

# Newsletter Fall 2004

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Helping People Shape  
Polite Pooches!

## CONSIDERING BUYING A POOCH

Life Long Companion

Things to help you in your decision to find the right pup or dog. Yes, you don't always have to start with a pup to have that wonderful companion for life. But you do have to be responsible about your decision so both you and your new 4 legged family member will have a happy loving long life together.

You need to look at your lifestyle, home, other pets and family when thinking about selecting a new dog. The amount of time you would be willing to spend or invest in your pet. Most pets aren't perfect regardless of how cute and cuddly. They require time just like us for playing, exercising, potty breaks, feeding, grooming, love and some training. Also consider the cost of at least annual vet visits, food, dog supplies such as a crate, leash, grooming aids, food bowl and toys. Maybe you want a dog because you have a sport you enjoy like hunting or you want to go into a dog sport that you have found fascinating like agility or fly ball. Also you have to consider the care of your pet if you have to go away from home without your furry friend. There are a lot of options for pet care that can work for families to fit there needs as well as the pet.



They are a member of your family and have their needs just like you.

Looking at your own situation, desires and possible cost will help in the selection process of what type of dog to consider. If you have a breed in mind do some research on this breed to make sure it would be a good fit for your family. Study the different breeds, sizes and their traits. Use your common sense. The American Kennel Club, [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org), has a wealth of information on breed and breed groups. Talk with a trainer that offers a service in assisting people in selecting a new pet. A trainer, veterinarian and boarding facility are partners in the care and well being of your pet and you. Invest some time in selecting these partners just like you would your own doctor or dentist. Read some books on pet care, training and selecting a dog.

Where do you find your pet? Breeder, trainer, shelters, rescue organizations, breed clubs, veterinarian and newspaper. Have a list of questions ready for them to answer. Go see the dog and or parents if possible. Check the dog's interaction with you, kids or other dogs. The same of the parents. Ask for any history or references. What kind of contract do they offer if any. Nothing is a guarantee but these things can help you greatly.

Puppy, adult, older dog, purebred or mixed breed can all make a great pet. Some might take more patients, attention, training and care than others. The most important thing is to spend enough time investigating before buying even with children involved. Remember you are choosing a life long companion that is part of your family.

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### Helpful Doggie Info:

- Animal Poison Control Center 888-426-4435
- Emergency Animal Clinic Collin County 909 W Spring Creek Pkwy # 410 Plano, TX 972-517-7155
- Collin County SPCA 8411 F.M. 720 McKinney, TX 75070 phone 972.562.7297
- [www.canismajor.com](http://www.canismajor.com)
- [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)
- [www.doginfomat.com](http://www.doginfomat.com)
- [www.aspc.org](http://www.aspc.org)

"All men who are dog men walk a similar trail. The butter-ball pup angling off to one side, or the seasoned field worker hired on for the gun, or the gimpy, stoved-up senior canine citizen who can't hear, can't see run - they all walk to one side one time or another in a dog man's life." *Bill Tarrant*

## VACATION PLANS & FLUFFY

What about the care of your family dog when you are away from home for an extended period of time? Think ahead before those vacation plans or unexpected trips pop up. Have several options available for the care of your pet. It's great if you have parents, friends or neighbors that don't mind watching Fluffy but what happens if they aren't available? What then especially if having to make last minute arrangements?



I'm going on vacation too, got my bag packed!

Be prepared and check out some different pet care services that could be available for your family pet. There are such a variety of pet services available today that something will suit the kind of care you want for your pet while you are away from home whether just a long working day, short trip or an extended vacation.

What choices do you have?

- Doggie daycare is just what it seems a daycare where your pet can go just during the day to have some playtime through out your long day at work.
- Pet sitter will come into your home for daily visits for potty breaks, exercising, feeding, administer medications and check the water as needed. Providing care for various types of pets.

- Boarding facilities vary in style from a kennel type facility to a home style boarding experience with different types of activities offered at each one.

When considering these services check them out. Visit with the owner/operator ask what type of services they provide. Ask for references. What are their requirements? At a minimum they should want proof of your dogs current shot records plus a application with contact information and your dog's information. Look at the cleanliness of the facility. They should be bonded or insured. What do they do if they have an emergency?

