

LEAD AND COLLAR



August/September 2010

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Events to Note

Sept. 15 Newsletter Deadline for the Oct/Nov Issue
 Sept 17-19 BDOC Agility Trial
 Fun Match at Gerianne's: August 8

New Canine Good Citizens



Deb & Merlin and Caroline & Max
 Evaluator: Sherry Rife

MERLIN

Three years ago at the club picnic, I watched a CGC test for the first time, thinking "I wish Merlin and I could do that". After the test I remembered a book that Dave had called the Canine Good Citizen. I read it and there were many things that Merlin could not do, even though he was two years old at that time. There were also a few things that he could do, so I decided that someday we would be able to pass the test. I started with teaching him to not jump on people to greet them. We were concentrating on Agility training that year, but the following year started Obedience training at Gerianne's. I got the book out periodically and worked on little pieces of what needed to be trained. The Obedience training covered most of it, and finally this year an email came saying that the CGC test would be available if anyone wanted to sign up. Of course we wanted to try. And we passed! Merlin and I are accomplishing many things this year, and I am very proud to now say he is a 'Canine Good Citizen'!

Deb Landon

MAXWELL THE MAGNIFICENT

By Caroline Rice

Max has been with me for a year next week. When he earned his CGC title at our picnic this month I was probably as excited as other people are when their dog earns the last leg in Utility.

I found Max on the internet. He was in Wichita having been rescued by Heart Bandits which is the American Eskimo Rescue group. What they knew about Max was that he had spent some time roaming with a stray boxer in a neighborhood in Oklahoma City. The boxer rescue group eventually came to pick up their boy and they took pity on his companion and took him too.

Since boxer people are not Eskie people they contacted the nearest Heart Bandit (in Wichita) who came and got Max and took him home where he stayed for the next six months. He was one of several Eskies and with his retiring disposition; I can only guess that he was "bottom dog".

When I found Max on the computer, he looked so happy and of course he had a lovely introductory write up. We met him at his house and he seemed totally ok, maybe a little shy like any good American Eskimo is. He was just great in on the ride home, totally quiet. Then reality set in. Max was terrified. American Eskimos are by nature very cautious of strangers, but most warm up to their family members. Not so with Max. The only person he came near was me. He ran whenever Harold came into the room. He did warm up a little to the grandchildren. What had I gotten into?

Harold, Max and I went to the Humane Society class for the fearful dog. It was a bit encouraging. He did finally agree to walk on a leash with Harold as long as Harold held a hotdog on a long fork out in front of him. Harold kept telling me that he would come around if I just gave him time.

Then right after Labor Day we took another leap of faith and adopted a second rescue dog, Farrah. As it turned out, Farrah was as friendly and outgoing as Max was shy and retiring. Farrah's arrival went a long way to bringing Max out of his shell.

Max and I have been to two rotations of beginner classes with BDOC and visited dog parks, playgrounds and pet stores. Slowly, so slowly Max has gained confidence and at least he feigns being comfortable around people. He does prefer to have Farrah check everyone out first, but recently he even made the first overtures toward strangers who came for dinner.

When I saw that our club was going to have the CGC test at the picnic, I thought I would try with Max just to see what he could do. As we walked over to the test area I let the examiner know that I realized we had no chance of passing, but I wanted to see how much more work we had.

When Max sat and allowed someone to touch his legs and even brush him I was astounded. Then he even stayed outside with an unfamiliar young lady while I left the area. He passed all the activities with little evidence of the old frightened Max. Now that you

know his story, I hope you can see why I am so proud of him!

What I Learned at the Dog Show

I spent this weekend at the Myrtle Beach kennel Club's all-breed dog show in Florence, South Carolina. The club invited me down to talk about the threats its members are facing from the Humane Society of the United States and the rest of the animal rights movement. Since I had never been to a dog show, I said yes. (I grew up thinking that "fancy" was an adjective. Silly me.)

I'm not a big fan of people who pooh-pooh things they've never tried or seen up-close. If one of my children says she "doesn't like" something on the dinner table before taking even a tiny bite—well, let's just say that doesn't wash in my house.

And I've always thought the whole "dog show" community was rather mysterious, a kind of benevolent secret society with its own rules, customs, and vocabulary. Sorta like Deadheads, but with a lot better grooming and a lot *less* fleas.

