

**BIOS OF MARIN HUMANE SOCIETY INSTRUCTORS FEATURED IN  
“FAMILY DOG ONE-INSTRUCTOR’S COURSE”**

**Tricia Breen**

Tricia's home is filled with Australian Shepherds – two girls, ages eight and nine, and a three-year-old boy. Despite her current single-breed household, Tricia’s breed experience includes German Shepherds, Golden Retrievers, Beagles and a few mixes. Tricia’s experience with these dogs includes agility, tracking and retriever fieldwork. Though she has been out of the horse world a little while now, Tricia grew up on horseback, and took and taught many riding lessons. She has also cared for racing Thoroughbreds.

Tricia has a degree in biology with an emphasis in animal behavior and ecology. Her favorite species? Canines, of course. At MHS, Tricia is very active keeping track of and improving the shelter dogs' emotional health and stress levels. She helps with the Pet Partnership Program and Canine Behavior Academy, and conducts behavior consults, shelter dog evaluations, cat evaluations and teaches Family Dog classes! Tricia started at MHS as a Pet Pal and now also serves as the Pet Pal coordinator.

**Emma Clifford**

Emma grew up in Ireland where she spent summers as a child at her grandmother's house in the country. Surrounded by cows, horses, dogs, cats and birds, her love of animals began. Emma moved to Chicago in 1992, but missed the ocean so much that she decided to make San Francisco her home. Now she and her husband live in Novato with their two adopted dogs, Dusty and Chance. When Emma adopted Dusty (a "challenging" puppy) in 2002, she became interested in learning more about canine behavior and training. She began volunteering as a Pet Pal and gradually started helping out with training classes and the Pet Partnership and Pen Pals of San Quentin programs.

Emma has completed CITA I and II, and is an APDT member. She currently teaches Family Dog I and Agility Basics. "Learning new stuff about dogs' behavior and communication never gets old. I am proud to be a member of the MHS Instructor team."

**Patty Gable**

Patty Gable began a second career in dog training after moving from Carmel Valley to Petaluma, where extra living space allowed her to significantly expand her involvement with companion animals. A lifelong adopter of rescue animals, Patty is currently caring for a Golden Retriever mix, a Jack Russell Terrier mix, a Fox Terrier mix and a Miniature Pinscher. A household with three terriers can be a lot of fun, as Patty has discovered, but can easily become out of control without regular training. In addition to her dog pack, she shares her home with her husband, three cats, two parakeets and a cockatiel.

Patty has completed both Canine Instructor's Training Academy I and II (now Canine Behavior Academy) and was a volunteer at MHS in all beginning, intermediate, advanced and specialty training classes for several years before taking on instructor duties. She is also the director of the all-volunteer dancing dog troupe Dancing Paws, and has done additional training in Canine Freestyle. A firm believer in Marin Humane Society's positive training methods, Patty especially enjoys teaching tricks classes and working with multiple-dog households. "With four dogs, a cat and 6-foot-five-inch husband all sleeping in the bed," she says, "everyone has to get along."

## Virginia Heath

Virginia Heath has three dogs at home: Kali, a 13-year-old Chow Chow, Chase, a nine-year-old Pit/Boxer mix, and Poncho, an eight-year-old German Shepherd/Labrador/Chow mix. She also has experience with German Short-Haired Pointers and Cockapoos. While she does not have cats anymore, she has managed a household with a Chow and three cats, to which she then added an extremely prey-driven stray male Chow. She is also working with her dogs and her friends' children, teaching all to get along together.

Virginia is experienced with household dog-to-dog aggression, dog who are aggressive to strange dogs, difficult-to-train breeds, and issues surrounding rehomed and rescued dogs. Before moving to California and becoming involved with MHS, she did rescue work in New York City, including in the city shelter. She also has agility experience. Coming in after and around her "day" job in San Francisco, Virginia teaches Family Dog and Difficult Dog classes, as well as shelter dog evaluations. She also pioneered the MHS Bull Breed Basics class and also helps with the fly ball team. Virginia began her life at MHS as a behavior volunteer and dog training assistant.

## Kristin Herrera

A Marin native, Kristin Herrera and her husband, Benn, enjoy life in San Rafael with Girl Friday, a Cardigan Corgi and Jones, a Doxie/Labrador mix. Her two cats, Banjo and Sawyer, add even more love and fur to the mix. Kristin competes in Agility with Girl Friday - they have a great time working together!

Kristin came to MHS in 2001 shortly after adopting Jones and began volunteering as a Pet Pal, Dog Training Assistant and Behavior volunteer. She quickly became enamored of the world of dog behavior and training, and realized she had found her calling. Now she works at MHS as a behavior consultant, shelter dog evaluator and training instructor (for Family Dog and Agility classes). She also participates in both the Pet Partnership and Pen Pals programs.

