

Dogzies - for canines who want to further their education

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Page: B6 / FRONT

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I have been so pleased to witness the number of new **dog** businesses that seem to be popping up around Kelowna to meet the needs of the growing population of fur-covered citizens.

Dogzies, one these new businesses, was opened in October 2006 by Wayne Dorman, a certified professional **dog** trainer. Dorman's business offers many services, including pet sitting house calls, **dog** walking, special aggression training and a day-care service that is in the works. His day-care facilities are more learning focused - more like a school classroom than a rumpus room.

Passionate about our **dog** world, he is also the vice-president of the Okanagan **Dog** Association and is working on issues like improving off-leash **dog** parks and educating park users on the rules and etiquette necessary for an enjoyable park experience, ones that are sans wrestling matches (thank God!).

After moving here from Cape Town, South Africa, Wayne's business has been growing steadily, adding more services as time goes on.

We decided to visit him at his business to conduct an interview. Little did I know that this was a trick to enrol me in an actual class!

I was very insulted and humiliated for the first half of the class, refusing to look at anyone (and demonstrated my absolute disdain by pooping on their floor). My initial responses to these condescending commands were as follows:

They said: "Come!"

I said: "I will come when I am good and ready, thank you!"

They said: "Sit!"

I replied: "I would prefer to stand, thank you."

They said: "Wait"

I retorted: "Pardonez moi? I wait for no man!"

Wayne then pulled me aside and we had a chat - on a canine level. He won my respect through his authoritative, yet kindly explanation. I now feel quite willing to learn more from this learned master. He seems to truly understand me and my complicated personality.

Wayne is also introducing innovative methods of houndular training to our society that are more conducive to modern lifestyle. For instance, have you ever heard of canine treadmill training?

I reluctantly received a lesson after class, after I observed a big Rottie showing off on it.

I have really brought this upon myself, since I have refused to walk in the snow - I just never imagined that my human would find an alternative.

After the initial fear of standing on a moving surface subsided, I actually believe that I could enjoy a trot on it once in a while. I could even watch the tele, like Mom does when she puffs away on it.

Wayne's philosophy: "Every **dog** is trainable"

I never believed this before but, I have faith in this man. How many **dog**-filled buildings have you walked into that are dead quiet? Rather strange, yet entirely civilized.

One bark out of one of his students, (like this one white, fluffy lass, who could not control her outbursts) and Wayne gives them a stern SHHHHHHHHSPP! And they instantly clam up. Very **dog** whisperer-like.

So, I have signed on for more classes - I am always an advocate of furthering one's education. I shall keep you apprised as to the results of my studies.

Conveniently located at 101-1836 Underhill St., across from Superstore (the old Carmelle's Creperie), call 862-DOGZ or go to his website: www.dogzies.com.

Don't forget to enter my Be My Valentine contest, with the winner being featured next Monday, Feb. 12th. You could be my Valentine **Dog** of the Week and win a tin of delicious peanut butter treats customized with my image, from K9 Biscuit Company (www.k9biscuitcompany.com). Just send in your photo along with why you should be chosen to be my Valentine (There will be no prejudice exercised regarding race, size or gender).

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