Green Acres' Staff Attends Seminar on Canine Behavior and Language

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[***Bangor***]— Ten members of the Green Acres Kennel Shop training and daycare staff (Erin Colpitt, Kate Dutra, Don Hanson, Tracy Haskell, Jessica Hofmeyer, Christie Mahaffey, Joel Mahaffey, Patty McNamara, Becky Ruggiero, and Angela Sedgwick) attended a seminar entitled "How to Talk Dog" with Certified Dog Behavior Consultant and Certified Pet Dog Trainer, Sarah Kalnajs, at My Wonderful Dog in Portland.

In this one day seminar, Kalnajs reviewed the variety of signals used by dogs, some overt and some quite subtle, to indicate when dogs are stressed, feeling threatened, or being threatening. Through a comprehensive collection of video samples, Kalnajs demonstrated how to differentiate when these signals require immediate action and when they just entail monitoring. She emphasized the importance of understanding the sequence of these behaviors and the context in which they occur. By understanding these signals, Kalnajs indicated that we can better care for your dogs and help ensure their safety and comfort.

When Green Acres' co-owner, Don Hanson, was asked about the significance of this seminar he stated "The material presented by Ms. Kalnajs is absolutely essential for anyone that works with dogs professionally, but is especially critical for those that are responsible for supervising dogs that interact with one another such as at a doggie daycare, in a dog training class, or at a dog park. The subtlety of these signals really demonstrates the importance of making sure that dogs in a daycare are 100% supervised by adequate numbers of trained staff that are always right there with the dogs, observing and ready to intervene as necessary." Hanson also indicated that this was just one of many seminars his staff has attended on this topic and that they also conduct in-house training for new staff and for those that were unable to attend.

Green Acres Kennel Shop offers boarding, daycare and grooming for dogs and cats, as well as pet behavior consultations and training classes. Their retail store offers a wide variety of wholesome pet foods, treats and quality supplies. In business since 1965, Green Acres has been voted the best kennel in the Bangor region for the past five years.