



**Courteous
Canine, Inc.**



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COURTEOUS CANINE, Inc.
Dog School and Doggie Gym!

May/June 2009 Newsletter

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1. **IAABC Cat Division Member of the Year Jacqueline Munera!**



Courteous Canine, Inc. staff member Jacqueline Munera was awarded the honor of the first ever International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC) Cat Division Member of the Year! Award candidates are nominated by members and chosen by the board of directors of IAABC for demonstrating outstanding work in their field, their organization and their community.

Jackie has been tirelessly promoting clicker training for cats. At the IAABC annual meeting held in Texas earlier this spring Jackie presented on cat/dog interactions on a panel and also gave a presentation on how clicker training can help solve cat behavioral problems. She will be speaking in Japan late in May on cat training. She is the first person from the New College of Florida to do a thesis involving cats. Additionally, she has contributed to the IAABC journal and added her expertise to the Review Panel Committee.

Jacki's cat Jazzmanda is the first cat in the world to complete a clicker assessment protocol test.

2. Looking for Love — Wrigley



If you are looking for a happy, friendly, fun-loving dog then consider Wrigley. She is an outgoing 8-month-old Border Collie mix with a sweet disposition. She was rescued from a high-kill shelter. She weighs around 40 lbs. with good potential to be an agility, obedience or fly ball dog and a wonderful pet. She has completed some basic obedience training and knows how to sit, down, speak and wait. She is clicker trained, and is working on walking nicely on leash. She likes to play with toys, is very food motivated, and loves to swim.

Wrigley loves everyone — dogs, children and people. She really loves to play with other dogs, so an ideal home would probably have another playful dog, but not a dominant female. Wrigley would do fine as an only dog, but needs to be in an active household where she is kept busy. Due to her energy level, a home with children over the age of 5 years would be best.

Wrigley is a healthy pup, vaccinated, microchipped and spayed. OK with cats. She is house and crate trained. Wrigley is being fostered in Clearwater, Florida.

Please contact Diane Conroy from Border Collie Rescue of Tampa Bay for more information at (727) 545-3888, daconroy2@verizon.net or Kelly Rossi at (727) 409-6170, MACHBoxer@tampabay.rr.com.

3. Looking for Love — Aiden



Aidan needs a home. He is a very beautiful, gentle, sweet, 4-year-old, pure-bred Border Collie who loves women, but will warm up to a man if he uses treats. He is NOT a hyper Border Collie. His owners gave him up to a shelter in North Florida. He has been neutered, and all shots are up-to-date. He will need a rabies booster in August. He is 40 lbs.

Aiden will do fine in a pet home as he is low-drive. He is the kind of dog that wants to be at your side all the time, very devoted and loyal. He melts when you pet him and loves attention. When he's walked people stop to say how beautiful he is.

Aidan is housebroken, well-mannered and walks nicely on a leash. He is crate-trained and very obedient. We do not know how he is around children.

He must be housed indoors and have a fenced yard to play in. We will do a home check prior to adoption. His adoption fee is \$100.00. Contact Diane Conroy of Border Collie Rescue Tampa Bay at daconroy2@verizon.net



4. The Right Man for the Job

Jack Kerkula is the handyman who has done such beautiful work at Courteous Canine, Inc. Jack is responsible for the fencing, bench and much, much more. Jack charges \$12 per hour for his services. He's honest and reliable. Jack can be reached at (813) 435-0780.

5. Summary of a Study on the Effects of Shock Collars

by Katie Ringo

The following is a synopsis of a study conducted by E. Schalke, J. Stichnoth, S. Ott and R. Jones-Baade on the effects of shock collars on dogs. The full report, Clinical Signs Caused by the Use of Electronic Training Collars on Dogs in Everyday Life Situations, is available online at http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6T48-4MJBTD3-1&_user=10&_rdoc=1&_fmt=&_orig=search&_sort=d&_view=c&_acct=C000050221&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=10&md5=d9816e91b9d460f81cac91c5d8630371.

Three groups of beagles were chosen. They were raised the same and kept in a controlled environment. The team measured heart rate and stress hormones to see if there was a difference between the groups and the way the shock collars were used. The basic idea was to see how the dogs responded to being trained to stop chasing a fake prey rabbit by using shock collars. Group A was shocked the moment they touched the prey. Group H received a shock when they did not respond to a previously trained recall away from the prey animal. Group R received shocks arbitrarily, simulating the novice dog trainer/owner with poor timing and little training skill.

Group A's stress hormone levels rose by 31.3% above the baseline.
Group H's stress hormone levels rose by 160% above the baseline.
Group R's stress hormone levels rose by 336% above the baseline.

These dogs were then given a four week break before being brought back to the room where the shocks were given with no shock collar on or fake prey rabbit present. The animals were tested after being in the room for an hour.