Truth be told, the dog breeders I met this weekend do have their own peculiar ways of saying and doing things. But they're really just ordinary people with a shared hobby. They're *really* into what they do. And they taught me a lot in just a Saturday. Here's some of what I learned.

1. When you go to a dog show, bring your own chair. But don't be surprised if someone offers to lend you theirs. (I'm typing this in someone else's customized, embroidered lawn chair.)
2. Dog shows are competitive, but the people involved are remarkably supportive of their human opponents. I heard a steady stream of "congratulations!" offered to blue-ribbon holders from handlers who were trotting away empty-handed.
3. If you're a first-timer who asks "what kind of dog is that?" too loudly, somebody might look at you funny.
4. These people treat their dogs like royalty. It was 90 degrees in the shade on Saturday, and the dogs had shade, electric fans, and cold water—even if their owners didn't.
5. Judging from this weekend, the typical show-dog handler isn't a stuffy Brit wearing Saville Row tweed. She—yes, *she*—is an energetic 40-year-old married mom whose husband packs up the kids and brings them along on the trip.

6. Sometimes the *kids* strut the dogs around the ring. The under-18 handlers even have their own judging category in which *their* skills are being judged, not the qualities of their dogs.
7. The name of the game is "conformation" (not "confirmation," as I used to think). Dog show breeders are trying to breed animals that "conform" to a set ideal of how a breed can look, "gait," and behave if they do everything right. (I read an article in *Wired* this week about how Cheetos in the factory are checked every 30 minutes against a "reference sample" from Frito-Lay headquarters, just to make sure the ideal color, texture, and crispiness is being matched. It's kinda like that, but it takes years for these folks to make a single Cheeto. And Cheetos don't pee on you.)
8. Watch where you step in the parking lot.

If this particular dog show is any indication of what's typical, the "dog fancy" is a lot of fun for a lot of people who contribute a lot of money to the economy—and aren't hurting anyone. "If we're not having fun here," one judge told me, very much off-the-cuff, "we shouldn't be doing this."

For the life of me, I can't figure out why the Humane Society of the United States has such a visceral hatred of everything they stand for.

I think what's going on is that HSUS, PETA, and other animal rights groups are conflating breeders whose main goal is to *sell* puppies with those who just happen to really love Pomeranians, Pinschers, or Poodles. This latter clique of people (far larger than the former) shows their favorite animals because they're proud of them, not because they believe it will make their next litter worth more money.

It's not hard to understand HSUS's stated motivation for attacking people who breed dogs. The group wants everyone to believe that rampant pet overpopulation in America is all their fault. But personally, I just don't see it.

I didn't meet "puppy millers" this weekend. I met hobbyists, just like if I were at a model railroad convention, an antique fair, or a swim meet. They ask after each others' kids. They visit each other in the hospital. They have knitting circles where the dogs watch approvingly. They're 50 percent garden club, 50 percent church pot-luck. Zero percent animal abusers. I asked one breeder how much money she had spent raising her champion dog, a mammoth Anatolian

shepherd. "Who knows?" she answered. "I never really added it up. If you're pinching pennies you probably aren't treating the dog right." In addition to the two purebred dogs she was showing, she had "two rescue mutts at home, and they have the same food, supplements, and everything else my show dogs get." And when I asked one of the veteran breeders how many of her peers raise dogs so they can sell the litters commercially, she looked at me like I was from Mars. "We all sell dogs, son," she told me. "But none of us make a cent doing it. And I know where all my dogs live. If anyone can't provide for them, we take 'em back." And then, almost as an afterthought: "I sure don't want any of mine going to the pound or a rescue." Everyone I asked about this had the same kind of answer. If they found out that any of *their* puppies wound up in a shelter, they'd sure do something about it.

So why all the hostility from the Humane Society of the United States? Why did I hear from North and South Carolinians who had beaten back attempt after attempt from HSUS to have them taxed, registered, regulated, raided, and otherwise priced out of their hobby? What is it about these men, women, and children, so passionate about running up and down a concrete floor with their pets, that demands intervention from activists who think they know better?

Maybe it's that HSUS thinks the only way to shut down "puppy mills" is to paint every dog breeder with the same broad brush. Maybe. I haven't yet really wrapped my mind around *why* HSUS is opposed to everything I saw this weekend. I just know that it is.

