

March 23, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I have had the pleasure of knowing Shirley Richards as a co-worker and, later, my obedience instructor for about fourteen years. During that time I have seen her teaching ability progress to a level that is hard to equal in the Coulee Region.

My family chose her as a trainer because she is, first and foremost, very good with dogs. I am constantly amazed by her ability with difficult dogs in class. To everyone in her classes, from the excited barking pup to the worried, reluctant student dog, she offers multiple tailored ways to train and solve problems. This multifaceted approach comes from her experience with her own dogs which she actively trains in many dog sports. It also comes from her commitment to continuing education - as her training assistant in obedience classes, I have learned quite a few new exciting techniques from world class trainers she has worked with in seminars, and also gained from her widespread knowledge of current behavioral literature. Her excellent training approach also comes from her solid people skills. Shirley is very clear and calm in working with people and dogs in the chaotic environment of a obedience class. I have seen her success with many kinds of people at many skill levels. In the time I spent teaching with her, she always had an informed answer, based in fact, for any dog care or training question the students could pose.

Shirley Richards is a good choice for those who want more from an instructor than someone who just goes by the book. I would recommend her to anyone who wants to develop a cooperative relationship with their pet.

Sincerely,

Ann Mitzey
UW SVM Canine Cancer Scientist
Assistant at LaCrosse Dog Training 1994-2001
Obedience student of Shirley Richards