

What's inside:

CPDT-KA certification Pg 1
 Playtime! Pg 2
 Fall closing date Pg 2
 Meet the help! Pg 2
 Featured student Pg 4
 What's in dog food! Pg 6



1293 E. 1000 North Rd
 (Golf Course Road)
 Taylorville, IL 62568
 (217) 824-6985

Diane K. Brown CPDT-KA

Newsletter Summer 2011

Celebrating Dogwood's 13 year anniversary

Headline News!

Introducing my website – check it out! www.dogwoodpetlodge.net. Among many things it will show the hours I am open for business – (I know people sometimes forget!), vaccination requirements, boarding services, frequently asked questions, training services, about me info & photos, directions to get here, monthly newsletters, featured products, a matchmaker section for dogs seeking homes and people seeking dogs, upcoming local dog events, and so on. Michelle Burge did a beautiful job designing it. A few parts are still under construction so please bear with me on those.

I know, it's about time I did this! Make sure you type in .net and not .com or you will go to a kennel in Maryland!

Other Big News!

I passed! I received notice April 11th that I passed the exam with the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers and am now **internationally certified** as a professional dog trainer! I have the title after my name as CPDT-KA – Certified Professional Dog Trainer – Knowledge Assessed. I just thought it was time to go ahead and get my professional credentials.



I have to admit the computerized test taken at an exam station in Springfield through the Professional Testing Corporation was tough and took every bit of the four hours to complete. My mind was feeling pretty fried afterwards! I had to first send them my qualifications: that I had a minimum of 300 hours experience in dog training in the last five years (I've been teaching for about 12 years) and submit three sealed references one each from a veterinarian, client and a colleague in the dog training profession. The 250 questions covered instruction skills, animal husbandry, ethology, learning theory, equipment, business practices and ethics. I passed the test on my first try with close to a 90% score. To keep my title I have to earn continuing education credits each year. That is no problem with all the seminars and the conferences I love to go to. My thanks to Chris Lockwood and the Breeze-Courier for the terrific article on my accomplishment published in their Pet Week edition in May. And my thanks to all who helped me with this endeavor.

New Service offered: Last summer I introduced a **new service: "Playtime"**. Although all the dogs get exercise time in the outdoor runs some folks like to spoil their furry kids a bit by having 15 minutes of individual playtime where they get to play their favorite games, have an extra walk or get belly rubs – whatever your dog likes. Let me know how many playtimes you would want when you call or email in your boarding reservation so I can put them on the schedule because I have someone who helps with this. (I can't do it all!) I was surprised at how it has taken off just by placing a sign on my desk offering **"Playtime"**! Some dogs really need to run to burn off more energy and have individual attention. You may have met Meagan Phillips helping out here last summer. (Pictured above with sweet Ben DeMichael in the doggy shower.) She comes out to help with Playtime and bathing. She has a keen sense of humor and fun-loving personality and she's a pleasure to be around.



Meet the kennel help:

Meet Tim Del Valle, son of Dr. Richard & Mary Del Valle. I've enjoyed taking care of the Del Valle's dogs for many years and now that Tim is going to school to become a veterinarian, he decided to spend part of his summer helping in the kennel. He came to watch an obedience and puppy class as he wants to pick up on some dog handling and training skills to maybe help him in his education. And he doesn't mind "picking up" after the dogs as well! He has been walking the boarders and helping me in their care. He's back to school now but may be helping at Thanksgiving & Christmas. Tim is pictured here with Sophie Abernathy, a Great Dane, one of the biggest dogs he says he's ever seen!



Fall kennel closing (vacation) date is *Tuesday September 27th through Wednesday October 12th*. My Mom, Carol Brown, and Patty Rykhus will be taking care of my animals and looking after the place while I'm gone. If you need dog food or other help, call Carol at 825-9802 or Patty at 820-1400 or leave a message at the kennel number.

I am headed to Colorado to a 4 day John Rogerson seminar on dog temperament testing, rehabilitation of problem dogs and canine aggression. John is one of the world's leading dog trainers and behaviorists having pioneered the temperament test used internationally by UFAW (United Federation for Animal Welfare) so who better to teach it. He is from England and doesn't come to the US often. His latest book is titled "The Dog Vinci Code" if you are interested in a good read on dogs. I went to his seminar in Atlanta last year at the Association of Pet Dog Trainers annual conference and I was fascinated by his views. Before I go to the Denver area, I first plan to go to the Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering and meet my Aunt and her family from Rifle, CO. At the Gathering, there will be trail rides, a train ride through the canyon, evening performances of poetry and western music, western art exhibits and country swing dances.

