

The Monthly Mutt

the official newsletter for Rockin' E Training and Consulting

Summer 2016



“Our philosophy is to build harmony and understanding between owners and their companion animals by using positive methods and education.”

Sandy Myers, Molly Krutkramelis, Jenny Williams and Teresa Bingham: owners

*myersmolly83@yahoo.com
(307) 460-8291*

*Training location:
1482 Commerce Dr.
Units J & K*

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Molly's journey: how Rockin' E helped a severely reactive dog become CGC certified

When Shelby and Chris Ashworth adopted their blue heeler, Molly, three years ago, they never expected to have any problems with her.

“She was as sweet as could be,” Shelby said, “both to people and other dogs.”

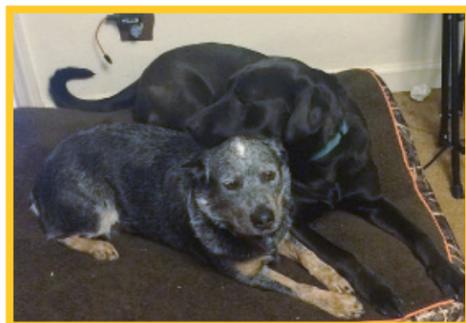
According to Shelby, however, Molly's temperament took a startling turn when a neighborhood dog got into their yard and the interaction turned sour.

“After that incident, we couldn't take Molly to the park without Chris holding the leash because she would just pull to charge and bark at every dog that seemed to look at us,” Shelby said.

The Ashworths were unsure of what to do about Molly's severe reactivity and were concerned that her behavior would affect their puppy, Ruger, who was already beginning to show signs of reactivity. They consulted their veterinarian, who suggested they try to socialize Molly in a more positive setting. That's when the couple found Rockin' E.

“We started out with a one-on-one meeting,” Shelby said. Teresa Bingham, co-owner and certified trainer at Rockin' E, came to the Ashworth's home and gave them advice about how to begin to improve Molly's behavior both in and outside of the yard.

Shelby and Chris then enrolled both Molly and Ruger in the Beginning DaVincis class at Rockin' E, in which both dogs did well. Because of the initial improvement and scheduling conflicts, the Ashworths



Molly and Ruger share a cuddle.

decided to hold off on taking more classes.

About a year later, Shelby and Chris adopted a third dog named Cherokee and

decided to enroll all three of their dogs in classes at Rockin' E. “When we started up classes again, Molly was getting harder to handle,” Shelby said. “Chris and I felt discouraged because she wasn't getting better.”

As their two other dogs excelled and advanced in their training, the Ashworths kept Molly in the Nearly Newton's class for another session. When there was still no significant improvement in her reactivity, the couple and trainers at Rockin' E decided to enroll Molly in the Dog-to-Dog Reactive Program (DDRP).

“The DDRP is designed to help dogs that are reactive toward other dogs or people,” said Jenny Williams, professional trainer and co-owner of

Rockin' E. “Most of these dogs act in an aggressive manner due to fear. Our goal at Rockin' E is to get the reactive dog to remain calm and choose to turn and walk away when he sees another dog or person.”

