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# Gentle Touch Pet Training News

September/October 2008

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**Sign Up for Classes Today**  
(Beginning Dates)

Puppy Preschool (9/29)  
Puppy Enrichment (10/9)  
Elementary (10/16 & 10/20)  
Clicker High (10/9)  
Musical Freestyle (10/7)  
Feisty Fido (10/15)  
Clicking for Conformation (10/14)  
Agility Level 1  
Agility Level 2 (10/2 & 10/28)  
Agility Level 3 (10/28)

[Click HERE to view schedules and sign up on-line.](#)



Greetings Dog Lovers,

With fall here and winter on its way, sometimes it's harder to get out to do activities with our dogs. Although training will not take the place of exercise, you will find that spending some time training your dog most every day can be beneficial. Training will tire your dog out mentally (much like when you take on learning something new or attend a seminar). When your dog is "exercised" mentally they'll tend to be less aroused and usually get into less mischief! The nice thing about training is it can take place in your living room regardless of the weather outside.

Join Gentle Touch Pet Training this fall/winter for some of our new classes like Clicker Conformation and Intro to Agility or join us for new mini-seminars such as Beginner Agility Gambler/Distance. Many of our clients like to re-take a Clicker High class even if they've taken it before. You could also have some fun joining us for my personal favorite, Musical Canine Freestyle. Whatever you choose, just choose to have some fun with your canine companion!



## HALLOWEEN CAN BE SCARY

*"IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!"*

Remember that chocolate is very dangerous for dogs. Be sure all family members stow their sweet treats in a place where your dog can't get to them. Our terrier, Skye, used to climb a roll-top desk to get to cat food. When we "out smarted" her by moving the chair, she just moved the chair back and climbed the roll-top desk again! So think ahead and be proactive to protect your dog from things you don't want them to get into during the holidays.

Also, please remember that if your dog has not been through a trick-or-treat experience before, or is not used to kids (or adults for that matter) running around your house in costume, realize that a ghost, goblin or Frankenstein at the door or approaching your dog can be scary for your dog too! If you don't have time to get your dog used to the sights and sounds of Halloween and if your dog acts fearful or becomes over-excited and goes crazy barking, consider putting your dog up in his or her crate or another room with a yummy Kong or chew toy to pass the time!



## NEW - INTRODUCTION TO AGILITY CLASS

Wednesdays, Oct. 8 - Nov. 12  
4:00-5:00 p.m., \$125

We're so happy to offer a new Introduction to Agility class to give our clients and their dogs an opportunity to see what the fast-paced sport of Agility is all about. This class will fit the needs of either the casual and curious client or the more serious competition-minded clients. Join agility instructors Katie Hawkins and Denise Schryver and enjoy the opportunity for you and your dog to experience what this sport is all about.



The class will help prepare your dog for agility by playing, teaching focus and becoming accustomed to the obstacles at a lower height. This will be a very motivating, fun class for people beginning in agility and beginner dogs or puppies. We'll build on basic sits, downs, and stays so those don't have to be perfect to join! Just be prepared to become an agility addict!!



### **NEW - CONFORMATION CLICKER CLASS**

*Tuesdays, Oct. 14 - Nov. 18  
7:15-8:15 p.m., \$125*

Ivy Underdahl will be teaching our new Conformation Clicker Class. This class is designed to give our clients an opportunity to start from the beginning. We'll be teaching you to train the behaviors your dog will need to show in the Conformation Ring. Using fun games like "stand in the hoop," "paw target a mat," and "show me," you and your dog will have a great time as you learn specific breed ring behaviors. We'll work on the show stack, free stacking, gaiting, looking enthusiastically at the judge, and being handled on the floor (and the table if you have a small dog) by a stranger.



Ivy has received numerous Best of Breed wins on several of her Swedish Vallhunds, taking one female to her AKC Champion title in just three months, culminating in an Award of Excellence at Eukanuba in '07. She has a female Vallhund of her own breeding that is just a couple of points away from her AKC CH from the "Bred By Exhibitor" class! She also has shown two of her Vallhunds in the rare breed venue ARBA, both received their CH titles as well. In addition, in July 2008, Ivy received the amazing gift of being asked to fly to Sweden to handle two Swedish Vallhunds in the breed ring at the World Dog Show 2008.



