



Courteous  
Canine, Inc.



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

## July/August 2008 Newsletter

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### 1. **You Can Teach an Old Dog New Tricks!**

*By Ann Farmer*



*OREO visiting residents of an assisted living facility after putting on a Frisbee and tricks show.*

Oreo Cookie at the wonderful age of 10 just became a Delta Society Pet Partner.

Oreo has made many visits to the assisted living facility where my parents live. Oreo puts on a Frisbee and tricks show and then visits with the residents. She's a favorite. They appreciate Oreo since she is a "senior" also. We tell them she is retired from competitive Frisbee. Often several people will add they are also retired!

One man left a show to get a photo album he wanted to show us. It was filled with pictures of the dogs in his life. He taught his Weimaraner to get the mail in the 1950s and documented it with photos. The staff told me he was usually very withdrawn and doted on his wife who has Alzheimer's. Oreo brought him out that day!

One year they held an auction several days before Christmas. One item was a pretty red fleece throw with snow flakes. My Mom went crazy bidding on it. Someone asked her what was so special about it. She said "Oreo loves fleece blankets." She got the throw. Everyone stopped bidding so Oreo could have a new blanket! North Carolina in December is cold.

Guess you can teach an "old" dog new tricks!

## 2. Delta Society: Pet Partners Team Training Course

The Delta Society Pet Partner Program can prepare you to visit hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, schools and other facilities like Ann and Oreo. Gulf Coast Pet Partners is holding a Pet Partners Course in Ruskin, FL. The two-day course will be held on Saturday, August 16 and Saturday, August 23.

For more information, see the flyer and registration form at the end of this newsletter.

## 3. Pit Bull Ambassador Program

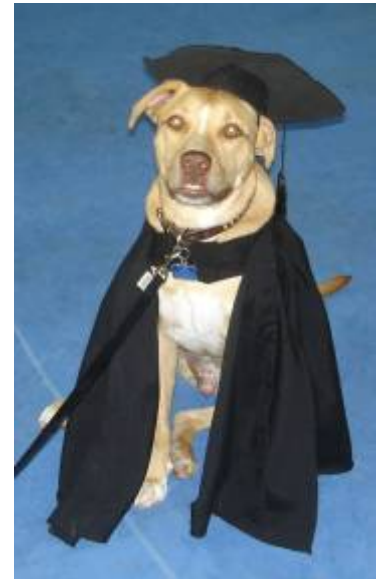
*By Jacqueline Munera*

Kelly Bigsby of Hillsborough County Animal Services (HCAS) is working hard to promote a positive image of the bully breeds so often thought of as dangerous trouble makers.

The Pit Bull Ambassador Program was started about a year ago and includes behavior screening based on the BADRAP (Bay Area Doglovers Responsible About Pitbulls) temperament evaluation protocol, screening of potential adopters and education about the special needs of these active dogs. Only the best of the best are placed for adoption in the shelter in hopes that they will show the public how fantastic Pit Bulls can be when given the right opportunity.

HCAS has joined with a group of pit bull fans called Pit Positive to promote public education and find homes for Pit Bulls. This site is packed with everything you could ever want to know about the bully breeds and ways you can help educate others.

The Pit Positive Web site has information about the newly-formed Tampa Pit Krew. The Krew are volunteers that visit the dogs at the shelter and take the dog ambassadors to public events. Please visit their site at [www.pitpositive.com](http://www.pitpositive.com) to sign up for the Krew and visit HCAS to view the current Pit Bull Ambassadors up for adoption.



*MAXIMUS  
Pit Bull Ambassador  
& CCI Basic Obedience  
Graduate.*

## 4. Doggie Play Gym!



*KODA*

CCI is introducing Doggie Play Gym! Doggie Play Gym introduces five fun games you and your dog can play for fun or competition. The 8-week introductory course includes:

- ◆ Trick training
- ◆ Relay: three jumps to a bucket, get a ball, three jumps back
- ◆ A U-shaped agility course
- ◆ A restrained recall race
- ◆ Speed Rally-O

The second level of classes, Doggie Play Gym Competition, will focus on practicing for competition and will be a four-week course. To sign up please visit [www.CourteousCanine.com](http://www.CourteousCanine.com) and click on the group classes for the Lutz location.

## 5. Big Hearts Rescue and Rehabilitation

Big Hearts Rescue and Rehabilitation, based in Pasco County, is a nonprofit organization that works with the support of the community and volunteers to rescue and rehabilitate needy animals. Most of the animals rescued by Big Hearts are in desperate need of medical attention and extensive rehabilitation. Big Hearts is in dire need of help to cover soaring veterinary expenses.

