

# Trainers ensure dogs have happy, healthy lives

By Melissa Stout

CITIZEN-TIMES CORRESPONDENT

**ASHEVILLE** — A one-of-a-kind training facility complete with all the amenities will be a center for communication with and education of our furry friends.

A Good Dog's Life owners and certified professional trainers, Gail Hubbard and Susan Wilson, are passionate about teaching owners how to think like and train their dog.

"We want to be the hub of dog knowledge," Hubbard said. "If you build it, they'll come."

The newly expanded and renovated 6,000-square foot full-service training and behavior-solving facility in southwest Asheville is undergoing the finishing touches that will make the facility unique to Western North Carolina.

The facility consists of a large, heated indoor area that will be complete with rubber floors, a retail pro-shop with specialty training toys and a do-it-yourself dog wash and grooming parlor. The facility sits on 3 1/2 acres complete with a sand training field and a wooded path in "Barkmore Forest."

A Good Dog's Life will host weeklong and weekend seminars and clinics to help dog owners who are dedicated to continuous education and positive, trust-based methods for their four-legged friends.

Wilson is also excited about offering more to dog owners in the Asheville area.

"We want to improve the quality of life for dogs and their owners," Wilson said. "You can improve your own life by training your dog and make the dog's life better too."

Training at A Good Dog's Life starts by giving the owner the tools to communicate with his or her dog. The courses will focus on basic obedience, agility, problem solving and re-socialization.

"We don't train the dog. We train the people how to train their dogs," Wilson said.

There are more than 65 million dogs in U.S. homes today. Nearly one-third of dogs stay



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**A Good Dog's Life helps dog owners think like and train their pets.**

## A Good Dog's Life

To register for classes or for more information, contact A Good Dog's Life at 277-PLAY or [www.agooddogslife.com](http://www.agooddogslife.com). For more information on the Animal Compassion Network, go to [www.a-cnet.org](http://www.a-cnet.org) or call 258-4820.

Upcoming Events to look for

less than a year with their original family. Several million are given up to shelters each year, and more than half of all shelter dogs are euthanized, often because they have behavior problems that their families were unable to change or accept, Hubbard said.

"We believe that early and consistent training and socialization can eliminate the great majority of behavioral problems and enable our dogs to lead happy and healthy lives as faithful companions and members of our communities," Hubbard

at A Good Dog's Life:

A Good Dog's Life will host a shot clinic from 1 to 4 p.m. May 15.

The facility will hold a spring auction to raise money for ACN and NCSARDA.

The official grand opening for A Good Dog's Life will also be in the spring.

said.

Eileen Bouressa, executive director of the Animal Compassion Network (ACN), a non-profit animal rescue organization, has had the opportunity to work with A Good Dog's Life on several occasions.

"While they are a business, they always put animals first and offer something no one else does to us," Bouressa said. "They have allowed so many animals to stay in their homes. Their service is invaluable."

Contact Stout at 232-5928.