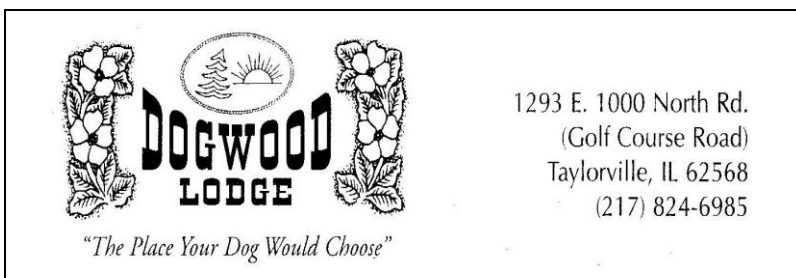


**What's inside:****Class updates: pgs 1-3****Flea facts: pg 4-5****"The Nose Knows": pgs 5-7****Why dogs don't use computers:****Pg 7**

# ***Newsletter*** Spring '09

## **Celebrating Dogwood's 11 year Anniversary!**

*A giant heartfelt thanks to all my customers!*

I feel immensely privileged that you have entrusted me with the care & help in training of your beloved furry family members. Over the years I have shared in mourning your losses of your faithful companions & also in the delight of your new additions. I'm glad that so many of you take the time to share your dog stories, your vacation adventures and news of your families. How great is that!

*Sincerely, Diane K. Brown "the dog lady"*

### **Dogwood Class Updates (Home of "Golden Rule" Training) –**

***"Do to others as you would have them do to you" - Jesus***

Treat your dog with kindness & respect.

### **Ongoing classes:**

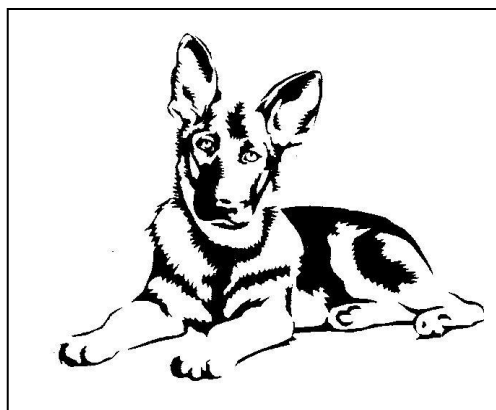
**Basic Dog Obedience Classes:** Hard to believe I've been teaching this for 10 years now! There is usually a new one starting every 4 to 8 weeks. This is the most popular & fills up the quickest because it is for dogs 5 months and older, at about the time people realize their dog is getting out of control or they just need some help with a thing or two. We concentrate on better communication to teach the basic things all dogs should know for good manners. Positive gentle methods are used.

It's an 8 weeks long, small group class for an hour usually on Tues. evenings.

My methods continue to change as I get new ideas with each training conference or seminar I go to.

**“Head Start” Puppy Class:** The earlier you start the better so this class is for young puppies 8 to 14 weeks. Prevent problems before they start!

Get your puppy off to a good start by getting him used to other pups & people so he can have a lifelong healthy attitude. Learn the stages of mental growth, basic grooming & health care as well as getting a start on loose leash walking, sit, down, stay & come. Bring your questions and your family!

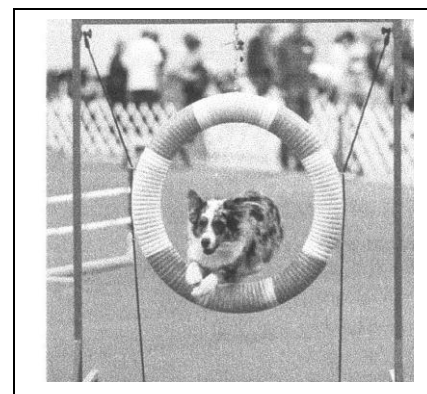


It's a 5 week class about an hour long usually on Thurs. evenings.