As with pretty much every group of ranchers, dairymen, biomedical research scientists, and chicken farmers I've met, the breeders I spoke with this weekend had varying levels of awareness about the looming political threat from HSUS. Some of them can't be bothered to be bothered. Others are fired up at the mere mention of Wayne Pacelle's name.

"Somebody has to take that guy on," one 50-ish man barked when I brought up the name of HSUS's CEO. "That whole movement is nuts. After I showed up to lobby against HSUS's last North Carolina breeder tax, I started getting calls in the middle of the night, untraceable phone calls, from these people saying they were going to come on my property, take my dogs, and burn my house down. I told 'em my new rifle

has an awesome night scope. That pretty much ended it."

I spoke to the crowd after the Best In Show was awarded, in this case to a fluffy pekingese named "Noelle." I told them that their problem is the same as the one faced by pork producers, egg farmers, dairymen, and even cancer researchers. But it was up to them to reach beyond their circle of friends—outside their comfort zone—if their kids and grandkids were going to keep being Junior Handlers and continue to raise the dog breeds they've come to love.

At the end of the day, I have to be skeptical of HSUS's blanket condemnation of pet breeders. I'm confident that there are some horrible ones out there, as there are with any group of people (including animal activists...), but any legislative or cultural movement that lumps the people I met this weekend in with the bad actors is just plain wrong-headed. Because the dogs I met in South Carolina were among the best-cared-for animals I've ever seen. Anyone who's truly interested in animal welfare would want to make sure more dogs—not fewer—are treated this way. So how 'bout it, Wayne? Why aren't you promoting dog shows?

Probably because you've never been to one.

CPE Trial 2010



Friends of BDOC held their CPE agility trial in June at Gerianne wonderful agility site. This year we were blessed with great weather, even though we had the threat of rain. The trial was held in conjunction with the UKC Obedience/Rally trials. Mike Willis from Kansas City as our CPE judge.

Our entries for CPE were the most we have ever had with over 600 runs for the 3 day trial. Gerianne Darnell and Rick won the High in Trial two out of the three days. One entrant from out of state earned her C-ATCH. It is always exciting when someone gets their championship and takes the victory lap.

Thanks to Rose Strasser for her excellent work as trial secretary. And thanks to Linda Puckett as her table assistant. Deb Landon handled with NQ raffle. A great thank you to Dee Nelson for gathering the raffle items. Everyone enjoys going home with something, even though it may not be a qualifying ribbon.

Erin Embrey had a tough job as chair of the volunteers but she made it look easy. John Wilson and Randy Frady were our course builders. With CPE there are multiple course changes and this is a difficult job. Christie and Darwin Baker did a wonderful job with the canteen. Thanks to all those club members that contributed goodies for the canteen.

Club members that helped were Gerianne and George Darnell, John Wilson, Alberta Gray, Peggy and Dick Battig, Erin and Kim Embry, Rose Strasser, Linda Puckett, Mac and Shirley Stephens, Marlene and Dean Lee, Amy and Emily Voogd, Nora and Baby Margot, Dave and Deb Landon, Darwin and Christie Baker, Trisha Burback, Sue Volkmer, Michelle Foutch, Lucy Hulse, Randy Frady, Eric Rice, Kathy Novak and Dee Nelson. The volunteer list also includes crew that worked the UKC trial under the direction of chief ring steward Peggy.

We are already working on next year's trial. Our judge will be Ellen Hizer. The trial dates have been moved up to June 3, 4, 5, 2011. The following week would be our normal date, but the CPE Nationals will be held in Minneapolis. The change of our date will allow our club members to enter the National.

Alberta Gray, CPE Trial Chair

New Title

Five years ago I decided that I wanted a puppy. We researched breeds and decided on a Pembroke Welsh Corgi because of their size, intelligence, trainability and cuteness. I named my new puppy Ben's Buddy Merlin. Dave had Gerianne's name from a previous Tracking class he had taken, so he recommended that I call her. I had no idea when I made that call how my life would change! Merlin and I went to BDOC Puppy class, then Beginning Obedience (two times) that winter. The following spring we joined Bellevue Dog Obedience Club and started Agility Classes at Gerianne's. After two years of Agility class, someone recommended that I also take Obedience class. Merlin was almost 3 years old when we started Obedience Class at Gerianne's. Several people

commented that they couldn't believe that was the same dog in Obedience class that was also in Agility class! I also learned what Competitive Obedience was, and that Merlin responded very well to the training. I realized that there is a lot of work involved in reaching the small goals such as passing Pre-Novice, which we did 3 times. We started practicing everything we learned in class. I volunteered at Obedience Trials so I could see how other people did the exercises and get used to being in the ring (which is still very intimidating).

