

# Rendez-Vous Fredericton: Higher Education for Pet Professionals

May 16, 17 & 18, 2009

Fredericton, NB

## Meet Your Speakers

### **ROBIN BENNETT**

Robin Bennett is the co-owner of All About Dogs, the largest dog training company in Virginia. Since beginning her company in 1993 she has grown from a sole proprietorship to a Corporation that boasts twelve instructors teaching private lessons as well as numerous group classes and behavior modification lessons for shy, fearful and aggressive dogs. Robin has an excellent working relationship with local veterinarians as well as the Prince William Animal Control Bureau. She is regularly recommended by both groups to evaluate potentially dangerous dogs.

Robin successfully owned and operated her own dog daycare for many years. Her book *All About Dog Daycare: A Blueprint for Success* is the number one reference on owning a daycare, and Robin is a highly sought-after speaker on numerous dog daycare and playgroup topics around the country. Her latest book, *Off-Leash Dog Play*, is the leading source for those who want to learn how to keep dogs safe in playgroups. She is an active member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT) and has a B.A. degree from Roanoke College. Robin regularly attends dog training seminars, has earned Level 1 certification through the Certification Council for Pet Dog Trainers (CCPDT), the first national certification for dog trainers.

Robin's expertise is regularly tapped by the media. Recent press includes a mention in *Washingtonian Magazine* as one of the best training facilities in the DC area, the *Washington Post*, the *Potomac News*, *BARK Magazine*, *Dogs USA Magazine* and *Training Secrets for Rottweilers Magazine*.

### **JEAN DODDS**

Dr. Dodds received the D.V.M. degree with honors in 1964 from the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Toronto. In 1965 she accepted a position with the New York State Health Department in Albany and began comparative studies of animals with inherited and acquired bleeding diseases. Her position there began as a Research Scientist and culminated as Chief, Laboratory of Hematology, Wadsworth Center.

In 1980 she also became Executive Director, New York State Council on Human Blood and Transfusion Services. This work continued full-time until 1986 when she moved to Southern California to establish Hemopet, the first nonprofit national blood bank program for animals.

From 1965-1986, she was a member of many national and international committees on hematology, animal models of human disease, veterinary medicine, and laboratory animal science. Dr. Dodds was a grantee of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NIH) and has over 150 research publications.

She was formerly President of the Scientist's Center for Animal Welfare; and Chairman of the Committee on Veterinary Medical Sciences and Vice-Chairman of the Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources, National Academy of Sciences. In 1974 Dr. Dodds was selected as Outstanding Woman Veterinarian of the Year, AVMA Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado; in 1977 received the Region I Award for Outstanding Service to the Veterinary Profession from the American Animal Hospital Association, Cherry Hill, New Jersey; in 1978 and 1990 received the Gaines Fido Award as Dogdom's Woman of the Year; and the Award of Merit in 1978 in Recognition of Special Contributions to the Veterinary Profession from the American Animal Hospital Association, Salt Lake City, Utah.

In 1984 she was awarded the Centennial Medal from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. In 1987 she was elected a distinguished Practitioner of the National Academy of Practice in Veterinary Medicine. In 1994 she was given the Holistic Veterinarian of the Year Award from the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association. She was the Editor of *Advances in Veterinary Science and Comparative Medicine* for Academic Press, and is an active member of numerous professional societies. She was recently a member of the National Research Council/BANR Committee on National Needs for Research in Veterinary Science, which released its report in July 2005. She is an inventor on numerous patents.

