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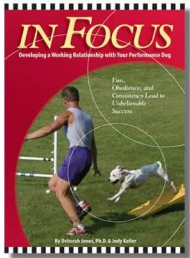
COURTEOUS CANINE, Inc.
Dog School and Doggie Gym!

The Best of Past Courteous Canine, Inc Newsletters

The articles below were featured in past issues and give you an idea of what our newsletter features. Monthly issues are usually limited to 4 items.

Book Review: *In Focus* by Deb Jones and Judy Keller

Reviewed by Angelica Steinker



You ask your dog to perform a behavior and instead the dog sniffs the grass, call it annoying or call it canine-attention-deficit-disorder, agility competitors, Dr. Deb Jones and Judy Keller have the cure for you. In their book appropriately named "In Focus" Jones and Keller discuss how to use "Fun, Obedience, and Consistency" to lead you to "Unbelievable Success", in other words FOCUS. Written for the owner of a performance dog this book contains wonderful information that is helpful to any pet owner.

The book is organized into three helpful sections starting with fun, moving to obedience, and ending with consistency. Throughout the book, the authors describe scientifically accurate and dog-friendly training methods with an emphasis on educating the reader on such things as canine signs of stress. The authors extensively describe how you can modify your dog's stress to become happiness. Each section begins with "Sabre's Story" paragraph. Sabre is co-author Judy's Sheltie that has presented Judy with some unusual challenges. These Sabre's stories are both entertaining and helpful.

If you think your dog needs 'focus' then this book is for you. You can get your copy at www.CleanRun.com.

New Scientific Research: Training dogs with help of the shock collar: short and long term behavioral effects

A large variety of training methods are currently being used in dog training. These vary from very "friendly" methods (e.g. clicker training) to the use of apparently harsh methods, like beatings and use of electronic and other equipment, that could cause wounds, pain and mental harm to animals. For many decades the electric collar was being used in the Netherlands, especially in training of police and guard dogs and for hunting and rescue work. Recently researchers Matthijs B.H. Schilder a,b,* , Joanne A.M. van der Borg at the Department of Clinical Sciences of Companion Animals, University of Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands did a study on the effects of using shock collars in dog obedience training. The conclusions are, that being electric shock collar trained is stressful to the dog, that the dogs receiving shocks are experiencing pain, and that the electronic shock collar trained dogs evidently learn that the presence of their owner (and/or the commands) announces reception of shocks, and the dogs showed stress even outside of the normal training context. This suggests that the welfare of these shock collar trained dogs is at stake, at least in the presence of their owner or any trainer using shock collars.

Do we need a study of how happy clicker trained dogs are??? Just look at your dog's face and body while you are clicker training and conduct your own study!

Product Review: Red Barn Dog Food Roll

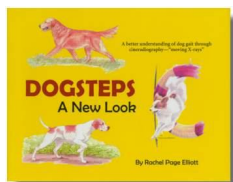
by Jacque Munera



This product was given to me, Jacque, for my birthday and I like it so much I have to tell everyone about it! It is yummy, nutritious dog food in a big roll that can be sliced into what ever size you want! It is perfect for training because it is smelly and easy for the dog to quickly swallow without chewing a long time. It can also be used as regular food and one roll actually equals 11 14oz cans! The best part is that the ingredients are clean, containing no harmful preservatives or meat by products, and because of this it needs to be refrigerated after opening. There is one drawback for anyone with arthritis or similar difficulties, the roll is hard to slice. I actually have to ask my husband to slice it for me. Otherwise I give this product two paws up! Terry from Critter Comfort pet supplies to your door will be happy to deliver it to you, just call him at (813) 980-3474, or you can order it online at <http://www.redbarninc.com/index.html>

Book Review: Dog Steps by Rachel Page Elliot

Reviewed by Angelica Steinker



This book is a fun and quick read at 128 pages. The book is now available at www.CleanRun.com for \$19.95. The author has made use of a moving x-ray technology that enables researchers to see bones as a dog is trotting on a treadmill. This technology is called cineradiography (moving x-rays). Because of the moving x-ray technology, Elliot is able to explain the true ideal structure of a dog's shoulder assembly. One of the amazing facts she explains is that you do NOT want your dog to have a 45 degree should angle. This would actually be an over angulation and would cause problems. The book goes into detail regarding the problems of improper structure. For example, the author explains in detail how the gait of a dog with patella luxation is effected and how to recognize this problem. Elliot also describes, "What happens inside" when the dog's angulation is straight or structure is otherwise out of alignment. For anyone considering the purchase of a pet from a committed, and caring breeder. (Side note: make sure to thoroughly research both the breeder and the breeder's pedigrees) this book is a must read.

Purchasing a dog with less than ideal structure and proper movement will likely mean a lifetime of orthopedic problems. For those of us addicted to dog sports, an understanding of structure is even more important as what we ask of our canine athletes truly tests the soundness of a dog.

If you already have a dog, it is important to understand your own dog's structure. A clear understanding about your dog's strong points and weak areas will help you make better decisions about your dog's exercise and health program. Weak areas can be strengthened by proper conditioning or can be protected by not asking the dog to engage in activities that are known to aggravate that part of the body. Dog Steps gets a five star rating! It is the best book on structure currently available. Hopefully, Elliot will write another book with even more detailed and additional information.