

## Joyce Miller

I've always loved dogs. When I was a toddler, my godfathers gave me a Boston Terrier. After that, my family always had dogs. When I was a child, my mother bred and showed Boxers, and I went to many shows with her. In those days, shows were bench shows, and I spent a lot of time sitting on the bench assigned to my mother's Boxer! As an adult, I fell in love with Airedales. For awhile, my husband and I bred Airedales, and I finished several champions.



But what I really love to do is learn new things and teach these things to others. In order to show my own dogs, I had to learn to handle a dog in the ring, and I repeatedly took seminars offered by both Tom Lams and George Alston. Instead of just having us pretend we were in the ring at a dog show, both of these teachers deconstructed the show ring experience and taught us step by step how to gait our dogs, how to stack our dogs, and how to showcase our dogs for the judge. When some friends asked me to show them how to do what I had learned from these incredible teachers, I started teaching a six-week conformation class in which we took each step of the process and worked on it individually before putting it all together in the last two weeks.

My husband and I no longer breed Airedales, and I no longer show my dogs. However, I still love to help others learn new things and practice what they know, and I am excited about teaching this class at the Dog City Training Center. My husband and I currently have three Airedales: Hannah (13), Neisha (6) and Kate (3). I am an AKC Canine Ambassador, and Neisha and I teach children of all ages to be safe around dogs, to be responsible dog owners, and to help dogs in their communities.