I think the biggest turning point for me was Small Dog Camp last summer (Thank you Gerianne, and also Peggy, for the encouragement you gave me). We did many things, and as I watched Merlin, it appeared that he really liked the Obedience exercises. We got a taste of not only Novice, but Open and Utility. At that point I decided that Merlin and I were having fun with Obedience and there was another whole new world of competition. Over the winter, at every opportunity available, I walked the halls at work, doing right turns, left turns, about turns, halts, slows, fast and figure 8s. I will admit that I got a few strange looks and comments, but as I did these things, my body learned how to walk with toes pointed straight forward, making 90 degree turns and 'halting' without feeling like I was going to fall forward. I felt that when I was at home working with Merlin I had more confidence, which helped me communicate to him what I wanted him to do. This spring Dave convinced me that we were ready to enter an Obedience Trial.

On May 1-2, we entered Novice Obedience in the Seward Obedience trial and Qualified both days! I knew then that I really wanted 'The CD Title'. Merlin and I entered a trial on May 22-23 in Gardner, Kansas, a place I had never heard of. We went the day before to make sure I knew where to go and to see the building we would be competing in. The day finally came, but Novice was the last class, so we had to wait until the end of a long, hot day. With all the contributing factors, we did not qualify; however, there was a 'Fun Match' after the trial! We watched many more experienced people practice and after two more hours it was our turn in the ring. I had been talking to one of the stewards who offered to help me during my time in the ring. That five minutes made a huge difference in Merlin's attitude as well as mine. The second day Merlin had a crate inside the cool building and after another long day, it was finally our turn. I don't remember all of the exercises that we did, but I will never forget the wall I looked at during the longest three minutes of my life while Merlin

stayed in the 'Group Sit' and 'Group Down' Although we did not do all of the exercises perfectly, we managed to get a score of 191. Merlin and I were the only qualifiers and when the judge asked how many legs, I almost cried when I told her we had just earned our CD Title! I want to thank everyone who has given encouragement, because without you, I could never have accomplished this. A special 'Thank You' goes to Gerianne, for all of the knowledge and experience that you share, and for 'picking on me' in class.

Merlin's Mom (Deb Landon)

With A Flick of the Wrist

by Chris Zink, DVM, PhD

(as seen in Dogs In Canada - September 2003)

In the hundreds of agility trials I have attended over the years, only rarely have I seen a dog suffer an acute, serious injury. An exception happened in early May this year. I was relaxing at ringside, enjoying one of the rare rain free moments this spring offered, watching a bi-black Sheltie named 'Shadow' negotiate the Open Jumpers course with smooth abandon. Suddenly the dog took a misstep, completely misjudged where he should take off, and crashed into the jump. As he fell, his front legs landed on the fallen jump bars, and he immediately let out an agonized scream. He was still crying as he was carried out of the ring. I ran over to help and examined the dog in a shady area some distance from the ring.

Shadow's left front leg was extremely painful and he held it stiffly away from his body. In a few minutes he had relaxed enough for me to determine that there were no major bone breaks. In fact, the main problem appeared to be a severe sprain of the carpus (wrist). Later X-rays not only confirmed my finding, but interestingly showed that the dog had preexisting arthritic changes in the carpal joints of both front legs. Thus, although this dog did have an acute agility injury, he had chronic problems, too. In fact, it is possible that the arthritis contributed to his lack of coordination in approaching the jump.

Once Shadow was on the mend, his human teammate had many questions for me. How common is carpal arthritis in performance dogs? How painful is carpal arthritis and what can be done to relieve the pain? Will Shadow still be able to play agility, obedience and other fun doggie games? Since carpal arthritis is quite common, I thought I would share the answers in this column.

