



Courteous
Canine, Inc.



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COURTEOUS CANINE, Inc.
Dog School and Doggie Gym!

September 2007 Newsletter

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1. Cane Toad Alert

Cane Toads, also called Bufo Toads, are found in habitats ranging from sand dunes and coastal heath to the margins of rainforest and mangroves. They are most abundant in open clearings in urban areas, and in grassland and woodland. **Which means just about anywhere and everywhere!** They were deliberately introduced from Hawaii to Australia in 1935, to control scarab beetles that were pests of sugar cane.



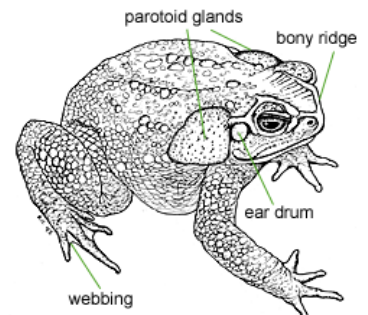
Cane Toads are considered a pest because they:

- poison pets and injure humans with their toxins
- poison many native animals whose diet includes frogs, tadpoles and frogs' eggs
- eat large numbers of honey bees, creating a management problem for bee-keepers
- prey on native fauna
- compete for food with vertebrate insectivores such as small skinks
 - may carry diseases that are can be transmitted to native frogs and fishes.



All stages of the Cane Toad's life-cycle are poisonous. The venom produced by the **parotoid** glands acts principally on the heart. Cane Toads are poisonous to pets and in Hawaii up to 50 dogs a year have died after mouthing Cane Toads. Signs of poisoning through ingestion include profuse salivation, twitching, vomiting, shallow breathing, and collapse of the hind limbs. Death may occur by cardiac arrest within 15 minutes.

A Cane Toad responds to threat by turning side-on so its parotoid glands are directed towards the attacker. The venom usually oozes out of the glands, but toads can squirt a fine spray for a short distance if they are handled roughly. The venom is absorbed through mucous membranes such as eyes, mouth and nose, and in humans may cause intense pain, temporary blindness and inflammation. (Info courtesy of wikipedia.com)



Cane Toads are now being found in Lutz. Please be aware of these toads and keep your pets safe.

2. Epilepsy in Border Collies

Alison Ruhe is working with a group at the University of California at Davis on researching the genetics behind canine epilepsy in Border Collies. According to Alison, because of recently acquired equipment, where before they were lucky to be able to scan maybe a thousand genes from a DNA sample for comparisons, now they are able to scan nearly a hundred thousand! She feels they are very close to garnering the data needed to identify the gene and contributory genes related to canine epilepsy. She was very excited at the prospects they now have with this equipment, and she stated that *every single sample they can get is very important*. They no longer need in depth family backgrounds on the dogs, either, although they are happy to collect that information if you are offering.

If you or someone you know has a Border Collie diagnosed with epilepsy, please contact Alison Ruhe for instructions on how to provide a blood sample, so that you and your dog may help with this vital research. Alison can be reached at: alison@ucdavis.edu
Most vets are willing to draw the necessary blood with no charge, and UC Davis will pay for Fedex shipping of your dog's sample. Canine epilepsy is a heart-breaking disease, please help.

3. Coming Soon to Courteous Canine, Inc.



Totally Toys - - An all age obedience and FUN class for dogs under 12 pounds! Get a flavor of most major dog sports while teaching your dog basic cues for life and fun. Starts September 10th

Control Unleashed - - For fearful, unfocused and reactive dogs. This class requires instructor permission prior to enrolling and is already filling but we will be adding more start dates and times soon. If you are interested in this class email:

Info@CourteousCAnine.com

Dog and Cat Art and Crafts -- We are working on creating a arts and craft class with a pet theme. This class will be taught by Susan Banghart who is a fabulous artist and dog parent. Check out Susan's website at <http://www.susanbanghart.com/>

Pet Photography -- The photo day was a huge success so if you missed it here is an idea for you: Bob Thompson, Professional Photographer, is going to be teaching a seminar on how to photograph your dogs, cats or other critters. Stay tuned to the newsletter for more information.

Delta Society Pet Therapy Program – the testing for pet therapy was so popular it fill almost immediately. We are working on hosting another day of testing soon. Again, stay tuned to the newsletter.

4. Courteous Canine, Inc. News

Grooming -- We are looking for a part time groomer interested in building business to full time. Alternately, if you are a mobile groomer who already has clientele but is looking for a location, please contact Angelica@CourteousCanine.com.

Fitness – We are looking for a certified human fitness instructor to conduct handler fitness group classes at Courteous Canine, Inc.'s main location. If you are interested, please contact Angelica@CourteousCanine.com.

Part time Dog Trainer -- We are always interested in talking to certified trainers who are interested in teaching clicker training at Courteous Canine, Inc. part time. A commitment to force-free training is first and foremost. A minimum of one year of dog training experience and preferably completion of program at www.CASInstitute.com is desired. For more information or to interview please contact Angelica@CourteousCanine.com

If you have ideas for newsletter content or pictures you would like to contribute please email Info@CourteousCanine.com

Happy Clicker Training,

The Staff of Courteous Canine, Inc.

