

For the next few moments, I would like for you to take some time with me to remember a woman who was extremely important to this club and the dog training community in general. Kay Lowe passed away in December, 2009.

I first want to welcome some very special guests to our trial. Help me welcome Kay's family.

- Pam Jacobs from Marion
- Roxanne Sundell from Cedar Rapids
- Anne Laviolette and husband Chuck from Pueblo, CO
- Bob Clements from Ames
- And Luck, Kay's border collie who lives with Jim and Helen Venneman

We are so pleased you are here with us to remember Kay with us.

When you registered today, you received a booklet entitled, "We Remember Kay". For the past several weeks, many people have been sending me their remembrances of Kay. It seemed important to do this. Since Kay's passing, whenever I was with a few of my friends, the conversation would turn to remembering Kay. Stories of what she meant to so many people began to emerge. It seemed important to write these down so we don't forget. In reading them, something became very clear to me. Besides Kay's experience and wisdom at training dogs, Kay was also giving us a path on how to lead our lives to be better people and give to others. So, my friends, this is your LUCKY day! Besides collecting your qualifying ribbons, raffle prizes, prizes your dog has won, eating a great lunch and hanging out with your friends, in this little booklet, you have some valuable advice on how to live your life. Kay was so clever—advice on how to train your dog AND live your life all rolled into one!

I think Kay's approach to life was clear and consistent. Here is my condensed version:

- Smile often or, better yet, all the time. Rain smiles down on to your human friends and your canine friends. Whatever you do or whatever happens, keep on smiling.

- Laugh much. Having an off beat sense of humor is a great idea to keep you going
- Volunteer often and early. Be the first to say you will help
- There is good in every human and every dog. Don't forget that
- Always be positive. Negative thoughts get you no where. Throw your worries, fears and anxieties away. They will do you no good either in life or in the obedience ring.
- Encourage others to try something new
- Celebrate with your friends often
- Always push yourself to try harder and do more. Try things you have never done before. You may cry first but you will get better
- Most of all, never, never give up. Don't give up on yourself, don't give up on your human friends and don't give up on your canine partners

I want to thank all of you who sent me your remembrance of Kay. I know there are some of you who could not write your thoughts of Kay to me. The pain of losing Kay is still too sharp for you. I understand how you feel. Having this UKC trial without Kay seems incongruent. The planets must be misaligned and a star has fallen from the sky. Yet, I know this is exactly where Kay would want us to be this weekend. Here, showing our dogs, smiling, celebrating each other's accomplishments and helping each other with any problems that occur. And tomorrow, when the trial is over, I will hear Kay's voice saying, "We had a really good trial. Good job, you guys!"

When I first met Kay, I was puzzled by the fact that when her dogs achieved a new title or award at a dog show, she never had her picture taken with that dog. I first thought she was just showing us the incredible proofing job she did for her dogs' sit/stays. When I asked her about this, she said she just didn't like her picture taken. These reasons may both be true but I think there was another reason Kay did not have her picture taken with her dogs. For Kay, it was all about her dogs. When her dogs achieved a new title or won an award, Kay gave her dogs the

spotlight taking no credit for their successes. She already knew how great each of her dogs was! She had just helped them get where they needed to go.

I think, though, it is time to have a picture of Kay with her dogs. With the help of Kay's family, the United Kennel Club, Kathy Davidson, and Helen Venneman, Kay will have her picture with her dogs. I would like to present to 4RK9s Kay and her UKC titled dogs. Kay was a tremendous supporter of the United Kennel Club with its agility, obedience and, later, rally obedience. It is fitting that we remember her UKC dogs and her accomplishments to this club and the UKC organization.

In remembering Kay this weekend, a picture is worth a thousand words. Diane Bradley has put together a digital frame with pictures of Kay and her dogs. I hope you will take some time this weekend to view the picture show. I also want to thank the Iowa City Dog Obedience Club for the use of their picture boards of Kay which were on display at their obedience trial in April.

Okay, folks, let's get ready to show our dogs! This one is for you, Kay.

--presented Saturday, May 22, 2010 at 4RK9s Obedience and Rally Trials

Liz Drexler