

## Paula Weir KPA CPT:

Just like most people that are in the dog business I have loved animals of all types throughout my life. It didn't actually occur to me until 1999 to "get into" the dog business. In 1999 I got a German Shepherd pup named Samson and wanted to raise him right, train him and have a dog that would be a pleasure to be around. Serious study began at that time.

I read everything that I could get my hands on and found that there is conflicting information out there in the dog



training world. I started Samson with compulsion training. This simply means that he wore a choke chain and was jerked whenever he did the wrong thing. Doesn't sound very nice does it? No, it didn't to me either. I feel very guilty for this.....but when we know better, we DO better.

Since 1999, I've continued to research through reading, training my own dogs, working with other dogs, attending seminars and competing in dog agility. I have attended seminars from the top positive trainers in the dog industry. Jean Donaldson, Ian Dunbar, Brenda Aloff, Melissa Alexander, Suzanne

Clothier, and Karen Pryor to name a few. I also joined the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (#66603 -

<http://www.apdt.com>) and started attending their annual conventions. I've attended the APDT conventions for the last 3 years. Last year, I attended the 5-Day APDT Conference in Portland Oregon where I went to 4 different seminars per day as well as buying the conference CD that I could listen to all of the other speakers that I missed while attending. In November of 2007, I went to a 3-Day Susan Garrett Seminar in Houston where I could fine-tune many of her techniques that I was exposed to beforehand. In April I attended a 3-day seminar with Brenda Aloff and Steve White that was hosted by Michele Crouse of Super-K9. (<http://www.super-k9.com/steve-and-brenda-details.html>)

One of the recent seminars that I attended was the C.A.T. for dogs seminar in Dallas.

<http://www.sPCA.org/site/PageNavigator/CATforDogs?JServSessionIdr012=e0a6t01jf4.app20a>. This is a technique to Shape Away Aggression and is Presented by: Kellie Snider, MS & Jesús Rosales-Ruiz, PhD. I took my GSD Samson to be used as the "passive" demo dog in the "hands on" portion of the seminar.

January 15 - 18, 2009, I spent 3 days brushing up on the latest in dog training news and science at Clicker EXPO in Austin, TX. If you'd like to check out who I got to meet and learn from, please go to

<http://www.clickertraining.com/clickerexpo/>.



As of April 15, 2009 I officially graduated from the Karen Pryor Academy and am now a Karen Pryor CERTIFIED TRAINING PARTNER- check it out <http://www.karenpryoracademy.com>. This was a very intense training course and I am very proud and honored to be among the first Texas graduating class and only 1 of 4 total that achieved certification.

As you can see, keeping current on the latest positive dog training techniques is very important to me and is what I love to do!

I got Prada in September of 2007 and I continue to fill her once "empty head" with all the good stuff that makes her a joy to live with and a joy to take anywhere that dogs are welcome! Samson is now retired from agility, Barley is a *crazy agility addict* and I will be working with Prada so she loves the sport just as much as Barley and I do.