



The Shaping Police:

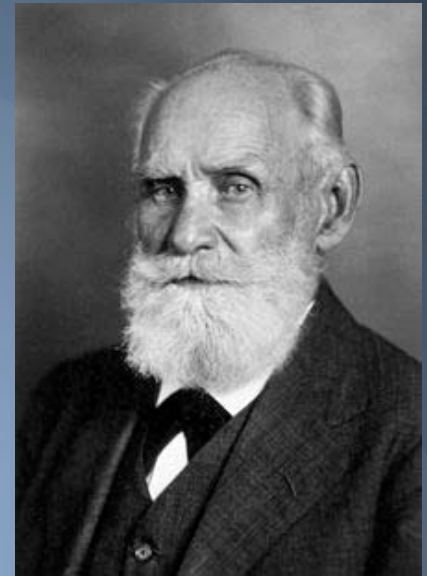
Are you breaking the laws of shaping?

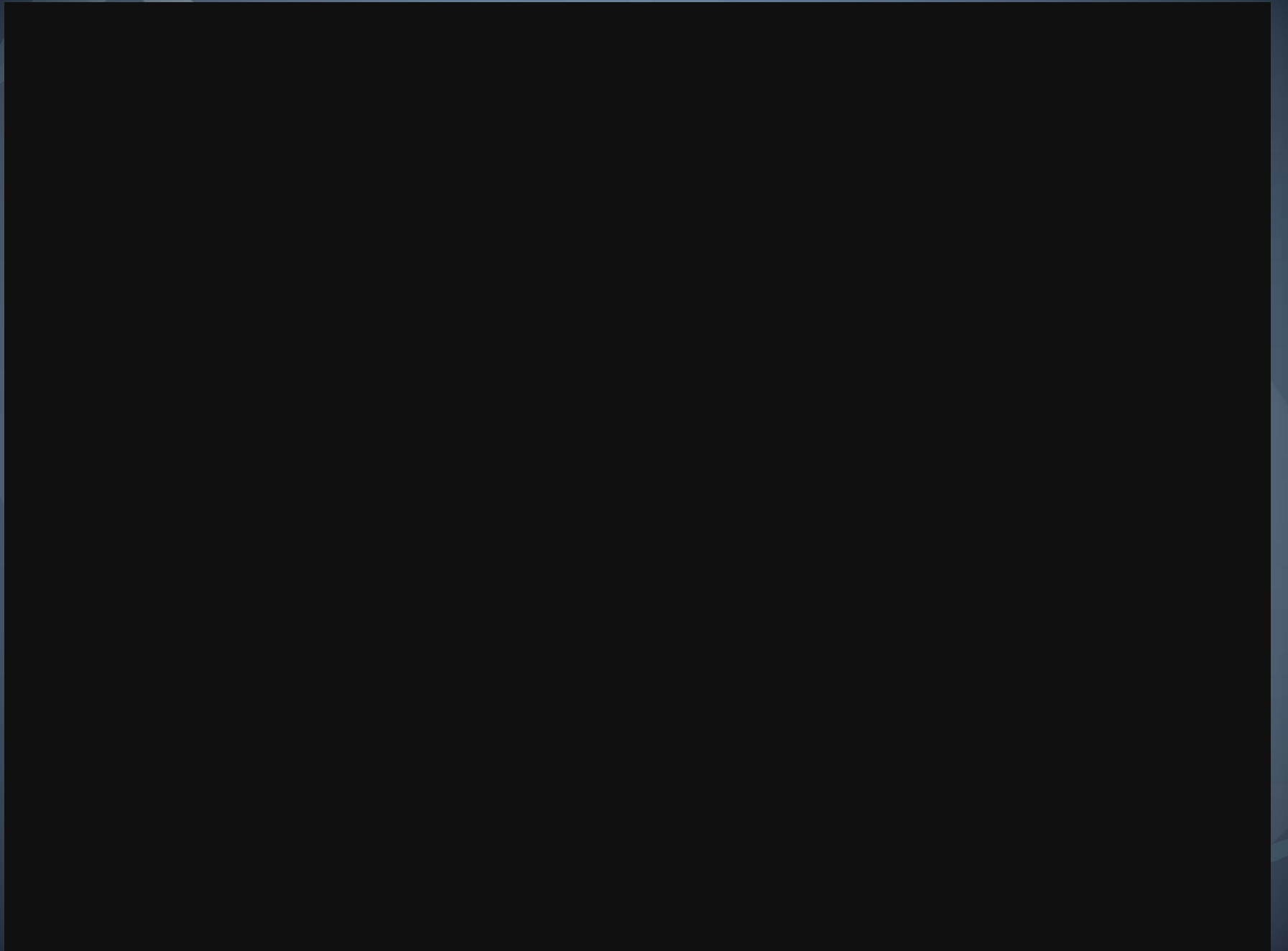
Behavioral Husbandry Committee

Syracuse 2012

Ivan Pavlov

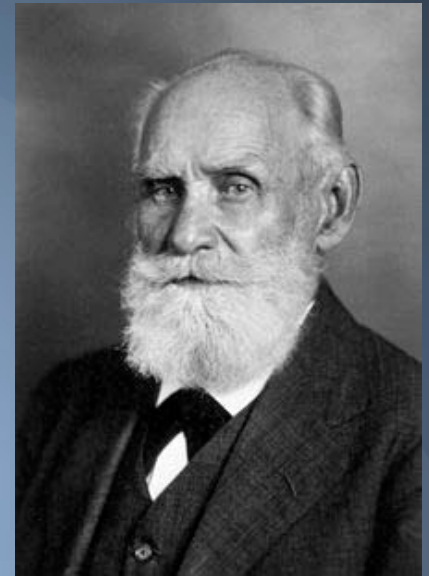
