



www.playfulpooch.org

The Playful Pooch Program

January 2009 News



The new year is upon us, and I hope it's off to a great start for all of you. I have been working on some website additions that should be up and running before too long.

I've added a 2-part article that was published in APDT's *Chronicle of the Dog*, **Engaging Owners Fully in Dog Training: Attitudes and Skills That Work**. It's available for downloading in the Resources section, with APDT's generous permission. For those of you who are therapists, you might see the value of this information for your work with parents, too!

I am very pleased and honored that 2 things I wrote in 2008 have been named finalists in the Dog Writers' Association of America 2008 competition. The cover article for the *Play Therapy Magazine*, **What's This Dog Doing in My Playroom?** and the book, **Play Therapy with Kids & Canines**, are both in the top 3 finalists in their categories. Winners will be announced at the DWAA Awards Banquet in New York City in February.

I've been hearing from therapists and dog trainers through this site, and I'm happy about that. Eventually, I'm hoping to establish a mechanism for us to have conversations with each other. The use of Canine-Assisted Play Therapy requires the skills each group has, so some collaboration would be terrific!

I've had the amazing experience of fostering a semi-feral dog for the past couple of months. Katie, an Australian Shepherd also known as Zoom Zoom (for her rapid pacing when anxious), came from a puppy mill, had no human contact, and then escaped from a rescue and lived on her own in the woods for a month – all at 6 months of age. She has come along well, and she's teaching me some new things about trauma and its treatment, not only for dogs, but also people! Kirrie, my play therapy dog, began working her magic on Day 9, when they had their first "play session." I've involved several children in Zoom Zoom's socialization, too.

I'm now involved with an entire Girl Scout Troop that's earning one of its badges by helping with the socialization and training of dogs in a local rescue. Wish me luck!

Because one person switched to August, I now have one seat available for the March 25-27 **Dogs in Play Therapy** Training, and I still have a few seats available for August 5-7. Both of these are in PA. I also have several seats still available for the same training to be held in northern England November 3-5. If interested, visit www.playfulpooch.org, and click on Training. Let me know if you have any questions!

More news to come soon...

Katie, AKA "Zoom Zoom"



Jagen, Kirrie, Corky, & Pugsy



Wishing you the best in 2009,

Risë

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