



# THE SCOOP

Citizen Canine Dog Owners' Association Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1 Winter 2006



## Finding Karma

by Julia Nowosielska

Joanne and David visited the CRD and seriously considered one dog there. However, because of their scheduled holiday, they decided to wait until their return. By the time they went back to the CRD, that dog had already been adopted by someone else. Although disappointed, they continued their search which led them to the Victoria Adoptables website and to more visits to the CRD.

On one such visit to the CRD, in the Spring of 2005, Joanne says "as I walked by, she grabbed me. I just put my hand through the bars and Karma was so friendly."

Meet Karma whose name is fitting considering the circumstances under which she came to be part of the Mohr family. Karma is now a little over one year old. She is a pitbull/lab cross. Although there was not too much information on Karma, the Mohr family fell in love with her. Joanne and David did learn that Karma

**A**dopting a pet should never be a spontaneous act. Serious thought and consideration should be given before bringing a pet into the family.

Joanne and David Mohr knew they wanted to adopt a dog pet and went about that process responsibly.

Joanne had started a running program and she was looking for a companion to join her - one who would enjoy the runs as much as she was. What better running partner than a dog? A dog would never complain that it's too wet, too cold or that they just didn't feel like running today. In addition, a dog would encourage Joanne to run regularly. A "well serviced dog" is a happy dog and one less likely to have behaviour problems due to a lack of exercise.

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Please send letters to the editor and submissions to Citizen Canine at Cook St RO, PO Box 23078, BC V8V 4Z8 or by email to

[newsletter@citizencanine.org](mailto:newsletter@citizencanine.org)

Letters and submissions must be signed by the author and may be edited for style and length. You can also comment on any of these articles at Citizen Canine's online forum at [www.citizencanine.org](http://www.citizencanine.org)

Citizen Canine Dog Owners Association is a registered society in British Columbia. Our goals are to promote and protect the interests of dog owners in the greater Victoria region through advocacy, education and community building. To join Citizen Canine, complete a membership form from this publication or join on-line [www.citizencanine.org](http://www.citizencanine.org)

**Citizen Canine Dog Owners Association**  
Cook Street RO,  
PO Box 23078,  
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# Citizen Canine presents a celebration of the Chinese Year Of The Dog

## Saturday, Feb. 4th 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Join us in Centennial Square for an afternoon  
of free events



**1:00** Dr. Stanley Coren's Bite Free Program (safe and effective ways for children and adults to interact with dogs) presented by dog trainer, Alexandra Weynerowski

**2:00** Dog Breeds & Behaviour (an interactive presentation about the characteristics of various breeds of dogs) presented by dog behaviorist Mary Anne Leason

**3:00** Trick Training for Dogs (bring your dog and learn how easy it can be to teach new tricks) presented by trainer Sherry Antonishen

**PLUS:** The Canine Good Neighbour Fun Test all afternoon. Volunteers from Citizen Canine will take dog owners and their dogs through the twelve tests of your dog's good manners in everyday situations. Bring your dog and try it out. See if you're ready to try for the Canine Good Neighbour certificate.

For more information about the Canine Good Neighbour Test, go to [www.citizencanine.org/cgn12.htm](http://www.citizencanine.org/cgn12.htm)

All events are free and open to first comers. Join the fun, with or without a dog. Well behaved dogs on leash are welcome.

[www.citizencanine.org](http://www.citizencanine.org) for more information

# How'd You Do That?

by Sherry Antonishen

## The Building Bricks of Teaching Tricks

Teaching tricks is such a great way to bond with your dog- but where do you start? I have talked to more than one young man who, after “seeing it on TV”, dreams of having his dog fetch a beer out of the fridge. Yes it can be done. Yes it does take a lot of time. So let’s start with something much simpler – because if you teach your dog behaviours that are relatively easy the principles will translate to that very cool beer out of the fridge trick.

### Shake a Paw

As with all tricks the best way to teach “shake a paw” is to have treats ready and a ‘cue’ that tells the dog he’s going to get a treat for the behaviour (in this case lifting his paw). Most trainers recommend the word “yes” to mark the moment when your dog is doing that which earns a treat. Some dogs are very inclined to give a paw... others require more effort. A long standing way to get our dogs to shake a paw when we ask is to say “shake” and then take hold of the paw and lift it for her. Remembering to say “yes” and give her a treat of course. Eventually the dog lifts her paw on her own and we give her extra love and extra treats for being so brilliant!

There are many other ways to inspire your dog to “shake a

paw”. The ones listed here require the dog to lift her paw on her own and are simplified in their explanations. If one doesn’t work try another and remember to be patient—you know what you want but the dog has no idea what you are asking for.