Speaking of last year's APDT conference in Atlanta, I had the great experience of meeting renowned trainer Victoria Stilwell of Animal Planet's "It's Me or the Dog". She was the afternoon speaker for the General Session on opening day and put on a powerful program that brought tears to my eyes. Here we are pictured together – she is sooo tiny!



A new fence and driveway gate will hopefully be going up sometime later this year. My Poodle, Sophie, learned to jump the fence at the side yard of the house going after a passing truck so it's time to upgrade. A gate at the driveway will allow my dogs more safety and freedom on my property. Holding Sophie by the collar as I take her back & forth several times a day for potty time in the big yard gets pretty old!



I won't be opening the gate to the parking lot in the morning until opening time at 8 AM so as a reminder - *Please don't come early!* There are dogs to be walked and chores to be done before the kennel opens for business. If I have to stop to check someone in or out, or even if someone is waiting in the parking lot, the dogs know someone is here and in their excitement can't hold it and start having accidents inside! (Which makes for a lot more work for me and a bad habit started for the dogs.) And if we are walking one in the yard, and someone pulls up, they are too distracted to potty, thinking that person may be here for them!

News from the American Kennel Club. The AKC's website is always an interesting place to read about dogs. What you may not know is that last year they opened their companion events to all dogs including mixed-breeds! This has been a long time in coming and I'm thrilled to finally see it. I've had many mixed-breed and even pureblooded breeds out here that the AKC doesn't register for classes that excelled in obedience or agility training and couldn't go on to show off their talents at the shows. Now you can! I have the AKC Canine Partners brochure and registration forms here at the kennel too.

Quotable Quote *"Dogs are not our whole lives but they make our lives whole"* – Roger Caras former host of the Westminster Kennel Club dog show, author, tv reporter and past president of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Bil-Jac dog food is now sold entirely at Dogwood instead of in town at Brown & Sons.

Due to a bout with bad health my Dad will be closing Brown & Sons after over 60 years of service to the community. As a result the dog food sales have been moved entirely to the kennel and available during regular office hours: Monday through Friday 8 to 12 & 5:30 to 6:30 in the evening, Saturday 8-9 & 12-1. I am also in the process of expanding the pet supply part of the business as well, so more of the products you need and can't find in town, will be available to you. Check the website for the "Featured Product".

Nutrition in dog food became a keen interest of mine since I first went to the Pet Industry Trade Show in Chicago in 1999 and was overwhelmed by all the different brands of dog food available. That's where I met the Bil-Jac sales rep Tony Spinelli.

I continue to keep up to date on the newest information and in this newsletter will be the first in a series of articles on dog foods, passing along what I have learned. **See page 6**

Every dog owner should be informed on what it is they are feeding their doggy best friend and be able to read pet food labels.

My interest was further stirred again after seeing holistic veterinarian, Dr. Doug Knueven, at the San Francisco 2009 dog trainer's conference, speak on nutrition and processed dog food. What an eye-opening experience that was! I follow up on the many references he supplied as I have time.

A New Class is in the works: Plans are in the works for a **new class** at Dogwood to take the place of AKC Agility. I am modifying the course and obstacles which will eliminate the AKC rules. I've only had one student go on to compete in AKC Agility and so I'm gearing the new course to the pet dog owner. Even if you are planning to compete in Agility you can use this course to hone your skills. I have a feeling you and your dogs are all really going to like it! I had hopes of getting it ready this last Winter & Spring but bathroom remodeling and life got in the way. I plan to unveil the new Canine Confidence Course class next Spring.

Featured student: Meet Jeanette Gerlach and her faithful companion, Chiara. They took the Basic Obedience (group) Class but wanted a bit more. Jeanette was having trouble with Chiara becoming overly excited in meeting a person or another dog when they were out on a walk. They took private lessons with me and she has done a fantastic job of listening and then practicing, wanting to develop a deeper bond with her dog. She has gotten great results and says she is very happy. She highly recommends the one on one lessons. Jeanette is one of my best students and I'm so proud!



Just for Laughs 😊

You Know You're a Dog Person If...

You carry dog biscuits in your purse or pocket at all times.
You have baby gates permanently installed around the house but no babies.

You can't see out the passenger side window because there are nose-prints all over the inside.

You have little songs that you sing to your dog, and she always wags when you sing, even though you can't carry a tune.

You talk about your dog the way other people talk about their kid.

You have your dog's picture on your office desk (but no one else's).

Your parents refer to your pet as their "granddog", remember his birthday and send him a greeting card and gifts.

You match your furniture / carpet / clothes to your dog.

And... you shovel a zig-zag path in the snow so your dog can reach all his favorite spots!