Sasha, a little kitten, was found in South Tampa. She had a badly injured leg, probably from an animal bite. Big Hearts caught her and took her to the veterinarian for treatment. She remained there for three weeks. She's almost completely healed and will be available for adoption on July 24.



SASHA

Another rescue, Walter, is a 7-year-old Silky whose owner was dying. Walter needed to be neutered. He had a very bad mouth infection and had to have a dental.

Walter also has very bad knees and needs surgery on both of them. He cannot walk far because his knees pop out. Walter is awaiting surgery, which will cost \$1,800. Walter is in a foster home. He is not available for adoption yet.

Donations can be made directly on the Big Hearts Web site [www.BigHeartsRescue.org](http://www.BigHeartsRescue.org). Donors can print a receipt for their records. Big Hearts Rescue is a 501c3 charity so donations are tax deductible.

Please help Big Hearts Rescue in whatever way you can.

## 6. Opportunity for Part-Time Dog Trainer

Courteous Canine, Inc., is looking for people interested in working as part-time dog trainers at our school. If you are interested, please contact [Angelica@CourteousCanine.com](mailto:Angelica@CourteousCanine.com) for information on our internship program. Excellent people skills and a commitment to positive reinforcement training are a must.

## 7. Military Working Dogs Cooling Vest Project

The Military Working Dogs Cooling Vest Project started when Starline Nunley, a member of the Gem City Dog Obedience Club, wanted to help her son Major Parker Frawley, an Apache helicopter pilot stationed in Iraq. She asked him if he would like a cooling vest. He answered that he and his fellow soldiers were provided for by the military. But, the dogs were having difficulty doing their jobs in temperature that often exceed 100 degrees. Nunley started the Military Working Dogs Cooling Vest Project whose mission is:

*To provide cooling vests, and other protective gear such as Doggles, MutLuks, and any other necessary gear to help the Military Working Dogs in Iraq's extreme conditions, who in turn protect and serve our soldiers.*

For more information or to learn how you can help, please log on to <http://www.supportmilitaryworkingdogs.org/index.html>.

## 8. New Classes Starting

A lot of fun and helpful courses are being offered at Courteous Canine! Please check <http://www.courteouscanine.com/class-schedules/> for more information and updates.

### Lutz Classes

- ◆ **Agility Games:** A 4-week course to help you and your dog excel in agility. No experience necessary. Starting Sunday, August 31.
- ◆ **Agility Handling:** A 4-week course to improve both your skills and your dog's skills on and off the agility field. Starting Sunday, July 27.
- ◆ **Manners Mania:** A 4-week course for those who need some additional help after attending Puppy Kindergarten or Basic Obedience. Starting Monday, July 28.
- ◆ **Reliable Recall:** A 4-week course for those who want their dog to come when called. Starting Sunday, July 13.
- ◆ **Canine Good Citizen:** An 8-week course to prepare you and your dog for the AKC CGC test, pet therapy or to improve your dog's manners. Starting Saturday, July 12.
- ◆ **Basic Obedience:** An 8-week course in basic obedience for dogs six months or older. Starting Sunday, July 13.
- ◆ **Doggie Play Gym Introduction:** An 8-week course. Learn five fun games you and your dog can play for fun or competition. Starting Sunday, August 10.
- ◆ **Puppy Kindergarten:** An 8-week course. Get your puppy, six months or younger, off to a great start! Two sessions are being offered. The first session starts Sunday, July 13. The second session starts Saturday, August 9.
- ◆ **Advanced Agility:** An 8-week course. Hone your handling skills on excellent/masters courses. Starting Tuesday, August 5.
- ◆ **Introduction to Agility:** An 8-week course. A great way to exercise dogs and introduce them to the fun of agility. Starting Thursday, July 10.



*ZOOMIE*



*TIPPER*

### Tarpon Springs Classes



*ANN & PARTY*

- ◆ **Basic Obedience:** An 8-week course in basic obedience for dogs six months or older. Starting Tuesday, July 15.
- ◆ **Canine Good Citizen:** An 8-week course to prepare you and your dog for the AKC CGC test, pet therapy or to improve your dog's manners. Starting Tuesday, July 15.
- ◆ **Puppy Kindergarten:** An 8-week course. Get your puppy six months or younger off to a great start! Starting Monday, August 11.