Tapping the dogs toe sometimes inspires a paw to lift. The moment the paw comes off the floor say “yes” and give a treat. Remember if you haven’t been using “yes” your dog doesn’t actually know that ‘yes means treat’ yet so have the treat immediately follow the yes.

Another fun way to get the dog to raise a paw is by targeting or luring. That is, if you have a dog that is inclined to use his paws while playing you can simply wave your hand or a toy to get the dog to lift the paw. Again, say “yes” and give a treat for each paw lift while the dog is learning.

One can also shape a dog’s behaviour into a spontaneous paw lift. This method is used by many animal trainers who must train dogs, cats, chickens etc for performances. For this method have your dog in front of you and simply wait for something to happen. The dog will most likely sit as this is what pays off for her most often. Then watch her front paws.



When one of them lifts, whether its to shift her weight or to stand, say “yes” at the exact moment the paw comes off the ground. This method requires the best timing but will make you a great trainer and make your dog really keen to work. This method requires that the dog ‘figure out’ what she must do in order to get the treat. Dogs trained with shaping often start throwing out more behaviours than those that aren’t. Shaping makes wonderful clowns and comedians.

Trick classes are a great way to laugh and have fun with your dog. Approach trick training with an easy-going spirit and always be open to what the dog is naturally inclined to do. Eventually your dog may be getting you a beer while you are busy reading the next issue of The Scoop!

*Sherry Antonishen, APDT, is the owner of Smart Dog Training & Consulting [www.smartdogtraining.ca](http://www.smartdogtraining.ca)*



# End Animal Cruelty Campaign

The BC SPCA has launched an advocacy campaign aimed at dramatically improving the lives of abused and neglected animals in BC.

The goals of the campaign are threefold:

- ➔ To persuade the provincial government to strengthen BC's woefully inadequate animal cruelty laws;
- ➔ To raise public awareness about the plight of abused and neglected animals;
- ➔ To obtain adequate and sustained funding to at least partially compensate us for the cost of animal cruelty investigations.

Although the BCSPCA is not a government agency, it is mandated to conduct cruelty investigations and enforce the anti-cruelty laws. We investigate between 8000 and 10,000 cruelty complaints annually, and are involved in every aspect of an investigation, including initial response to the complaint, follow-up inspections, seizure, rehabilitation and rehoming of animals in critical distress and presentation of evidence at a trial.

In the Victoria area, we investigate an average of 500 complaints annually. Fortunately, most of these are resolved with the co-operation of the owners, which involves educating them about the proper treatment of their animals and follow-up inspections, or the voluntary surrender of the animals.

Unfortunately, too many cases of cruelty go unreported and uninvestigated - it is estimated that an animal is the victim of cruelty every hour of every day in BC. The Society spends over \$1.5 million annually and

needs to increase funding. We have 55 Special Provincial Constables on staff - at least seven more are needed to enable us to respond adequately to the overwhelming number of complaints and provide an enforcement presence in those parts of the province without officers.

All of that \$1.5 million is spent fulfilling our mandate to enforce provincial and federal laws, but the Province provides a mere \$71,000 earmarked for officer training. By comparison, the Ontario SPCA, which fields a comparable number of complaints, receives over \$1 million in provincial funding and the Alberta SPCA, with far fewer complaints, receives \$800,000.



***Roanie, a 7 year old Dalmatian, was bludgeoned about the head and thrown into the cold Fraser River to die. Found and rescued by BCSPCA cruelty officers, Roanie was rehabilitated and placed in a loving home. His abuser was found and charged.***

Under our current laws, animals are property, not sentient beings, and the penalties for breaches of those laws reflect this. For example, a puppy mill operator, raking in enormous profits, couldn't care less about a fine of \$2000 - it's simply an easily paid "business expense". The legisla-

tion lacks teeth; for example, there are no penalties for those who abuse animals belonging to others. We hope that this campaign will result in the enactment of changes to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to significantly improve protection for animals and provide appropriate penalties for all those found guilty of cruelty.

This is very much a grass roots campaign and we are asking people, especially animal lovers, to do three things:

- ➔ Sign the Action Letter to the Premier and the Minister of Agriculture and Lands - see the campaign website [www.EndAnimalCruelty.com](http://www.EndAnimalCruelty.com).
- ➔ Send an email to family and friends asking them to do likewise;
- ➔ Buy and wear an Awareness wristband.

Violent crimes against animals are *not* taken seriously in this province. We cannot claim to live in a humane society while atrocities against animals continue to take place *every hour of every day*. With your help, we intend to change this.

