

## News Update

WOW, can you believe 2011 is in the rear view mirror now and 2012 is here! I'm not sure what kind of year you've had but I'll tell you its been interesting for me, to say the least. Beginning with being awarded "trainer of the year" at the Westminster festivities. A nationwide search produced my name. How cool is that? This wasn't a contest I entered, this was a search conducted by Comfort Zone and Bowtie Publications (publishers of Dog World and Dog Fancy magazine and many others) of my peers. That made it all the sweeter.

The universe seems to need balance so with the good must be some bad, I saw many dogs pass this year. Most were dogs I've been honored to know for many, many years and their journeys had ended. Some went peacefully, others not so much. They all will be missed, and I think of them often. My greatest loss was my beautiful Cane, he left too early. The pain is still daily, but this is what we call life.

I have been blessed in meeting many new dogs and owners over this last year. I have been frustrated by the number of dogs entering shelters and rescues, and the numbers not leaving finding homes. I am blessed by having great staff, who have carried me after Cane's passing and in the fact that during some of the worse economy in years my business remains solvent. I work long hard hours with very little time off but it doesn't seem like work and for this too, I am thankful. They always say, if you love your work you will never work a day in your life....I agree.

2012 will bring my 62nd birthday and I wonder how long I will continue to be able to train. I think of building a training center then wonder if that is practical. Longevity runs in the family so maybe I have another 20 years, don't we all wish we knew how long we get to stay so we could better plan? I do know several people left suddenly and this makes us all remember how precious life is and how in a blink of an eye it can be gone.

Through our medical fund, Barney's Wish, we've been able to assist 9 owners/dogs with medical expenses this year. If you are not aware of Barney's wish, it was set up after a little dog I owned that died suddenly from a reaction to medication after a surgery. I wanted to remember him in a positive way. We take all recycling monies, nail trims, donations and make it available. If you would like to contribute or bring in recycling we would be thankful.

Beginning in 2012, in an effort to keep dogs out of shelters and rescues, I'll be doing an "Ask the trainer" day. It will be open for anyone that has questions about behavior. It will not be as in depth as a consultation, but I hope, will provide answers to questions. Look for more information on this soon. There will be a \$10.00 and that money will go into Barney's Wish. Dog owning should be fun and sometimes with a little bit more knowledge, it can be. I am here to assist you in any way I can.

I have also begun a Dance-a-bull class for pit bull and pit wannabes. The hope is to develop a drill team type group that can be asked to preform at any function and more importantly promote pit bulls as a good breed. This poor breed has been so maligned in the media, they could really use a break. Hopefully this will aid in that. You know, it's like saying all kids are bad by the actions of a couple.

In 2012 we will continue with our medical seminars, I will have a canine cardiologist, pet nutritionist, and probably our ever popular Dr. Teri Arteaga speaking again about canine cancers.