



Photos: Norma Jeanne Laurette

Sylvia Gottschalk of Delightful Dogs in Kitchener received several awards, including Dog Trainer of the Year.

IPDTA Awards Banquet *celebrates positive dog training*

by Norma Jeanne Laurette

The room held an air of anticipation as guests settled into their seats after a delicious meal and some camaraderie. People who usually wear clothes best

suited to handling animals turned up in their classiest apparel. They shared a few laughs and tears as they celebrated the accomplishments

Our goal is to not only set the international standard for humane dog training and behavior therapy tools and techniques, but to create better trainers through education, through sharing humane techniques, and by continuously searching for and exploring new methods.

of those who dedicate their lives to making the world a better place for dogs and their guardians.

This was the scene at the International Positive Dog Training Association's 2nd Annual Awards Banquet last October in Kitchener.

Unhappy with dogs being abused in the name of dog training and behavior modification, I founded the IPDTA in 2002, and was quickly joined by trainers, consultants, dog guardians and enthusiasts from around the world. Our goal is to not only set the international standard for humane dog training and behavior therapy tools and techniques, but to create better trainers through education, through sharing humane techniques, and by continuously searching for and exploring new methods.

Events such as our Annual Conference and Awards Banquet, during which we honor and celebrate those who are working with dogs in positive ways, help us accomplish this goal. Last year, Teresa Lewin, Joan Orr and Jennifer Shryock of Doggone Crazy and Doggone Safe were the recipients of twelve awards for creating the Clicker Puppy DVD and Doggone Crazy Board game, educational tools created to teach children about dog training and bite prevention. Emily Ugarenko, meanwhile, was honored with six awards for her work as Fund-Raising Coordinator with the Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF), and for her tireless commitment to education and rescue.

Four Ontario trainers received Dog Trainer of the Year awards: Kelly Dearlove of On Golden Paws, Sylvia Gottschalk from Delightful Dogs, Jennifer Reed of Leader of the Pack, and Charlie White of Better Dog Training.

nature's dentist

**fights bacteria, freshens breath
and whitens teeth naturally**

Formerly Denta-Fresh®, Nature's Dentist® comes in a handy shaker that is sprinkled on your pet's food. Pets love the flavour and it's a great way to help combat periodontal diseases and improve oral health. Available at select retailers.

Tri-Natural Products Inc. • 1-800-267-6028 • www.trinatural.com



Nominate your favourite trainer!

This year's Awards Banquet takes place on the evening of October 21 at our Annual Conference, at the Holiday Inn in Kitchener, and will be followed by a celebration with live music. Awards will be presented in a total of 21 categories, including Rescue and Rehabilitation, Society Education, Special Needs Training, Canine Hero, Best New Business, Dog Trainer Excellence, Dog Daycare Excellence, Behavior Therapy Excellence, Aggression Rehabilitation, Fear Rehabilitation, and Dog Trainer of the Year. Anyone is invited to nominate those they feel are worthy of these awards, to cast their votes and/or attend the banquet.

Though only four years old, the IPDTA is already making history by taking a stand for the sake of dogs everywhere, and setting the international standard for what is acceptable or unacceptable in dog training and behavior modification. Hopefully, all tools and techniques will one day meet our standards, and will be used by trainers and behavior consultants around the world.

For more information on the IPDTA, visit www.ipdta.org.

NORMA JEANNE LAURETTE IS CHAIR OF THE IPDTA AND HAS BEEN A PROFESSIONAL DOG TRAINER/BEHAVIOR THERAPIST SINCE 1989. SHE IS ALSO OWNER OF THE PUPPY POWER DOG TRAINING & BEHAVIOUR THERAPY CENTRE IN KITCHENER, AND AUTHOR AND TEACHER OF THE CANINE COMMUNICATION STUDIES INC. CERTIFICATION CAREER COURSES, TEACHING PROFESSIONAL DOG TRAINING AND BEHAVIOR THERAPY. WWW.DOGTRAININGCAREERS.COM.



Kirsandra Newell, owner of Caring Canines Doggie Daycare in Cambridge, was presented with a Dog Daycare Excellence Award and a Humane Dog Training Award.



DR. MAGGIE®

Supplement for Skin & Coat
for itching, flaking, hot spots,
shedding and dull coat.

DR. MAGGIE® **PET FOOD SUPPLEMENTS**

**GUARANTEED
EFFECTIVE, SAFE, NATURAL, ECONOMICAL**

**Protect your pet's good health!
Visit us at**

www.drmmaggie.ca



DR. MAGGIE®

Extra Strength Joint Formula
for relief and prevention of
symptoms of osteo-arthritis