

Protection Drives

based on a Seminar by Dean Calderon

"The Germans have a saying: 'in protection a dog must work with 100% of his Prey Drive and 100% of his Defense Drives'" Dean Calderon always tells his training groups. Although a thorough discussion on the drives ~ a dog would involve a complex and lengthy discussion of the phylogenetic, an physiological behavior of canines - this article attempts to address the basic drives that confront the Schutzhund helper.

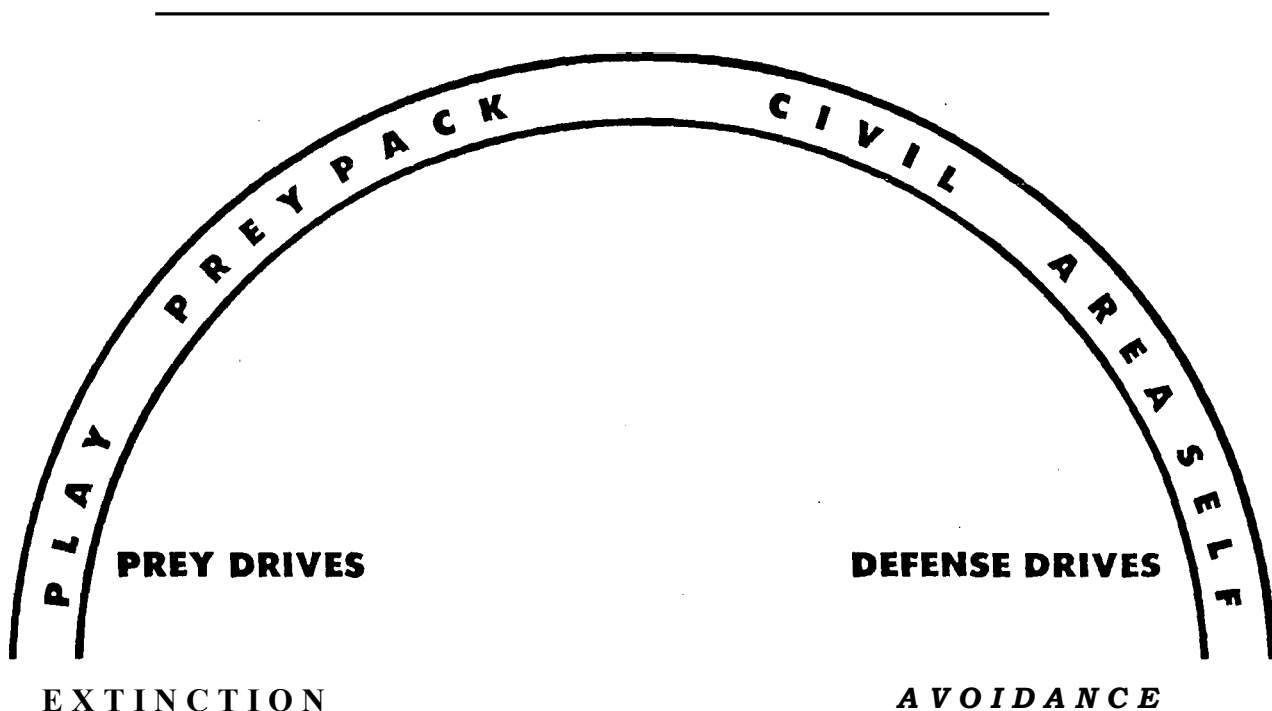
Drives are nothing more than instincts. Every animal has a wide range of natural instincts that it starts using from the moment of birth and that determine the direction of the dog's behavior throughout his or her life. It is the role of the Schutzhund helper to recognize, stimulate and develop a balance between the many drives. Without a strong Prey Drive the dog will not chase and grip.

Without a well developed Defensive Drive the dog will not exhibit the aggressive behavior necessary for Schutzhund work and will not take stick hits.

Temperament refers to the overall constitution of the animal (the inherited traits that give the dog it's habitual inclinations or mode of emotional response). Drives are the stimulated instincts that work within the

framework of the temperament. The various drives interact with each other as a component of this temperament. Unlike temperament drives can be manipulated and their direction can be changed.

When working dogs in protection all good helpers have found some way to gauge the dog. The graph shown here is one method that clearly demonstrates this measure of drives.



EXTINCTION is the absolute absence of interest in the stimulus.

PREY DRIVE is the innate desire to chase after something and grab it.

PLAY DRIVE is the natural desire for a dog to enjoy him or herself, to play and be happy.

PACK DRIVE is the desire to be with and to please the pack leader. It is the primary motive force for all canines. Conflicts in training come when a dog doesn't realize or recognize the Handler is the leader.

CIVIL DRIVE is the basic aggressive nature of the dog. This is his desire to dominate. Clearly this drive can easily conflict with the Pack Drive.

AREA DEFENSE DRIVE is the dog's natural desire to defend his or her own territory. This could be a car or kennel. This drive comes to the fore when working a dog tied to a fence

or a pole.