## 9. Pet Poison Alert: Cocoa Bean Mulch Can Be Toxic to Dogs

From the ASPCA Web site:

[http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=media\\_newsalert061308](http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=media_newsalert061308)

If your dog likes to spend his summer grazing in your garden, his treat-seeking nose may lead him to one danger in particular: the sweet-smelling, but potentially harmful cocoa bean mulch. Made of cocoa bean shells and considered desirable for its eventual degradation into organic fertilizer, this gardener's choice can be toxic to canines if eaten in large quantities—and some dogs have been known to eat amazing amounts!



In 2007, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) handled 26 cases of cocoa bean mulch ingestion—a third originating in California. “Dogs are attracted to the fertilizer’s sweet smell,” says Dr. Steven Hansen, ASPCA Veterinary Toxicologist and APCC Director, “but like chocolate, cocoa bean mulch can be too much for our canine companions.”

Ingestion of large amounts of cocoa bean mulch, which contains residual amounts of theobromine—a methylxanthine found in chocolate and known to be toxic to dogs—may cause a variety of clinical signs. These typically start with vomiting, diarrhea and elevated heart rate, and if large amounts are consumed, they may progress to hyperactivity, muscle tremors and possibly other more serious neurological signs.

Treatment includes administering medical-grade activated charcoal, bringing tremors under control, cardiac monitoring and preventing further exposure.

“One key point to remember is that some dogs, particularly those with indiscriminate eating habits, can be attracted to any organic matter,” says Dana Farbman, APCC Senior Manager, Professional Communications. “Therefore, if you have a dog with such eating habits, it’s important that you don’t leave him unsupervised or allow him into areas where such materials are being used.”

To avoid contact, pet parents should consider a nontoxic alternative, such as shredded pine, cedar or hemlock bark. These will keep your pooch—and your garden—healthy.

For more detailed information, please take a look at our Animal Poison Control Center online at [http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pro\\_apcc\\_publicationscocoa](http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pro_apcc_publicationscocoa).



If you have something to cheer about, ideas for newsletter content or pictures you would like to contribute please e-mail [Info@CourteousCanine.com](mailto:Info@CourteousCanine.com).

**Happy Clicker Training!**

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



**Pet Partners Team Training Course  
Organized by Gulf Coast Pet Partners**  
[www.gulfcoastpetpartners.org](http://www.gulfcoastpetpartners.org)

**Pet Partners Workshop:** The Delta Society 12-Hour Pet Partners course will be offered at the Ruskin Church of Christ in Ruskin, Florida. Ruskin is located halfway between Tampa and Sarasota. The class will be given over 2 days, on Saturday August 16 and Saturday August 23, from 9:00 – 4:30, with a one hour lunch break. Minimum age is 10 with no upper age limit.

The cost of the course is \$75 per person, which includes the Delta Society Pet Partners Student Manual, the course instruction, and team evaluation. For families sharing a book the cost is \$100 for two individuals (i.e. child and parent or couple). Feel free to bring a packed lunch.

**Pet Partners Team Evaluation:** Team evaluations will be scheduled at a later date, after you have completed the Pet Partners Course. 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:**

**Saturday August 16, 2008 and Saturday August 23, 2008 from 9:00 – 4:30  
at the Ruskin Church of Christ,  
611 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Northwest, Ruskin, FL 33575**

**DO NOT BRING YOUR PET ON THESE DATES**

**To inquire about the Pet Partners Training course contact Judy Peter:**

Call: 941-764-0303 E-mail: [Pete22roc@aol.com](mailto:Pete22roc@aol.com)

**To register for the Pet Partners Training course:**

A check in the proper amount made out to Gulf Coast Pet Partners is necessary to reserve a place in the class and should be mailed with the filled out form on the second page of this notice to:

Judy Peter

**2184 Pellam Blvd**

Port Charlotte, FL 33948

## Delta Society's Pet Partners Workshop

# POSITIVELY BENEFICIAL

**REGISTER TODAY!** Workshop seating is limited.  
Send this registration form and your check as soon as possible.  
Your check will be held until after the class.

**Date and location workshop: August 16 and 23, 2008 at Ruskin, FL**

**Pet Partners Course — Handlers only, no pets**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check one:**

- \$75 Per Person       \$100 Family, sharing one book

**Please sign:**

In consideration of the opportunity to join the Delta Society and to test and be evaluated to meet its standards of membership, I indemnify and hold Delta Society, Instructors, Evaluators, Assistants, and sponsoring organizations harmless from and against all claims, losses, liabilities, and damage to persons or property, governmental charges or fines, and attorneys' fees arising out of the acts or omissions of Pet Partners courses and evaluations including but not limited to, interactions with instructors, attendees, or animals, screening or demonstrations involving pets, or transportation of my pet to or from the training site or within the training site for evaluation. I understand that I am responsible for any damage my animal causes during the evaluation.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_