



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The DogSmith Creates Good Citizen STARs

Emerald Coast, April 2009 – The DogSmith, a leading national Dog Training, Pet Sitting and Dog Walking Franchise, has adopted the American Kennel Club's® “Canine Good Citizen” and “S.T.A.R” programs as the foundation of their Dog Training curriculum for puppies.

The DogSmith Dog Training, Pet Sitting and Dog Walking national franchise features the American Kennel Club's® S.T.A.R.sm Puppy Program and Canine Good Citizen program as the foundation for their comprehensive Dog Training curriculum for puppies. The S.T.A.R. program is designed to reward responsible owners who take the time to train and socialize their new puppies. The program is excellent preparation for the AKC Canine Good Citizen® Test. "S.T.A.R." stands for Socialization, Training, Activity and a Responsible owner, all of the things a puppy needs to ensure a good life.

The goal of the S.T.A.R. program is to get a puppy's life started on the "right paw." The DogSmith training curriculum, based on the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program, will provide dog owners with the tools to raise and train their dog responsibly and prepare the puppy to become an AKC Canine Good Citizen."

The DogSmith's puppy or basic training class is six weeks long and instructed by an AKC Approved CGC Evaluator. Classes include valuable training tips for puppy owners – such as how to housetrain – and lessons on practical skills for puppies -such as coming when called. The program is open to all dogs. Puppies can begin training as soon as they have the necessary vaccines and they can enroll in the DogSmith/AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy at any point up until their first birthday.

"Early training and socialization of your puppy, along with learning to communicate with your pet, are key to developing a well-behaved, well-adjusted dog and ensuring that dogs don't end up in shelters because of behavior problems" according to Niki Tudge, The DogSmith founder. "The DogSmith exists to enhance the lives of pets and their owners by improving their relationship and the quality of the life they share, through professional support and training to pet dog owners, to minimize the number of unwanted animals by supporting and assisting Humane Societies, animal shelters and rescue organizations and offering affordable and professional care to family pets so that pet ownership is never a burden" explains Tudge.

Once the puppy and its puppy parent have completed the basic course the CGC Evaluator will administer the AKC

S.T.A.R. Puppy test. Upon passing, owners and their puppies will be enrolled in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program and will receive an AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy package which includes:

- A frameable certificate
- AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy medal
- AKC Puppy Handbook
- Discount enrollment in AKC Companion Animal Recovery
- Subscription to monthly e-mail newsletter that includes training tips

For more information visit www.akc.org or contact the DogSmith Training Center at 888-364-7648

About The DogSmith

The DogSmith was formed in 2007 by Niki Tudge, a Dog Trainer and Animal Behaviorist. The DogSmith became America's Dog Training, Dog Walking and Pet Care Franchise in 2008. The DogSmith exists to enhance the lives of pets and their owners by improving their relationship and the quality of the life they share, through; providing professional support and training to pet dog owners, supporting and assisting humane societies, animal shelters and rescue organizations to minimize the number of unwanted animals and by offering affordable and professional care to family pets so that pet ownership is never a burden. www.888DogSmith.com 1-888-Dog-Smith