**Private lessons:** Sometimes just a one hour, one-on-one lesson can get you on track and answer your questions. And there is nothing like a custom plan to work on a specific problem. Schedule as many lessons as you need. This can be good for dogs that just don't do well in a group class.

**Agility classes:** Join us for a purely positive (in fact, “no” is a “dirty word”!) class where you teach your dog how to jump, run over & through the obstacles on the course outside. This is just a “fun” course to learn the obstacles (A-frame, tire jump, “dog-walk” etc.) & try it out. It is a great confidence builder for shy and insecure dogs. It helped my shy boy Baxter the Husky come out of his shell.

I usually teach Agility classes in the spring & fall but last year I didn't get around to it even though I had a quite a few people signed up for it. The cold, wet spring kept putting it off & then the very busy boarding season took over my time, followed by my two week traveling vacation to Texas & Oregon last fall.



I am working on some of the weather damaged obstacles in preparation for new classes hopefully starting in May. Both the A-frame & tire jump need repaired before they are fit for use.

This class is on Saturday mornings. Come out & try it!

## Other classes:

### Canine Good Citizen Program

The American Kennel Club started this program in 1989 to 1) teach responsible dog ownership to owners and 2) provide basic training & good manners to dogs. A key part of the CGC program is the 10-step CGC test. All dogs (purebreds & mixed breeds) who pass the CGC test receive a certificate from the AKC suitable for framing. Bandanas, collar tags, patches and magnetic bumper stickers are also available to the proud owners of their Canine Good Citizens.



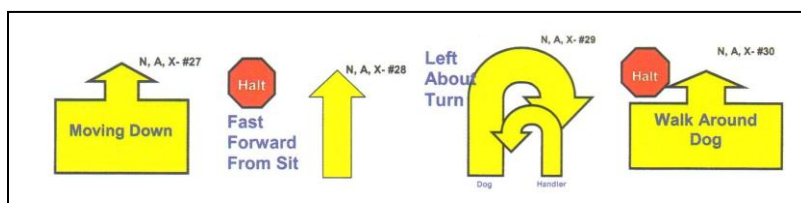
Several therapy dog organizations use this program, or their own variation of it, as a step in certifying their volunteer dogs.

And I am very proud to say that my own dog, Sophie, my big black Standard Poodle with a big personality, passed her CGC test on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>! This is my second dog (and another Poodle) to be certified.

If enough people are interested, I will schedule classes/tests as I am an AKC approved CGC evaluator. Ask for a brochure!

### What is Rally?

A new sport is catching on in the dog world! Charles "Bud" Kramer, the same man who is credited with

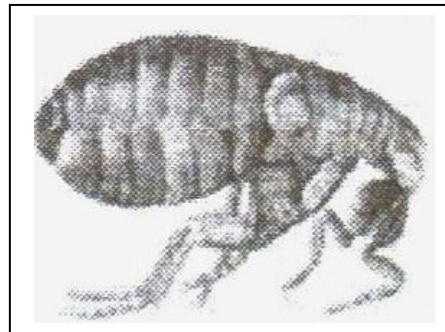


starting the first American Agility program, has developed a program for pet dog owners where dog & handler use directional signs to run through a numbered course. The signs indicate the exercise to be performed and what makes this unique is that the owner can talk to, praise, encourage, clap their hands, pat their legs & freely communicate with his dog, at any time and as often as desired throughout the course. It improves teamwork & heeling as you go through a series of sits, turns, changes of pace, stops, downs and so on. It is designed so dogs of all levels of training may participate!

Sophie & I are taking the course this April & May.

## Health News: Fleas

If you thought fleas were especially bad last fall, I would have to agree! All dogs (and some cats) that come through my doors are checked for fleas with the best way I know how – a simple flea comb. It’s an especially fine-toothed comb that pulls out fleas and the evidence fleas leave. I



check the area I call the “flea lounge” where fleas like to hang out - the dog’s rump at the base of the tail. I treat the dogs that I find fleas or flea “dirt” on – the dark specks that turn red when dampened (dried blood) or flea eggs - the white specks that look like salt. Some owners of very well-taken care of dogs were quite surprised when I found fleas.

