



Summer 2009

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*"Improving dogs' lives by positively changing dog-owner relationships through balanced training."*

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## Good-bye to Ky

Some of you know Kyoak was diagnosed with bone cancer the day after Thanksgiving. When people are given the diagnosis of a terminal illness, many people around them change how they interact with them. Pity is often time the most prevalent emotion. Because of this, we chose not to "announce" Ky's condition until we felt we had to. It wasn't until Feb 9<sup>th</sup> before I shared the news with the school where we were doing our reading work. The school was extremely accommodating in letting us have a celebration. We had a joint 10<sup>th</sup> birthday- and-congrats-on your-therapy-dog-award party, complete with hats.

The students had no idea it would be Ky's last birthday.

On April 24, Ky officially retired from his therapy work. The kids knew he had turned 10. We talked about the human age equivalent in a large breed is about 83. They agreed he could retire and deserved to have some fun.

After his retirement, the kids were told he was sick.

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, Ky started the next part of his journey without us.

The school made a wonderful collage of photos of his visits. Each of the boys we regularly read with wrote about their favorite Ky memory.

There is a video memorial celebrating his life on our blog

(<http://caninecoach.wordpress.com/2009/05/06/celebrate-kys-life/> )

as well as a chronicle of some of our journey through his cancer.

There's a great possibility Canine Coach would not exist without Ky.

He left very large paw prints left to fill.



Ky in his Kayak is a favorite photo.

## Paper Shredder Dangers

For a couple of years now, we've heard of the dangers of dogs and paper shredders. Owners forget to turn them off or they're not paying attention as the dog wanders in to see what they're up to. Viola! Dog's tongue ends up in the paper shredder!

I'm sure there are many owners who don't even think of this hidden danger.

For safety's sake, turn your paper shredder off when not in use. Better yet, unplug it so there's no doubt. And for the best peace of mind, get one of the kid-safe paper shredders that shuts off when it senses flesh.

While you're actively shredding things, place your dog on a DOWN away from activity and out of the way. It's a good opportunity for training practice!

The following photos were submitted to Veterinary Technician, a vet tech journal. If you need help remembering to turn off or unplug your shredder, tape one of these photos to it and it should be a graphic reminder.

This dog was a 7 year old lab, virtually unfazed by the whole incident. I don't think you can say the same thing about the owners.



## Congrats Grads!

Congrats to the most recent graduates of the March & April Basic Obedience Leash & Collar Classes. Remember, learning is life-long. Keep up the good work.

It was quite enjoyable to see everyone improve.



Graduates of the March Basic Obedience Leash & Collar Class



Graduates of the April Basic Leash & Collar Class

Keep an eye on the calendar at  
[www.caninecoach.net](http://www.caninecoach.net)  
for updates and additions to our schedule.

## Upcoming Events

### Advanced Obedience Leash and Collar Class

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., June 17<sup>th</sup>- July 22<sup>nd</sup>

Continue working on what you learned in Basic class adding more duration, distance and distractions. Work on what needs the most improvement. Pre-requisite: Basic Class or permission of instructor. \$90.00