SELF DEFENSE DRIVE is the natural motivation of any living animal to save its own life. This is a lesser drive which we do not want to see too much of because the civil aggression and area defense drives should be coming through stronger.

AVOIDANCE is the absence of a drive. It is the total surrender of the dog: the panic to avoid a fight; to run away; or lay down and submit.

Prey Attractions:

- Swinging sack or sleeve.
- Fast motion on part of helper, retreating posture.
- Chases and pursuits
- Prey Grips (mechanically pulling away from dog who is on the sleeve).
- Carrying the sleeve.
- Dog wins by possessing his prey;

physically taking the sleeve or sack.

Excessive prey work results in weak barks and lack of aggression.

Defense Drives:

- Whip cracking or stick slapping helper's leg or ground.
- Stocking, creeping up on dog in threatening manner.
- Stick or hand raised over head, sleeve hidden from view.
- Working dog when it is dark or when tied to pole or fence.
- Dog learns success by chasing the helper away with aggressive barking.

Excessive Defense work will teach a dog to be insecure: growl and slash about on the sleeve; take shallow grips; duck out and run from a threat.

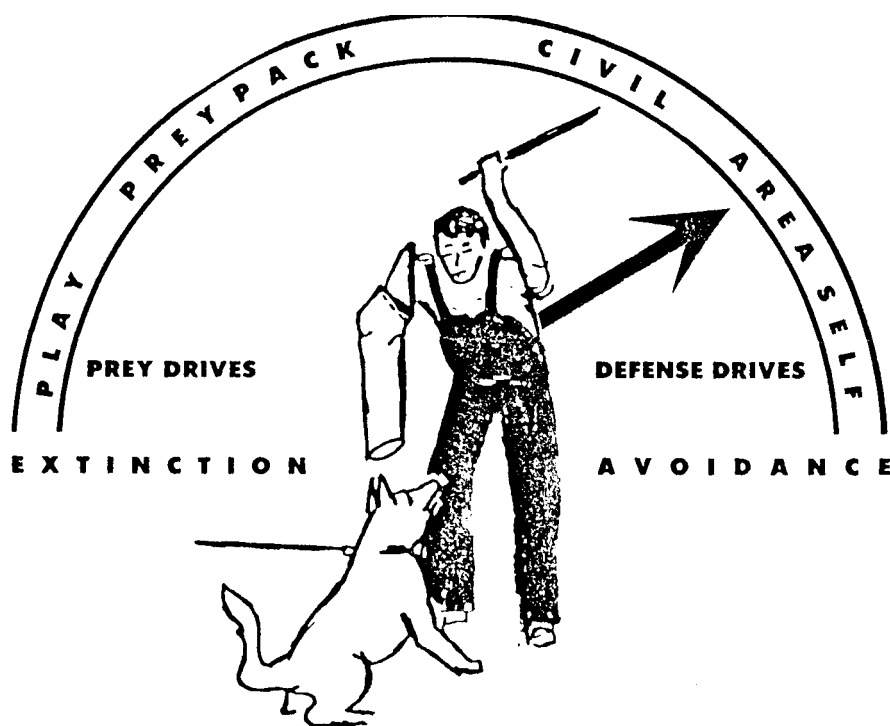
Work with what the dog brings to you.

Young dogs of six to fourteen months can only work through their Prey and Play Drives. They can easily be taught to chase and grab. Using prey attractions the helper teaches the mechanics of grabbing, carrying, and chasing. It is just as important to develop these Prey and Play Drives as it is to change these drives that over to the Defensive Drives that will build up the dogs aggressive behavior.

The Defense Drives will come out naturally as the dog matures and should eventually dominate the Prey Drives in Schutzhund work. The helper can facilitate this change by teaching him or her to win through defense attractions.

Avoid Avoidance

Constant threatening and defense attractions for a dog not ready, not strong enough, or who has not been taught properly to win through defense will push the needle into insecure behavior. The dog will bare it's teeth, growl and move around on the sleeve and run away from a strong



The Defensive Drives of a dog are measured on the trial field in the hold-at-bay and guarding-in-the-blind exercises. Most significantly it shows up in the judges evaluation of the overall aggressiveness of the dog when the evaluation for Courage and Fighting Drives is given. (Helper and Dog illustrations are based on drawings made by Agi Boardman to accompany the article by Tron Jordheim, "A System of Helper Work" which was published in the December 1980 issue of Schutzhund USA.)

threat such as a stick hit. Such a dog is not necessarily a "stick shy" dog rather one who has not been properly taught to win through defense.

If avoidance does not succeed in relieving the situation the dog can go into a state of shock and die. Avoidance is the ultimate result of extreme conflict. It is not just a brutal trainer who can, through excessive force, bring a dog to it's death but an extremely weak dog who has confused it's drives and is in extreme conflict. This is the importance of correctly reading a dog and understanding it's drives.