How are the dogs acting that are there? In addition to your dog's stay they might offer services like pick up and drop off of your pet, grooming and training options .

If you aren't sure of a place ask your vet, trainer or other friends with pets for a recommendation. Always pick a couple options to have available to you.

Then in all this you have to think about the holidays, spring break or summer vacations. A lot of places fill up in advance by as much as 3-6 months for these are the busiest times for pet care services. So plan ahead for Fluffy during these times of the year so your pet will have a place to stay.

So think ahead so Fluffy isn't left home alone!

Give your pet the gift of a vacation!

## TRICK OR TRAIN — "PAW SHAKE"

This is a very simple trick to teach which later can be used as a base to teach WAVE.

"Scratch a dog and you'll find a permanent job." - Franklin P Jones

1. You can put your dog in a sit.
2. Start to scratch his chest taking his paw as he raises it or simply take his paw yourself. However most dogs instinctively raise their paw when being scratched or petted.
3. Click or say "yes" as he raises his paw
4. Then reward with a treat or praise.
5. Repeat this step 5-10 times.
6. Lucky will eventually get it and start raising his paw as you

extend your hand.

7. Put the command "SHAKE" as he raises his paw repeat 10-15 times.
8. Repeat again giving the command Lucky "SHAKE" first then extend your hand to shake his paw.
9. You can do this in 2- 5 minutes then stop. Give Lucky lots of praise for being a good boy.
10. In the next training lesson say "Shake" and hold out your hand. If Lucky remembers he will put his paw in your hand. Lots of praise!
11. If Lucky forgot just repeat the earlier steps a few times. Soon Lucky will catch on and place his paw in your hand.

## BEHAVIOR — "CHEWING"

Chewing is a natural behavior for most dogs. I like to teach or encourage dogs to chew as a substitute for other more bothersome behaviors such as barking or digging. Your pet could be teething, anxious or just plain bored why not let him chew on appropriate dog toys or bones. However, anything other than his things can be an annoyance to us.

Determine the cause of your dog's chewing which might be health issues, dental, boredom, plain enjoyment or stress. You can manage this behavior in several ways.

- Provide appropriate chew things and encourage your dog to select these items. Set up a dog basket dropping a few of

his favorite toys and treats to encourage him to approach these items. Reward him for picking something from the basket. Vary the items from time to time.

- Simple dog proofing the house, keeping the box of tissue out of reach, lid on the trash can, closet doors closed or picking up your shoes.
- Some training to assist you and your dog.
- Teething discomfort soak a rope toy in water and freeze it. Wow, how great!
- Crating the dog in your absence.
- Use deterrents or negatives on non dog items.



I love chewing!

## RESCUES—HOUND/LAB MIX

At about 12 weeks of age these young dogs were dumped and left for dead out in the country. They are a hound/lab mix. Very smart with definite hunting instincts. They already know how to sit, down, play fetch and are crate trained. We have placed 3 out of the 6 pups. They are all current on shots, have been fixed and are healthy. Over all they are calm in nature, playful outside, social with other dogs, cats, adults and kids. \$150 adoption fee with application for screening and requirements.

*Dory*— might have a bite of an agility athlete in her since she likes to jump up on the patio table on occasions to get the dog toys out of the bucket for the other dogs. She also has shown some curiosity with the see saw and does a wonderful balancing act on top of the dog house.

*Jacque*— very playful but more reserved in nature till he gets to know you. Fetch is his game of choice bringing the ball back to you for more. Does great with other pets.

*Chance*— very sweet and Mr. Friendly when he waggles his tail his whole body wiggles. He is Mr. Helpful after feeding time. He collects all the doggie bowls one at a time and brings them to me to clean. He would be a great therapy dog with a little more training because he is so calm and loving. He is learning a new trick "THE CRAWL".