- Around the year 1900
- Famous for experiments with dogs





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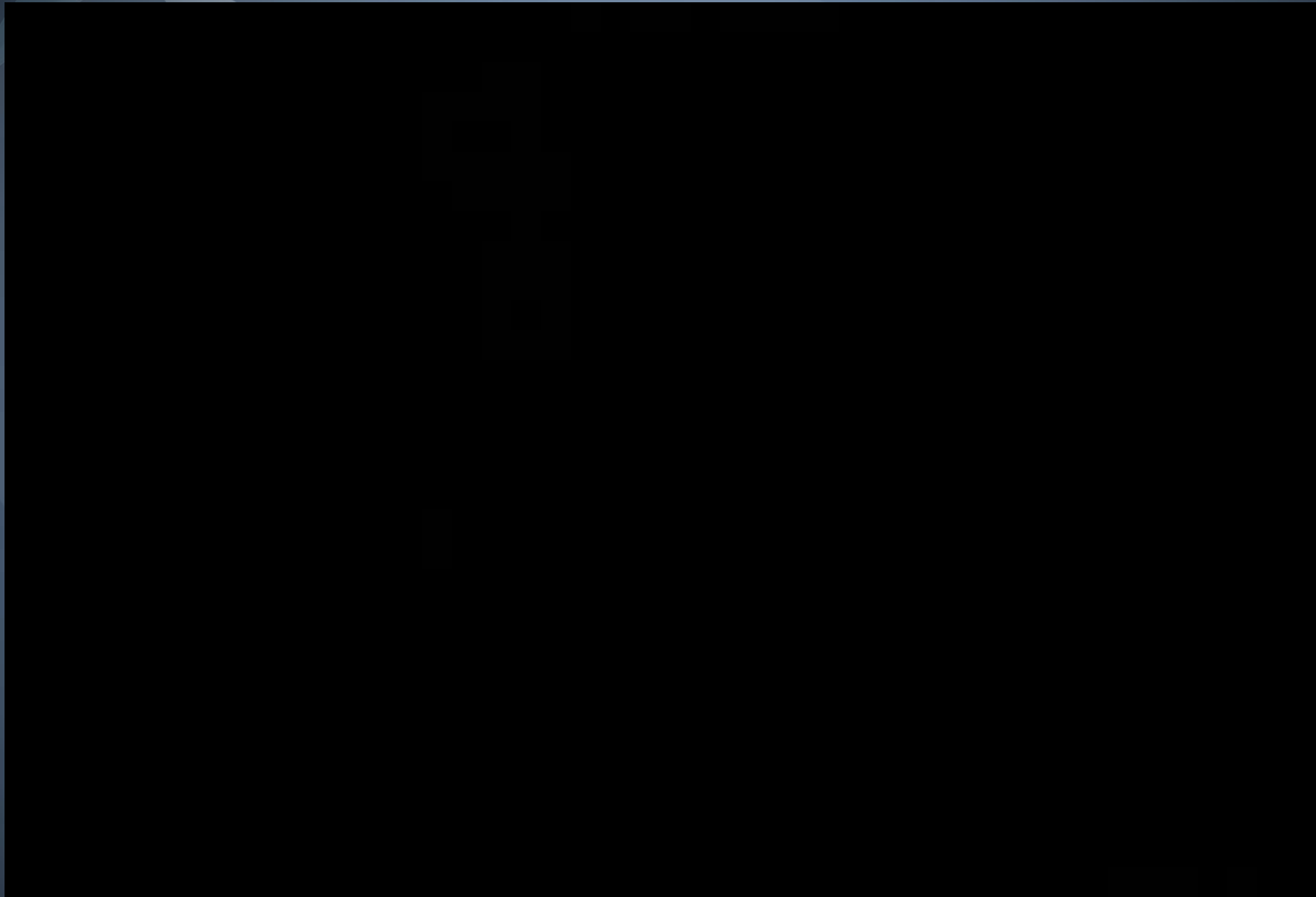
- Around the year 1900
- Famous for experiments with dogs
- Classical Conditioning



