

M. Cecilia Saleme

From: Karen Carlo Salinger
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2005 2:19 AM
To: C Saleme
Subject: long overdue write-up

Hi Cecilia, I am so sorry that this has taken so long for me to write, but I finally got myself in gear and did a write-up on your wonderful seminar.

There were a few gals who didn't make it to the seminar who would be interested to attend your seminar at the YMCA - do you have the information on that as far as dates and who to call to sign up?

Anyhow, again I apologize profusely for taking so long to get this to you, but I hope this suits your needs, and again, feel free to go ahead and edit it if necessary. Thank you so very much, the seminar was extremely helpful! You should really consider writing a book on the subject. Hope to see you Tuesday!

-karen

I can't say enough good things about the Dogs and Kids Safety Seminar taught by Cecilia Saleme that we attended recently. We organized a seminar for our new mothers' group, and all of the attendees found the information provided by Cecilia to be extremely helpful, and found her teaching style to be very engaging and interesting. As fairly experienced dog owners with a new baby, we thought that after reading a few articles on the subject of dogs and babies that we were knowledgeable enough on the subject (and organized the seminar mostly for the benefit of our other parent friends), but Cecilia had a lot of information that we hadn't run across in the articles that we had read, all of which was extremely helpful to us, helping us to be much more confident that we were doing all that we possibly could to assure a safe dog-baby relationship. Cecilia's approach covers not only how to behave with your own dog so that it knows its place in the family hierarchy, and how to behave safely around the baby, but also how to raise a child who knows how to act around dogs (her own and others), so as to avoid dog-bite incidents with strange dogs. Knowing that most children do like to pet dogs that they run across while out and about, we now know what to teach our daughter, as she grows old enough to understand, about how to approach a stranger's dog (how to stand, reach out, and pet – after asking permission of course) so as not to upset or intimidate the dog, and so to remain safe. We also learned about behaviors around our own dog that could give mixed signals as to where the dog stands in her "pack", what behaviors of ours will reinforce that we are in charge, and that the baby is higher in status than the dog, so as to avoid any situations where the dog feels that it might need to "correct" the baby. Prevention is key, and Cecilia taught us a lot of simple things that are easy to learn and will become habit within a short time. I cannot say enough good things about this seminar, and would recommend Cecilia's class to anyone with a baby or child – those with a family dog, and those without, who want to be sure that their child knows how to act around other people's dogs.

- Karen Carlo Salinger