Hemopet began in 1986 and its range of nonprofit services and educational activities include:

- Providing canine blood components, blood bank supplies, and related services
- Adopting retired Greyhound blood donors as companions through Pet Life-Line
- Contributing to the social needs of the less fortunate in our society by volunteer and interactive programs with the Greyhounds
- Consulting in clinical pathology through Hemolife
- Teaching, animal health care professionals, companion animal fanciers, and pet owners on hematology and blood banking, immunology, endocrinology, nutrition and holistic medicine, nationwide and overseas

## **HELIX FAIRWEATHER**

Helix Fairweather has been training with operant conditioning since 1996 and is truly committed to this way of communicating with dogs. She teaches Clicker Trained Dog Agility classes and Beginning Clicker Training classes at her home in Oregon and offers private consultations helping people and their dogs learn to live together and have fun. She also teaches online agility classes for clicker trainers to homeschool their clicker-trained agility dog prior to taking a local agility class. Helix is a contributing author to *Clean Run* magazine and *The Clicker Journal* and has been a ClickerExpo faculty member for four years to date. She is a faculty member at the Karen Pryor Academy.

Helix has a BS in physics from Oregon State University and an MS in physics and astrophysics from the University of New Mexico. She says, "I went off to grad school to be an astrophysicist and came back home hooked on dog training." Helix is an active agility competitor in the Pacific Northwest and has attended seminars with many top competitors. In July 2000, she completed the White Mountain Agility School Instructors' Certification Program.

## **SIMON GADBOIS**

Simon Gadbois completed his doctoral studies in Animal Behaviour at Dalhousie University (Halifax). He focused on non-invasive studies of the relationship between hormones and social behaviour in wolves, as well as action sequences in wild canids (wolves, coyotes, and red foxes) in the context of food hiding behaviour. More recently, he has been involved in studying affiliative behaviours (e.g., play, greeting behaviours) in wolves, cognition in dogs and finally, scent (olfactory) detection and discrimination in dogs with various applications. He has been teaching animal behaviour and behavioural neuroscience at Dalhousie University since 1996.

## **LANA (MITCHELL) HORTON**

I've had dogs most of my life. Our family dogs did interesting tricks including pulling me on my sled in the winter, and I never got tired of teaching new and strange behaviors. While most kids sing and dance to show off at family gatherings, I showed off my dogs' tricks.

As an adult and small-time horse rancher, my dogs performed interesting chores like getting tools for me, holding horses, and moving cattle to the cutting arena. A friend was over one day when I was rewiring a horse trailer and witnessed my dog running first to the barn for a screwdriver, and then for my boots. A long-time Aussie breeder and breed ring exhibitor, she was amazed. She spread the word, and I got pulled into service dog training.

One of my dogs, a Doberman, had a CDX when I got her and a neighbor was an obedience exhibitor, so it was natural progression for me to venture into the obedience ring in the mid-1980s. The bug immediately bit and I started training for obedience rather than just farm chores. The first puppy I trained was a Rhodesian Ridgeback, who earned her UD at 3 years old with many first places and High In Trials. She maintained her status as #1 chore dog on the farm, but was also a welcome member on camping trips where she performed chores like bringing in any horse that wore a rope, warning of strangers nearby, chasing off bears, and dragging large branches to the campfire; she was brilliant.

I started herding in 1987 with my Ridgeback due to a need to move cattle from a pasture into the cutting arena; it couldn't be done with just one horse. Figuring a dog would help, I found a trainer, learned a bit about herding, and found that one horse and one well-trained dog could easily move cattle to a place they didn't want to go. The herding bug bit me some back then, but only for moving stock, since AKC didn't yet have a herding program.

My training methods were "interesting" 20 years ago, using a lot of force methods, but my next puppy was a herding breed, a rough Collie who didn't tolerate force training too well. A friend and I were talking about it one day and she mentioned Karen Pryor, who lived about 40 miles away from me.

I contacted Karen Pryor and we began sharing training information. My understanding of intricate behaviors and hers of operant conditioning greatly expanded our combined knowledge base. We not only became friends, but also did several seminars together over the next few years. We continually experimented, solved problems, and honed our skills.

It was during this time I came up with the "Penalty Yards" method of shaping dogs not to pull. It was first demonstrated at one of our seminars and within a few days was adopted all over the world. I found this

amazing, mostly because I realized I had come up with something nobody had thought of before. That's when I came to truly believe that creativity is paramount in clicker training.