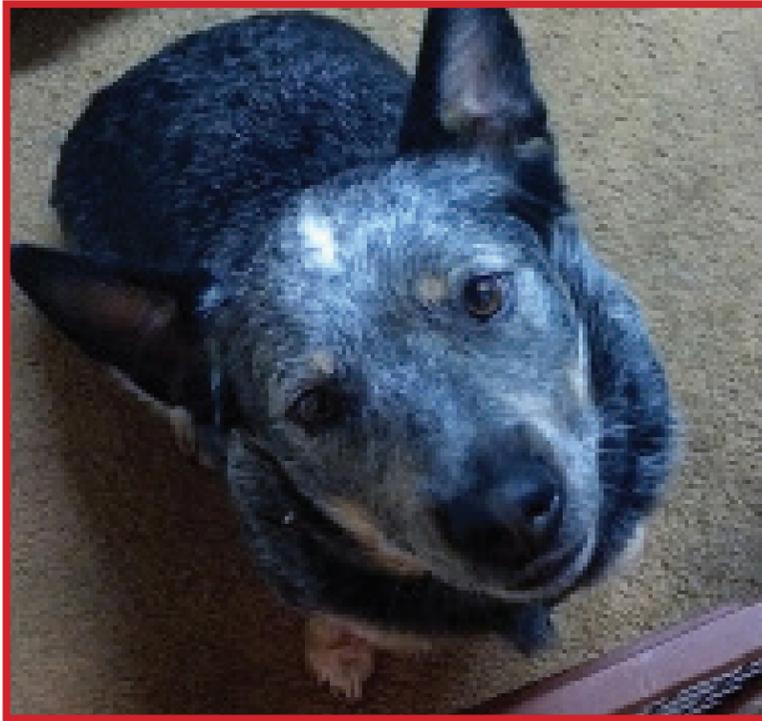
Shelby said that the CGC class includes just as much training for owners as it does for dogs.

“The thing about the DDRP is that we weren't necessarily training the dogs to be less reactive, we were learning how to set them up for success so that they could improve and learn positive behaviors.”

Molly and her owners completed two sessions of the DDRP and finally began to see significant improvement in Molly's behavior. The Ashworths and the trainers at Rockin' E decided it was time to move her back into the Nearly Newtons class.

“We had our own area to work in and we tried our hardest to integrate into the class,” Shelby said. After a second session, they began to make slow progress.

“It was hard not to get discouraged, especially when it felt like we were going backwards,” Shelby said. “At times, it did feel that we were significantly



behind the class since there were things we had to skip because Molly wasn't ready to interact with other dogs. But all the trainers at Rockin' E were encouraging throughout the whole process.”

After completing three consecutive sessions of Nearly Newtons, Molly progressed into the Canine Good Citizen class, or the CGC.

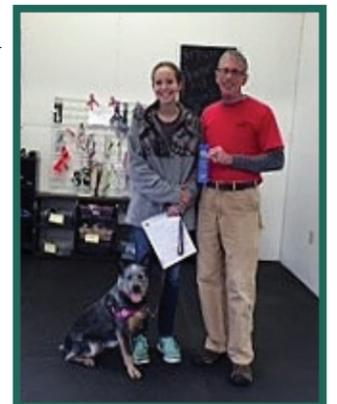
Established by the American Kennel Club (AKC), the CGC is a 2 part program which stresses responsible pet ownership and basic manners for dogs. All dogs who are able to pass the 10 step test at the end of the program receive an official CGC certificate from the AKC.

“We decided that the worst thing that would happen was that Molly and I would have to retake the class if we failed the test,” Shelby said.

It was a brand new class with all new dogs, and Shelby said it was hard at first for Molly to adjust. However, by the second class, she began to show improvement

which continued throughout the course of the session. The Ashworths and the trainers at Rockin' E decided to schedule a CGC test for Molly.

No one was particularly confident that Molly would be able to pass the test, especially on the difficult “reaction to dog” portion.



Shelby, Bob and Molly pose with the CGC certificate they all worked so hard to earn.



“Molly”

continued from page 1

“When the other dog came out into the room, Molly struggled to keep it together,” Shelby said.

Despite this, Molly and Shelby were able to make it through all 10 steps. When the evaluator confirmed that they had passed, Shelby said no one could believe it.

“It was an emotional moment,” Shelby said. “It showed that hard work, time and patience really do pay off.”

It was a long and often difficult process, but Shelby and her husband Chris said that they knew giving up on Molly was not an option.

“Bob always made sure to praise us for our dedication towards Molly and I think he was just as happy and emotional as I was when she passed

the test,” Shelby said. “He saw Molly at her worst, but he also saw her improvements and never gave up on her either. Having a trainer with you from the worst moments to one of the best moments with your dog is something that is hard to describe in words. Without them, you wouldn’t be where you are today.”

“I’m not sure that there are many other trainers that would be so willing to help and put in so much extra time.”

