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**COURTEOUS CANINE, Inc.**  
Dog School and Doggie Gym!

## June 2007 Newsletter

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### 1. **Canine Massage Workshop**

We are excited to host a Canine Massage Workshop lead by the highly acclaimed Eve Lucia Boucouvalas. Eve has over 20-years of animal-related experience, certifications in over 15 therapeutic massage modalities, and 12-years of experience as a trainer and instructor. Eve currently offers a series of workshops on Canine Massage & Bodywork. Her focus is on training others in the healing art of massage and bodywork for animals. She delivers top quality instruction in an enjoyable and comfortable learning atmosphere. Please let us hear from you what type of canine massage workshop you would be interested in [Info@CourteousCanine.com](mailto:Info@CourteousCanine.com).

### 2. **Get Inside Your Dogs Head**

The Animal Personality Institute has composed a Dog Personality Questionnaire or DPQ, which is part of a study you could take part of online. <http://survey.psy.utexas.edu/API/dpq.php> The DPQ is a questionnaire-based tool for assessing personality in dogs. Each and every dog owner who takes the time to complete the DPQ is appreciated. When dog owners fill out the online DPQ, they will immediately receive information about how their dog has scored on each of the personality traits assessed in the DPQ, and they will be entered into a drawing for a free gift certificate as a token of appreciation.

### 3. **Pet of the Month**



Congratulations to June's Students of the month Molly, Marla and Mazel Schick! Mazel is a 4-year old Bichon Frise born in Zephyrhills. The Schick family has been very dedicated in learning to have fun while training Mazel to do agility and exciting tricks like skateboarding! Marla chose Mazel because he was friendly and not wild as a puppy and her favorite thing about him is that he likes to cuddle.

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Mazel is no couch potato though, he loves to chase lizards and do 'Bichon Blitzes' around the table while barking like a crazy dog! Mazel is all the more wonderful because he has a crooked leg and a cataract, yet loves to do agility and tricks. Way to go Mazel!

#### **4. American Temperament Test Society (ATTS)**

We will be hosting a test on Saturday September 8, 2007 starting at 7:30 am at Courteous Canine, Inc.

Upon passing the test, dogs will be able to have the initials ATTS placed after their names. Entry fee is \$25 per dog. All entry fees must be made payable to Courteous Canine Inc. Please note ATTS in memo of check.

To learn more about the ATTS program visit [www.ATTS.org](http://www.ATTS.org)

We need volunteers to help us make sure the event runs smoothly. Please contact [Angelica@CourteousCanine.com](mailto:Angelica@CourteousCanine.com) or call 813-787-0034 to volunteer.

Spectators welcome! It is recommended to bring chairs and tents for shade. Doggie pool for cooling of dogs available.

Event will be held at Courteous Canine, Inc. main location: 3414 Melissa Country Way, Lutz, FL 33559. Directions on our website at <http://www.courteouscanine.com/directions/>

American Temperament Test Society  
A sound mind in a sound body

#### **5. The Never Mentioned Dangers of Electric Fences**

Interview with Pat Miller author of The Power of Positive Dog Training, training article author for the Whole Dog Journal and director of her own dog training school.

What do you see as the three biggest problem with electronic fencing?

First, the fences are marketed as effective containment systems ("guaranteed" - in our local radio advertising) when in fact a significant number of dogs easily escape from inside their underground shock fences. Once motivated to leave the "fenced" area, very few dogs are motivated to return. Ask any shelter worker about the number of stray dogs who arrive at shelters wearing their shock fence collars. The marketing also convinces people that it's perfectly okay to shock their dogs - a very unfortunate result!

Second, they don't protect the dog from intruders entering into their yards, human or non-human, so dogs are completely vulnerable to attack from other dogs, wildlife, and human evil-doers. Nor do they protect innocent children from wandering into the dog's territory, and possible danger if the dog is protective or aggressive.

Third, a significant number of behavior problems can be related to the use of underground shock fences, including but not limited to aggression and fear. Often you won't know if your dog is one who will become aggressive or fearful until it's too late - the damage is already

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done. Your dog refuses to go into his own back yard for fear of being shocked, or breaks through the invisible barrier to attack a passer-by. I had one client whose lovely Airedale ended up being euthanized due to shock fence-related aggression, and another whose Golden Retriever was fortunate enough to find a career as a drug-sniffing dog after losing her home from shock fence-related aggression.

How can electronic fencing cause a dog to become aggressive?

In two ways... with no visual barrier, a dog can experience considerable frustration - constantly seeing stimuli moving past (cars, bicycles, skateboarders, pedestrians, mail carriers) - and that frustration alone is enough to induce barrier/frustration aggression in some dogs. Add to that the occasional pain association when the dog \*does\* get shocked by the fence, and he may assume that it's the child (or whoever) walking by at that moment who caused the pain - adding pain-related aggression into the equation.