See more details and pics on these pups at my website  
<http://www.companionk9.com/rescues.htm>



Group picture

## CHANGES AHEAD

In 2005 we will be changing our business name. We will be dropping the Wolfsblut portion of our training business name and will be now known as **COMPANION K-9 TRAINING & BOARDING**. Look for up coming changes on our website with some additional features such as our newsletter and expansion of our business services

### How you can contact us:

(If you want to be added to our mailing list, contact us!)

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## CLASS SCHEDULES

### Classes

Starting Dates			2004	2005	
Puppy	5 wks (1hr)	Sun 2:00 pm	10/10	01/30	3/13
Basic	6 wks (1hr)	Sun 3:30 pm	10/10	01/30	3/13
Intermediate	5 wks (1hr)	Sun 5:00 pm		01/30	
Advance	5 wks (1hr)	Sun 5:00 pm		03/13	
Brush Up	(1 hr)	Sat 2 - 3:00 pm	2nd & 4th Sat each month		

Dates & Times Subject to Change  
 Class Size Limited - Call for Reservation  
 email or mail training application from website

## DOG SERVICES

*Puppy Socializing:* These classes starts the family and pup off on the right paw. Family participation learning about socialization, puppy basics, and heading off common behavior problems.

*Basic Obedience:* Striving to help your dog focus and listen to you while teaching over all good manners. Clients will learn to train their dog basic commands, learn leadership, general health & well being, grooming and solutions or redirection of common behavior problems.

*Brush-Up Training:* Drop-In class open to dogs who have completed up thru basic obedience. Strengthen or review basic commands with added distractions.

*Intermediate Obedience:* Owners and dogs will learn the basic exercises required to earning a Canine Good Citizen certificate. We build upon our basic obedience, more loose lead heeling, reactions to other dogs and distractions will be part of the course.

*Advanced Obedience:* You and your dog will learn more control on and off leash with more advance training and distractions. If you are wanting to compete in an Obedience Trial this will help prepare you and your dog.

*Private Training:* Gives you the advantage of having a one-on-one working session with your pooch. Meeting our client's needs, we can work on basic politeness, obedience or other behavior issues to help have that life long companion.

*Board'n Train Programs:* Provides customized training for your pooch to meet our clients needs along with training the owner. Whether learning routine house manners, basic obedience or working on a behavioral problem.

*Dog Boarding:* Your dogs will enjoy a family environment with a 4 acre playground. Your pets will enjoy the comfort of home as if part of the family and various doggie activities.

*T.G.I.F. for Canines:* Give him a doggie play day. Doggie daycare lets your pooch burn off some energy while socializing with other dogs.

Our philosophy is to help people gain the skills they need to help their canines to be their best companions and polite pooches for life. Your dogs should respect you, not be afraid of you.



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*Helping People Shape Polite Pooches!*

We're on the web  
[www.companionk9.com](http://www.companionk9.com)

## BREED PROFILE — BICHON FRISE

The Bichon Frise's name translates to mean "Curly Lap Dog." He is a tough and healthy dog who was bred to be a lap dog for French Royalty.

The Bichon Frise originated in the Mediterranean area of Italy. Several theories exist on ancestors from a Maltese, spitz type dog and resulting crosses from a miniature Spaniel and Miniature Poodle or Cayenne dogs. With agreement they existed before the time of Christ.

Is a member of the Non-Sporting Group and was first recognized by the AKC in 1972.

This cheerful little dog looks like a gentle puffball, but is healthy and sturdy enough for play and exercise. Bichons get along with just about everyone including other animals and strangers. They are active, alert and curious. They are also highly trainable with gentle handling.



Bichon Frise

Considering it's temperament, it is easy to understand that the breed is well suited to people of all ages and in a wide range of living situations.

You can find Bichons Frises in several of the paintings by the Spanish painter Goya.

To keep the Bichon's coat healthy you must brush it regularly and keep their coat trimmed frequently.

Their coat color is white, may have shadings of buff, cream or apricot around the ears or on the body. Any color in excess of 10% of the entire coat of a mature dog is considered a fault by breed standards except on puppies.

Generally they should be a healthy dog having little known heritable problems.

The breed standard calls the breed's Cheerful attitude the "hallmark of the breed". Settle for nothing less in selecting this breed.