

## **Second Chance Animal Shelter Trainer Bios**

### **Kathy Menard**

Kathy Menard is the owner of Compatible Canine Holistic Pet Center on Rte 148, Fiskdale, Mass. Kathy has been a dog trainer for 35 years, and has trained under 3 world renowned Schutzhund trainers for 14 years. She has competed in AKC and the sport of Schutzhund, earning over 15 different titles., and was the 4th person ever to get a perfect score at the highest level of competition in the sport of Schutzhund in this country. She is certified through the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers.

Kathy has had a long standing relationship with the shelter - In addition to offering training discounts to her classes to Second Chance Adoptees, Kathy has also assisted in assessing and training some of the shelter dogs. Kathy collects money and supplies/food for Second Chance through her store, and holds 2 fundraising events annually with all proceeds to benefit Second Chance.

### **Robin Prouty**

Robin has been actively showing dogs since 1979. She has competed in the sport of AKC obedience trials, and also has shown many different breeds to their AKC breed championships. Robin has owned, bred and shown champion Australian Shepherds since 1984. She has been teaching classes, focusing on family dogs, since 1993. A 1978 graduate of Stockbridge School of Agriculture, U. Mass Amherst, Robin worked as a veterinarian technician handling many dogs, of all ages for several years. An advocate of shelter dogs, Robin feels strongly that the commitment of the adopter is paramount to the success of the second-hand dog. She hopes to help adopters create a positive transition, for both the dog and the adopter, for a happy life together!

### **Mary Joe Lavin**

Mary Jo has been involved in dog sports and training for over 20 years. Her dogs have competed nationally in obedience and agility achieving numerous championships and a veritable alphabet soup of titles. Homestead Farm Agility, her training business, has provided all levels of agility classes, workshops and camps as well as private lessons. Mary Jo's approach to dog training is based on positive reinforcement and building teamwork and cooperation.

### **Joe Blancato Sr.**

Joe has been a certified trainer as well as previously certified as an AKC, CGC evaluator. He has worked with Second Chance for the past 6 years as Adoption Coordinator and Trainer, assisting adopters with the transition of their new dogs into their forever homes. He has completed numerous FEMA certification courses allowing him to participate in rescue missions throughout the country, most notable of which was assisting the HSUS in caring for dogs from one of the largest dog fighting busts in the country. Joe is available to all SCAS adopters, offering assistance and guidance in the integration of their new pet into their homes.