

# totalteamwörk TRAINING LLC



## Happy Holidays!

Here at Total Teamwork Training we're taking time to look back over the year 2009. It's been quite outstanding in many ways.

We taught more classes, including Head Start Puppy Training sponsored by Pet Kare Clinic in Steamboat. We offered new classes; our advanced City Dog class and AKC's Puppy S.T.A.R class, here in Craig. We expanded our Family Dog Training program to Meeker and added new instructor, Arlene Estes and two new assistants for the Meeker training program. Next year we'll offer even more classes and add some very fun and interesting clicker training classes. Watch for our future class schedule in the newsletter or check back on the web site from time to time.

Both Sandra and I have been busy working with private training and behavior modification work. It's both challenging and rewarding.

We just finished up the Thanksgiving holiday and I have to say, I am thankful for all the wonderful people and incredible, sometimes naughty, dogs I've met this past year. Thanks for providing me with the opportunity to help make the lives of our canine buddies more compatible with our human requirements. Give them all a rub for me.



We packed up our training room at Centennial Mall, and put everything into storage until after the Christmas Holidays. Christmas for Kids program is set up there for the time being providing toys for kids in need. We'll be back in January to start off 2010 with new class activities.

## News Flash!

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

This past summer I found a baby robin while I was cleaning up the dog yard. Over my lifetime I've rescued many small animals and most of them either survived in spite of me or didn't have a chance. This little bird was the exception to the rule.



When I first found Little Beaky Robin his health and safety were my main concerns. I never imagined my time with him would become a book for kids. And I certainly didn't know if the story of Beaky would have a happy ending. I began writing about it in my journal and taking pictures. He was such a sight to see! The fact that he would take nourishment from me was heartwarming. (Just so you know, I used the same soft dog food we use as training treats.) I mashed it up and used a dropper to feed him. Six days after I found him, Beaky flew off to be a wild bird and I sat down and finished his story. The epilogue contains a special section on the day I spent teaching Little Beaky some tricks. It's a glimpse into learning theory and the gentle training methods we use, written in an understandable style for kids. I sent it out via email to a few friends and their response was overwhelming! Write a book! And so it is... The Story of Little Beaky Robin.

Please join me for my book signing party at Downtown Books 543 Yampa Ave. in Craig on Saturday December 19<sup>th</sup> from 1 pm to 3 pm



## Christmas Puppies

If you are thinking about getting a puppy for your family or someone you know for Christmas, here are a few things to consider:

Are you ready and willing to make this puppy a full time priority in your life?

Do you have the time?

Does everybody in the family really want a dog?

Have you researched the breeding of this puppy?

Does he have his initial shots and worming?

Have you met the parents of this puppy?

Are there small children in your family?

What happens after Christmas vacation and the puppy is left at home alone? Do you have a plan?



Am I the Grinch or what?!

Everybody loves puppies! I especially love puppy breath. Puppies are soft and smooshy and they sleep in your lap and make you feel needed. This lasts until they're about 11 weeks old. Am I right? Then they begin to have the confidence to explore on their own. We've spent so much time playing with them and offering them old socks and sticks and leather rawhides and playing tug and rough housing and getting them to growl and act vicious and chase us and pull on our pants legs and growl over tug toys then... Then when vacation ends, the puppy is left alone to find ways to fill his energy requirements without a human present. Hey! Where is everybody? They begin to assert themselves. They begin to make their own choices.

Make sure you are ready for this new puppy to become a central part of your life. Be ready ahead of time. A little planning will go a long way to help this new puppy succeed. Check out our link to Dog Star daily here on our web site. Dr. Ian Dunbar has written a book called Before You Get Your Puppy. You can download it and copy it from your own computer printer, for free! The guidelines and suggestions in this book will be a valuable addition to your puppy planning. Check out our Dogwise web site button if you are interested in giving books on dogs and dog training for Christmas. If you want suggestions call or email me.



## Tog Dog Award

Congratulations to Beth Dennehy and her Bernese Mountain dog, Mr. Wellington. They attended our Family Dog Training class in Steamboat this past summer. Beth continued training with Mr. Wellington and began competing in AKC Rally Obedience competitions. Her success story is written below:

### **Mr. Wellington has his first title!**

By Beth Dennehy

Wellington, a 14 month old male Bernese Mountain Dog and recent graduate of the Total Teamwork Family Dog Training, took up the sport of Rally Obedience in Sept 09. Rally is a fairly new AKC Obedience sport which helps both dog and owner train for good manners while having

fun! At any Rally Trial there are 10-15 "stations" set up where the dog/owner team must perform a function such as: sit, down, walk in a tight 360 circle left or right, do a figure 8, etc. Each team starts with 100 pts. Points are deducted for errors on the course, refusal to perform the function, pulling on the leash or missing a station. Judges want to see the team working together and having a good time. To earn a title, the dog must get three qualifying scores (over 70 Points) under three different judges.

Wellington's first foray into the Rally ring was Sept 5th at the Greeley Colorado dog show. I was glad he completed the course happily and thrilled to place 4th out of 12 with a score of 92! His next entry was Sept. 26th in Grand Junction. He improved his score to a 95 and placed 4th out of 12 again! The next day we were faced with a difficult course filled with 15 multi action stations (lots of room to mess up!). He had a BALL with the extra challenge and not only received a qualifying third score to earn his Rally Novice Title (RN) but placed 1st out of 11 teams and was the youngest dog in the group by far!

Thanks to Total Teamwork Training and the basics we learned in Family Dog School, Wellington has his first Title and we have a new reason to train & play, everyday!

I will continue to work with Wellington on focus over the winter.... he is getting better and better with his behavior.

He's still kind of crazy sometimes but he's really starting to understand what's expected. I'm excited for his future!



Have a safe and wonderful  
holiday season!