

Happy New Year!

Georgia Dog Gym wishes to thank all of our great clients and those who support our business. The New Year started off with a BANG for us as we started a great lineup of dog training classes, most all of them filling to capacity with new students and; some classes were so full that we needed to add extra class times in order to meet the demand! We welcomed several new and regular doggie daycare clients to our facility and our boarding service continues to be steady after the big holiday rush that we experienced.

To meet the demands of this continued growth, we are modifying our staffing schedule so that we can have more “hands on deck” at the Dog Gym. This change should allow for more individualized attention for both our clients and their pets, reduced wait times on checking pets in and out, faster callback times, and overall, a more efficient service for our clients. We hope that your New Year is also off to a great start, that your New Year’s Resolutions are producing results for you, and that you have a most wonderful year!

Upcoming Training Class Schedule

Puppy Kindergarten Class- 4 Weeks. (Open to all healthy puppies less than 20 weeks old) starts Wednesday February 15th at 6:30pm. Cost is \$75.00

Basic Dog Training Class- 7 Weeks- Starts Tuesday, March 6th at 7pm. Cost is \$165.00

Dog Agility Confidence Course- 4 Weeks. Use this class to “test” your puppy or dog to see if it would like agility or use the class for building confidence in a fearful dog. Basic obstacles will be gradually introduced including tunnel, chute, table, A-frame and dogwalk. Class starts Wednesday, February 15th at 7:45pm. Class is limited to 6 dogs. Cost is \$55.00.

We have new start dates for additional agility classes. You can find these on the Dog Agility Page of our website: www.GeorgiaDogGym.com



Georgia Dog Gym Pro Shop Update!

We are excited about our new Planet Dog displays! Our toy crazy dogs and our dogs who are tough on toys give two paws up to the tough and durable Orbee Ball! Many of the toys can be stuffed with food for extra enjoyment! We think Planet Dog ROCKS, because they help fund the training, placement, and support of service dogs helping people in need every time you make a purchase. You will also find we have added elk antlers, Churpa Chews, and N-bones to keep your chewing dogs satisfied!

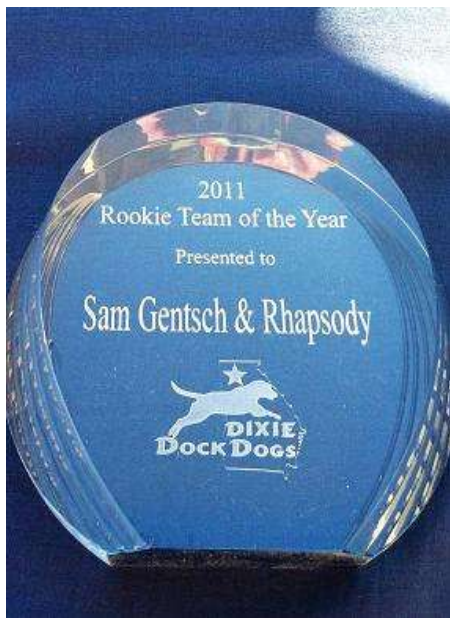
Georgia Dog Gym Congratulates a Winning Team!

Last Weekend, the Annual Dixie DockDogs Awards Banquet proved to be a memorable evening for Sam Gentsch. The Georgia Dog Gym Staff send their biggest cheers and congratulations to Sam for the two very prestigious award that were earned this past year by Sam's young female Border Collie, Rhapsody. There is a wonderful story to accompany these awards. Georgia Dog Gym wants our clients and friends to know this story. We asked Sam to share with us in his own words, his personal story of Rhapsody and this is what he wrote:



"I sit at my desk typing this note, a sacked out Rhapsody leaning on my feet, recalling how it was not all that long ago, that I truly believed this dog was a 15 year mistake. I thought I knew what I was getting when I took in a working line border collie. I had baby sat high energy dogs, fostered several Belgian Malinois, and worked with more than a few field line retrievers. I was clueless. At seven weeks old Rhapsody would take every opportunity to dominate, game and manipulate every situation she

could ...24x7...if the game was not recognized, that means the human lost, and the stakes were escalated. There was no way I'd give up on her, or get rid of her, but she was a constant challenge to everyone in the



family. Her drive and energy was near mind boggling. We attended many classes, most at the GA Dog Gym, or classes they told us about.. obedience , agility, herding, massage, tricks, off leash control, retrieving, Frisbee, reactivity training and socialization...lots and lots of socialization and saw much improvement, but there was always much more needed. A fun day with the GA Dog Gym introduced Rhap to the dock diving pool, and it was only a matter of minutes until she was severely hooked.

