



Courteous
Canine, Inc.



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COURTEOUS CANINE, Inc.
Dog School and Doggie Gym!

January/February 2008 Newsletter

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1. **Delta Society Seminar**



centers, schools and other facilities.

Pet Partners Course

Sunday April 6 & Sunday April 13

9:00 – 4:00

Delta Society's Pet Partners Program was established in 1990 to train and screen volunteers and their pets for visiting animal programs in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation

Courteous Canine is hosting a two-day, 12-hour Pet Partners Course on Sunday April 6 and Sunday April 13 from 9:00 to 4:00, with a one-hour lunch break. The class will be given by a Delta Licensed Instructor with assistance from a Delta Licensed Team Evaluator and Delta teams.

If you are interested in this very rewarding program, please fill out the registration form at the end of this newsletter.



2. How I Became Interested in Delta Society's Pet Partner Program

By Pam Babcock

I am often asked how I got interested in Delta Society's Pet Partner Dog Therapy Program. The answer is very simple, I want to share the happiness and unconditional love animals can bring. So that you can understand, let me share my story.

With an empty nest and our children grown, in April of 2006 my husband and I decided to bring a new puppy into our home. We put a deposit on a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. He was only a few weeks old so we couldn't bring him home until Memorial Day weekend.

Mother's Day weekend I had an unexpected health scare, at 54-years-old I had a stroke. I had not been feeling well for a few days and thought I had the flu. At that time I did not know the warning signs of a stroke. I had a headache, felt very confused. I knew what I wanted to say, but the words just wouldn't come out, and eventually I couldn't talk at all. When my husband took me to the doctor they put me in the hospital and the diagnosis was a stroke. Fortunately, my stroke was mild and I was out of the hospital in 3 days with no permanent brain damage.



Even though the stroke was minor, it left me emotionally and physically exhausted and depressed. I thought we should call our breeder and cancel our plans to buy our puppy, but my husband was insistent that a puppy would be good for me and help with my recovery. I had no idea at the time how right he was. We picked up our little Sam Memorial Day weekend and it was love at first sight. Sam was so devoted to me and never left my side and brought so much happiness into my life. I am convinced that his sweet little kisses, love and devotion helped speed my recovery and who knows, maybe saved my life. I used to say that getting him was a "stroke of luck". It is a proven fact that petting an animal reduces your blood pressure and helps reduce stress and depression. I will never know what would have happened if I wouldn't have been blessed with Sam to help me through my recovery, but there will always be a special bond between us.

I am well aware that my stroke could have been so much worse. It has been 20 months and I can happily say I haven't had any more health problems. Because I was so blessed with a quick recovery, I feel a strong need to share what I feel helped with my recovery. We now have two Cavaliers and I hope that as Pet Partners, a visit from Sam or Charlie will brighten someone's day, if only for just a moment.

3. Florida Rescued Dogs Blog

Susan Banghart has started a blog for dog owners to share problems and solutions, stories and photos, references to books, services, events and links that may be helpful. It is especially for the owners of rescued dogs to communicate about the challenges and joys of living with rescued dogs. The address is <http://floridarescueddogs.blogspot.com/>.

4. **Tips For Keeping Your Dog Safe**

By Ann Farmer

- ◆ Your dog needs to wear an ID Tag. A recent study shows ID tags are the quickest way to return pets to people!
- ◆ Dogs should be naked in their crates. Take your dog's collar off when he goes into the crate.
- ◆ Roll up your windows. Do not let your dog hang his head out of the car window!
- ◆ Watch your dog's weight. Overweight dogs are at risk for hip problems. Feed a measured amount and make sure everyone in your house does the same.
- ◆ Brush your dog's teeth. A dental cleaning can be avoided or eliminated.
- ◆ Always keep an extra leash in your car. You never know when you may need one.

5. **Student of the Month – Tipper**

By Lauren Goldsworthy

Tipper is a Long-Haired Dachshund. She was born in Japan and brought to the United States.

We rescued Tipper about 2 years ago. Going to the Canine Good Citizen class helped Tipper listen and trust me.

We have been to a CGC class, intro to agility and are now in an intermediate agility class at Courteous Canine.

In December we entered our first agility trial and Qualified on one round!



Lauren and Tipper at Baldwin Agility



Lauren and Tipper competing in NADAC at Baldwin Agility

Tipper is a certified therapy dog. We volunteer at Baldomero Lopez Nursing Home and at different schools.

Tipper is part of Project READ, where the dogs motivate the students to meet their reading goals.

Tipper enjoys doing agility, tricks, being outside, chasing lizards and doing therapy visits.

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.



**Gulf Coast Pet
Partners Training
Delta Society Affiliate Group**



Pet Partners 12-Hour Course: If you are interested in becoming a Pet Partner Team send your check to the address below. Minimum age is 10 with no upper age limit. The Delta Society 12-Hour Pet Partners course will be offered at Courteous Canine in Lutz. Class is given by Delta Licensed Instructor with assistance of Delta Licensed Team Evaluator and Delta teams. The class will be given over 2 days, on Sunday April 6 and on Sunday April 13, from 9:00 – 4:00, with a one hour lunch break. Feel free to bring a packed lunch.

The cost of the course is \$75, which includes the Delta Society Pet Partners Student Manual and course instruction. For families sharing a book the cost is \$100 for two individuals (i.e. child and parent or couple). For those already owning a current copy of the Delta Training Manual (**copyright 2007**) the fee is \$35.

Pet Partners Team Evaluation: The team evaluation is included in the cost of the course if evaluated by a Gulf Coast Pet Partners evaluator at the evaluator’s convenience. Team evaluations will take place at a later date, not during the workshop. Your pet should have good basic obedience training, be safe, predictable, and used to being around people, medical equipment, and other animals. Things to practice: going up and down elevators, heeling near walkers and wheelchairs, exposure to noises and smells that might be found in a healthcare setting, remaining under control near other pets, sit, down, stay, and come on command.

12-Hour Pet Partners Course: (DO NOT BRING YOUR PET ON THESE DATES)

Sunday 4/6/08 and 4/13/08 from 9:00-4:00 at Courteous Canine in Lutz, FL.

To inquire about the Pet Partners course contact Judy Peter:

Call: 941-764-0303 **E-mail:** Pete22roc@aol.com

A check in the proper amount made out to GCPP is necessary to reserve a place in the class and should be mailed with the filled out form below.

To register for the Pet Partners course:

Fill in and mail form + check to: Judy Peter
2184 Pellam Blvd
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Pet Partners Training

Make checks out to: Gulf Coast Pet Partners

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail _____

\$75.00 per person

\$100.00 Family, sharing one book

\$35 course only