Edward Thorndike

- 1905
- Observe how animals would escape cages





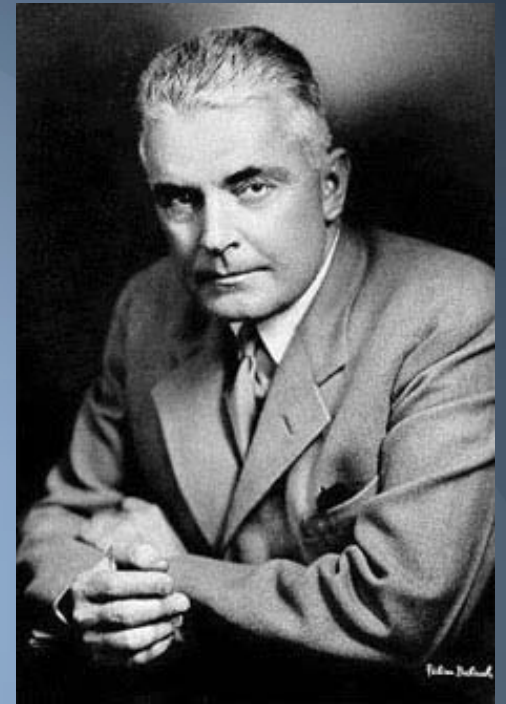
Edward Thorndike

- 1905
- Observe how animals would escape cages
- “Law of Effect”
- “Responses that produce a satisfying effect in a particular situation become more likely to occur again in that situation, and responses that produce a discomforting effect become less likely to occur again in that situation.”



John Watson

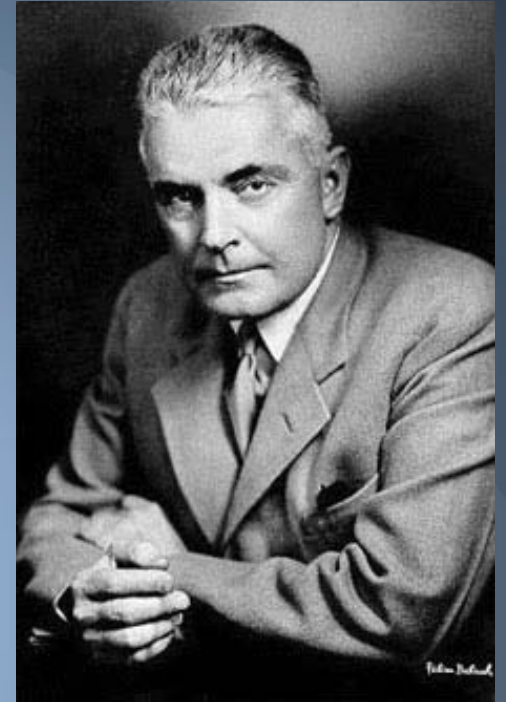
- 1913 published "Psychology as the Behaviorist Views It"
- "Little Albert Experiment"






