

Play Dog Excellent – A Dog Care and Training Center

When **Bev Eitner** moved to Signal Mountain, it wasn't to start her own business, or even live next door to her sister. But both happened, and not long after the move from New Jersey, where she was in a corporate position in the IT or computer division of the company she worked for.

Bev's sister is Signal Mountain Council member **Lizetta Paturalski**, and for a while, Bev lived next door to her sister while she continued to do some freelance work for her previous company. But the love for her dog, **Cris**, a Belgian Tervuren, and a desire to start a new business prompted Bev to open Play Dog Excellent or PDX, Chattanooga's Dog Care and Training Center. Located at 4113 Dayton Boulevard in Red Bank, PDX provides canine services, including dog daycare, training, seminars, workshops and performance events.

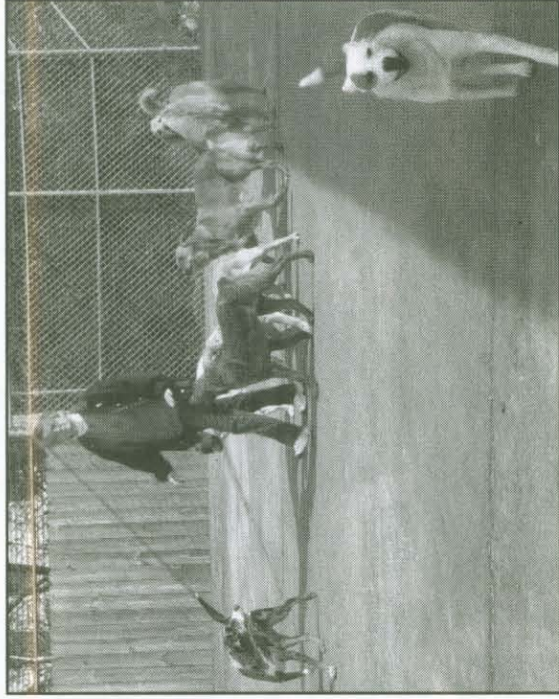
Located in what used to be a roller rink and then a storage building, PDX is approximately 10,000 square feet indoors on 4.3 acres of property. Key to the success of this new venture in Bev's life are two people that assist her. One is **Be Hudson**, who runs the front office. She also happens to be a clinical hypnotherapist, regression therapist, retreat leader and yoga teacher (and Bev's mother). The other is PDX's Director of Operations **Nancy Miller**, who has been training dogs for more than 19 years, and has an extensive background in canine nutrition and its effects on health and behavior, proper care and handling of dogs, dealing with aggression, and reading body language.

The day we visited Play Dog Excel-

lence, I found Nancy outside in the fenced-in area surrounded by more than 20 dogs, all different breeds, sizes and personalities. Known as a "dog whisperer," Nancy has a gift that enables her to communicate with the dogs, and unless you witness it, you wouldn't believe it. She walked; they followed.

We spoke to each other, and they listened. They weren't jumping around barking and chasing one another. On the contrary, they were like a pack of dogs, all happy to be at PDX surrounded by Nancy and their "friends."

According to Bev, most dogs are social animals that want to be with other dogs. When people who own dogs leave them all day while they are at work, they find that their dogs can become lonesome at times, and in some cases, restless, chewing and getting into mischief while home alone. PDX offers an alternative for dog owners by providing daycare and a safe place where they receive exercise and attention. PDX offers a variety of classes in training dogs. Group classes for dog/owner are available, as well as individual training geared toward specific needs and boarding training. Consultations are available, as well as frequently offered seminars that cover a wide range of topics, including health and nutrition, grooming and behavior. To get a complete list of all the training classes, from puppy preschool



Nancy Miller with some of the dogs at PDX

to Canis Sapiens, go to the PDX Web site: www.playdogexcellent.com.

There are many other events that happen each week at PDX. Bev hopes to enlarge the current sheltered arena to allow for official competitions in the future. In the meantime, the public is invited to attend those competitions currently on the schedule, as well as take a tour of the facilities. Much of the information provided in this article came from the great Web site that Bev has created for Play Dog Excellent. We hope that those of you who love your dogs will take the time to look it up and consider taking advantage of this wonderful addition to the Chattanooga area. You also might enjoy the wonderful pictures of all of the animals that attend PDX on a regular basis, and most especially, a few very special ones. One is Bev's adorable terrier, **PDQ**, who has earned his AKC Canine Good Citizen certification. Bev is currently training him in Flyball and freestyle. Nancy owns three boxers, **Boo**,



PDQ



Cotab's Count Monte Cristo (Cris)

Sassie and **Bonnie**, and has competed in conformation, obedience, freestyle and agility. Bev is currently competing in agility, rally, obedience and Flyball with her Belgian Tervuren, **Cris**. Needless to say, each is very proud of their dogs, and we wish the best of luck to Bev and her staff in this wonderful new addition to the Chattanooga area.

by Pris Shurtle

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