



**Debbie Kendrick, ABCDT,
Vice President of Animal Behavior College, Inc.**



Debbie Kendrick, Vice President of Animal Behavior College (ABC) has been with the company since its creation in 1998. As a devoted dog lover and professional dog trainer with over thirty years of experience, Kendrick has been instrumental in making ABC the success it is today.

Kendrick is responsible for the majority of ABC's online marketing efforts which have been a driving force behind the company's growth. One of her main duties includes the hands-on management of ABC department heads.

Besides being a top-level dog trainer, Kendrick is also an accomplished instructor and lecturer. For years, she has been the trainer that other professionals have come to for advice. It is this experience that made her a perfect fit to help manage Animal Behavior College and its vocational training programs.

Kendrick began working with dogs professionally in 1974 by serving a one-year apprenticeship with an AKC Dog Obedience Judge and Master Trainer. Between 1975 and 1979 she competed in dog obedience trials. She was elated to be awarded the Top Dog Award at the Southern California Dog Obedience Trials in 1978.

Due to her life-long natural affinity for dogs, Kendrick has always had a knack for training them. She was known for constantly giving out free training advice to her friends and family, and was also training with her clients on the weekends and evenings to help supplement her income. Kendrick called her new profession "A hobby that, out of necessity, turned into a career." In 1980, Kendrick opened up her own dog training business called "Kendrick Kennels."

By 1988, after eight years in business, Kendrick could no longer single-handedly manage the dynamic growth of her company on her own. She was no longer able to do all the marketing, consultations, administrative duties and dog training at Kendrick Kennels. Rather than start hiring employees of her own, Kendrick made the decision to work for someone else so that she could continue doing what she loved — train dogs.

During the summer of 1988, Kendrick applied at Steven Appelbaum's company, Animal Behavior Training and Associates (ABTA) to work as a trainer. Her exceptional training skills were quickly apparent and before long, she was promoted to district manager at ABTA. Kendrick excelled in her job position working for Appelbaum. Through her hard work and dedication to the company, Kendrick was able to rise from an entry level position to the top levels of management.

In 1998, Appelbaum asked her to share in his vision of creating a nationwide school where dog lovers could receive the education needed to become professional dog trainers. Having accepted the position, Kendrick considers it one of the best decisions she has ever made.

One of Kendrick's most notable contributions to the ABC program has been the creation of "Students Saving Lives". This program has been a personal quest of Kendrick's, and through it, ABC requires each of its students to volunteer a minimum of ten hours of training time at their local animal shelter, rescue or humane society. "Students Saving Lives" has reinforced the well-known fact that proper training makes shelter dogs more adoptable and has saved countless lives. This program is Kendrick's personal gift to shelter dogs everywhere and she considers it to be one of her proudest accomplishments.

In addition to being a successful businesswoman and excellent dog trainer, Kendrick is also the author of numerous articles on dog behavior in national and local pet industry magazines. Her opinion in dog training and behavior is a valued asset.

Today Kendrick resides in Santa Clarita, CA with her partner Michael and two beautiful, spoiled but well-behaved dogs. When she is not working, she loves to attend classic car shows, go to the movies, read and spend time with her dogs. Kendrick is a proud mother of three and grandmother of two. She has strong family ties and involvement and spends much of her time with her beloved family, both human and canine. ■