–Shelby Ashworth

Earning a CGC certificate is a significant achievement for both dog and trainer. However, Molly’s owners know that this does not mean that Molly is now a perfect dog.

“Just because Molly has the CGC certificate does not mean that she is allowed to go everywhere or that she is fine with all situations,” Shelby said. “Having the CGC means

that the owner is responsible for the dog and knows how to work with them to make the best of the situation.”

Shelby and Chris said that life with all three of their dogs is now much more enjoyable. They credit Molly’s newfound lease on life to the time and attention they received from the trainers at Rockin’ E.

“There were many classes where we stayed late with Bob to get help because Molly wasn’t able to do some exercises during the normal class,” Shelby said. “I’m not sure that there are many other trainers that would be so willing to help and put in so much extra time.”

Bob said that the key to Molly’s success was not the repeated sessions of classes at Rockin’ E, but the unwavering dedication of Shelby and Chris themselves.

“They were committed to unlocking the potential in a dog that they were not going to give up on,” Bob said. “All three of them proved to me that what I refer to as ‘The Majesty of Dogs’ really does exist.” 🐾



The Dog Days of Summer at Rockin’ E



Summertime means Shakespeare in the Park, a fun, seasonal class, where we work on practical skills in and around Laramie’s beautiful parks!

Dog Day in the Park 2016

Dogs and dog lovers alike gathered together in Washington Park this summer to celebrate the 10th annual Dog Day in the Park. This free event was open to the public and allowed dogs and owners of all shapes and sizes to intermingle, learn about some

great organizations, and participate in fun activities, including Rockin’ E’s very own agility course! Other fun attractions included a dogs-only wading pool, a sketch-a-pet artist, a calendar contest, free nail trimmings, and of course, plenty of yummy treats for both dogs and their two-legged companions! Check out some of the photos from this year’s event, courtesy of event coordinator Barbara Barnes!



Rockin' E's Teresa Bingham becomes Wyoming's second Certified Dog Behaviorist 🐾



Teresa Bingham, Wyoming's second Certified Behavior Consultant, and her beloved dog.

Rockin' E's own Teresa Bingham has recently become Wyoming's second Certified Dog Behaviorist.

The certification was handed down through the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT) on May 21st of this year.

Wyoming's first and only other Certified Behavior Consultant, or CBC, is Sandy Myers, co-owner of Rockin' E. Teresa decided to become a CBC herself after learning that Sandy was planning to retire.

"I wanted to help as many dogs as possible," Teresa said. "When I started my mentorship with Sandy, I thought I already knew a lot about dog training and solving behavior problems, but I quickly learned that basic obedience skills only go so far in helping solve the problems of many dogs."

Rather than focusing on obedience training, like coming when called, walking on a leash, and sitting on command, CBCs like Teresa are trained to address behaviors like fear, anxiety and aggression. They then work on the obedience skills that will best

address these behaviors.

"I've worked with dogs that have absolutely fantastic obedience skills, but are somewhat of a mess emotionally and don't have the skills to deal with their phobias or aggression triggers," Teresa said. "Knowledge of learning theory, proper techniques, and a clear understanding of behavior modification is very important."

The process of becoming a Certified Behavior Consultant is a rigorous one. In order to submit an application to the CCPDT, Teresa had to log a minimum of 300 hours of mentorship under a certified behaviorist over a five-year period.

"These hours had to contain consultation which was geared toward addressing behaviors such as fear or phobias, compulsive behaviors, anxiety issues and aggression," Teresa said. "If the appointments dealt with basic obedience skills and training, they were not counted towards the certification."

Once the 300 hours are carefully logged and completed, the application is submitted along with extensive background information, a professional reference, a signed code of ethics, and an application fee. The applicant must then wait to find out if their application is approved by the CCPDT.

After she was approved, Teresa then

had to schedule a written test to complete her certification, which took place in Fort Collins and lasted around four hours.

"The test is 180 questions long and covers topics like applied behavior analysis, anatomy, physiology, biology, body language, health and development, and consulting skills," Teresa said.