In the last several years, while doing sports-medicine consultations for performance dogs across Canada and the United States, I have seen many canine athletes with carpal arthritis. Interestingly, this condition is much more common in dogs that have had their front dewclaws removed. To understand why, it is helpful to understand the structure of the carpus. This joint consists of seven bones that fit together like fieldstones that are used to build the walls of a house.

The carpus joins to the radius and ulna bones (equivalent to our lower arm), and to the metacarpal bones (equivalent to our hand). Each bone of the carpus has a convex or concave side that matches a curve on the adjacent bone. Unlike the bones of the elbow, for example.

The elbow bones have ridges that slide into interlocking grooves the bones of the carpus do not have ridges that slide into interlocking grooves on the adjacent bone. The relatively loose fit of the carpal bones is supported by ligaments that join each of the carpal bones to the adjacent bones.

With so many carpal bones that don't tightly interlock with the adjacent bones, the ligaments of this joint can be easily stretched and even torn when torque (twisting) is applied to the leg. The dewclaws have the important function of reducing the torque that is applied to the front legs, especially when dogs are turning at a canter (the main gait used in agility).

In the canter, there is a moment during each stride when the dog's accessory carpal pad (on the back of the carpus) of the lead front leg touches the ground and the rear legs and other front leg swing forward to prepare for the next stride. At this point, the dewclaw is in contact with the ground and if the dog turns, the dewclaw can dig in for extra traction to prevent unnecessary torque on the front leg. Without the gripping action of the dog's 'thumbs' there is more stress on the ligaments of the carpus. This may cause the ligaments to stretch and tear over time, resulting in joint laxity and ultimately, arthritis.

There are many more options for treating dogs with arthritis today than there were just a few years ago. Here are some of them.

1) Weight reduction. The more weight your dog carries around, the more stress there will be on the joints. This is a particular problem in dogs with carpal

arthritis, because the front legs bear 65 per cent of the dog's weight.

2) Massage. This is an excellent way to prevent excess scar tissue from forming and to keep your dog's joints flexible. Make an appointment with a canine massage therapist and learn how to do massage that is targeted to your dog's carpi. You can do the massage while you watch television in the evenings. Afterward, gently flex and extend your dog's front legs two to three times to help promote flexibility.

3) Acupuncture. Acupuncture is often very helpful in relieving jointpain and slowing the progression of arthritis.

4) Chiropractic adjustments. Many dogs with painful joints will benefit from regular chiropractic adjustments because they are using their muscles unevenly to avoid pain on one side or the other.

5) Joint-protective nutraceuticals. There are many products on the market, and all are not created equal, so be sure to buy a product from a reputable company. For best results use a combination of glucosamine, chondroitin, methylsulfonylmethane (MSM) and cetylmristolate (CM).

6) Antioxidant and anti-inflammatory food and supplements. Feed your dog natural antioxidant foods such as fresh vegetables and fruits that contain vitamin C. Supplement his diet with vitamins E and B and an appropriate combination of omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids.

7) Anti-inflammatory drugs. Talk to your veterinarian about whether your dog should be taking anti-inflammatory drugs and if so, whether he should take them only when he is in pain or on a regular basis. Because of common side effects such as gastric ulcers, I usually suggest that anti-inflammatory drugs be used only intermittently when the dog is having a painful bout. There may come a time however, when regular doses of anti-inflammatory drugs may be necessary to give your dog the quality of life he deserves.

8) Moderate ongoing exercise. Dogs with arthritis need enough exercise to keep their muscles strong so that they support the joints, but not so much that it causes excessive wear and tear on the joints and the ligaments that support them.

Moderation is the key. Dogs should get a moderate amount of balanced exercise each day, and avoid being weekend warriors. Avoid high-impact exercise as much as possible. For example, don't use stairs as a way to exercise your dog because of the impact on descending, and don't let him run over rough, uneven ground.

Have your dog jump full height only about 10 per cent of the time during training, and only on surfaces that are smooth and appropriately cushioning, such as thick grass or properly prepared dirt (arena) surfaces. Swimming is a great exercise for arthritic dogs.

Even if your dog doesn't currently suffer from arthritis, keep this article for later. If you should be lucky enough to have your canine companion in his senior years, these tips may make it possible for him to keep running and playing like a youngster.