I often hear, “But my dog stays in the house and doesn’t spend much time outside.” But the fact is, your house is an ideal place for fleas to make a home for themselves. All it takes is a “stowaway” or two to cause trouble. The temperature in your house is perfect for year round breeding, and carpeting, rugs and your dogs bedding make a great breeding area. And there is a constant food source – your dog & sometimes you too.

And don’t overlook the cats in your household. You can’t control fleas in your house without treating the cats on a regular basis.

Besides causing your dog to be itchy and uncomfortable, they are the common source of tapeworm infestation when an infected flea is swallowed, which is unhealthy for your dog and can be unhealthy for humans, especially children. Tapeworm are difficult to detect in a regular worm test at your vet’s but you can see them as small, flat, white segments in your dog’s fresh stool or as dried rice-like pieces around your dog’s anus or bedding.

Some dogs are highly allergic to flea bites and a single flea bite can cause such dogs to scratch & chew on their skin until there is hair loss, red & bleeding skin and ultimately a skin infection.

You can easily prevent a flea infestation by starting a prevention program now before the height of flea season begins during the hot humid summer months. With the experience I have with my own dogs and noting what my boarding customers use – what absolutely works the best is the regular monthly application of Frontline Plus or Advantage, applied as a liquid to the dog’s skin between the shoulder blades. These products *kill the adult flea on your pet within hours and also have an IGR (Insect Growth Regulator) or IDI (Insect Development Inhibitor) that breaks the life cycle of the flea eggs & larvae.*

Some people are afraid that these products are toxic to their dogs but they are *far safer & much more effective* than the old traditional methods containing carbamites & organophosphates with pyrethrins typically found in dips, shampoos, sprays & powders.

My experience shows that flea treatments such as the Hartz Mountain & Bio-Spot spot on treatment or the pills such as Sentinel or Program don't work well.

Another nifty product I use is the Capstar pill. If a dog comes in with a heavy flea infestation, I will give him a Capstar pill which starts killing fleas within 30 minutes with all dead within 3-4 hours. It is out the pet's system within 24 hours and is very safe. It also works great if your dog has been to a park or other places plagued by fleas. Just give him a pill before you head home & it will prevent him from bringing fleas into the house.

If you combine the flea prevention with regular cleaning of areas where adult fleas, their eggs & larvae are found, there is usually no need for more insecticides (foggers & sprays etc). It can be toxic to your pet & for you to use multiple products. Vacuum floors, rugs, carpets, upholstered furniture & under cushions and the crevices along baseboards etc. Wash your pets bedding once a week in warm to hot soapy water.

Studies have shown that Vitamin B1, brewer's yeast, herbal collars & ultrasonic devices are not effective against fleas. And flea collars seem to work best on smaller dogs.

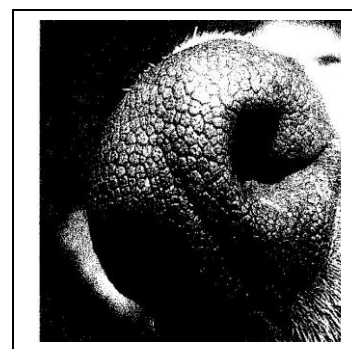
## **Interesting Stuff: "The Nose Knows"**

It has been said that a dog is a nose with legs!

"A dog's sense of smell is said to be a thousand times more sensitive than that of humans. In fact, a dog has more than 220 million olfactory receptors in its nose, while humans only have 5 million."

From J. Correa, "The Dogs Sense of Smell".

