

# The APDT CHRONICLE

September/October 2011 *of the Dog*



*Tellington TTouch® in Shelters:  
Every Session Helps*  
by Betsy Lane, MA

*It Takes Two:  
Successful Cat and Dog Interactions*  
by Jacqueline Munera, CCBC, PCBC, CAP2

*Doggie Detectives 101*  
by Inga From, CPDT-KA

# Doggie Detectives 101

Inga From, CPDT-KA



**B**oom! You hear a sudden loud explosion and are nearly rocked out of your hammock. Your dogs start barking like something is terribly wrong and you get up to see what is happening. You see that an empty shed on your property is engulfed in flames. You call the fire department and within minutes, which seem like hours, they are there and have things under control. Luckily, no one is hurt. The fire chief thinks foul play is at work because there have been a string of arsons in the area — all of them related to empty outbuildings in rural locations. Your mind races a hundred miles per minute. A few hours ago, you were sleeping peacefully in your yard. Even your five dogs were quiet. How could someone come onto your property unnoticed? You hadn't seen a single vehicle for the past day. Later that afternoon, your Westie notifies you that the mail has arrived. You see that one piece of mail is addressed to "The Crime Fighter" of the house. This suspicious letter states that this was a just a warning and threatens to strike again if demands are not met. You look around at the dogs in your living room. Which one will help you search the area for clues? Is it the champion Blue Heeler, the dock-diving Lab, the Border Collie you take to flyball class? No, it has to be the all-American mutt that wandered into your life as a stray. He has a nose that can sniff out any kind of trouble. Come on "Sherlock," it's time to play Doggie Detective!

Are you a dog-loving fool? Are you addicted to crime solving novels or TV shows like CSI? Or maybe you like geocaching. Have you always dreamed of being Sherlock Holmes? Well, now you can give it a try! Take your dog to a Doggie Detective course. "What!?" you say. "Come on, what dog activities will they think of next?"

Doggie Detectives 101 is an interactive dog training course that introduces you and your dog to tracking, search and rescue and scent detection. But it also combines the fun of solving a mock crime in the process. This course is open to any family dog that has taken a basic manners class and is friendly with other dogs and people. This is not for law enforcement; it is a fun mystery course designed to promote teamwork in dog training, while taking away real life skills you can teach your dog.

For those of you who cannot get enough of the who-done-its, we are also creating Doggie Detectives 201 for the intermediate to advanced dog. Doggie Detectives 201 will build on skills you have learned in the introductory course and add new ones along the way. You cannot be a crime fighter overnight!

I would like to say that this class was all my idea, but the truth is that I was given the idea by the UK's John Rogerson.

This past January, I attended his training course in a rural area in India. Part of his course involves teaching trainers to come up with new ideas and classes; he has a course called Crime Scene Investigation (CSI). He encouraged his students to take the concept back to their home countries. I decided to come up with my own curriculum based on his CSI course and bring it to the US.

This was a relatively easy task for me because I have a background in law enforcement. I have worked as a game warden and also as a handler for a private company that uses dogs to search for narcotics and firearms. My law enforcement background was a good match because I was able to integrate my new career in dog behavior and training and come up with lots of unique ideas for Doggie Detectives. I currently work full-time as the animal behavior and training department head for a local rescue and I also do my own private seminars and training in positive gun dog work.

I really wanted Doggie Detectives to be taught with real life experience. I also wanted two people teaching the course, so I asked a former co-worker to help make the class complete. Jackie Pospisil is the co-instructor for this course. She and her Border Collie, Storm, are certified in trailing and land cadaver with Minnesota Search and Rescue Dog Association (MinnSARDA). The unit responds to call outs from public safety agencies in lost person searches. MinnSARDA teams assist in both wilderness and urban searches. Dog/handler teams certified in trailing, air-scent, cadaver work, and disaster response are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Jackie and I hope that our new course will teach people how to communicate with and read their dogs better, learning to watch signals from their family dog but also from fellow human team members. As part of the seminar, participants will not only have to work with their dogs but also work together, just as they would if they were on a search and rescue team.

# GRAND OPENING! NEW WEBSITE!

We are celebrating our new look with a Grand Opening Party during the the month of October  
**WEEKLY DRAWINGS FOR FABULOUS PRIZES!**



- including:
- 4 day Discrimination Chicken Camp a \$600 value from Legacy Canine
  - Basic Class Curriculum CD a \$600 value from dog\*tec
  - Advanced Clicker Training course a \$495 value from Raising Canine
  - Professional Dog Trainer course a \$1500 value from Raising Canine

EVERYONE WINS SOMETHING  
CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

[www.RAISINGCANINE.com](http://www.RAISINGCANINE.com)

The human/canine pairs will learn basic skills on the first day, and on the second day they will be broken up into two groups that will use their dogs and the teamwork skills they have developed to search for clues in a staged scenario. The first team to get all the clues and solve the mystery wins.

It's time to think outside of the box when it comes to the human/canine bond. Dog training classes should no longer be based on formal obedience standards. They can be more about learning life skills (for the dog and the human!), building a better bond with your dog and clearly communicating your expectations while having lots and lots of fun. Many people no longer want to take standard obedience classes where they walk around in a circle with their dog in heel position for an hour. Get out of the training room and into the community. People that come to a Doggie Detectives Course will leave with a tired dog, new friends and new training ideas.

Jackie Pospisil and I will be offering Doggie Detectives 101 in Blaine, Minnesota on October 1st and 2nd, 2011. This course is like no other. Bring along your mystery solving skills; you'll need them! Check out my website for details: [www.PositiveGunDogsMN.com](http://www.PositiveGunDogsMN.com)



*Inga From, CPDT-KA, is the owner of Positive Gun Dogs of Minnesota and also works as the animal behavior and training department head for a nearby local animal rescue. In 2008 she received the APDT's Premier Shelter Staff award. She offers a variety of services to her private clients, including gun dog training. She and her husband enjoy hunting waterfowl and upland birds with their Labrador Retriever and Springer Spaniel. Inga can be reached at [www.PositiveGunDogsMN.com](http://www.PositiveGunDogsMN.com).*

## Going to the Conference? Thinking of joining us? Save a trip!



Apply for membership in dog training's premier +R marketing network before October 1 and join Victoria the day after the APDT conference in San Diego to complete your application.

VICTORIA STILWELL  
*Positively.*  
DOG TRAINING

Join forces with Victoria to promote +R and help your business grow!

**Conference  
Special**

**50% off  
license  
application  
fee**

For more information and license applications:  
[www.positively.com/training](http://www.positively.com/training)