Working the Balance

The Schutzhund helper is the needle on this gauge. Through mechanical actions and by making attractions the helper can swing the dog who brings out too much Play Drive over toward the Civil Drives and visa-versa. Here is an example of how the helper works toward the balance:

A dog who is excessively playful in his protection work (but has learned through prey attractions the mechanics of correct gripping) can be tied out a a pole when it is getting dark. The helper comes from a hiding place in a stocking, creeping and threatening manner. These are defense attractions. If the dog is not barking the dog is not bringing forth any defense drive. Crack the whip. Raise a hand overhead. When the dog barks the helper runs away. The dog is learning to win through Defense Drives. When the barking is full and aggressive load the dog with stronger defense attractions. Keep the sleeve hidden from view. When the dog is high in Defense Drive give a quick grip.

Now the helper must immediately judge the quality of the grip. If the grip is not full and strong then there is not enough Defense Drive behind the grip. The dog could be too young (in which case you let the dog mature) or the dog may not be

developed enough in defense (back on the pole).

If the grip is full and strong the helper must choose to let the dog win through prey or through defense.

The helper could swing the dog immediately from his or her defensive behavior into Prey-Play Drive by releasing the sleeve and allowing the dog to carry it in his or her mouth.

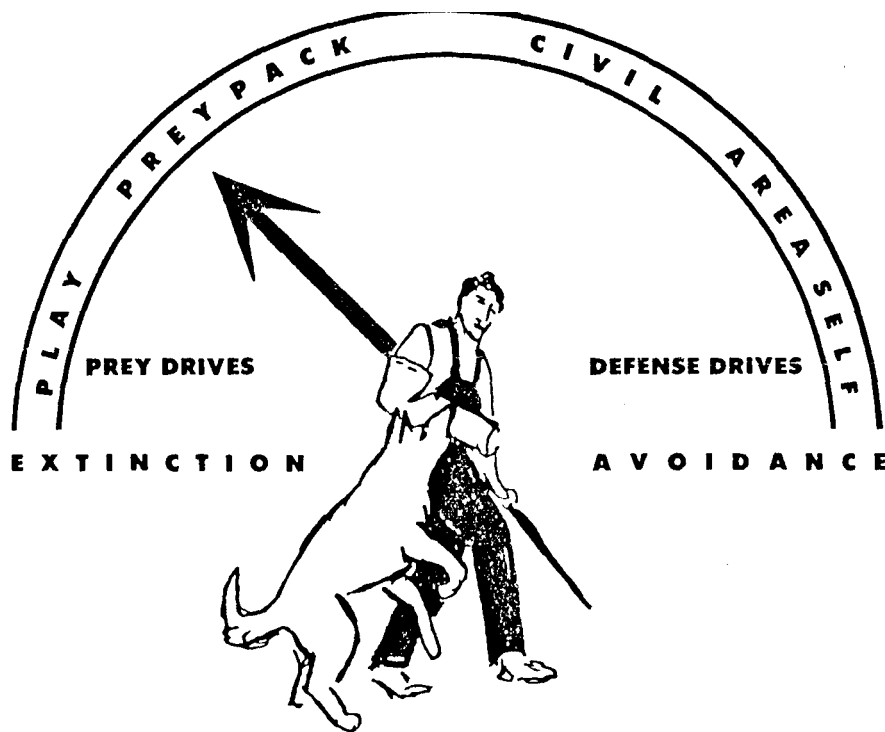
The other alternative is to have the dog release the grip. Out the dog, and resume defense attractions: threatening posture; cracking whip; and allowing the dogs barking to drive the helper away.

Success

By working back and forth between the Prey Drives and Defense Drives the helper can position the dogs at the peak of the gauge between the

Pack Leader Drive and The Civil Drives. This peak is the ultimate goal in Schutzhund training: 100 points in Schutzhund III protection.

A more detailed discussion can be found on the video **Dean Calderon Protection Drives** which is available through the USA Library. **Dean Calderon** is the Training Director of the quite successful South County Schutzhund Club in the Northwest Region. He is a member of the 1987 USA Team to European Championship. Before going to press this article was reviewed and revised by many people including: **Al Kerr**, Northwest Region, **Biff Wisner**, New England Region, **Lynn Salganik**, Northeast Region, **Gary Hanrahan**, Southeast Region and **Jan Jordhiem**, South Central Region. Credit must go to the eminent German competitor **Helmut Raiser** for the opening quote about working with 100% prey and 100% defense.



The Prey Drives of a dog are evaluated in the schutzhund test in the exercises that include a pursuit and in every one of the grips the dog makes on the helper. The escape exercises are predominately prey exercises and the Courage Test is born by prey drives. (Helper and Dog illustrations are based on drawings made by Agi Boardmon to accompany the article by Tron Jordheim, "A System of Helper Work" which was published in the December 1980 issue of Schutzhund USA.)