

about us *Our Pedigree*

howdy!

We are Melba and Curtiss Lanham, owners of **dogsmart**, professional trainers and behavior specialists for your canine companions. We sure do understand that choosing the right folks to help you solve the issues you may be having in your home with your companion dog OR getting started off in the right direction with your new puppy or rescue dog can be a daunting task. We hope to take the anxiety out of that decision...so read on about us and our journey...we hope that you will find us worthy to serve you and your family in moving forward with your decision...to let us help you become **dogsmart!**

in the beginning...

We started doing obedience training in 1989 with our first Brittany dog, Meg. We were blessed to have Meg join our family when she was 9 months old. She didn't do well around shotguns, so the field trial breeder asked us to take her into our home as a family dog. We didn't realize the demands a 9 month old bird dog would put on us...she needed a lot of play time to expend that bird dog energy. When she didn't get the exercise time, she made her own play, and it usually wasn't the choice of activities we would have made! We then decided that obedience classes would fix everything.

In retrospect, obedience classes fixed a whole bunch of things: Meg became a very 'obedient' dog; we learned a lot about obedience training of the time; we also learned that we didn't quite like the methods used to teach obedience back then. We're compassionate people...we had to be in order to be career professional emergency services Paramedics and community college EMS educators. The dog obedience instruction of the day was not very compassionate...quite the contrary. It taught the dogs to comply in order to avoid pain, instead of working to solve problems, be excited to do so and try to please the human leader. So...it fixed us. We learned early on that we didn't want to continue on training dogs with pain.

the next steps...

Melba took her paramedic knowledge and skills and ventured off into Vet medicine for 10 years. She worked hard to learn as much as possible about canine health, nutrition and behavior. Curtiss leveraged his human medicine knowledge base and corporate training experience in the same focus areas. We both took our love for instruction and started applying it to teaching others about our newly acquired knowledge.

We both worked avidly with canine rescue, concentrating our efforts with American Brittany Rescue and Colonel Potter's Cairn Terrier Rescue. We learned early on that a great number of dogs come to rescue because of actual or perceived behavior issues. We made it our mission to try to give our foster dogs some basic manners and skills to minimize the chance of 'recycle' back to rescue. This moved us even more into the training and behavior arenas. We studied canine behavior at length so we could have better insights to our canine rescues.

At the end of 2006 we were invited to purchase a local dog training franchise. We accepted and attended a 6 week intensive dog training and behavior modification program and worked to develop our dog training client base. In April 2008 the franchise system folded and we have moved on to establish our own brand and continued presence in the community.

Curtiss has received his national Certification for Professional Dog Training (CPDT-KA) from the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT). This is the only certification for dog trainers that is by psychometric knowledge-based exam, coupled with minimum 300 hours verifiable field experience and professional references. Please check it out at [.ccpdt.org](http://ccpdt.org).

Here's what we are all about:

- Totally positive dog training and behavior consultation and modification based on the very latest science, methods and information.
- Training that is fun, playful and positive for the dogs and their families.
- Continual evaluation and update of our methods based on the current learning in the industry.
- Cultivating lasting relationships with our clients, their companion dogs and their veterinarians so that we can all benefit mutually from each other.
- Being the 'go to' source to our clients, their families, their friends and associates for 'all things dogs'.
- Partnering with community veterinarians, board certified behavior veterinarians and ancillary care professionals so that we have a personally tested referral network for our clients to draw from.

- Offering community support through presentations, workshops and classes to heighten awareness of canine behavior, training, care, dog bite prevention and safety.
- Continuing our support of canine rescue and help in transitioning puppies and dogs into their new forever homes. Continuing to help deter the 'recycle' of rescue dogs through proper training for the humans and dogs, and dog behavior modification.
- Living what we teach with our own companion dogs Penny and Marti; the rescued Brittany girls and the current **dogsmart** banner girls!

Give us an opportunity to share...

We are passionate about what we learn and the opportunities to share the knowledge; passionate about what we do and how we do it. We hope you will invite us over for a free consultation to get to know us better. We feel certain that we can serve you and your family well...and help you to be **dogsmart**!

Our credentials and affiliations

Certified Professional Dog Trainer-Knowledge Assessed (CPDT-KA), Certificate #2092059; ccpdt.org

Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT) – Professional Member #71637; apdt.com

Gifted Animal Placement (GAP) – Level I Certified

Doggone Safe instructor – Dog Bite Prevention Programs

American Brittany Rescue (ABR) – TX Coordination Team, Volunteers and Fosters

Colonel Potter's Cairn Rescue Network (CPCRN) – Volunteers

5th Quadrant – Constructional Aggression Treatment (CAT) practitioner group

CrossPoint Community Church – Seven Lakes

CrossPoint Leadership Institute

Katy Area Chamber of Commerce

Katy Lunch Bunch

Texas A&M Assoc of Former Students – Century Club

University of Houston Alumni Assoc – Life Member