Pictured is my first graduating class of the AKC's S.T.A.R. Puppy Program!

Six people and their young puppies took the Head Start Puppy Class here at Dogwood this summer and after they graduated, two elected to take the 20 step test to show their pups can sit, lay down, come, walk on a leash, allow their owner to handle their ears & feet, allow someone else to pet them, show they are free of aggression and more. S.T.A.R. stands for Socialization, Training, Activity and Responsibility with the key component being a responsible owner.

The AKC developed this program as a lead in to the AKC Canine Good Citizen Program – a first step to some therapy dog organizations. All puppies are welcome to participate in this program both purebreds and mixed breeds.

They both passed the test and will receive a frameable certificate from the AKC, a discount to enroll in the AKC animal recovery service and a monthly email newsletter with training tips and other information. Congratulations to them!



Pictured above: Melinda Foor & Bowden, Missy Wells & Crest and Melinda's son Wyatt.

Featured Product of the Month:

Pill Pockets

For all these years I have struggled with giving pets their pills by trying to insert them in soft dog treats or wrapping them in messy cheese or hot dogs. How frustrating!

Now you can hide the pills inside this pre-formed squishy and delicious treat that dogs love!

I absolutely love them!!



Everyone that brings their dog here for the first time for lodging and all students

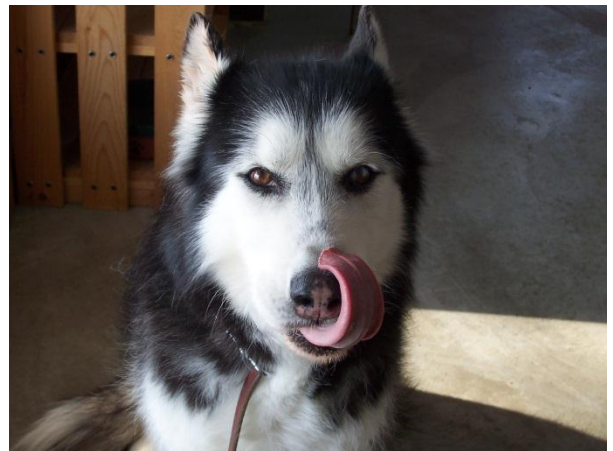
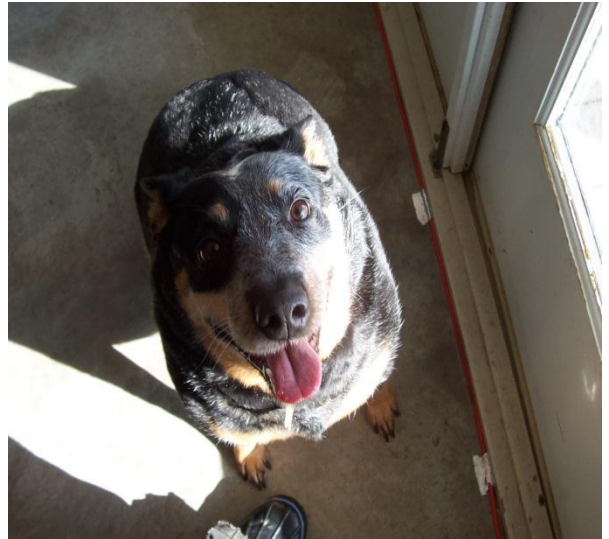
receive a free sample of Bil-Jac premium dry dog food to try out. If you have never received it, just ask for one! Wrapped around that sample is an informational sheet titled "Understanding Pet Food and Their Labels".

This is the best place to start in understanding your dog's food. Watch for Part Two: Nutrition and Nutrients in the next newsletter. In that I will explain why I listed certain ingredients to be avoided. I periodically update this information sheet so it should be worth your while to read it over again. You may want to remove this from the newsletter to keep & add to the following parts in upcoming newsletters.

Upcoming dog events:

- Sept. 24th & 25th: AKC Agility Trial at Urbana – by the Dog Training Club of Champaign-Urbana
2210 Ford Harris Road, Urbana
- Oct. 21st through the 24th: Prairieland Classic Dog Show – Conformation/Breed show
Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield
- Nov. 5th & 6th: CPE (Canine Performance Event) Agility Trial
at the Livestock Center, Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield
- Nov. 19th & 20th: AKC Rally & Obedience Trial – by the Dog Training Club of Champaign-Urbana
2210 Ford Harris Road, Urbana
- Dec. 3rd & 4th: Belleville Dog Show/Rally & Obedience Trial
Belle-Clair Fairgrounds, Belleville, IL

Photos of dog friends



Thanks so much for bringing your beloved pets for lodging & training here!