Guide dog in the City of Paris

Marc BLONDOT
GDMI, aftercare service referent

- 25 years of history
- Between 45 and 50 dogs a year
- More than 300 dogs in service
- Multidisciplinary staff
- Network of volunteers

Subject of study : commuter train in rush hours can be a hostile situation...
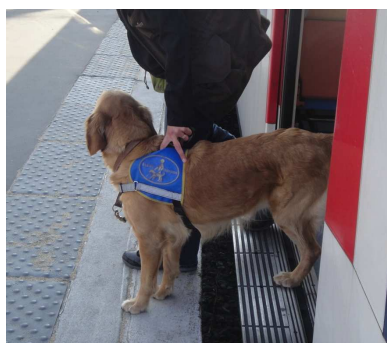

Different patterns

1 - train « stray voltage » (escalators) > kinæsthetic

2 - environment (in and out from the train) : large crowd of people = physical abuse > kinæsthetic

3 - « smell » from the environment (axle grease, urine, etc.)

4 - noise of the train

5 - vision of the train

6 – communication with the handler (and later the GDO : matching responsibility from GDS)

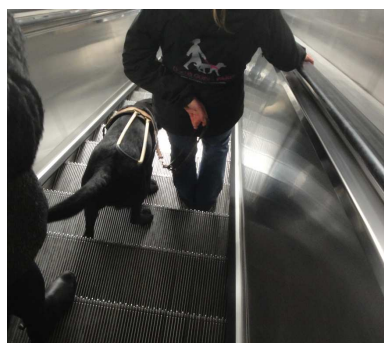But 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 = HOSTILE ! Not only one pattern but several.

Stray voltage (physical attack)

When marking the door　　　　**... or escalator**
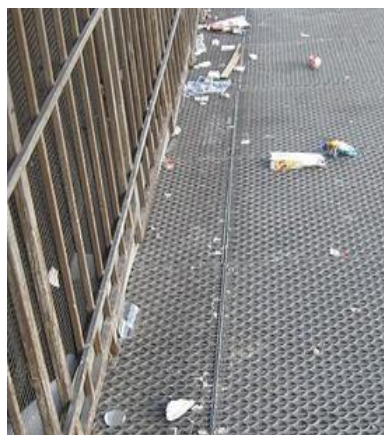

Guiding = vigilance

Attacks on his body :
- impacts,
- watchfully,
- bags, suitcases, spinner luggage,
- in the corridors or in the trains,
- find the balance between hypervigilance and hypersensitivity!

« Smell » from the train and environment

Dirty platforms or corridors

+ Axle grease,

+ Urines,

+ Food on the ground or in hands,

+ (In the past, we had problems with some butcher's shop.)

Noise of the train

- The handler must talk louder

- Voice impact from the handler is reduced,
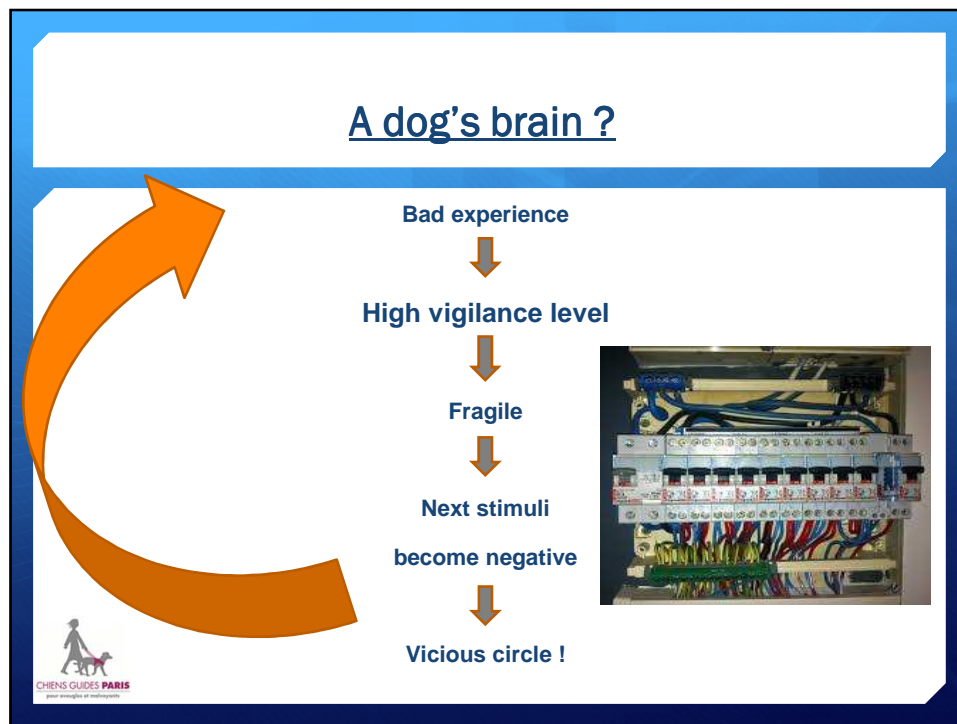
- Train coming on his back can be a terrible surprise!

Vision of the train : visual discrimination

Relation - emotional transmission with the handler

+ handler stressed = dog stressed

+ Same sort of noise agression for the handler

+ Harder verbal communication (louder) so needs more physical, harness or leash communication = not so peaceful !

+ Dog's disturbed, high level breath, yawn

A dog's brain ?

Bad experience

⬇

High vigilance level

⬇

Fragile

⬇

Next stimuli

become negative

⬇

Vicious circle !

A hostile place to become a not-hostile place

- ✓ Prepare dogs about this hostile environment to become common
- ✓ Puppies : the main thing!
- ✓ First year : environmental discovers, puppy walkers
- ✓ Training, class at school and home
- ✓ Aftercare service : regularly, retired parisian dogs earlier (physically and mentally tired)

Puppies : the main thing !

Until 3 months and completly supervised by professionals!

Puppies programm

In the wheelbarrow, from 3 weeks in the school, with their mum, to outside situations like the market for example.

To discover different environments until vaccinations to be done.
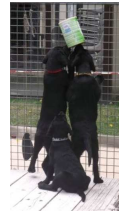
Breeding
Sensori-motor and social awakening for the puppies
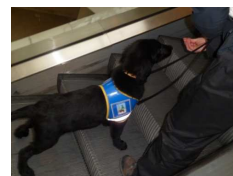
Roads around the grass...

Smell boxes

To be able to walk quietly
With the leash

Breeding
Sensori-motor and social awakening

In training

+ Positive training

+ From quiet stations outside to biggest ones inside

+ To repeat, straight, left, right etc.

+ With other dogs, food on the ground…

+ It never ends !

In training #2

+ Be smart!

+ Work with a blind fold.

+ Real conditions.

+ Final certification in rush hours!

THANKS...!

CHIENS GUIDES **PARIS**
pour aveugles et malvoyants