John Watson

- 1913 published "Psychology as the Behaviorist Views It"
- "Little Albert Experiment"
- The term "behaviorism" refers to the school of psychology founded by John B. Watson



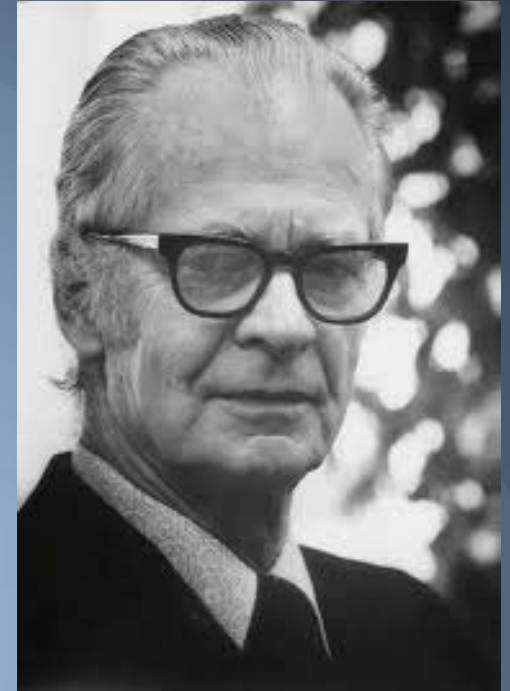


Give me a dozen healthy infants, well-formed, and my own specified world to bring them up in and I'll guarantee to take any one at random and train him to become any type of specialist I might select -- doctor, lawyer, artist, merchant-chief and, yes, even beggar-man and thief, regardless of his talents, penchants, tendencies, abilities, vocations, and race of his ancestors.

--John Watson, **Behaviorism**, 1930

B.F. Skinner

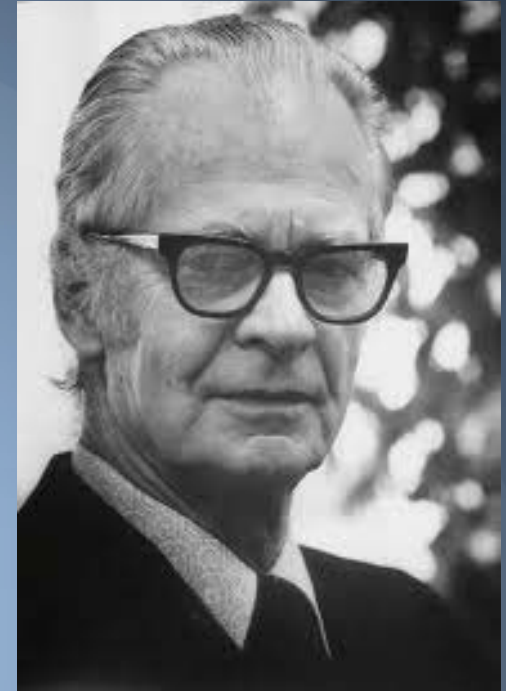
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- Father of Operant Conditioning





