

# Considering the Use of Positive Reinforcement as a Form of Family Support for Dog Owners and Their Dogs

– Non-disciplinary, non-training, or non-behavioral modification –

TAKAYAMA Hitoshi

Graduate School of Science for Human Services, Ritsumeikan University

**Keywords:** dog training, positive reinforcement, establishment of behavior

Dog trainers are service professionals that work to help dog owners. When animals are experiencing behavioral problems, dog trainers work to modify the problems through behavioral modifications or training. However, the most important goal in supporting both the owner and his/her dog is to provide an environment that promotes positive reinforcement. The present study intends to introduce three case studies based on a philosophical point of view: “Positive reinforcement is a purpose and not the means.”

Case 1: Intervention involving playing with rope regarding the problem of a dog that jumps over to the owner

Case 2: A child giving food to the dog as a form of intervention responding to the problem of the dog having bitten the child under study

Case 3: Searching for a place to walk the dog as a form of intervention for a dog that dislikes walking

The common point shared between these three cases was that certain circumstances were created whereby both the dog owner and the dog were able to receive positive reinforcement. It is implied that such a common point is necessary for the philosophical point of view of “Positive reinforcement is a purpose and not the means” to become realized and that this can be used as a new form of dog training.