



Our Writers

Don Hanson, BFRP, CDBC, CPDT



Don Hanson is the co-owner of the Green Acres Kennel Shop where he is also the Director of Behavior Counseling and Training. As a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant (CDBC), Certified Pet Dog Trainer (CPDT) and Bach Foundation Registered Practitioner (BFRP) animal specialist, Don assists guardians and their dogs and cats with everything from minor training issues to serious behavioral problems such as separation anxiety, fear, and aggression. Don is also a certified evaluator for Therapy Dogs International, testing dog and guardian teams who wish to bring canine companionship to nursing homes and hospitals.

You'll find Don writing about animal behavior and training, Bach Flower Remedies, pet nutrition holistic and complementary healthcare, special events and Green Acres services and products. Don is also an experienced public speaker, and has lectured on pets, behavior and the Bach Flower remedies in the USA, Canada, the Caribbean and Japan. He is the author of *Best Friends for Life*, the book used in our introductory training classes. Since January of 2005 he has been on WVOM-FM every Sunday night with "The Woof-Meow" show with co-host Kate Dutra. The mission of the show is to educate listeners how to care for and train their pets.

Don is a certified member of the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC), a professional member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT), and the Association of Animal Behavior Professionals (AABP), and a member of the Dog Writers Association of America (DWAA), the Pet Care Services Association (PCSA formerly ABKA), and Truly Dog Friendly (TDF).

Don and his wife share their lives with two dogs (Tikken – Golden Retriever and Dulcie – Cairn Terrier) and three cats (Batman, Thelma and Louise).

Kate Dutra, CPDT



Kate joined the Green Acres staff in 1992 and was our Kennel Manager until she returned to her studies at the University of Maine in 2002. She has served as our Training Manager and in the fall of 2008 she became our Operations Manager.

Kate is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer a professional member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT) and is qualified to teach all of our group classes. She also does private training sessions. Kate works with Don on pet behavior consultations, assists with therapy



dog testing and is a regular co-host on the Woof-Meow Show. Having worked the retail side of Green Acres for many years, Kate is also very knowledgeable about our products and pet nutrition. She is a

Kate will be writing about dog training, kids and dogs, Green Acres services and products, and on a wide variety of other topics. She and her family share their lives with Lizzie, a Hound mix and Emily and Guido the cats.

Becky Ruggiero, CPDT



Becky first walked into Green Acres in January of 1999 after adopting her first dog, a 10 month-old Sheltie she named Lady. Becky and Lady enrolled in Green Acres Basic Behaviors class in March of 1999, and Becky has been training dogs ever since.

Since officially joining the Green Acres training staff in August of 1999, Becky has earned her Certified Pet Dog Trainer (CPDT) accreditation and attended Bob and Marion Bailey's infamous "chicken camp" for animal trainers. Today she is our Senior Lead Instructor and a professional member of the

Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT). Becky says the best things about teaching dog training classes is "seeing the joy and increased companionship that results when dogs and their guardians truly "get" the clicker training method."

Becky will be writing about dog training, kids and dogs, and other topics she thinks you'll find of interest.

Becky and her family share their home with four dogs, Lady, Caspian, Narnia, and Minnie. Becky admits she has a special fondness for rescue dogs. She teaches Puppy Headstart, Basic Manners classes and our Level 2 and Level 3 Workshops.