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TV dog behaviour techniques blasted as 'ridiculous'

DOG behaviour techniques shown on television are "ridiculous" and could do more harm than good, animal scientists said yesterday.

Researchers found control techniques to assert dominance over pet dogs could be dangerous and make aggressive behaviour worse.

The study by the University of Bristol's Department of Clinical Veterinary Sciences found aggressive dogs were not trying to assert their dominance over their canine or human "pack".

They rubbished techniques like those used by trainers such as Victoria Stilwell in *Its Me Or The Dog* or cult 1980s figure Barbara Woodhouse and said dogs were not motivated by maintaining their place in the pecking order.

The research, published in the *Journal of Veterinary Behaviour, Clinical Applications and Research*, concluded that training aimed at "dominance reduction" could be worthless or even make aggressive behaviours worse.

The researchers spent six months studying dogs interacting at a rehoming centre.

Dr Rachel Casey, senior lecturer in companion animal behaviour and welfare, said methods like instructing owners to eat before their dog or go through doors first would not influence a dog's perception of its relationship with its owner.

And techniques like pinning the dog to the floor, grabbing jowls or blasting hooters at the animals would make them anxious about their owner and potentially lead to an escalation of aggression.

Dr Casey said: "The blanket assumption that every dog is motivated by some innate desire to control people and other dogs is frankly ridiculous."

Landmark victory: seven Scots buildings win design awards

Record number selected by architects' institute

HELEN McARDLE

A RENOVATED printworks and a luxury home converted from two disused storage barns are among an unprecedented number of Scottish architectural gems to pick up industry awards.

Seven Scottish properties were among 97 named by the Royal Institute of British Architects (Riba) yesterday as the finest examples of innovative and stylish design produced in the UK in the past three years.

As well as recognising architectural achievement, the annual Riba awards celebrate buildings which have made "a substantial contribution to the environment".

All winners are automatically shortlisted for the Riba Stirling Prize - the highest accolade in UK architecture - which will be announced on Channel 4 on October 17.

Five of the seven Scottish contenders are in Glasgow, consolidating a reputation which saw it designated as the UK's City of Architecture and Design in 1999.

Having already scooped the Glasgow Institute of Architecture's "Supreme Award" last November, the Beatson Institute's new cancer research facility in north Glasgow proved its worth once again. A modern glass building which replaced the original 1976 property last year - though not without a 50% increase on its projected budget - the Garscube estate site is home to some 300 scientists.

The Moore Street Housing development in the Gallowgate, described as a "modern

The Scottish contenders



LIGHT AND AIRY: The Potterrow development in Edinburgh.

● **Beatson Institute New Cancer Research Facility**
North Glasgow
Cost £15m; Designed by Reiach & Hall Architects

● **Drummond House "The Shed"**
Meigle, Perthshire
Cost withheld (private client)
Designed by Graeme Hutton and David Jameson of the University of Dundee, and LJRH Chartered Architects

● **Moore Street Housing**
Gallowgate, Glasgow
Cost £11.6m
Richard Murphy Architects with Elder & Cannon Architects, JM Architects and Page/Park Architects

● **North Glasgow College**
Springburn, Glasgow
student campus
Cost £20m
Designed by RMJM

● **Pollok Civic Realm**
£6.7m
Archial Architects Ltd

● **The Potterrow Development**
Crichton Street, Edinburgh
Cost £40m
Designed by Bennetts Associates

● **The Printworks**
West End of Glasgow
Cost £200,000
Designed by Cameron Webster Architects

take on the traditional tenement", and North Glasgow College's new student campus also picked up awards.

The renovation of the city's derelict west end printworks into a modern office space, a

project completed on a shoe-string budget of £200,000, was also recognised for excellence, while the £6.7m overhaul of Pollok's leisure and health centres into an all-encompassing "Civic Realm"

scooped its Riba award within a day of its official opening on Wednesday.

Edinburgh University's new information technology hub, the Potterrow, and a private residence in rural Perthshire, nicknamed "The Shed" also made it on to the list.

The award for Drummond House, a striking open-plan home converted from two storage barns, pays a poignant tribute to one of its key designers, David Jameson, who died before the project could be completed, aged just 36.

David Dunbar, president of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS), said the recognition by Riba was "a great credit" to Scotland's architects. He added: "We are delighted that Scotland has come up with such a strong list of winners. These buildings are undoubtedly among the best in the UK."

Piers Gough, chairman of the judging panel, said: "This year's shortlist exemplifies the strong architectural culture in Scotland. The tradition of rigour is tempered by beauty and humanity."

Award-winning projects elsewhere in the UK included supermarkets, an observatory and high street shops such as John Lewis in Leicester and the Reiss and Monsoon headquarters in London. Several health centres across Britain are also well represented on the winners list.

Coming days after the Prince of Wales urged Britain's leading architects that urban developments should focus on the needs of local people, Riba said the industry was in good shape.



ICONIC: An artist's impression of the new-look George House after the transformation.

£65m revamp for drab city office block

GERRY BRAIDEN

A TIRED 1970s office block occupying one of the most prestigious sites in Scotland, but blighting the nation's largest civic square is to be transformed into an "iconic landmark" which, it is claimed, will give the area deserved recognition.

George House, a drab, brown, box-like structure occupying half of the northern face of Glasgow's George Square, is scheduled

to undergo a £65m overhaul after its owners submitted plans for the project yesterday.

Part of the plan for the building involves a terraced restaurant and convention facilities, which it is anticipated would allow more people to make active use of George Square and increase its standing as an attraction in itself.

The proposed new building would also create 27,000 square metres of office space.

George House's owners, Redevo, have been working with the city council and Historic Scotland to establish the design concepts but, with market conditions as they are, a completion date has been left open-ended although 2014 is a loose deadline.

Until 7pm today, Redevo is hosting an exhibition of its plans at the Princes Square shopping mall, with the public invited to contribute their views.