The reward of the jump itself proved an amazing tool to (re)shape Rhapsody's view of work. Or maybe the epiphany was mine, I am not sure, but somehow we turned into a team. Traveling to compete,



meeting other Dock Dog enthusiasts and just having pure fun with each other has transformed a once strained relationship into a strong, fun and enjoyable relationship. Rhapsody is no longer considered a mistake, she is a joy, and yes, she is still challenging. A border collie with this kind of drive will never be the easiest dog to have in the house, but she has more heart than 10 average dogs and works with you until you drop. Our first year competing in Dock Dogs was a good one. Rhapsody was the 6th Border Collie in the US in 2011, and at the Dixie Dock Dog annual banquet she won The Miss Dixie Dog Award (Best all-around female dog) and The Rookie team of the year award. These awards came almost on her 2 year birthday, and as you can tell, I was absolutely thrilled. I truly consider myself blessed to have a support network like Cyndy and the crew at the Georgia Dog Gym, I am sure we'd still be struggling and miserable without them.”



Rhapsody & Sam

Dogs in need of Rescue & Foster Homes

Many of you may have heard about the tragic fire that destroyed Flashpoint Kennels in Rome about a month ago. Here is the link to the news story http://www.rn-t.com/view/full_story/16971734/article-More-than-30-dogs-killed-in-kennel-fire? This fire has left at least 20 dogs homeless and in need of rescue or temporary foster homes. If you would like to help or if you can donate any resources toward the effort to help these dogs. Here is a link to view more information on the dogs in need: <http://www.jackrusselladoptions.com/all-adoptable-dogs> You may also contact Jean Bonnyman at 706-766-1384 for more information.

Mark Your Calendars!

If you enjoy watching performance dogs in action, here are a few events you may like to attend where you may see some Georgia Dog Gym students and trainers competing with their dogs:

February 17-19- Southeastern Wildlife Expo- Dock Dogs Tournamnent, Brittlebank Park, Charleston, SC.

February 25th & 26th- NADAC Agility Trial- Jim R Miller Park, Marietta, GA

March 16th-18th- ASCA Agility, Herding, & Rally Trial, Bartow Saddle Club, Cartersville, GA

March 24th-25th- Ultimate Air Dogs Dock Diving Tournament, Cherry Blossom Festival, Conyers, GA

April 13th-15th- USDAA Agility, Wills Park, Alpharetta, GA

April 20th-22nd- DockDogs Rucker Jump into Summer, Rucker Pet, 5456 Bethel View Rd., Cumming, GA

Join Us on Facebook!

Georgia Dog Gym has a fan page on Facebook. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Georgia-Dog-Gym/49970796214> and “LIKE” our page! You are welcome to post pictures of your pet, updates on your dog activities, and information that you would like us to share! Also, share our page with all of your Facebook Friends!

Jiffy Pups Update

Our 2010 Litter of Riff & June pups, known collectively as the “Jiffy Pups”, head into an exciting year. Many of the Jiffy Pups have been training hard and preparing to enter and compete in a number of performance events. From dock diving, to dog agility, disc dogs, and herding trials, you can keep up with these amazing Border Collies by friending them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/jiffypups2010> We are also planning for one last and final set of Jiffy Pups this year! The Jiffy 2012’s! For those of you who enjoyed your daily puppy fix in 2010 via the Jiffy Pups Facebook Page, get ready. We should have more fun with these new babies who should arrive in early April. Stay tuned for them on your Facebook!