### **COLLEEN PELAR**

With more than 17 years of experience helping parents navigate the challenges living with kids and dogs, Colleen Pelar has honed a unique perspective filled with humor and practical, easy-to-implement tips for success. Colleen wants to ensure that kids and dogs have happy, healthy relationships.

*Living with Kids and Dogs . . . Without Losing Your Mind* is the only book that covers the dog-related needs of each stage of childhood from birth through the teen years. Recognizing that this book filled a pressing need, the Humane Society of the United States bestowed its prestigious Compassionate Care Award on Colleen. *Living with Kids and Dogs* is also a proud winner of the Parent-to-Parent Adding Wisdom Award and the National Association of Parenting Publications Gold Award.

As co-owner of All About Dogs, LLC, the largest dog-training facility in northern Virginia, Colleen oversees numerous group classes, private lessons, behavioral evaluations, and behavior modification programs. Named one of the best training facilities in the DC area by Washingtonian magazine, All About Dogs caters to families and looks for ways to help parents successfully integrate a dog into their busy lives.

Colleen is an active member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT), the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC), Toastmasters International, and the Dog Writers Association of America (DWAA); she has a B.A. from Penn State. Colleen regularly attends dog-training seminars and has earned the Certified Pet Dog Trainer (CPDT) and Certified Dog Behavior Consultant (CDBC) titles.

### **SEAN SENECHAL**

Sean Senechal is the founder of ANIMALSIGN Center ([www.animalsign.org](http://www.animalsign.org)) where she is an animal language educator. Her revolutionary approach has been endorsed by the Koko (Gorilla) Foundation, Roger Abrantes (the world dog language expert), veterinarians, and local clients. A cognitive physiologist, she examines the capability of dogs, cats and horses to learn language. She gives workshops and seminars in person, by radio, and tele-conference, and has been featured on Animal Planet.

Sean Senechal is a college instructor in Biology, Behavior, and Cognition, focusing on animal communication. She has lectured at UC Davis, CSUMB, and Hartnell College's Animal Health Technology program, and the Assistance Dog Institute. She teaches AnimalSign Language at her center and at CSUMB (Cal. State Monterey Bay) Olli program. Ms. Senechal has attended UC Berkeley, SF State, and UC Davis, and is a member of AAAS, American Behavior Society & Assoc. of Pet Dog Trainers. Her book *ANIMALSIGN To You. Imagine! Signing Is Not Just for Primates Anymore* explains a breakthrough method enabling animals to better communicate TO you.

## **DANI WEINBERG**

Dani Weinberg lives in New Mexico with her husband, Jerry, and their German shepherds. She has been teaching dog training and doing behavior consulting for many years, and has trained and titled her own dogs in competition obedience, tracking, and herding. Dani is the author of *Teaching People Teaching Dogs*, published in 2006, and numerous journal articles about dog training and instructing.

Dani has a PhD in anthropology and was a university professor and an organizational consultant before becoming a fulltime dog trainer. She brings her knowledge about learning and communication to her work with dogs. Dani calls her practice "Dogs & Their People," and that captures her interest in helping people enhance their relationships with their dogs. Dani is a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant through the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants, and an Animal Evaluator for the Delta Society's Pet Partners program. She is also a Field Instructor for Paws With a Cause, a national organization that trains and places assistance dogs. She is a faculty member with the Karen Pryor Academy.

## **SUE ALEXANDER**

Sue Alexander owns and operates Dogs in the Park in Guelph, Ontario. Dogs in the Park provides dog behaviour consulting services to the local community, and specializes in dealing with dogs with serious aggression issues. Sue is also the head trainer of K9 Helpers Service Dogs Inc., and trains dogs to help those with psychiatric disabilities. Sue is partnered with D'fer a six year old Chesapeake Bay Retriever who helps to mitigate the effects of her anxiety disorder and depression.

Aside from the world of dogs, Sue shares her life with her husband John on their farm in Breslau, Ontario.