

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers Doubles in Size

Board of Directors of the CCPDT adds new members.

New York, NY, September 3, 2009 – The Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT) Board of Directors has elected four new is Board members.

We are happy to announce that Jan Czaja, Brad Phifer, Cissy Sumner, and Audrey Tucker have joined the Board of Directors. All are Certified Professional Dog Trainers – Knowledge Assessed (CPDT-KA).

Jan Czaja (Ch•ya) is the owner of Smart Paws Pet Training on Oahu, HI. Jan uses her background as a dolphin, stingray and shark trainer to inspire pet owners to forgo the use of all punishments in favor of positive reinforcement, novel training, and enrichment to shape good behavior. She collaborated with two other trainers to offer Oahu the first-ever positive reinforcement class for dog aggression and reactivity. Jan has a BA in Psychology from the University of Texas.

Brad Phifer, from Indianapolis, IN, is the Director of Pet Behavior Services for the Broad Ripple Animal Clinic & Wellness Center and Headmaster for Bark Tutor School for Dogs. Brad joined the Broad Ripple Animal Clinic in an effort to build the interdisciplinary relationship between dog trainers and veterinarians. He is actively involved in AKC conformation shows and professionally handles many breeds including Basenjis, Poodles and Afghan Hounds. He shares his home with 5 dogs and a pot bellied pig.

Cecelia “Cissy” Sumner came into dog training as a midlife career change. Cissy founded Best Behavior Dog Training in 2002 to teach using force free training methods with well-rounded knowledge based on scientific data and learning theories. Cissy teaches and competes in canine agility sports and has titled a variety of dogs in AKC and USDAA agility. Writing a weekly advice column, “Ask the Dog Trainer,” for a regional newspaper she answers questions on training and behavior. She serves in an advisory position for several local and national breed rescues with a goal to make dog training user-friendly and find viable solutions to keep dogs in their homes.

Audrey A. Tucker owns and operates Pet Education and Therapy, LLC, in Newington, CT. She and her staff provide canine behavior modification, training, canine massage, Bach flower remedies, pet sitting, and pet portrait services throughout Connecticut. Audrey is the recommended behavior counselor for all three Connecticut Humane Societies. She is also involved in performance sports, therapy dogs, 4H, started the national Belgian Shepherd Rescue, and is a guest author on therapy dogs in "Belgians: Start to Finished" 2nd edition. Audrey was selected as the recipient of the 2003 Ian Dunbar/APDT Member of the Year Award from over 5000 APDT members.

The CCPDT's certification program is the first national certification for dog trainers. Until the creation of the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers in 2001, there was no nationally available certification process for dog trainers, though many schools teach dog trainers and offer certificates for their specific programs. All test sites are professionally secured and moderated by Professional Testing Corporation. Candidates who pass the exam earn the title Certified Pet Dog Trainer-Knowledge Assessed and may use the designation, "CPDT-KA" after their names.

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If you want more information or to schedule and interview with a Board member, please contact the CCPDT Administrative Office by email at administrator@ccpdt.org or by phone at 212-356-0682.

<http://www.ccpdt.org/>

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