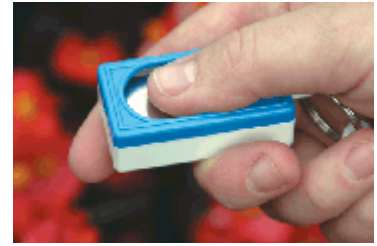
Group A's stress hormone levels had no increase above the baseline.
Group H's stress hormone levels rose by 207.89% above the baseline.
Group R's stress hormone levels rose by 586% above the baseline.

Conclusion:

The results of this study indicate that the general use of shock collars is not consistent with animal welfare. It has to be assumed that pet owners do not have sufficient knowledge about training and skill to avoid the risk that dogs will experience severe and persistent stress. For professional dog trainers the use should be restricted, proof of theoretical and practical qualifications should be required and the use of these devices should only be allowed in strictly specific situations.

6. Tampa Bay Clicker Trainers

A meetup group has been created for trainers who believe in the power of clicker training for dogs and cats and in positive reinforcement rather than punishment or force training. Meetups will include shaping sessions, discussions about training goals, problem solving, sharing new research and more! For more information and to join the fun log on to <http://www.meetup.com/Tampa-Bay-Clicker-Trainers/>.



7. Student of the Month — Tarpon Springs

by Ann Farmer

Meet the “boys”...



Jett and Grady are Pit Bull Terriers from PitPositive Rescue. The boys are brothers and their mom is Margaret.

Many see Jett and Grady and make instant judgments on them because of their breed. There are many misconceptions about Pit Bulls. I have heard from people that training using dog friendly, scientific methods based on positive reinforcement does not work with Pits. Those folks should talk to Margaret. She has clicker trained her boys to a number of behaviors from sit and down to stay and coming when called. Margaret has done a tremendous amount of self control games with Jett and Grady. Sweet, energetic and very active dogs the goal was to make self control very rewarding while teaching each boy to pay attention to mom.

It is a common, but mistaken, belief that harsh methods are needed to train dogs that are big and strong...Pits...But, you can train a Pit Bull with a clicker and treats and love the same as you would a Bishon.

Margaret had her work cut out for her. Training two litter mates is no easy task. Focusing on mom took work. They love to play rough with each other and play could escalate. The play can now can be interrupted easily and they often check in with mom!



I frequently caution people against getting littermates or even two puppies at the same time. It presents a training challenge. Margaret, Jett and Grady have risen to that challenge. That is why she and her boys are the student of the month!

Next challenge Canine Good Citizen class and test with Grady then Jett!

My Boys
by Margaret

Six months ago, if you had told me that I should meet a Pit Bull much less adopt one, I would have said you were crazy. They're vicious, they'll attack anything that moves—with locking jaws—and they should be banned. How could anyone in their right mind have a Pit Bull as a pet???



Well—I have two, count 'em, two Pit Bulls, in my house, in my bed, in my life. And I love them and couldn't imagine my life without them even though we've only been together since November 2008.

These two lovable, huggable, snuggable boys have wiggled themselves into my heart and that's where they'll stay.

BTB (Before The Boys), my view of Pit Bulls was probably like a lot of people. Most of what I knew about them was what I read/saw in the news, which wasn't good or positive. You never heard good things about Pit Bulls, only how dangerous and horrible they were.

That all changed one day in November when I was casually looking through the pet section on Craigslist and saw an ad for two American Staffordshire Terrier brothers fostered by Art and Lisa of PitPositive Rescue.

That's pretty much when my world—and my opinion—changed. I didn't see mean, nasty monsters. I saw two beautiful dogs that needed a home. Something made me pick up the phone and the rest, as they say, is history. I had a great conversation with Lisa and two days later, I was at their home meeting the boys for the first time. Pretty anticlimatic for my first Pit Bull encounter. They practically ignored me, so much for the "vicious" part. After a while they decided to say hello and Grady decided to park himself between me and the back of the comfy couch and proceeded to fall asleep...hmmm, that's how interesting I was to them.

I told Art and Lisa about my reservations and ignorance about owning Pit Bulls. They were honest about the challenges but so enthusiastic about the joys. Due to them and the two snoring "monsters" on the couch with me, a week later I became a Pit Bull mom and I'm darn proud of it and them!

8. Student of the Month — Lutz



Karyn Pingel and her American Hairless Terrier, UAGI USR UFR UWP GRCH Flinthill's Something Wicked@WMK, better known as Evyl, had an amazing agility debut! At Evyl's first ever trial, she earned her UAGI with three first places and a High In Trial!



The United Kennel Club trial was held March 14 & March 15 with two trials held each day.

