



TRAINING SOLUTIONS FOR BUSY LIVES

A quarterly newsletter bringing you informative treats from the dog world, and keeping you up-to-date with our services

[The Right Dog for the Job]

Heather Ohmart

Last year I was called by a caseworker who was representing a man who lived in a group home. He wanted a dog. Could I find one for him? Could I train the dog? I immediately sat up in my chair and listened intently. This was right up my alley. I had worked at group homes many years ago, I currently work with people with disabilities, and, of course, I work with dogs. This sounded like a fun challenge! But here was the tough part - he needed a dog who was comfortable around wheelchairs and medical equipment, affectionate with people, free of any major behavior issues, a little older, had a low level of energy, good with cats, and easy to maintain. My client, who asked to be called Speedy Gonzalez for this article, would need to rely on the staff at his home to care for the dog's basic needs, so it needed to be an easy dog.

I brought my three therapy dogs over to Speedy's house so I could see which personality type fit in that household the best. We also needed to see that the other residents of the house were comfortable around a dog. It was immediately clear that my dog, Thistle, had the personality closest to what he wanted. Thistle is a friendly and affectionate girl, happy to curl up with people or nudge them for attention but also quick to settle at someone's feet. Now the big challenge; to find a dog that matched that description.

I started my search online looking for just the right dog. Dogs like this can be found in rescue organizations but it takes a bit of work and patience. Before long I found a description of a dog that sounded promising. The ad from Senior Dog Rescue of Oregon read:

Do you have room in your heart and home for a very special dog? Callie Rose is an 8 year old Black Lab who has been blind for several years due to a condition called Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA). Because her blindness came on gradually Callie has had time to adapt to her loss of sight and she gets along as well as a sighted dog. She is an extremely sweet girl with excellent house manners and a lovely disposition. She loves to be outside or to go for a walk and is good in the car. Once she has a few days to settle in to a new environment she is able to navigate as well as any other dog. Please consider opening your home to a very special girl who will be a wonderful addition to your life.

I immediately got on the phone and made arrangements to drive down to Corvallis to meet Callie Rose. When I met her, one of the first things I noticed was her lack of a startle response. If someone reached out to touch her, she didn't jump but instead immediately wagged her entire body. If she ran into someone else, even a strange dog, she immediately wagged her entire body. She was tall enough that someone could easily reach her from a wheelchair. I took her for a short walk. She was slow but happily walking beside

me, at just about the speed that Speedy's staff would be pushing his wheelchair while out on a walk. She was hard of hearing but she responded well to loud clapping to get her attention. Her special needs were of little consequence, but a temperament like hers is not always easy to come by.

I went back and talked with Speedy and his staff. Was this the right dog? Could they work around her special needs? After much thought and consideration from the rescue group, Speedy, Speedy's staff, and the staff at City Dog Country Dog, we concluded that Callie Rose would be a very good fit.

I took Callie Rose into my house for a couple of months to train her and work on some basic skills like walking next to a wheelchair. She fitted in great there. I have several dogs and any time one of them bumped into her, she wiggled her whole body. If anyone was near her when she slept, ate, chewed on toys, or anything, she was always happy to have people close by. It was really clear to me that she would do really well in a home where there was unexpected movement around her.

We went on a couple of visits to Speedy's home to get everyone used to one another and make sure we were on track with our training goals. There was one resident that was hesitant about a dog moving in. He wanted a cat. I promised him Callie Rose didn't even give my cats a second sniff. Callie snuggled up to him as he sat on the floor. He wrapped his arms around her tight and she snuggled in closer with her whole rear end wagging. With a great big smile on his face, Speedy's housemate said, "Speedy, I'll help you walk your dog. I'll help you feed her. I'll help you with your new dog." When we crossed that hurdle we knew we were ready to go.

Callie Rose moved into her new home and, at last report, was doing really well. Everyone was in love with her. She was perfect for Speedy. She was perfect for the house. She was perfect for the staff. And they were all perfect for Callie Rose. I walked away very happy. Special needs can be special gifts. And job satisfaction comes in all shapes and sizes!



Thinking about bringing a new dog into your life? It can be hard to know where to look or how to decide. We can help you find a dog for companionship, therapy or service work, or other special needs or interests. Call or email City Dog Country Dog anytime!

"A dog has the soul of a philosopher." – PLATO

[Did You Know?] These Uses For Dog Hair?

Yarn. Spin it into thread so you can knit a Rover sweater.

Saving the ocean. Send it to nonprofit Matter of Trust to aid in oil spill crises.

Gardening. Add it to your compost in small doses (stir in to prevent clumps) or sprinkle it around trees and flowers to deter small critters.

House-building birds. Put it in baskets in your yard for birds to use as nesting material.

Recreational sports. Have a fisherman in the house? Use it to tie flies.

