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PRAIRIE LEE CERTIFIED TO OFFER DOG TRAINING CLASSES

Local dog trainer, Prairie Lee, CPDT KA, of Choteau has earned certification through the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers, the first certification for dog trainers. Lee joins more than 1,800 certified professional dog trainers knowledge assessed worldwide. Lee of Rocking K9 Companions, will begin teaching classes in November. Classes offered are Puppy Foundation, Adolescent Foundation, Canine Good Citizen preparation and testing and a tricks class. Pre-registration is required for all classes as there is limited space for a certain number of teams. All classes are taught using positive reinforcement techniques in achieving your goal of become a team with your best friend. Visit her Web site, www.RockingK9.com or e-mail Lee at plee@rockingK9.com for more information.

Until the creation of the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers in 2001, there was no true certification process for dog trainers. Many schools teach dog trainers and offer certifications for their specific programs. These certificates, therefore, reflect the teachings and quality of a specific school. Other organizations offer take-home tests for “certifications.” These trainers are not monitored to make sure they are completing the test without any assistance or collaborations, nor is the testing process standardized. This process was originally implemented of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, the largest association of dog trainers in the world, founded by veterinarian, behaviorist and author Dr. Ian Dunbar. A task force of 20 dog training professionals and behaviorists worked for three years to develop the comprehensive examination. Professional Testing Corporation was hired to ensure the process met professional standards. APDT then the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers — to manage the accreditation.