Ticks, Zoonotic Disease and the Risk of Transmission to People

Tick-borne diseases can infect people very easily, though people are unlikely to become directly infected by any of these diseases by contacting an infected dog. Dogs may, however, function to transport ticks into the home or environment, where the ticks can then feed on human family members in the same fashion that they feed on the canine family members.

Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and babesiosis are all tick-borne diseases with the potential to infect people as well as dogs. In addition, other tick-borne diseases, such as tularemia, which rarely infect dogs can infect people.

Ticks are dangerous to dogs not only because they feed off of the blood of the dogs they infest but also because they serve as disease vectors, spreading various diseases, including Lyme disease. These same ticks can also pose a threat to human health by feeding on people and transmitting disease to their human hosts.

BDOC Meeting Minutes 07/11/10

The meeting was called to order at 3:20 p.m by Erin Embrey at Gerianne Darnell's. This meeting was held after everyone enjoyed great food at the BDOC Annual Picnic.

Since Nora was not present to read the minutes from the last boardmeeting, John moved to waive the reading of the minutes. Eric second and the motion was carried. Nora has applications for new members.

Reports:

1. Connie reported on the Treasury. In summary, there was Net Income of \$4000 for BDOC and \$3500 for Friends of BDOC. Caroline made a motion to

approve the Treasurer's Report, Eric seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

2. Lucy Hulse gave the report of the Training Director. The next session of classes begins August 3rd. Eric Rice is instructing the Beginners class. There may possibly be a Rally Class beginning in October.

3. Gerianne read a Thank You note from someone who attended the CPE/UKC trial on June 11-13. Next year the trials will be a week early.

Old Business:

1. There was discussion regarding a Business Credit Card for BDOC. By the next board meeting, Dee will collect information on the best options for the club. John made a motion to move forward with this, Dee and Peggy seconded and the motion was carried.

2. UKC Rally Signs were purchased for the club and were used at the show in June.

3. A note will be sent with the AKC Obedience Premium asking if anyone wants to purchase advertising in the Catalogue.

4. There was discussion regarding the BDOC web administrator. Polly was going to work with it, but has not made any changes yet. John made a motion to seek a commercial Web Administrator, Dee seconded and the motion was carried.

New Business:

1. The BDOC AKC Agility trial will be September 17-19. It will be held at the NHS Meadow. Erin will send out a notice for volunteers. There was also discussion of other trials the week before and after ours and the possibility of sharing equipment.

2. The BDOC AKC Obedience trial will be October 29-31. The judges and classes are approved. Caroline Rice will be Chief Ring Steward. Eric and Caroline Rice will handle the Canteen. Need a Hospitality Chair. One judge is flying in, the others are driving. Setup for the trial will be Oct 28th at 5:00 p.m. Any questions, contact Erin. Dee and Nora are organizing the Silent Auction. Donations are still needed for the Trophy Fund.

Peggy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Linda 2nd and the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

The Next Board Meeting will be September 30. The next General Meeting will be October 27th (Halloween Party).

The Reason

By Kim Senke-Rocka

I would've died that day if not for you.

I would've given up on life if not for your kind eyes.

I would've used my teeth in fear if not for your gentle hands.

I would have left this life believing that all humans don't care.

Believing there is no such thing as fur that isn't matted, skin that isn't flea bitten, good food and enough of it, beds to sleep on. Someone to love me. To show me I deserve love just because I exist. Your kind eyes, your loving smile, your gentle hands your big heart saved me. You saved me from the terror of the pound, soothing away the memories of my old life. You have taught me what it means to be loved. I have seen you do the same for other dogs like me. I have heard you ask yourself in times of despair why you do it when there is no more money, no more room, no more homes you open your heart a little bigger, stretch the money a little tighter make just a little more room to save one more like me. I tell you with the gratitude and love that shines in my eyes in the best way I know how reminding you why you go on trying. I am the reason the dogs before me are the reason as are the ones who come after. Our lives would've been wasted, our love never given. We would die if not for you.



Thank you club members for the beautiful memorial plant and your support.
Sherry and Family

LEAD AND COLLAR

Bellevue Dog Obedience Club of NE

Sherry Rife, Editor

1733 Denver Avenue

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August/September 2010

Dedicated to responsible dog ownership through training and education.