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has national dog-handler teams that respond to disasters worldwide. These search & rescue teams are highly trained to find victims and were used at the World Trade Center disaster. Police, U.S. Customs & Border Protection use dogs to locate illegal drugs, unreported currency, concealed humans, smuggled agricultural products, explosives and for tracking lost people. Some dogs have a special ability to detect cancer cells in humans & can reliably predict seizures.



The American Kennel Club offers a sport called Tracking to test a dog's natural ability to recognize & follow a scent. During the test the dog must closely follow the path the tracklayer has walked and find the articles dropped along the way. He either receives a pass or fail grade & works to earn the title: Tracking Dog (TD), Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX), Variable Surface Tracking (VST) and Champion Tracker (CT). Any dog may learn to track but certain breeds are bred for scent work: Bassets, Beagles, Bloodhounds, Coonhounds, Dachshunds, Foxhounds, Harriers, Otterhounds, Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen & Plott Hounds. For more information go to their website at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).

To quote Glen Johnson from his book "Tracking Dog theory & methods" – a truly amazing account: He wrote, "In 1974 I was commissioned to train dogs to search for and locate leaks in a brand new natural gas pipeline that was to be opened in nine days from the time I was approached. However, the consulting engineering firm that designed the line knew there were leaks in the line and had attempted, unsuccessfully to locate these leaks with every instrument know to modern technology. The 12" diameter pipeline, 94 miles in length [which was buried at least 6 feet deep under wet, heavy clay], had been hydrostatically tested up to 2,000 pounds per square inch and would explode a section of line before they could locate the leak. Somehow they had heard about the uncanny ability of dogs to discern even the slightest traces of odors which they had been trained to locate and were prepared to give the dogs a try."

"By the time we had completed the pipeline three times the dogs had successfully detected over 150 leaks, four leaky valves (one of them over 12 feet above the ground) through snowstorms, 0 degree weather, quicksand (one handler had to be physically dug out of it) and over rivers, highways and plowed fields. The smallest leak was microscopic, was buried 18 feet deep..."

Pretty amazing, huh? That cold, wet appendage that your dog uses to wake you up in the morning is actually very useful!

I took a Scent Discrimination & Tracking seminar in St. Louis with NADOI a couple of years ago & was fascinated. They also had a police officer demonstrate & show video on how they train dogs for drug detection.

Sophie & I are now taking a series of tracking workshops put on by the Meridian Working Dog Club. Sophie's got quite the sniffer!

Have some fun & play a simple scent game with your dog! Put some smelly treats like cheese or beef in a Ziplock type plastic bag and cut some short slits in it. Attach this bag to a cord or leash and drag it through your house or across your yard to make a scent trail. Leave the pile of goodies at the end of your trail for him to find and enjoy. Put your dog on a long leash, let him smell the bag and ask him "Where is it?" or "Go find it!" Keeping the trail pretty short with no sharp turns or crossovers and leaving a goodie or two along the path will help him be successful. Then increase the length & difficulty for some more fun.

### **Reasons Why Dogs Don't Use Computers:**

8. Can't stick their heads out of Windows '98.
7. Too difficult to "mark" every website they visit.
6. Can't help attacking the screen every time they hear "You've got mail".
5. Because dogs aren't **geeks!** While cats on the other hand...
4. SIT & STAY are hard enough, DELETE & SAVE are out of the question!
3. Saliva-coated mouse gets pretty hard to handle.
2. Butt-sniffing more direct and less deceiving than online chat rooms.
1. troop hgardf tyo typ[we wetyith p[aswe (too hard to type with paws!)



### **The busy boarding season is almost here!**

So make your reservations early for "Camp Dogwood" for your dog. And remember the seasonal & holiday cancellation policy (Memorial Day thru Labor Day & federal holidays): I need 72 hours notice of cancellations or changes.

