



## Animal Behavior Society

The Animal Behavior Society, its Applied Animal Behavior Committee, and its Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists have released the following statement:

### Statement on Dog Training and Behavioral Well-being

The [Animal Behavior Society](#) has long been an advocate for animal behavior science and its applications. Our [professionally certified members](#) have expressed growing concern about harmful dog training methods, including hanging, hitting, choking, pinning the dog to the ground and other techniques that cause physical or emotional suffering, popularized by some celebrity trainers.

Training and behavior modification techniques should maximize benefits to animals and minimize harm. This requires competent implementation and adherence to the principles of animal behavior science.

Approaches utilizing highly aversive stimuli, some of which are mentioned above, inflict unnecessary pain and distress on dogs. Such methods hinder the establishment of a trusting and cooperative human-canine relationship and jeopardize the physical and psychological well-being of dogs, negatively affecting animal welfare.

The Animal Behavior Society supports our Certified and Associate Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists in their endorsement of training techniques that effectively and efficiently change behavior, while also prioritizing the well-being of pets, their people, and their communities. We are committed to the application of scientific knowledge to improve the lives of dogs and all animals.