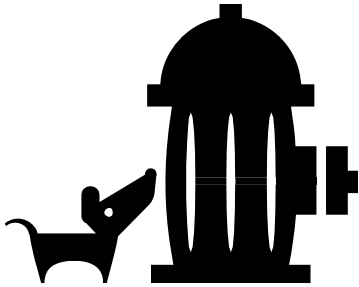


# Fire Hydrant Chat

**Fall 2010**

## **What happened to summer?**

**By Laura Tyler CPDT-KA  
Total Teamwork Training LLC**



As always, the summer months disappear and all the activities we attempt to add to our schedule somehow seem to vanish overnight.

We started January 2010 with Head Start Puppy Class at Pet Kare Clinic in Steamboat, followed by two Family Dog Classes in Steamboat through the end of May. Craig Head Start Puppy Class and Family Dog Training classes were filled as well, along with Meeker Family Dog classes.

During April we announced our first Rally Obedience class here in Craig too. Diane Calim organized an excellent introduction to the sport of AKC Rally Obedience! The instructors at Total Teamwork Training took full advantage of the class and we all enrolled. It was a delightful experience to be sitting in the classroom with my dog by my chair. Skippy actually thought it was rather strange at first. We thoroughly enjoyed the class.

Sandra and her English Bull Terrier Stuart along Skippy and I entered our first Rally competition in the Roaring Fork AKC dog show in Eagle, Colorado in July. Sandra and Stuart earned their first Novice Rally obedience qualifier and passed their AKC Canine Good Citizens certification. Super Congratulations to Sandra and Stuart! You're the best! I love Stuart! Our Rally class instructor, Diane, and her dog Torry the Border Collie, finished their Rally Excellent title! Hooray for that great teamwork!!! Skippy and I did pretty good too! Two qualifiers in Novice Rally and our Canine Good Citizens certificate made me very proud of my little dog.

**And now the rest of the story.....** It was the first dog show that either Sandra or I have attended in over 20 years! We had a blast! There were 685 dogs entered in this show. The show was held at the fairgrounds in Eagle in their new super huge exhibit building. This is one great big open room full of dogs! There were numerous grooming areas set up with big blow dryers and fur flying, dogs barking and people in a hurry to get to their events. It was total sensory overload! Especially for one shy little Rat Terrier named Skippy. We walked into that building at 8 am the first morning and we didn't make it but about 20' inside the building when Skippy said, "OK, I'm outta here!" I was pretty sure the environment would take time for her to adjust. She was overwhelmed with the sights and sounds and smells of "dog show" and of course, I felt her worry and distress. We spent quite a lot of time taking walks around the outside of building and going in and coming out and going in and coming out until she began to feel OK about it. It was noisy for me, I can't imagine the sounds those ears of her's were trying to process. And all the smells.....

Skippy and I were the last obedience team to compete that day. Good, because we had plenty of time to let the atmosphere settle in for her and bad because it was very warm in the building and everybody else was packing up and dragging equipment, crates, dogs, etc. out the big double doors right next to our ring. It was a real feat for Skippy to make it all the way through the course with a passing score. I was very proud of my little dog. She actually got a 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbon! Icing on the cake!

The second day was equally warm and we were again the last team to compete. We barely qualified but to me it was a gold medal performance for my little rescue dog. It made me even more aware of just how much we expect our dogs to just accept any environment without question. Remember how we talk about generalization? It is a skill that needs to be nurtured and not taken for granted in our relationship with our dogs. Ahhhh, but I digress....

The June Head Start Puppy Training in Craig was very well attended! We followed up with another puppy class and included our American Kennel Club Puppy S.T.A.R. program for puppy families that chose to come back for a second class.

The July Head Start Puppy Training was a fantastic repeat performance with more puppy graduates participating in the S.T.A.R program. August was filled with puppies again. What a great summer for Head Start Puppy Training!!! We always say if we were only allowed to teach one kind of class it would be puppy class. The training and social skill development prior to 16 weeks of age seems to help a puppy grow up smarter and be more adaptable to changing environments. And of course the puppy play time is a big hit with puppies and families. The people that happen to be walking in the mall here in Craig would stop and smile to see the puppies chasing after one another and having a good time. What great learning opportunities for our young ones! Everyone delights in the slobbery rough and tumble of puppy play time!

Our congratulations go out to our latest AKC Puppy S.T.A.R. graduates:

**March 2010:**

Javen Gumber and Kate - Border Collie  
Mary Nelson and Bandit - Jack Russell Terrier  
Rick Nelson and Petey - Jack Russell Terrier

**April 2010:**

Clancie Guinn and Emma - Border Collie

**July 2010:**

Lesley Lumpkin and Tusker - Bernese Mtn. Dog  
Tarissa Fears and Abby - Rottweiler  
Lynn and Dennis Falloon and Sadie - Labrador Retriever  
Robert, Caecilia and Briana Woods Family and Wall-E - Bichon Frise  
Alan and Lorraine Lyons and Wyatt - Jack Russell Terrier

**August 2010:**

Elaine Gray and Riggins - Labrador Retriever  
Lynn and Larry Worrell and Bella - German Shepherd Dog



Congratulations to Beth Dennehy and her Bernese Mountain Dog, Mr. Wellington! They have earned two of three qualifiers toward their AKC Rally Advanced title! And they also earned their AKC Canine Good Citizens certificate! We are very proud of you!!!

For more information on all our training programs go to our web site: [www.totalteamworktraining.com](http://www.totalteamworktraining.com)



I imagine some of you are wondering what happened to the workshops we were talking about early this spring? Puppies! That's what! The opportunity to get these young puppies off to a great start in life became our instant priority. Our facility here in Craig is large enough to accommodate two separate puppy play areas. We had families wanting the classes and we just did it!

Sandra and I still have plans to put workshops and one day seminars together for later this fall. We'll keep you posted as this develops.

So now September is here and we have announced the fall schedule for Family Dog Training. Word of mouth is our best advertising and we are currently filling classes in Steamboat, Meeker and Craig. Welcome to you all, both new students and those attending class again.

Here's the Fall schedule:

**Steamboat Family Dog Class (6 weeks) - Thursday Class: 6 pm to 7:30 pm - September 16<sup>th</sup> (no dogs tonight) September 23 -skip 9/30 - October 7 - 14 - 21 at Christian Heritage School**

**Meeker Family Dog Class (6 weeks) - Monday Class: 6 pm to 7:30 pm - September 13<sup>th</sup> (no dogs tonight) September 20 -27 - October 4 - 11 - 18 at Rio Blanco Fairgrounds**

**Craig Family Dog Class (6 weeks) - Tuesday Class: 6 pm to 7:30 pm September 14<sup>th</sup> (no dogs tonight) September 21 -28 - October 5 - 12 - 19 at Centennial Mall**

**Canine Good Citizens class - This class will be 4 weeks long with testing done the last class. The family dog class is a pre-requisite to the Canine Good Citizens class. Family dog builds the foundation training to pass the CGC test. Dates: Tuesday October 26 - November 2 - 9 - 16.**

**Craig Rally Obedience Class taught by Diane Calim - The family dog class is a pre-requisite to take this class. Rally obedience is a fast growing AKC event that allows you to have fun with your dog while performing obedience maneuvers. Contact Diane to sign up 1-970-620-1685 Starts Wednesday October 27 - November 3 - 10 - 17 - 24 - December 1.**

**School is now in session so please watch out for our kids and pets!**