*For further information please visit [ww.EndAnimalCruelty.com](http://www.EndAnimalCruelty.com) or contact*

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# Speaking Out Against Breed-Specific Legislation

## Proposing Proactive Ways to Reduce Incidents of Dog Bites

Victoria City Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe has opened up discussion on how BC municipalities deal with dangerous dogs and irresponsible dog owners. She spoke last fall at a meeting of the Union of BC Municipalities and introduced a resolution from Victoria City Council that began by saying breed-specific legislation is not an adequate or appropriate solution to the problem.

The Victoria resolution proposed the development of uniform provincial policy and suggested two specific steps to take. The first proposed an amendment to the provincial legislation that would require dog breeders, dog pounds, shelters and pet stores to meet standards of breeding and care for animals as set out in the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines. The second proposed a province-wide system, accessible to all animal control agencies, municipal police, and the RCMP, to track and penalize people who repeatedly keep aggressive dogs.

Thornton-Joe spoke to the 500 delegates at the meeting about not only dealing with people who keep dangerous dogs, but also being proactive and addressing some of the root causes of a dog becoming dangerous. She spoke about

issues of breeding, treatment and training of dogs and gave examples of some ways to be proactive in preventing dog bite incidents.

Educate children at school on behavior around dogs as this can reduce the likelihood of a child being bitten by 80%. Over half of fatalities involving dogs (53%) are due to a dog being provoked (struck or poked in the

***...breed-specific legislation is not an adequate or appropriate solution to the problem.***

face with a stick for example). Improve treatment of dogs by their owners. Dogs kept chained or in small areas are 3 times more likely to fatally bite.

Promote basic dog training. There is a 90% reduction of the likeliness of biting when dogs have had basic obedience training.

Legislate breeding and sales of dogs. Some puppy mills and pet stores sell puppies before the age of 8 weeks, before they have had needed socialization from the mother and the litter, potentially leading to aggressive



behaviour.

Thornton-Joe also articulated her concerns about breed-specific legislation, saying, "Many cities throughout North America are reacting to dog attacks by calling for breed-specific legislation, which is not an effective way to deal with this issue."

The City of Victoria's resolution was approved by the UBCM conference and will be forwarded to the province. Citizen Canine applauds Charlayne Thornton-Joe for her common-sense stand against breed-specific legislation and for her proposals to proactively address root causes of dog attacks and to monitor and deal with people who keep dangerous dogs.

Announcing The Scoop's

# PHOTO CONTEST

We'd like to show off some of the wonderful dogs in Victoria so we're holding a "cutest dog" photo contest. All dog owners know that every dog is cute in its own way—so here's your chance to prove it. Send us your best, your cutest, or your funniest photo of your dog and your name will be entered for a prize. As well, we'll include some of the best images in our spring issue of The Scoop. Chez Terry's Pet Foods has generously donated dog toys for prizes. Two prizes will be drawn and winners will be announced in the next issue.

**Deadline for submitting photos is February 27, 2006.**



Please send your digital photos by email in either jpeg or similar format to [newsletter@citizencanine.org](mailto:newsletter@citizencanine.org). Make sure you include the following information in your email: your name, phone number, dog's name, breed and age, as well as any other relevant details.



# Join Us—As a Supporting Member of Citizen Canine



In June of 2004, Citizen Canine Dog Owners Association incorporated as a BC non-profit society with the goals of:

- Advocating for inclusive public policy on public access and acceptance of dog owners in the greater victoria region.
- Promoting responsible dog ownership and educating the public about dogs and their behaviour.
- Developing a strong community of responsible dog owners.

Since then we've developed a network of over 1,400 dog owners and have organized a number of educational and community events. As well, we are beginning to bring the attention of local governments to the need for inclusive public policies for citizens and their dogs.

## Help us become a stronger voice for dog owners in Greater Victoria.

As with any organization, the more members we have, the stronger our voice will be. By becoming a supporting member you can help us in our work, both through the membership fee and (if you choose to) through active involvement in the organization.

The following benefits are offered to our supporting members:

- Opportunities to participate in a local organization that protects the interests of dogs in our community
- Voting privileges at Citizen Canine General Meetings
- A Citizen Canine membership card that entitles you to discounts at many local pet-related businesses (See our website [www.citizencanine.org](http://www.citizencanine.org) for details).
- The option to receive mailed copies of our quarterly newsletter, The Scoop.

To become a supporting member of Citizen Canine, complete the application form below and mail it to us with the membership fee. If you don't want to be a supporting member, you can still join our e-mail network by registering at our website.

## CITIZEN CANINE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION -- 2006

I hereby apply for membership in CITIZEN CANINE DOG OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Municipality \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Dog(s) Name(s) and Breed(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Annual supporting membership fee is \$20.00. Please enclose a cheque or money order for \$20 made out to Citizen Canine. Send payment and completed application to **Citizen Canine, Cook Street RO, PO Box 23078, Victoria, BC V8V 4Z8**