

## Is Your Dog “Dominant”?!

**It's really quite frightening what people do, just because they saw it on TV. Do we really believe that dogs are trying to take over our world and dominate the human race? Is Fluffy really a big bad wolf plotting to overthrow the family? In a word, NO.**

Last week, in my vet clinic, I was “told” by an ageing Cesar Millan fan, that it was my ault my Airedale Terrier didn't like the clinic cat! And, if I showed calm “dominance”, my dog might like the cat. Sorry, not going to take that chance!

In the past few weeks I have had several calls from distressed dog owners who have tried to be a wolf and “dominate” their dogs, holding them on the ground by the throat, just like the trainer on TV. All were bitten.

Quote By Dr Sophia Yin  
From Veterinary Forum Clinical Update March 2009:

“This treatment is based on an incorrect understanding of what happens in the wild.

For decades trainers have assumed that higher ranked wolves pin lower ranked ones in this alpha roll as a powerplay. In reality, it's not the higher ranked wolf that forces the lower one down, rather the lower ranked one offers this ritualistic posture as a sign of deference the way one might bow or kneel before royalty. Consequently a more appropriate term for this posture would be a submissive roll (Yin 2009).” <http://www.askdryin.com/dominance.php>

A recent article in the UK Telegraph described TV dog behaviour programmes as “useless & dangerous” and may do more harm than good, according to scientists.



Scientific research has shown that methods requiring owners to show “dominance” over pets, are likely to increase aggression in animals.

Prominent wolf biologist David Mech states, “Rather than viewing a wolf pack as a group of animals organized with a ‘top dog’ that fought its way to the top, science has come to understand that most wolf packs are merely family groups formed exactly the same way as a human family.”

**If you would like to learn how to train your dog, without getting loud and mean, and get results, call us. Using modern, scientifically proven methods, our classes and training techniques are safe for your dog and all the family.**

Jennifer Wilcox, is a nationally accredited Cert IV Delta CGC Dog Trainer, an IIACAB (International Institute for Applied Companion Animal Behaviour) Professional Dog Trainer and member of the Australian Association of Pet Dog Trainers.

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## Travelling with Bill

As with our July column last year, I am writing on location on Holland America's Zuiderdam as we wend our way back to Vancouver through the famed Inside Passage from Alaska.



This is the culmination of our 24 day fully escorted group tour to the Canadian Rockies and Alaskan cruise, one of the great holidays of a lifetime. I was asked at the outset of this trip how I can keep coming back and don't I even get bored with the trip. Now as we approach the end everyone in group not only understands but shares a deep appreciation of the sheer majesty of this environment. No brochure, no DVD or hundreds of photos can capture the scale of the Canadian Rockies or beauty of the Alaskan fiords.



As with previous years our trip started in Vancouver and spent two nights in Whistler, Jasper, Lake Louise, and Banff before returning to Vancouver on the Rocky Mountaineer, Gold Leaf. Two nights in the quaint town of Victoria finished our land component before boarding the Zuiderdam in Vancouver and heading for Alaska and the ports of

Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and taking in both Tracy Arm and Glacier Bay.

As with all trips there is usually a highlight that stays with you forever. This year it was in Juneau on a photographic shore excursion. Some of our group were privileged enough to witness a rare event, Humpback Whales Bubble Net Feeding. This spectacle only occurs for two weeks of the year during the whales summer migration from Hawaii and only occurs in Alaska. To see nine whales all surfacing vertically in unison was nothing short of breathtaking.



It is always a pleasure for me to show people Canada and Alaska and experience the wonder this trip has to offer through their eyes. So much so that we will be doing again in 2010, our fourth fully escorted trip. We will depart of the 18th of June next year on a 25 day trip. Starting in Vancouver and finishing with the cruise through the inside passage to

Alaska again on the Zuiderdam. If you have ever considered Canada and Alaska please join me for this exclusive fully escorted trip of a lifetime. For details please contact either my Frankston office on 9781 3733 or Dromana 5987 3444. Our trip blog and photos from this years tour are available at [www.harveyworldfrankston.com](http://www.harveyworldfrankston.com) We will be holding an information afternoon on Saturday the 15th August from 2:30 to 4:30, at the Frankston Arts Centre. Call for details.

In addition to the full tour, in conjunction with Travability, we are booking some accessible cabins for the cruise portion only. The Zuiderdam is a fully accessible ship and the Ports of Call and many shore excursions are wheelchair accessible. Alaska is arguably one of the most accessible destinations in the world. Please call me if you are interested in this aspect of the trip.

*Bill Forrester.*



**Bill Forrester has visited over 27 countries and owns and operates Harvey World Travel Frankston, Dromana and Dandenong. His contact details are:**  
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