### **IMPROVE YOUR DOG'S BEHAVIORS**

*CATCH SOME MINI-SEMINARS  
BEFORE THE YEAR IS OVER!*

*AGILITY BEGINNER/GAMBLE DISTANCE WORKSHOP  
Tuesdays - October 7, 14 & 21  
5:00-6:00 p.m.*

Join Instructor Diane Baley for a fun and informational mini-workshop that will focus on games and exercises which are the building blocks for successful gambling and distance work. Participants will be able to use the skills presented to gradually build both the confidence a dog needs to work away from the handler, and the handler's ability to communicate the desired behavior.



Topics will include:

- Sending ahead
- Getting distance from the handler
- Redirection
- Obstacle discrimination
- Directionals
- Discussions of some typical gamble patterns

Check out these other fun and informative mini-workshops on our website:

- **Tricks** - Tuesdays, Nov. 11 & 18, 5:45-6:45 p.m. \$40
- **Heel** - Tuesdays, Dec. 2, 9, & 16, 7:00-8:00 p.m. \$60
- **Come!** Teaching a Reliable Recall - Thursdays - Dec. 4, 11 & 18, 4:00-5:00 or 7:00-8:00 p.m. (let us know what time works best for you!) \$60



## IVY SHOWS AT THE WORLD DOG SHOW IN SWEDEN

In July, Ivy Underdahl, one of our trainers at Gentle Touch Pet Training who will be teaching our new Conformation Clicker Class, received the amazing gift of being asked to fly to Sweden to handle two Swedish Vallhunds in the breed ring at the World Dog Show 2008. It was quite an honor, and she had tons of fun too.



As a warm up, she handled the dogs at the circuit show the day before, and it was quite a large event as well, although more casual. On Sunday she handled a male in the Open Class ring, and a female in the Open Class ring, which were running simultaneously. Once they received their pink ribbons to show they were judged as an "excellent" specimen of the breed, the owners were overjoyed. Then when "Tiuku," the female Swedish Vallhund (pictured above), took a fourth place out of 38 in the class, the owner was ecstatic!

The experience for Ivy was a once in a lifetime type of opportunity. Being entrusted to handle other people's precious Swedish Vallhunds in a show as large as this one (21,295 dogs total) was truly a gift.



## 2009 SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars for the following very special training

opportunities on the Central Coast.

**Ken Ramirez**

Sat. & Sun., February 14 & 15, 2009

Intermediate level dog training seminar that will definitely include games for skill development, complex tools and problem solving.

**Patricia McConnell**

Saturday, July 11, 2009

For the Love of a Dog: The Biology of Emotion in Two Species

**Steve White**

October 24 & 25, 2009

We are currently looking at a host of subjects that Steve can speak on.

**KAY LAURENCE SEMINAR WILL BE POSTPONED**

We're disappointed to let you know that the Kay Laurence seminar we were in the process of setting up for January 2009 will have to be postponed. Kay will not be traveling to the USA at that time after all. As soon as we've set a new date, we'll let you know.



**GET YOUR DOG TRAINING QUESTIONS ANSWERED ON Q104.5 RADIO!**

Every Wednesday morning around 8:40 a.m. Teah joins the Big Kahuna on Q104.5 Radio to talk about our favorite subject: dogs! Get your dog training questions answered on the air! You can either email (see instructions below) or call in with your questions during the show at 783-1045. This will also allow you to be eligible for a monthly drawing for a free dog training class and a weekly drawing for an autographed copy of Teah's new book, "Click 'N Connect: Training Your Dog - A Lifelong Journey." Simply email Q104.5 radio by signing onto their website at [www.Q1045FM.com](http://www.Q1045FM.com) and looking for the GTPT logo.



Check our website for the latest class and seminar schedules at [www.gentlepets.com](http://www.gentlepets.com).

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