

and keeping them updated on the dogs' progress. "I work with trainers, too," Trish added. "Animal behavior is a lot of it." Trish watches carefully for small signs that can potentially tell her a great deal. "They use their bodies differently, but what's going on makes sense to me," she said.

Initial sessions are always done individually but, later, dogs are sometimes paired up to work in the pool together. Trish has never once had a dog bite her; she's very



careful when she first takes a dog into the pool. "Most dogs are afraid the first time, not sure what's happening. I have the owners stand close by. The dogs really don't understand that I'm even doing anything with them. I try to keep as little contact as possible, but just enough to keep control," Trish said. Using a platform lift, each dog is eased into the water wearing a special life jacket. Owners find sharing in their dog's therapy is often a treat. "The owners have been helping their dog get over this terrible thing, whatever it is. It's a time for them to be together, bonding. But also it's great for them to get a chance to see their dogs moving, having fun again, not in pain." Most sessions last for 30 minutes and the dogs love when it's time to play fetch in the pool.

When Trish isn't in the pool, she's returning phone calls, organizing pool schedules, and taking care of her own dog, Takara, and her two cats. "I'm never done!" Trish laughed, shaking her head. Her days are

long, but the rewards for Trish are well worth it: seeing her clients' happiness means everything. "We're the place that takes away the pain or the limitation. The dogs feel good and have fun," she said. "It is a very positive experience for everyone and in the crazy world we live in today, that's so special."

To find out more about Trish's unique program, TRAINING WITH TRISH - PERSONAL TRAINING FOR DOGS, visit her website at www.cuttingedgek9.com, or call her at 619-227-7802. She also works with healthy dogs, helping them cross train for competitions and shows.