After completing this extensive exam, Teresa waited over a month to receive the results saying she'd passed.

"I was super excited when I got my test results back and my certificate in the mail," Teresa said. "I did a little happy dance and sent a picture of it to Sandy as soon as I opened it up."

However, passing the written test is not the end of the certification process. CBCs like Teresa are required to attend education events to maintain their certification—at least 36 hours-worth every 5 years. They must also pay a re-certification fee, re-sign the code of ethics form, and submit a test question for the written exam.

"It is a lot of work to be certified, but it makes me feel proud to know that I completed all the requirements," Teresa said. "The knowledge base and hours of practice required to be a certified behavior consultant help to insure a better quality of training and behavior modification for our clients at Rockin' E."



A little dress-up fun in therapy class



Rockin' E class offerings

(Sessions typically begin every 6-7 weeks)

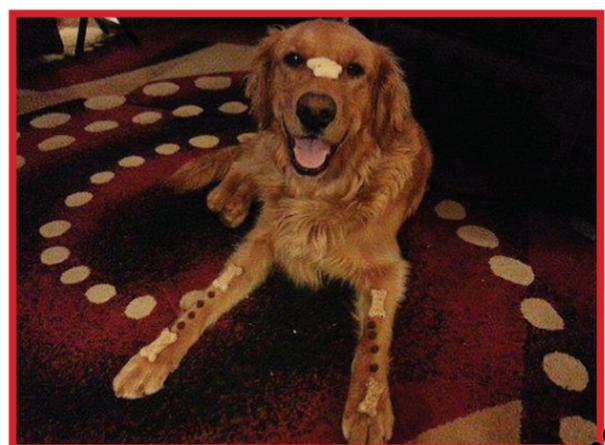
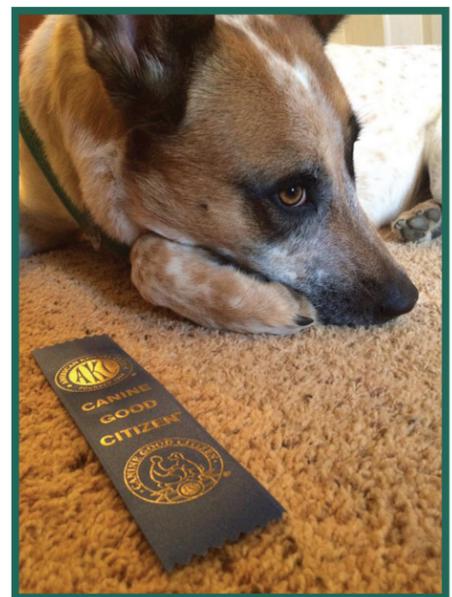
- *Canine Conditioning: learn to use FitPAWS® equipment to strengthen your dog's body & mind
- *Behavior Consulting: work with a trainer on difficult behaviors like separation anxiety & aggression
- *Early Einsteins: basic obedience for dogs under 6 months old
- *Beginning Davincis: beginning obedience for dogs over 6 months old
- *Nearly Newtons: Refine your dog's obedience skills
- *Canine Good Citizenship: work towards passing the AKC's Canine Good Citizen test
- *Ripped with Rover: get fit with your dog and local company Hybrid Athletics
- *Therapy Dog Certification: prepare your dog to be tested & certified for therapy work
- *Shakespeare in the Park: a summer class that focuses on reality training in Laramie's beautiful parks
- *Advanced Artistotles: higher level obedience training
- *Beginning & Intermediate Agility: have fun and learn to use agility equipment
- *Agility Drop-In: come use our agility equipment to work on your skills
- *Dog-to-Dog Reactive Program: for dogs who act in a reactive manner towards people or other dogs
- *Assistance/Service Dog Training: let us help you train your service dog

BONUS BONE GRAND

PRIZE WINNER:

Tim & Gryffin!

CONGRATULATIONS!



For more information about all of our classes, pricing and how to register, visit our website at www.rockinedogtraining.com & like "Rockin E Dog Training & Consulting" on Facebook!

