Green Acres' Training Staff Attend Seminar on the Myths of Dog Dominance & "Whispering"

For Immediate Release

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[***Bangor***]— Six members of the Green Acres Kennel Shop training staff (Angela Allen, Kate Dutra, Don Hanson, Jessica Hofmeyer, Christie Mahaffey, and Joel Mahaffey) attended a seminar entitled "Stop 'Whispering' and Speak Up for Your Dog" with best selling author and dog behaviorist Jean Donaldson, at Happy Tails in Portland.

Since the publication of her first book, *The Culture Clash,* in 1996, Donaldson has been pointing out the flaws in the construct that suggests that behavior and training problems with dogs are a result of the dog being "dominant.". She discussed scientific research on wild wolves that indicate the social organization of a wolf pack is more like that of a well-adjusted family than a hierarchal relationship based on social dominance. Research on feral dogs also fails to support the dominance construct. Donaldson also discussed how this focus on dominating the dog has caused many problems, including aggression and anxiety.

Donaldson addressed the current divide in the dog training community between professionals who use reward-based training and others who focus on using intimidation (dominance) and pain (choke collars, shock collars) to train. Donaldson stated, "Cutting off a dogs air supply or shocking them is obscene." She also cautioned the audience to be wary of the questionable advice that is being given via some reality television shows and suggested that dog guardians that need help with their dogs should consult with a qualified, credentialed dog-training professional such as a Certified Pet Dog Trainer.

In business since 1965, Green Acres Kennel Shop at 1653 Union Street is a Pet Care Services Association (PCSA) accredited facility offering boarding, daycare and grooming for dogs and cats, as well as pet behavior consultations and training classes. Green Acres has five Certified Pet Dog Trainers on staff and one Certified Dog Behavior Consultant. The Green Acres retail store offers a wide variety of wholesome pet foods, treats and quality supplies. For more information, please call 945-6841 or visit www.greenacreskennel.com.