



# totalteamwörk TRAINING LLC

## Spring 2010 Newsletter!

[www.totalteamworktraining.com](http://www.totalteamworktraining.com)

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Laura Tyler - editor

Spring Greetings! Total Teamwork Training is adding new classes and workshops to our spring and summer schedule. Our newest class, Rally Obedience, is a great way to continue your family dog training and set some attainable goals for you and your canine buddy. Rally Obedience will also advance your skills for Canine Agility too! Building a working partnership with your dog will take your teamwork to a new level. And it's just plain fun! It's a structured progressive class that incorporates walking on a loose leash, all the basic sits and downs and variations of those exercises. You and your dog participate with other teams at the same level. Rally Obedience competitions are fun because you can talk to your dog and praise him while you move through the course. The atmosphere is very supportive and you get to watch other dog teams perform too.

Diane Calim has agreed to teach this new class for Total Teamwork Training. She brings her years of experience in AKC obedience competition and 4H leadership to the program. The course is 6 weeks long and one hour per session each week. There will be a Rally Fun Match here in Craig this summer, so you'll have a chance to try out your skills among friends and dog people right here in the valley. Diane is in the process of working toward her certification to become a Rally Obedience Judge as part of her continuing education. Welcome aboard Diane!!! I am excited to take your class with Skippy!

**Our Meeker teaching team** ... Arlene Estes and I have been conducting our Family Dog Training Classes in Meeker for over a year now. We finally have her picture and bio on our "About Us" page. Arlene is just crazy enough to have four, yes; I said 4, Border Collies. Really cool dogs!



And on top of that Toby Smith, also of Meeker, is in training to become a co-instructor for our Meeker Family Dog class. Toby is working a beautiful Standard Poodle named Max. Max actually thinks he's part Border Collie since he plays with Arlene's youngest one, Deuce. We have wonderful families participating in our classes in Meeker and really great dogs too! Arlene brings a refreshing sense of humor and fun to our classes. Thanks Arlene! And thanks Toby! Framing all 4 border collies in the picture in a pasture full of fresh tasting horse manure was really a kick! 14 year old Megan had her own idea about picture time. She's off munching meadow muffins.

## What the Heck is Clicker Training?

This exciting new day long workshop will be scheduled in time for our next newsletter. We held one at RK Pet Ranch in Oak Creek last month as a fund raiser for Routt County Search and Rescue. A big THANK YOU to Peggy Hass for the use of your beautiful facility!

Clicker training has been around for years! Sea Life Park, wild animal parks and zoos use this safe and humane training method to teach the wildest most dangerous captive animals to participate in their own care. It incorporates an acoustic marker - the click - to deliver information to the animal that what he is doing at that moment is correct. And he is then rewarded for it. It's a completely hands off approach to animal training. It incorporates a high level of positive reinforcement and a step by step method to teach an amazing array of behaviors. Dogs, horses, cats and even fish can be trained using this method of operant conditioning. If you have a well-mannered and sociable dog and would like to broaden your communication and relationship, then call me or Sandra to be placed on the waiting list for this one day workshop.

## New Class Schedule

**Craig** - Head Start Puppy Training and AKC Puppy S.T.A.R class - Starts March 29<sup>th</sup> 6 pm to 7:30 pm at Centennial Mall

**NEW CLASS!!!** - Beginning Rally Obedience (Pre-requisite Family Dog Class) - Starts April 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 to 7:30 pm at Centennial Mall Instructor Diane Calim

**What the Heck is Clicker Training?** TBA - Laura Tyler CPDT-KA and Sandra Kruczek CPDT-KA

**Steamboat Springs** - Head Start Puppy Training - Starts April 17<sup>th</sup> 2 pm to 3:30 pm at Pet Kare Clinic

**Family Dog Training** - Starts April 17<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 11:30 am at Christian Heritage School

## Congratulations to Diane and Torry!

Rally Obedience FUN!

By Diane Calim

Torry and I went to Denver for a 4 Day AKC Dog show. Rally qualifying scores are from 70 to 100. Three qualifying scores earn you a title. We were entered in Novice B. Friday we got 82, Saturday 91, Sunday 88. We earned our title of RN (rally novice). On Monday we moved up to Rally advanced which is off lead and includes jumps. Torry and I earned a 95 and Placed 2nd out of 5 dogs. Not bad for our First show. Thanks to all who helped us have a wonderful time.





## Head Start Puppy Training and Puppy S.T.A.R Class Headlines

We have expanded our Head Start Puppy Class to include continuing education for our youngest class participants! Our families who come back for a second session of puppy classes have the opportunity to work toward their AKC Puppy S.T.A.R. certificate. This is a Win/Win for both families and puppies!

AKC's program provides an incentive for new puppy owners to continue training and socialization with other well adjusted puppies. Upon completion of the class and passing the test, owners can send in their completed Test Summary Form to AKC and earn their first certification through the American Kennel Club.

**Socialization•Training•Activity•Responsibility** is the trademark of this program. We are finding that the puppies that continue to be involved in our program are developing very social play skills and their owners are becoming better trainers! With this wonderful response to our program, we are creating an ongoing program for our families, to provide a structured and enriching learning environment on a regular basis. What a great way to spend quality time with family!

We have 3 new graduates of the Puppy S.T.A.R. program!

(left) Javon Gumber and his Border Collie "Kate"

(center) Rick Nelson and his Jack Russel Terrier "Pete"

(right) Mary Nelson and her Jack Russel Terrier "Bandit" (Pete's brother)



We will begin to offer a second concurrent class with our Family Dog Class to give our older dogs and families a chance to work toward the AKC Canine Good Citizens certificate. And our Rally Obedience class will offer our students a lifelong outlet for structured activity that encourages long term goals and continuing education.



## Spring Time Really Stinks!

As the snow melts away, the accumulation of trash and dog poop around town is really disgusting! Those of us who regularly clean up after our dogs can become very discouraged at the lack of consideration dog walkers show to the rest of the community.

It takes so little effort to stop, take out your clean up bag, place your hand inside like a glove, pick up the poop and turn the bag over the pile. It's usually a short walk to find a trash bin. And if your dog has diarrhea, he should probably not be on the walk until it's cleared up. What he just left behind might be a transmittable disease!

Last year Sandra, Arlene and I attended a Zoonotic disease awareness and infection control prevention workshop sponsored by Colorado Northwest Community College in Rangely. Dr. Katie Steneroden from CSU was the presenter.

In the context of the workshop, Zoonotic refers to diseases that can be transmitted between species including animal to human and animal to animal. There are a lot of nasty little parasites and germs that linger on for months in a pile of dog poop. When left in public parks it can be stepped on by kids playing. That gets walked into your home and those nasty little germs can get on the hands and into the mouths of kids. Internal parasites can be transmitted orally.

Puppies are "de-wormed" during the initial standard vaccination protocol. After that a yearly stool check for your dog will help you stay ahead of problems. If your dog has had access to raw game meat or other dead things then you should probably ask your veterinarian to analyze a stool sample.

I carry extra poop bags with me on my walks and on occasion offer one to somebody who is attempting to leave the scene of the grime. "Oh, I have an extra bag, here you go" will usually give me a chance to praise them for doing the right thing and interjecting just a bit of awareness about disease prevention.

We just have to keep plugging away at this nasty habit until cleaning up after your dog becomes the standard not the exception!

For additional information on all our programs including private training in your home, behavior problem solutions, fun things to do with your dog or scheduling consultations, contact us here at:

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