



Dogs & Storks® and Dogs & Toddlers® Resources for Pet Families in Transition

Debra Murray Presents at HEART Meeting

Kansas City, MO – Jan 19, 2015

Debra Murray, owner of SmartyPaws, was the featured speaker at the January meeting of the HEARTland Positive Dog Training Alliance (HEART). Murray, a member of HEART since 2011, a veteran dog trainer, and a Licensed Presenter and trainer for the Dogs & Storks® and Dogs & Toddlers® programs spoke to fellow HEART members about the transition problems faced by families as they move from a pet-only family to baby/toddler-&-pet family and programs to help them.

“Parents often need help preparing for the integration of a new baby into a household with pets. Many are simply not prepared for the transitions ahead and the demands on their time and energy. Babies need constant care, and the family dog(s) still needs attention and exercise.” said Murray. “Then as baby grows, the opportunity for conflict between the child and pet often increases because the physical changes that happen quickly in the life of a toddler can be quite stressful, not only for parents, but also for the family dog. The Dogs & Storks and Dogs & Toddlers programs were created by Family Paws Parent Education to prepare expecting families for life with dog and baby, increase child safety and help dogs be successful in homes with children, and reduce the number of pets surrendered and rehomed due to behavioral problems and conflict.”

Murray presented the basics of both education programs and spoke of her personal experiences helping families with these programs. She encouraged HEART members to share information about the Dogs & Storks and Dogs & Toddler programs with new and expecting families with dogs as well as with childbirth professionals and other pet professionals.

About Family Paws™ Parent Education. Family Paws™ Parent Education is the parent organization of two International licensed programs: Dogs & Storks® and Dogs & Toddlers®. The organization provides specialized programs for new and expecting families with dogs, and offers a wide range of support to families, dog professionals and childbirth professionals to support success between babies, toddlers and family dogs. Programs are offered through Licensed Presenters and Consultants. For more information, visit www.familypaws.com.

About Debra Murray. Debra Murray is the owner of SmartyPaws, a 13-year accredited dog trainer, AKC Canine Good Citizen Evaluator, S.T.A.R. Puppy Evaluator, Licensed Presenter for Family Paws Parent Education and professional member of HEARTland Positive Dog Training Alliance. She provides in-home private training & behavior consultations, AKC CGC training and evaluations, therapy dog and handler training, pet pre-adoption consultations, Family Paws Parent Education programs, and pet sitting services. For more information, visit www.smartypaws.net.

HEARTland Positive Dog Training Alliance is a group of like-minded individuals comprised of dog trainers, pet professionals and dog enthusiasts aligning themselves to create an awareness of the importance and benefits of positive reinforcement, force free dog training. For more information, visit www.trainerswithheart.com.

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