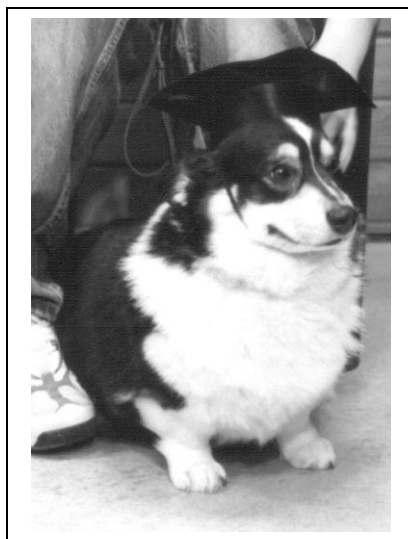
Have proof of rabies & *the combo shot for distemper* etc. with you. It's also a good idea to go ahead & treat your dog with flea prevention before bringing him.

**Fall vacation date to be announced.** I close the kennel for about 10 days every fall for my vacation. I often go to the Association of Pet Dog Trainers conference & this year it is in October in San Francisco/Oakland California.

## What's coming up!

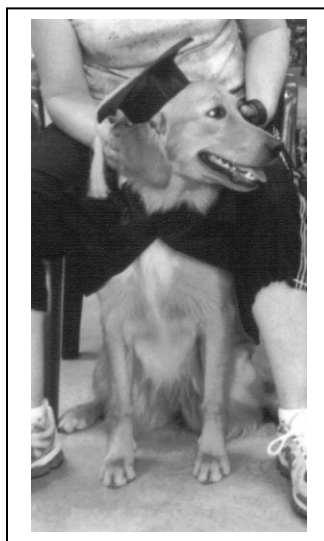
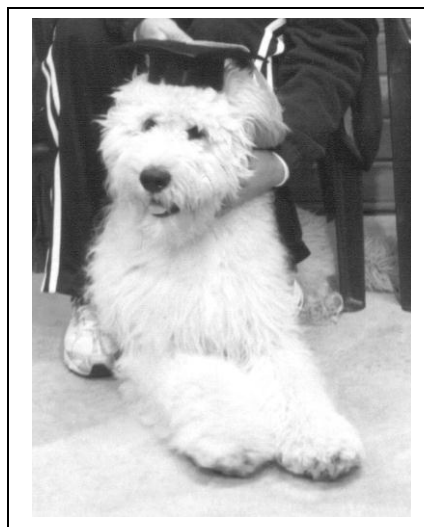
- Bloomington Dog Show at the Interstate Center, May 23-25. See it all in one show! Large all breed show, obedience, rally & agility!
- Dog Daze on the Square June 13<sup>th</sup> - dog show, demos, music!
- *County Animal Shelter Open House* – see next page for details!

## Photos from Dogwood:

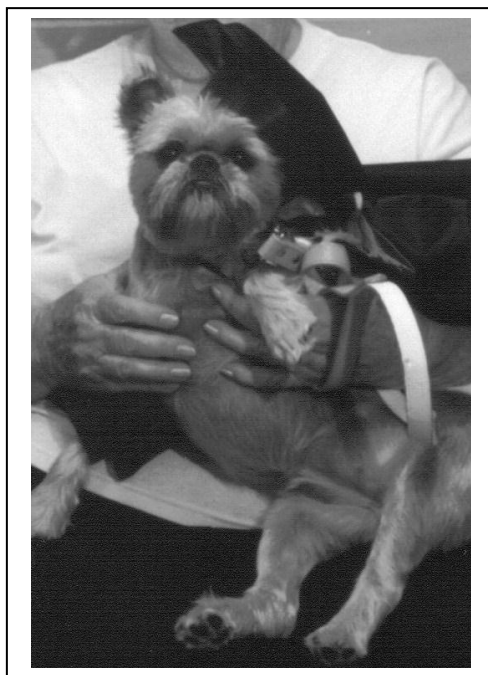


Some graduates  
from Basic  
Obedience Class!

