle medical issues - by focusing on PREVENTION first and TREATMENT second, we could make huge dents in the number of pets being taken to shelters in the first place and greatly increase the number of successful adoptions.

Because of my public positions (as the President of the Lehigh Valley Veterinary Medical Association and Medical Director of AnimalScan, the Lehigh Valley's only MRI facility for animals), I want to be clear that in this letter I am speaking only for myself.

I heard Dr. Rolan Tripp speak and was on the edge of my chair for two full days. Never before have I attended a lecture that held my interest and kept my enthusiasm. I was embarrassed to realize that I had not realized his message earlier in my practice. It was common sense to a compassionate professional and yet no one had addressed these concepts with such clarity of purpose. Dr. Rolan Tripp is an internationally recognized authority on animal behavior. He works as a consultant to veterinary practices and individual owners on teaching them how to begin working with pets from the earliest stages of life to develop the maximal relationship which he refers to as "Positive Pet Parenting", and how to correct problems that have arisen when these principles have not been available and negative behaviors have developed.

Because of the escalating issues of crowded shelters, euthanasia, the high percentages of unsuccessful adoptions, etc. Dr. Tripp and his wife Susan have started a Foundation to put these "pet parenting" principles into the hands of as many shelters and adoptive families as possible. Adopting pet parents receive progressive email lessons and learn from the online Animal Behavior Network multi-media library about pet behavior and gentle methods to raise household pets with good manners. Email lessons arrive with pet cartoons to motivate pet parents to take a few minutes out of their busy lives and follow steps that are easy to learn and implement. These principles are well-tested and will help issues related to shelter animals in the public consciousness.

Comments from Heidi Winot, DVM

I have never been anything but impressed by your approach to behavioral modification. Cherie Bett's dog is a great example of how you are helping pets and their people work better together. He only has issues when she neglects your recommendations! And your reward based theories have transformed how some of my patients think of vet clinic visits! Many puppies, now grown, are dragging their owners into our facility in anticipation of seeing the Cookie Doctor! And several grown dogs with vet phobia issues now do the same. So thanks for your skills and for your willingness to share them with the rest of us!

Comments from Lauren Keating, DVM

The monthly investment I make in the Animal Behavior Network is the best thing I do compared to everything else I do in my practice. - Dr. Lauren Keating, Natural Bridge Animal Hospital, Virginia -

Kristi McCullough, DVM
2008 Chair for the ISVMA
Education committee
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Dear Dr. Tripp,

Thank you so much for your participation in the 2007 Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association's annual conference. Once again your lectures and wet lab received rave reviews and you played an integral role in helping to make this years conference a success!

Because of the overwhelming demand for more behavior lectures and because you have been so well received the last two years, we would like to invite you back to be a part of our 2008 convention to be held in Lombard, Illinois November 7-9th. We are hoping to expand your program to include a repeat performance of your puppy gentling wet lab on Friday, a full day of lectures on Saturday, and possibly a kitten behavior wet lab on Sunday.

We are very excited about the prospect of having you be a part of our convention once again. It's been a pleasure working with you in the past and I hope we can continue to be an avenue for you to get your important message out to veterinarians and veterinary staff. To give you a taste of some of the feedback we have received regarding your program, I have included a few quotes from veterinarians and certified veterinary technicians who have attended your lectures and wet labs in the past.

"Great tips that I'll be able to use right away. A very important issue that is often difficult to treat"
DVM

"I love Dr. Tripp! It has been a pleasure learning from you these last two ISVMA conferences. I hope we'll see you again next year!" RVT

"Possibly the best I have ever heard on this subject." DVM

"This class was the reason I came to the convention!" (practice personnel)

"Very entertaining and educational!!" DVM

"Excellent - keep bringing him back"

These are just a few of the many wonderful comments we have received regarding your program. I hope we can continue to educate the veterinarians of Illinois about this very important topic. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Kristi McCullough, DVM, 2008 Chair