



My name is Judith Michels and I have been a member of the dog training/behavioral community since 1990. I taught for the FDL County Kennel Club as a volunteer for a number of years. While training my Labrador Retriever, Ashton, at the Kennel Club, I was advised to give up and get a different dog. I didn't! After a fun year of competing in Obedience Trials, including the Badger State Obedience Trials, we went on and took the High Point Obedience Bitch trophy from Fond du Lac County.

After that I moved on to become a part of the Behavior training team, **Dog's Best Friend Training**, under the direction of Patricia McConnell, PhD, Animal Behaviorist from Black Earth Wisconsin and radio personality from **Calling All Pets** on NPR. I taught for her in the FDL area for 10 years. During this time, Ashton my Labrador and Tess, my Pembroke Welsh Corgi, became a familiar sight to the many hundreds of students I had in my classes.

During the years of teaching classes for Dr. McConnell I was also involved in writing a weekly column in the **FDL Reporter** regarding preventing behavior issues. The column was called Companions for Life and ran weekly for 4 years. I did this column free because I feel so strongly that when we are chosen by that special animal friend, it is a commitment for the life of that pet. Too many pets are turned over to the shelters because the person didn't know what to do to prevent pet behavior issues. During the time I wrote this column, Dr. McConnell was my mentor, and I spent many days down at her Black Earth farm learning what to do with issues that came up with our canine friends. Ashton was so well known by the FDL and surrounding area that when she passed away due to complications of Lupus her Obituary was ran in the Reporter, along with my column for the week. Quite the honor!

Due to health issues I am no longer in competitions with my dogs but still currently have 3. Kiva, my Labrador Retriever, Quinn, my Cardigan Welsh Corgi, and Ena, my Pembroke Welsh Corgi. I have returned to teaching classes on a limited basis due to a request from Dr. Diane Grede.