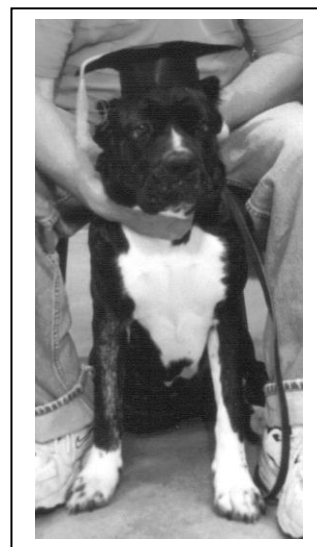
< “River” Nickels  
&  
“Rawlings” Tippitt >



“Maisy” Williams

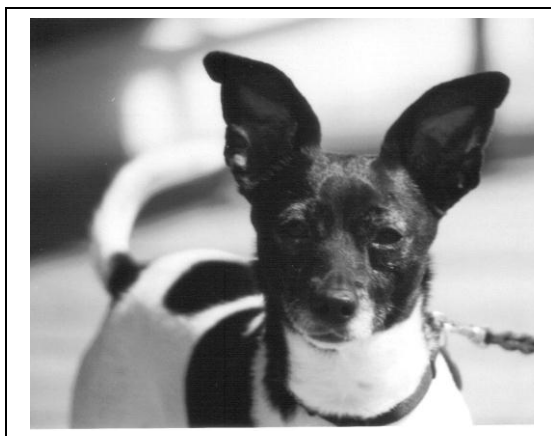


“Abby” Sellers

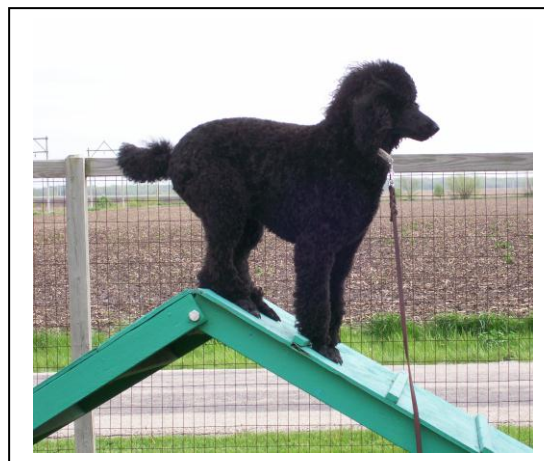


“Jewette” Davis





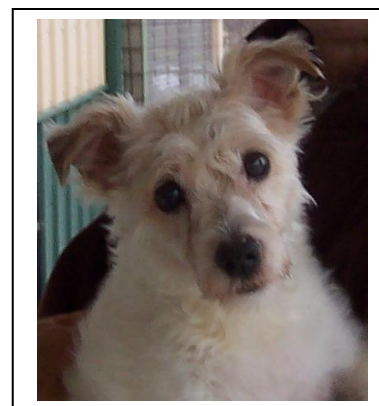
“Buster” Ciabattoni moved to Phoenix and will be missed!



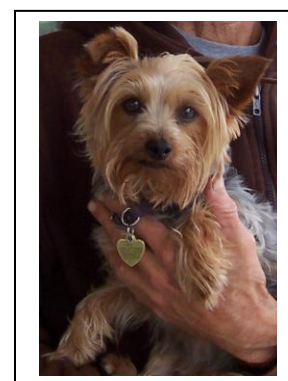
Sophie on the Agility A-Frame



Sophie & me with her Canine Good Citizen Award



“Maxie” Greffe ^



“Abby” Bradbury ^

**NEWS FLASH! This just in!**

The newly expanded Christian County Animal Control Shelter is having an **Open House** Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3 PM.

A photographer will be there to take your pet’s photo, hot dogs will be served, door prizes abound and maybe you’ll find that special new addition to your family & adopt a dog or cat who needs a home.

