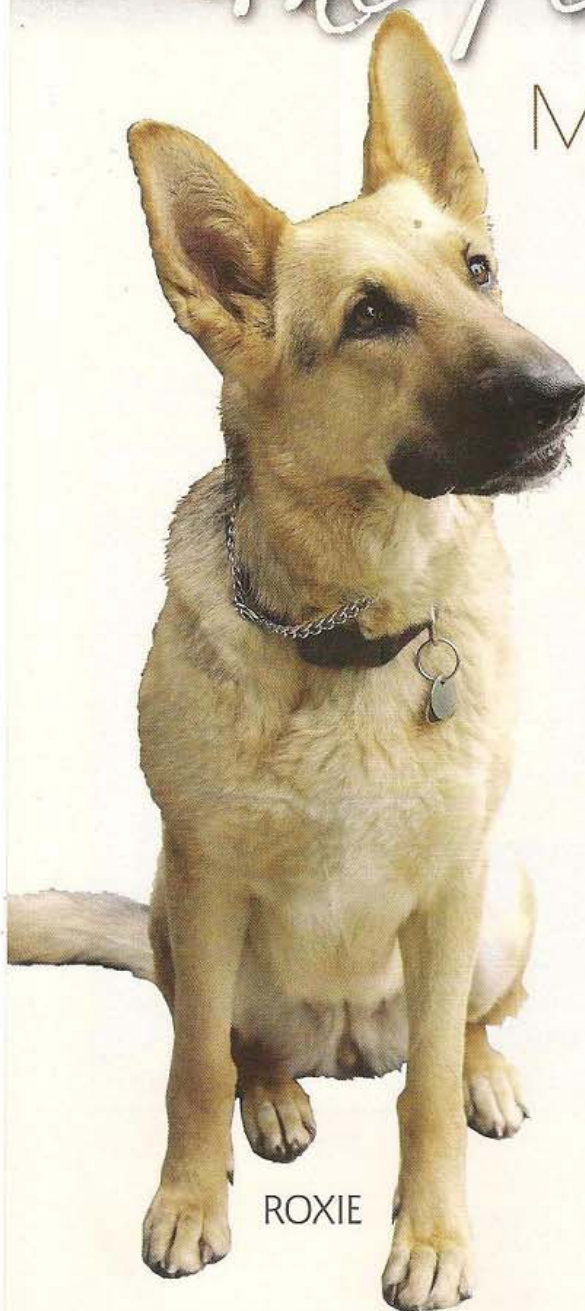


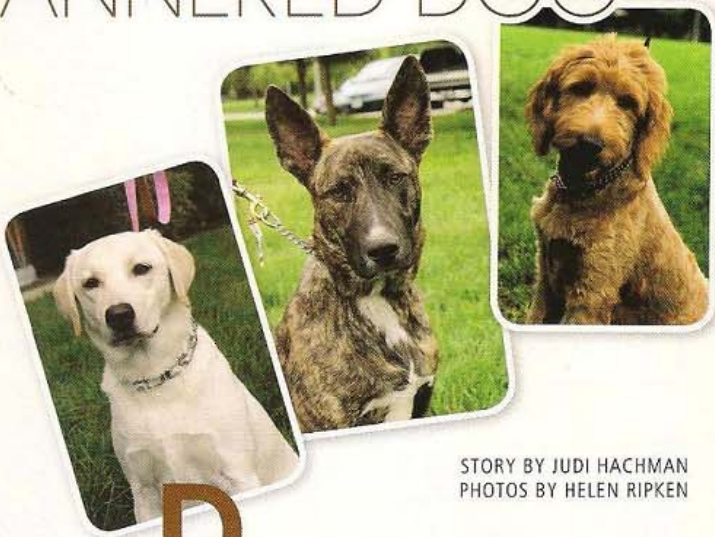


The Perfectly

MANNERED DOG



ROXIE



STORY BY JUDI HACHMAN
PHOTOS BY HELEN RIPKEN

Do the math. If you take 700 to 800 dogs per year and multiply it by 35 years, you get quite a pack of dogs. And they're all beautifully trained. Janet Bates of Guaranteed Dog Training is the master of the positive touch. "The slip-chain lead makes the correction, and the hidden bottle of Magic Potion only comes out when necessary," says Bates. "The dog doesn't think you're the bad guy." With this technique the trainer is disconnected from the correction.

Born and raised in the San Joaquin Valley, Bates got into the dog training business in the early '70s when she realized that her dog, Barron, a lab-shepherd mix, was a brat. She attended a few obedience classes and went on to develop a few positive reinforcement tricks of her own. Suddenly her dog was transformed into a perfect gentleman. Soon she began helping her friends with their dogs, and came up with yet a few more positive training tricks. Could she do this as a career?

Bates attended several training seminars and her "positive/tough balance" style emerged in full. She was in business for herself.



Summer and winter, rain or shine, Bates conducts obedience classes in city parks in Stockton and Manteca. If it's raining, Brookside's Nelson Park has a workable shelter, and in the heat of the summer Grupe Park has plenty of shady trees.

Several years ago Kathy and Barry Warren and their three German shepherds attended her classes, from beginner through advanced training, and have stayed on to help.

The same with Robin Comstock and her mini-poodle, Jazmin. With as many as 30 dogs in a class and lots of individual attention, Bates' assistants are a huge help.

In a typical class she separates the small and large dogs, while the dogs with "social issues" are well-supervised and stay on the periphery of the group. Dog fights have never been a problem in her classes. Using student dogs, her "teacher-voice" carries to all parts of the group and the demonstrations, corrections and praise are clear for all to see and hear.

Janet is married to husband Jim who works for GAF Materials. Between the two of them, they have three grown children and nine grandchildren. For many years she's volunteered her time with 4-H kids, both in

Stockton and Linden. Her students and their young masters go on to win ribbons at the San Joaquin County Fair.

Family activities? Hobbies, sports, travel? You bet. Dirt bikes, motorcycles, riding and camping in the countryside and in Baja. They've ridden all over the west.

Janet and Jim also run an in-home dog sitter service. Either for a weekend or a vacation, your dog can be spoiled at the Bates' home and get a little training on the side.

OK. So now you want to know what the Magic Potion is. Better call Janet at 462-2633 or check her out at www.gdogtraining.com. □



BLUE



WILSON