Ken Ramirez wrote and edited this book as a training manual for his staff and for students of his graduate course on Animal Training. Published by the Shedd Aquarium in 1999 and now in its third printing, it has become the "must have" book for zoo and aquarium trainers world-wide.

The book is a collection of articles by over 100 trainers focusing on training topics ranging from beginner to advanced. The book is divided into chapters that guides the reader through the development of a professional training program. Each chapter shares Ken's perspective on how to put a training program together then introduces the reader to articles that appear at the end of each chapter.

+ The book is only available by completing the form overleaf and submitting it by the due date. Payment must be received in full before the order can be accepted. The book will not be available for sale at the Conference.

* Due to the value of this book, Express Post is the only mailing option available.
Negative Reinforcement Training

Unfortunately, laboratory animal management practices have traditionally included a large measure of training through negative reinforcement. Although these techniques “get the job done,” it could be argued that there is an inherent cost to the animal’s overall welfare to be forced to cooperate through the threat of a negative event or experience that elicits fear or anxiety (Reinhardt, 1992). Positive reinforcement training is based on behavioral science. But training a dog in a living environment is not the same as studying rats in a laboratory. So how do we know that these modern science based methods work in the real world? Several leading behaviourists and animal trainers, like Bob Bailey, and Karen Pryor were involved in pioneering positive reinforcement training in animals outside of laboratory conditions. There is some excellent information on this topic on the late Sophia Yin’s website. Scientific studies on dog training. If you are interested in science, you might like to look at some of the up to date scientific studies that have been influential in the movement towards positive reinforcement training.