



**Janet Wall with Bailey and Cody,
February 2005**

About the Author

Jan grew up in Southfield, Michigan, with two brothers and a sister. When Jan was two years old her parents took in a collie named Laddie. During her childhood the family also had a fox terrier, a dachshund, and a German shepherd.

Through Jan's teenage years she studied all she could about dogs, their care, and training. She loved reading books about dogs, especially *Lassie Come Home* by Eric Knight, and the *Lad a Dog* series by Albert Payson Terhune. Jan joined dog clubs and her collies won ribbons at dog shows.

After High School Jan went to Eastern Michigan University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and her Teaching Credential. She began teaching in Michigan Public Schools in 1974, the first nine years with hearing-impaired students. Jan was awarded a Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education at Western Michigan University in 1980.

Collies remained Jan's passion and she enjoyed showing them in AKC competition. She entered Lady in conformation events. She trained, Duke, Star, and Brandi for obedience trials. She conducted dog obedience classes for children and adults.

Jan moved to San Diego, California, in 1982 and received a Communication Handicap Specialist Credential from San Diego State University, and her Multiple Subjects

Teaching Credential for California Public Schools. Jan continued teaching special and general education, kindergarten through sixth grade, in Chula Vista, California.

In 1985 Jan designed a Humane Education Program to teach kindness and responsibility to children. She developed a lesson series using dogs as the theme and, along with her collies, Trouper and Kelly, Jan taught the lessons at schools in Chula Vista, CA. Later, Jan would adapt her Humane Education Program for the Internet and create the website, [How to Love Your Dog](#).

Besides her professional work, Jan served as a volunteer puppy trainer for Canine Companions for Independence. She promoted pet food drives for Animeals. Jan joined Therapy Dogs International in 1988 and began regular therapy dog work with Trouper, in health facilities for severely handicapped children and Alzheimer's patients.

Jan joined the volunteer staff at Alvarado Hospital in 1991. Along with Trouper and Kelly, her second therapy dog, she visited stroke and brain-injured patients for ten years. Today Jan is on the hospital's auxiliary board and oversees the orientation of new therapy dogs and their handlers.

Jan took leave from teaching in 1998. She found a partial replacement for her active teaching career in the creation of this website. [How to Love Your Dog](#) was based on Jan's original Humane Education Program. During the past five years she has expanded the content, promoted and maintained the site, and communicated with children about caring for their dogs. More than three thousand kids visit [How to Love Your Dog](#) each day. In 2003 Jan launched a second website as a resource for therapy dog owners, [Therapy Dogs.Net](#).

These days, Jan volunteers with her next generation of therapy dogs at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in the pediatric oncology department. Cody and Bailey provide comfort and friendship to children who are receiving chemotherapy treatments. The dogs also enjoy romping at their favorite parks and beaches, especially Coronado Landing and Shelter Island.

Jan's Education

Bachelor of Science in Education, Eastern Michigan University, 1973

Teaching Credential, Elementary Education, State of Michigan, 1973

Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education, Western Michigan University, 1980

Communication Handicap Specialist Credential, San Diego State University, 1983

Teaching Credential, Multiple Subjects, California Public Schools, 1983

Jan's Memberships

Therapy Dogs International

Collie Club of America

All-Breed Dog Obedience Club of San Diego

American Working Collie Association

Collie Club of America Foundation

Board of Directors, Alvarado Hospital Auxiliary

Jan's Family

[Rick Wall](#), Jan's husband, teaches third graders in Chula Vista, CA, and adults at National University in San Diego. Rick holds an M.A. in Education from SDSU. Their daughter, Genoa Wall, is a youth coordinator for Norwegian Cruise Lines. Genoa earned a B.S. in Psychology at San Diego State University. Their son, **[Josh Wall](#)**, is an artist with Insomniac Games in Burbank, CA. Josh received a B.S. from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena.

Jan's Dogs

All are rough collies and are registered with Therapy Dogs International, American Temperament Test Society, and American Kennel Club as Canine Good Citizens. Cody and Bailey live with Jan and Rick in San Diego. Trouper and Kelly are remembered with love and gratitude.

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