[Living with Dogs] 4 Tips For Successful Outings

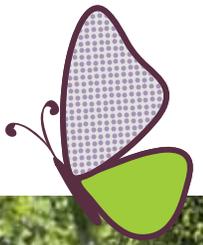
A successful outing with your dog is one that's safe and enjoyable for both of you. As natural and easy as that sounds, it often doesn't happen unless you prepare for and practice it. Here are some tips for making the most of your time out and about with Fido.

1. Preparation is half the battle. Before you go anywhere, think about the challenges you're likely to encounter: bins full of goodies in a pet store, other dogs, people who want to pet your dog, people walking by you at an outdoor café, kids running around in a park, trash on the ground. Decide how you will handle each challenge. Will you move away to create distance? Use treats to keep your dog's attention on you? Use commands your dog is well practiced at (sit, watch, leave-it) to help guide his behavior?

2. Be on the lookout. Actively scan the environment so you can respond proactively to challenges rather than reacting when the distraction is already too close.

3. Work at your dog's level. Is your dog ready to do a down-stay for the full duration of a café lunch or should you start with a shorter visit like a trip for coffee? Has your dog noticed the chew bones in a lower bin at the pet store? A leave-it, let's go, or watch from several feet away is more likely to work than when he has his nose in the bin.

4. Set your dog up for success. If your outing was not as enjoyable as you would like, spend some time at home working on the behaviors your dog struggled with. Then pick an easier outing, such as the park during the morning lull instead of the afternoon rush. Bring tastier treats and go before your dog's mealtime, not after.



[A World of Dogs] Dogs In Weddings



Dogs have been part of family celebrations, including weddings, for many years. But in the last decade or so, the number of dogs participating in the actual wedding ceremony of their human parents has exploded. In a trend that's easily trackable in the age of Facebook, Pinterest, and Flickr, dogs in tuxedos or wearing flower wreaths trailing happy couples as they walk down the aisle is an ever more common sight. On duty as ring bearers and flower girls—perhaps even as dog of honor—they pose for wedding photos, socialize at receptions, and boogie with two-legged guests. Some less socially inclined pooches are not physically present during the party, but are mentioned in the vows or have their likenesses sculpted into wedding cakes or gracing the invitations.



And why not? Dogs are an integral part of the family, so including them in this ancient family ritual is only natural. Of course, when animals are involved, no amount of preparation and practice guarantees a perfect outcome; a sense of humor is essential in case the big day has a few canine-related glitches. Certain commonsense precautions will help keep mishaps to a minimum, though. Don't overdress the wedding dog, for example, lest she spend the entire ceremony trying to wiggle out of her outfit. It also pays to find a wedding photographer who is experienced at working with pets—a well-timed squeaky toy can mean the difference between a so-so photograph and a lifelong treasured memento for the living room wall.

If the plan is to make a strong, young, or high-energy dog part of the day, getting help from a professional dog trainer can be well worth the investment, especially if the designated dog escort isn't used to dogs. Additionally, many wedding planners now offer pet-friendly services that take into account the quirks and demands of furry guests. Short of that, enlist help and back-up dog handling from dog savvy friends in attendance. After all, a wedding is about love and about family, and for many of us, neither is complete without our four-legged friends.

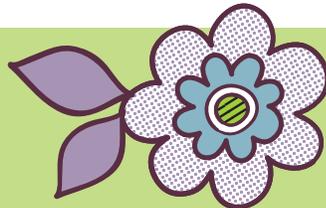
[Dogs in Action] Water Work

The highest-performing dogs in this sport are typically dogs bred for water work—Newfoundlands for water rescue and Portuguese Water Dogs (PWDs) for working alongside fishermen. But all water-loving dogs can participate at some level. Both water work activities—rescue work and assisting fishing vessels—form the basis for a set of water trials. Water rescue involves tasks like underwater retrieves, swimming to a person (conscious or unconscious) and towing him to shore or to a boat, jumping off a boat to retrieve things like life jackets, and taking life rings and knotted lines to “victims.” Working with fishermen involves underwater retrieves and retrieving overboard fishing nets or ropes, plus carrying messages between boats, swimming fishing floats into place, towing nets, and more.



Both categories of the sport demand great teamwork, but the physical demands of the dog and handler are moderate unless you compete at the top level. The complexity of the training is also moderate, making water work a great sport for any active dog who enjoys getting wet and whose people live near a safe, accessible body of water, for example a lake, pool, pond, stream, river, or the ocean.

[Healthy Dog] Lumps & Bumps



Few things are more unsettling than giving your dog a good scratch and suddenly feeling a growth under your fingers. Conditioned as we are to think “cancer,” the experience may well scare the bejesus out of you. And yes, lumps and bumps should always be taken seriously, but there’s no need to panic right away. Growths are common on dogs and thankfully the vast majority are benign. Two common types of lumps are lipomas, fat deposits just under the skin, and sebaceous cysts, caused by obstructed oil glands. Other types of cysts are also frequent, as are infected hair follicles.