B.F. Skinner

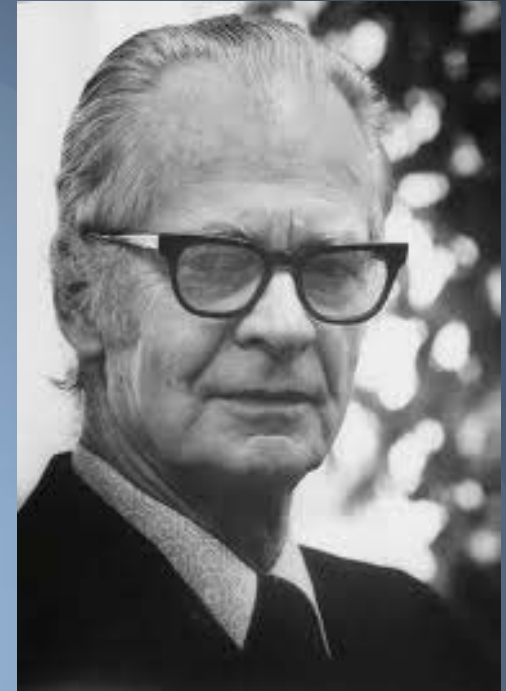
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B.F. Skinner

- 1936 published "The behavior of Organisms"
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- *"The consequences of behavior determine the probability that the behavior will occur again"*
- Concept of shaping, or "the method of successive approximations."







"10 Laws of Shaping"

- Developed by Karen Pryor
- Graduate work in zoology and behavioral biology
- Co-founder of Hawaii's Sea Life Park
- Served as curator and head dolphin trainer
- Authored 7 books and over 50 articles on learning and behavior
- "Don't Shoot the Dog" is in its 16th printing
- This is where we will find the "10 laws of Shaping"



Law #1

Raise criteria in increments small enough so that the subject always has a realistic chance of reinforcement



Law #2

Train one aspect of any particular behavior at a time.

Don't try to shape for two criteria simultaneously.





Law #3

During shaping, put the current level of response on a variable ratio schedule of reinforcement before adding or raising the criteria.



Law #4

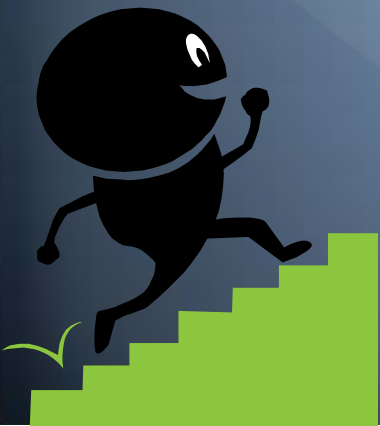
When introducing a new criterion, or aspect of the behavioral skill, temporarily relax the old ones.



Law #5

Stay ahead of your subject:

Plan your shaping program completely so that if the subject makes sudden progress, you are aware of what to reinforce next.

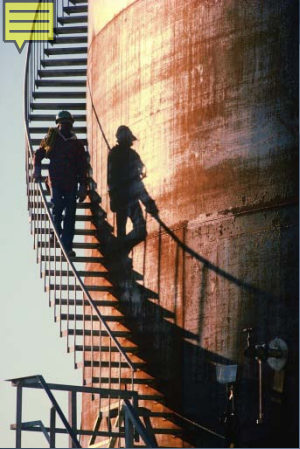


Law #6

Don't change trainers in midstream.

You can have several trainers per trainee,
but stick to one shaper per behavior.





Law #7

If one shaping procedure is not eliciting progress, find another.

There are as many ways to get behavior as there are trainers think them up.



Law #8



Don't interrupt
a training session gratuitously;
that constitutes a punishment.

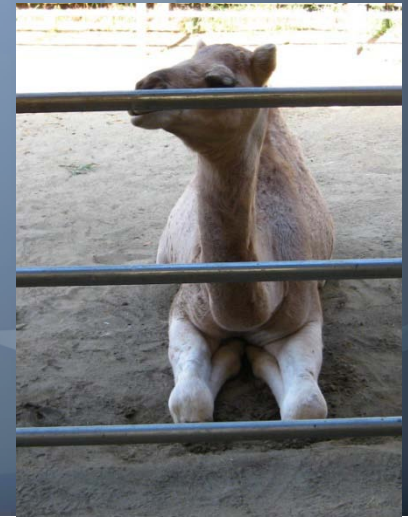


Law #9

If behavior deteriorates,

"Go back to kindergarten."

Quickly review the whole shaping process with a series of easily earned reinforcers.





Law #10

End each session on a high note,
if possible, but in any case
quit while you're ahead.