Saturday

AGI

1st trial — Q 195 points in 44.27 seconds (SCT 63.00) 2nd place

2nd trial — Q 187 points in 54.18 seconds (SCT 67.00) 3rd place



Sunday

AGII

1st trial — NQ

2nd trial — Q 197 points in 56.22 seconds (SCT 73.00) 1st place



AGI

1st trial — Q (NEW TITLE HOLDER) 200 points in 46.65 seconds (SCT 88.00)

1st place — HIGH IN TRIAL

2nd trial — Q- 200 points in 45.35 (SCT 62.00) 1st place



9. CCI Brags



Angelica Steinker and her Border Collie TicTac are now a Delta Society Pet Partner team.

TicTac is also an AKC Canine Good Citizen.



Ellen Kurland's Labradoodle, Madison earned her CGC.

Ellen's Labradoodle, Oliver, participates in the READ program, where children improve their reading skills by reading aloud to dogs. Ellen has been contacted by two additional schools about Oliver coming to help their students.



Maren Jensen and her Border Collie, Keegan, have been doing great in agility this spring!



In AKC Keegan earned his AF (Excellent A Fast title).

Keegan qualified for NADAC Championships and will be going to Tennessee in September to compete.

In March Keegan got High In Trial in the very competitive 20" class at a NADAC trial in Ocala.

Keegan Q'd in five of six runs at a NADAC trial.

And, to show his versatility, he also Q'd in four of five runs at a CPE trial.



Allison Marsh and her Australian Shepherd, Kicker, had a perfect day at AKC!! She Q'd in Standard, JWW & FAST!



Mary Ann Campbell's Yorkshire Terrier, Chance, qualified in seven of 12 runs at a recent NADAC trial.

10. CCI Disc Dog Brags



Ann Farmer and her Border Collies Rusty and Party qualified for the 2009 Hyperflite Skyhoundz World Canine Disc Championship in Tennessee, September 26 & 27:

Ann & Rusty qualified in freestyle.

Ann & Party qualified in distance and accuracy.

Ann's husband, Tracy, qualified with Party in freestyle.

11. CGC Test

Courteous Canine, Inc. is offering a Canine Good Citizen test on Saturday, June 20 at 3:30 p.m. The test is \$20 for those who have not taken the CGC course at Courteous Canine. For more information e-mail info@CourteousCanine.com.

12. Classes Starting

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

Lutz Location



- ◆ **Introduction to Agility**
Starting Saturday, May 16 at 9:15 a.m.
- ◆ **Puppy Kindergarten**
Starting Wednesday, May 27 at 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Basic Obedience**
Starting Sunday, June 7 at 10:00 a.m.
- ◆ **Control Unleashed 2 for Reactive Dogs**
Must have completed CU 1. Instructor approval required.
Starting Sunday, June 7 at 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Agility Control Unleashed 2**
Must have completed CU 1. Instructor approval required.
Starting Monday, June 22 at 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Control Unleashed for Distracted Dogs**
Instructor approval required.
Starting Sunday, July 12 at 9:00 a.m.
- ◆ **Agility at a Distance**
Starting Sunday, July 12 at 10:15 a.m.
- ◆ **Agility Games**
No agility experience necessary
Starting Sunday, July 12 at 11:30 a.m.

A Place for Pups

39930 U.S. Highway 19 North, Tarpon Springs, FL



- ◆ **Basic Obedience**
Starting Monday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Basic Good Manners**
Starting Tuesday, June 9 at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Advanced Good Manners**
Starting Tuesday, June 9 at 8:15 p.m.

13. Coyotes

Living in Florida is wonderful, but there are dangers we need to be aware of so we can keep our pets safe. Coyote attacks on pets have been reported recently in East Lake and in Lake County.

Coyotes are intelligent and fascinating creatures, but they don't distinguish between wild prey and our beloved pets. If there are coyotes in your area, here are some tips to help keep your pets safe:

- ◆ Do not feed your pets outside. The food might attract coyotes. And, of course, never intentionally feed coyotes.
- ◆ Do not allow pets to run free. If you do, coyotes are only one of the hazards waiting for your pet. And you may receive a fine for breaking leash laws.
- ◆ Clean up bird seed spilled around feeders. The spills attract rodents, which attract coyotes.
- ◆ Keep your cats inside, unless on leash or supervised.
- ◆ Remember electronic fences may keep your pets in, but they won't keep coyotes or other dangers out.
- ◆ Keep lids on trash cans securely closed.

14. Poisonous Plants

Did you know that lilies, sago palms, tulips, azaleas and other common plants are poisonous to our furry family members? For a list of 17 of the most common poisonous plants log on to ASPCA's site at <http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/poison-control/17-common-poisonous-plants.html>.



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

Happy Clicker Training!
The Staff of Courteous Canine, Inc.