The only way to know for sure, however, if your dog’s bump is good-natured is to consult your veterinarian, who in many cases will turn to a veterinary pathologist for a microscopic examination of a cell sample. Also, even benign lumps can become problematic if left alone, so at first feel of a lump, make that appointment.

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT *The Shetland Sheepdog (Sheltie)*

The lineage of this nimble Lassie-lookalike herding dog includes Collie, Border Collie, King Charles Spaniel, Pomeranian, and more. Predictably, such a genetic cocktail produces a trainable, alert, and hard-working dog never happier than when she has a job to do. As clever as they are gorgeous, Shelties excel at herding, obedience, and agility, but can put their paws to many sports and games. A kid-friendly size, playfulness, and strong instincts to guard people and property make the Sheltie a great—if noisy—family dog. Rated 6th most intelligent dog (per Dr Stanley Coren’s *The Intelligence of Dogs*), Shelties have ranked among the most popular breeds in the U.S. for decades. With her stunning looks, the Sheltie is often portrayed in fine arts, from vintage porcelain to such oil paintings as Victorian master Charles Burton Barber’s *A Little Girl and her Sheltie*. To give a Sheltie a home, search online for nearby rescue groups.



[City Dog Country Dog]

City Dog Country Dog is a training and behavior consulting business, serving dogs and their families in the Portland Metro area and on the central Oregon coast. We strive to provide effective and enjoyable training and life enrichment opportunities for companion dogs, therapy dogs, and service dogs. Our range of services includes: In-home private training and behavior consulting, day training, Walk & Train, Play & Train, city and country Board & Train programs, puppy socialization and training, Call of the Wild Dog Camps and other nature adventures, K9 Nose Work groups, Canine Good Citizen training and testing, and more. We are passionate about quality of life for dogs and people – whether you live in the city or the country. we have exciting possibilities for you

We also offer private and semi-private coaching sessions to help you and your puppy start off on the right paw. We can help with all kinds of puppy-raising challenges!

Please check out our website and contact us for more information.

[Tips & Tools]

If You Find A Lost Or Stolen Dog

Always put safety first. A scared, possibly injured or sick animal may bite or run. Approach carefully, using a soothing voice. Then:

Restrain the dog. Use a rope, scarf, belt, or a leash, if possible.

Take the dog to safety. Lure her into your car or walk her to the nearest animal shelter or animal control agency (ACA) or, if injured, directly to a vet clinic or animal hospital. If you can't transport the dog to a safe place, call the nearest animal control agency. In rural areas, call the sheriff or police.

Try to find the dog's family. If you take the dog home, notify the local animal shelter or ACA. Give them a description of the dog in case the owner calls them. Also have her scanned at your local vet clinic for microchip information and consider placing a "found" ad in local newspapers.

We are delighted to welcome **Julia Provonchee** to our training staff. Julia has completed the Animal Behavior College dog trainer program, and has a Master's degree in Anthrozoology from Canisius College, NY. At the end of her four month internship with City Dog Country Dog, we couldn't let her go! She's already an asset to our team, with special interests in canine communication, dog behavior problems, dog bite prevention, and the human-canine bond.

Julia's dog, Quinn, stars in our new video *Exercising Your Leash Reactive Dog*, currently in production.

Caroline Spark owns and operates City Dog Country Dog. With a PhD in psychology and a background in counseling and adult education, Caroline has nearly 30 years of experience in helping people solve problems, meet learning goals, and achieve positive change. Caroline is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer (CPDT-KA) through the Association for Pet Dog Trainers, a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant (CDBC) through the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants, a Karen Pryor Academy Certified Training Partner, an AKC Canine Good Citizen evaluator, a Certified Dognition Evaluator, and a licensed presenter for Family Paws Parent Education (Dogs & Storks; Dog & Baby Connection).

Heather Ohmart Heather is a Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT-KA) who specializes in "all things puppy" – raising and training puppies to be family companions, and for therapy and service work. Heather provides board & train services, Puppy Social events, and in-home training and behavior consultations in the Portland metro area. She is also developing an innovative therapy dog program in cooperation with local health service professionals.

Karolin Klinck completes the City Dog Country Dog training team. Karolin offers private and semi-private puppy coaching, day training (in-home training while owners are absent) and in-home coaching and problem solving sessions. She is also an instructor at Play & Train Days and Call of the Wild Dog Camps in Yachats, OR.

Mary Williams Mary is City Dog Country Dog's Office Manager. With Office Dog Suzi by her side. Mary keeps things running smoothly, coordinating one million and one things with skill, efficiency, warmth, and good humor.

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