

Teaching Dogs To Be The Best They Can Be.

*"Money will buy you a pretty good dog,
But it won't buy you the wag of his tail."*

Henry Wheeler Shaw

Dogs are rarely kept at The Last Post. Right now the only canine residents are Schnitzel, an aged and beloved Corgi type, and Richard, a recently rescued large Shepherd mix.

Instead, if – rarely – a canine is taken in, more often than not Last Post sends him to school. A well-trained and socialized dog is a joy. But, as Margaret Lewis wrote in her dog guidebook, published by Random House in 1999, "Such paragons do not appear magically; they are the result of patient, consistent training and obedience work." If you have the time and temperament to train your dog, get a book on the subject at the library and follow guidelines. Above all, be kind and patient or you will lose your pet's trust.

As an institution with many animals in residence, including more than 300 cats, two goats, three pigs and six rabbits, Last Post workers do not have the time to train a dog. So, we call upon the expert,

Bill Ruddy, who with his lively and capable wife, Peggy, operates Canine Academy, near Highland Lake, at 336 Winchester Road, Winsted.

Ruddy has spent 37 years training dogs to be what might be described as canine gentlemen and ladies.

Born in Darien, CT, on July 3rd, 1946, Bill Ruddy grew up with five brothers, three sisters, and assorted dog friends. The family later moved to Redding, not far from Stormfield, final residence of Mark Twain, where Ruddy spent his childhood.

The Ruddys always had dogs, usually mixed breeds, adopted from neighbors.

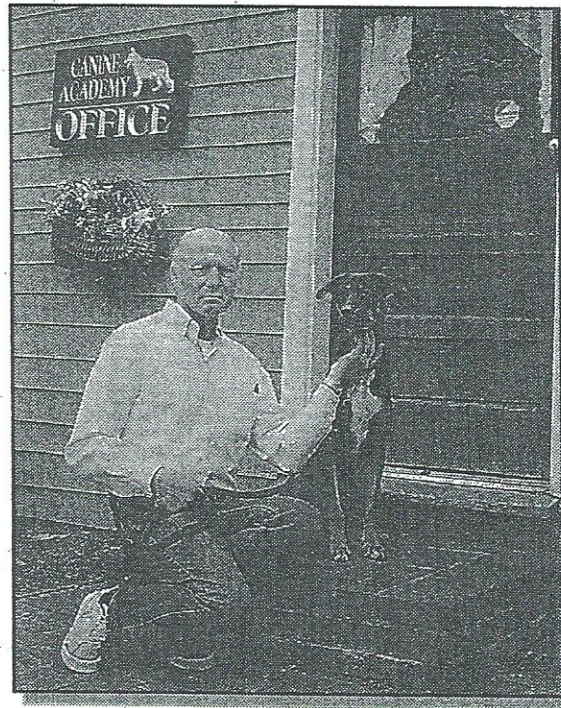
"My favorite was a cross breed named 'Tippy,' he recalled" His brother, Maverick, was a little less gentle."

When Bill was graduated from Joel Barlow High School, Redding, in June 1965, he was already known as a dog trainer, working after school for John Behan who operated an establishment called Canine College.

After graduating, he enlisted in the Navy and spent four years as a weatherman – plotting charts, and putting reports on the teletype machine, providing hourly weather reports. Characteristically, he had a side job – working for a boarding kennel and a veterinarian in Washington State.

"After the service, I returned home to begin management of a large facility on Southern Connecticut's Gold Coast and stayed there for seven years," he said.

During that time Bill Ruddy trained dogs for the famous canine protection team at Macy's Department Store, New York City, Columbia University, Continental Oil



AT BOARDING SCHOOL

Kimba, shown with Bill Ruddy, is now a student of dog decorum. She was sent to Canine Academy after jumping from a standing position to the surface of the dining room table where she devoured the family's dinner, roast beef. The folks had cereal for supper and brought Kimba in for training. After graduation, a well-behaved Kimba will be available for adoption.

Corporation, Great Neck public schools, McGill University, and the Bridgeport and Trumbull Police Departments. His list of clients reads like a page from Who's Who, including the Rockefellers, Producers Joseph F. Levine and Mike Nichols, Author John Knowles, Harry Reasoner, Raymond Massey and George Maharis.

In 1976 the master of the hounds opened his own business – first called Forest Glen Kennels, later, emphasizing his unique talents, Canine Academy.

Ten thousand customers and 25 years later, Canine Academy continues its role of teaching your own pet to be a "civilized dog," as well as to guard your property and family. There are other specialties. For instance, signals for the hearing impaired to employ, and preparation of guide dogs for the blind. Detective work, corporate security, fire bombings, arduous search and rescue work, including hostage discovery and release, are some of the other areas which employ trained dogs.

And at the helm of such complex education of an animal he can attest is far from "dumb" is Bill Ruddy, principal of a unique educational facility – Canine Academy.

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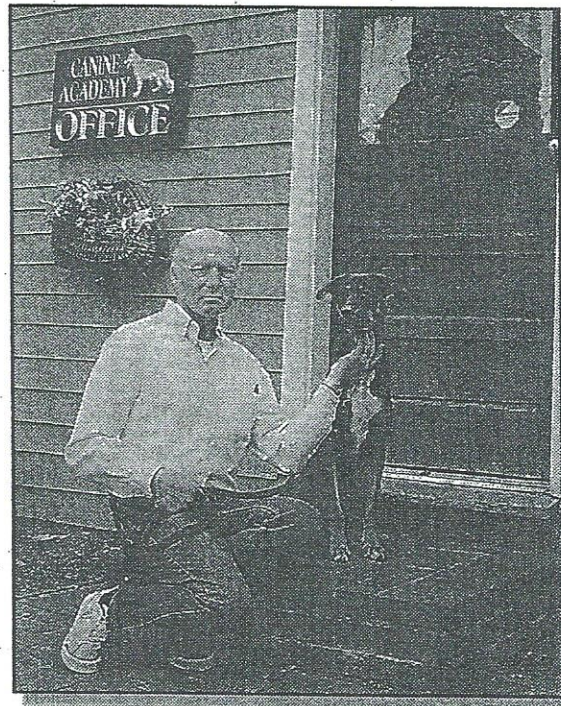
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