Additionally, she is the [Community Outreach](#) Coordinator, responsible for taking adoption animals out to various places and events in Marin for people to meet — and hopefully adopt!

Kristin is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer (CPDT), a full member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT), and a graduate of the Canine Behavior Academy, Levels I and II.

## Carey King

Carey King has lived in California all of her life, and was raised in Saratoga back in the days when most of the Santa Clara Valley was still planted in plum orchards. Her family had the usual complement of pets: various rodents, reptiles, cats and dogs – among the latter a German Shepherd and a Cocker-Setter mix named "Penny" who lived to be 22. The unfulfilled dream of her childhood was to have a horse of her own.

When she married her husband Fred, he had been showing Boxers in conformation for a few years, and Carey was instantly hooked on the breed (much less so on competing with them in conformation). They moved to Santa Rosa where the dog pack grew to seven and the horse actually materialized, along with a cat, sheep, pigs and chickens. Over time, though, the menagerie has been pared back to two nicely portable Boxers. Carey became interested in canine behavior with the arrival of her current Boxer, Annie, who needed far more in the way of management and training than any dog with whom she'd ever lived. She brought Annie to MHS for a behavior consultation, and then just sort of stuck around, quite happily taking classes with Annie, going through Canine Behavior Academy I and II, and eventually moving from volunteering in Behavior & Training to becoming an instructor. Managing her time at the shelter around her "day job" as a Senior Programmer Analyst at Sonoma State University, she particularly enjoys teaching the beginning-level classes, as well as assisting with Difficult Dog. She says the opportunity to participate in the breathtaking progress that some owners are able to make in those classes is extremely rewarding to her.

## **Peggy Lee**

Peggy Lee currently has a household full of dogs. In addition to four of her own, she "Board & Trains" an average of one dog a month. Her dogs consist of one Toy Fox Terrier, Yoda, an eight-year-old female, with whom she did competition obedience with for two years; Sasha, a female Rottweiler/Shepherd mix, about 6–7 years old, who came to stay by way of a "foster/train" because Sasha was very leash aggressive and fearful of big, loud trucks; and two male, 11-year-old Shar Peis, Tatsu and Tig – named by her husband as they were his dogs when she met him. Last but not least, one female cat by the name of Dazy, spelled like lazy, as she is. Peggy is a private dog trainer in the Dixon area. She began her business in the fall of 2002. Her focus is the family companion dog, teaching families how to communicate and build relationships with their pets. Her goal is to keep as many pets together with their families as possible. The bulk of calls she gets come from families with adolescent Labs, Pit Bulls, Golden Retrievers, Beagles and a variety of small dogs. Peggy has volunteered at the Fairfield Animal Shelter and worked as a dog walker for several years before making her love of animals her life's work.

Peggy first came to MHS after attending Trish King's CITA classes (now Canine Behavior Academy). In the fall of 2003, Tricia Breen recruited her as a volunteer to the Behavior & Training Department; shortly thereafter, Peggy began assisting other trainers with their classes and is now instructing for Family Dog 1 and Small Dog 1. She is looking forward to teaching a Tricks class, Family Dog 2, and doing consultations.

## **Suzie Yokomizo**

Suzie Yokomizo has significant experience with large mixed-breed dogs, especially Rottweilers and Shepherds. Although she once had a household full of dogs, she now shares her life with a 10-year old Rottweiler/Lab/German Shepherd mix named Rocky. In the past, she has shared her life with Fuji, a northern breed/Shepherd/Rottweiler mix, Spyke, a northern breed/Shepherd mix, Pochi, a terrier mix and Jack, a German Shepherd/Rottweiler mix, who was truly the love of her life!

Suzie has enjoyed carting with her dogs and doing freestyle work with them. She believes that the more fun you have with your dog, the better! She has experience living with multiple dogs, difficult dogs, dog-to-dog aggression, and major possession issues. She has been able to utilize her personal experiences to help others who are experiencing these issues in their households. Suzie believes in "Improving the Quality of Life That We Live with Our Pets Through Education" and is a graduate of CITA I and CITA II (now CBA). She enjoys teaching classes and serving as a behavior consultant at the Marin Humane Society.

## **Jane Zabielskis**

Jane Zabielskis enjoys life at home with Echo, a seven-year-old Golden Retriever, and Mac, a 14-year-old West Highland White Terrier. She has past experience with Labs, Boxers, Wire-Haired Fox Terriers, Poodles, Springer Spaniels and Cocker Spaniels. Jane's two children grew up around dogs and are now successfully enrolled in college away from home. Before her life went "to the dogs," Jane worked as a licensed marriage and family therapist, so she now knows how to help both canine and human families enjoy a happy homelife together. First as a dog training assistant and then a behavior volunteer, Jane is now beta-teaching Family Dog classes and is a consultant. She helps with Kinderpuppy and loves those pups!