How is it that electronic fencing companies are not being sued more often for when their units malfunction and burn dogs causing massive pain and scaring?

I wish I knew. My first guess would be that perhaps it \*is\* happening and they're quietly settling out of court, under an agreement that includes non-disclosure... ie, the plaintiff can't discuss the settlement. Or perhaps veterinarians aren't very excited about testifying for client-plaintiffs. Most vets I know don't put court appearances at the top of their "favorite things" lists. I know in some cases companies have succeeded in convincing clients that it was their fault - somehow they misused the product, causing the injuries, and in some cases companies simply deny that their product could have been responsible. It is surprising that in a culture so willing to sue, that we haven't heard of more cases.

## 6. Open House Success

The Open House was a big success! Special thank you to Groovey Cats N Dogs, Canine Caviar and of course our MC Fred Campbell Entertainment! Groovey Cats N Dogs ([www.groovycatsndogs.com](http://www.groovycatsndogs.com)) brought some cute stuff from their store on North Dale Mabry to our event. In addition they sell healthy dog food and treats! The store is really fun, check it out!

Canine Caviar ([www.caninecaviar.com](http://www.caninecaviar.com)) provided a free nutrition seminar that got rave reviews. It was very informative. For example, pearl millet is an excellent carbohydrate source for dogs because it is rated really low on the glycemic index. This means that it doesn't quickly convert to sugar like say corn does. That means minimal stress on your dog's pancreas.

Fred Campbell ([www.FredCampbellEntertainment.com](http://www.FredCampbellEntertainment.com)) is a professional singer, DJ, Karaoke Jockey and of course Master of Ceremonies. He truly made our event fun by providing music and announcements. If you are hosting a big event he is your man!

Also in attendance was Joan Miller of PartyLite ([MillerLites@mac.com](mailto:MillerLites@mac.com)). Her candles were a big hit and we plan on having Joan back at our next event in fall.

As always we had agility run throughs, but this time added rally obedience and disc dog run throughs. Competitors and dog owners just wanting to try things out made use of the run throughs plus we featured sporadic demos of each sport.

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Our raffle was amazing; we had the coolest items. Toys, cat health care items, dog food, treats, and more! Professional massage therapist Jennifer Esposito donated an hour massage. Angelica, owner of Courteous Canine, Inc. won this item, promptly handing it over to her mom – since it was mother’s day. A large bag of Canine Caviar and treats were won by Diane Conroy of Border Collie rescue! This was perfect because of the large amount of homeless Border Collies, Diane can always use food and treats.

While we raised some of the funds needed for Pedro’s expensive knee surgeries, we are still short of our goal of \$3,000, so please take note of the donation jar inside the school. In the mean time Pedro will be having his surgery soon, so he does not need to continue suffering when his knees pop out of joint.

We are planning our next fundraiser/run through event for fall. We look forward to seeing you there!

## 7. New Products for Pets

Product Review: DreamWalker Harness

When I first heard of this product I assumed it was just another variety of the new no pull harnesses that have the chest attachment. These harnesses, while not as powerful as the Gentle Leader Headcollar, humanely decrease pulling and are effective tools. However, the DreamWalker is appropriately named, because it is a highly effective, humane and easy to use tool. To learn more about this exciting new product visit [www.Zubapets.com](http://www.Zubapets.com).



Patent Issued



Vacuuming my house used to be a two step process. Step one was “dread-locking” all the dog hair on our rugs so that the hair clumps could be removed.. (Running shoes seem particularly useful in creating dog hair dreadlocks.) Step two would actually involve vacuuming, which in terms of step one did absolutely nothing to remove dog hair-- instead moving it around into new swirling “decorative” patterns. Just as we were resigning ourselves to the eternal task of this two step process, we were able to find new hope when I was informed that the Dyson Animal vacuum was supposed to do an excellent job actually vacuuming up animal hair (novel concept!). Suspicious by nature I purchased this costly vacuum with a coupon and cautiously assembled it. I don’t want to sound like a Dyson commercial (and I swear they did not pay for the new dog supplies in the school) but this product is amazing! It did the best job vacuuming I have ever witnessed. And the way you empty the canister keeps you from inhaling and getting covered in dust mites, an added bonus for neat freaks or allergy sufferers

If you have ideas for newsletter content or pictures you would like to contribute please email [Info@CourteousCanine.com](mailto:Info@CourteousCanine.com) .

**Happy Clicker Training,**

***The Staff of Courteous Canine, Inc.***

