



## News from Blue Dog Bakery

January 2010

### Welcome 2010!

A new year, and a new decade.

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January is a great time for resolutions, and to start fresh after the holidays.

This month we wanted to put smiles on all your faces, and snouts, so I included a story about the Best Dog in the World. I hope you like it, I know I did.

Additionally, we came across a wonderful training book that promotes positive reinforcement rather than punishment. And guess what -- we LOVE it!

I hope that everyone had a fun and safe holiday season! Give those dogs a big hug from me.

Lara (Margot's side kick)

Photo above is Sally, courtesy of E. Verna with Furry Friends Rescue.

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## Congratulations to Lexie!

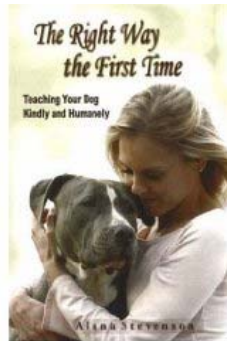
Congratulations to Lexie -- our January Blue Dog of the Month! To see Lexie's winning photo and read more about her, check out our [Blue Dog of the Month](#) feature.

Thank you to everyone that submitted photos for Blue Dog of the Month - January! We think every dog is a winner, so find your photos on our [website](#) or our [Facebook page](#).

Submit your dog to be the Blue Dog of the Month by e-mailing us a photo, your first name, hometown and a few sentences telling us what makes your dog special. (*Note: Dogs only please*)

Even if your dog isn't chosen, we will post your photo on our website to show the world how cute s/he is!

## "The Right Way the First Time"



We recently came across "The Right Way the First Time: Teaching Your Dog Kindly and Humanely," a training guide by Alana Stevenson. Alana's book uses basic training principles, encouraging readers to use positive reinforcement rather than punishment -- which we think is the best way to go about training.

Whether it's a fear of strangers or aggression, Alana's humane training methods help to resolve these behavioral issues, as well as many others. And being in the treat business, we certainly agree that positive encouragement trumps punishment any day of the week.

You can purchase "The Right Way the First Time" through [Alana's website](#) or through [Amazon.com](#).

## The Best Dog in the World

by T'Mara Goodsell

*One's first love is always perfect until one meets one's second love.*  
-Elizabeth Aston

Years ago, I owned the very best dog in the world.

I was a child when we got her. She was a graceful brown hound, a foundling who taught me that our pets are not purchased, but ordained.

She romped when I did and knew how to smile in that funny way that only some dogs have. She grew up with me, always there when I needed her. My grown hand still remembers the sleek bump on the top of her head and that gentle divot just past her nose that fit my index finger just perfectly.

She passed away during one of my college vacations. My heart broke then, and I knew that there would never be another dog like her, and there hasn't been. I was sure that I could never love another dog as much as I'd loved her.

Fortunately, I was wrong about that part.

My next dog came into my life when I was married. My husband traveled for a living, and I was often lonely. This dog grew into a lumbering Wolfhound and Sheepdog mix who taught me patience. He was a large, grizzled sentry, that dog. He rarely left my side until the children were born, and then he became their guardian, too. I can still feel that swirl of fur along his back and the weight of his chin when it rested in my lap.

When he passed away, my heart broke. As much as I had loved that childhood dog, I had been wrong. This was the very best dog in the world. There would never be another dog like him, and there hasn't been. I was sure I would never love another dog as much as I'd loved him.

I was wrong again.

We got the next one, a loping black Lab-and-Terrier mix, when the children were little. He taught me the importance of adapting. He was everyone's dog from the beginning, and that was just as it should be. When he played tug of war with the children, he dragged them across the kitchen floor as they shrieked with laughter. He always seemed to sleep in the room of the child who needed his company the most.

These days his face is expressively gray, and he spends more time with me since the almost-grown children aren't around so much. The other day my oldest, home from college, played tug of war. We all laughed--just a little--as the dog was gently pulled across the kitchen floor.

He is, of course, the very best dog in the world. I will never forget that exquisitely soft tuft of fur behind his ears or the tickly feel when he nuzzles. There won't be another dog like him.

And that's okay, because we will never be at this point in our lives again.

Sometimes I've wondered why two species that get along so well should have such different life spans. It just doesn't seem right. And then I wonder if that's part of the lesson: To teach us that love itself has a spirit that returns again and again and never really dies.

It's amazing, in a way, how they bring to our ever-changing lives exactly what it is that we need at the moment. They make room for one another, this family of dogs who has never even met. And they fit--into our families, into our lives, into our memories, and into our hearts--because they always have been and always will be the best dogs in the world.

*A special thank you to Dave and Janice for sending us this lovely story.*

## Can't find our treats at KROGER or SAFEWAY or ??? We need your help!

We have had difficulty with some retailers keeping our treats properly stocked on their shelves.

Please let us know if this happens in your area by e-mailing us the store and city/town where you shop and the type of treats you are having difficulty locating. Please also fill out a request card at your local store. Power to the Puppies!

We forward your e-mails and requests on to our buyers to help lobby to get your favorite treats back to your local stores.

In the meantime, you can order treats from us at [www.bluedogbakery.com](http://www.bluedogbakery.com)

## Would you like to see our treats at Wegman's?

If you would like to see our treats at Wegman's, please fill out a request on-line [here](#). They bring products in based on customer requests.

Wegman's requests that you e-mail them with with the name of the product, size, where you've seen it carried, and the UPC number (bar code). If you are unsure of the UPC number, feel free to e-mail us at [bluedog@bluedogbakery.com](mailto:bluedog@bluedogbakery.com).



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