

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*****MEDIA ALERT*****

**THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER: CANINE COLLEGE UNLEASHES AT
TALARIS CONFERENCE CENTER**

*Renowned dog trainer and behavior counselor to lead series of educational sessions for pet-owners
and their furry friends*



(Photo Caption: Photo #1, Talaris Conference Center in Laurelhurst is set on 18 park-like acres. Photo #2, Think Spot Owner and Professional Dog Trainer Joey Iversen's Black Russian Terrier (on left), Pirate plays with his cohorts at Think Spot)

WHO: **Talaris Conference Center** a retreat, event and meeting destination set on 18 park-like acres in Seattle's Laurelhurst neighborhood, and **Joey Iversen**, professional dog trainer, behavior counselor and founder of Think Spot.

WHERE: **Talaris Conference Center**,
4000 NE 41st Street
Seattle, WA 98105
206.268.7000
www.talarisconferencecenter.com

WHAT: **Canine College at Talaris Conference Center**, a series of three all-day dog training sessions led by **Think Spot** founder Joey Iversen. Each carefully designed course emphasizes positive reinforcement and fun for both dog and owner, offering plenty of activity, mental enrichment, games, fun challenges and informative sessions. Classes are recommended for dogs ages one year and older.

WHEN: Those looking to make a weekend of it are invited to stay the night with Fido in a comfortable and convenient guestroom at Talaris for the reduced rate of \$109 night. Guests are encouraged to attend one or all sessions within the series:

July 23, 2011

- The **Woof-tacular World of Sports** session focuses on the dog sports world and canine sporting events, sampling a line-up of popular dog sports activities and recreational games including agility tests, Rally-O obedience training, canine freestyle, recreational games and physical challenges.

August 20, 2011

- **The Nose Knows** session combines the dog's natural scenting abilities and desire to hunt with their love of toys, food and exercise. This exciting course builds confidence while burning mental and physical energy. Nosegames and sport activities include searching games, K9 Nosework, tracking and nature scent games.

September 17, 2011

- The **Back to School** session is designed to build a strong foundation of polite manners through participation in fun activities and games focusing on daily activities such as polite walking, greeting strangers on the street and at the door, and amazing tricks.

DETAILS: Each Canine College course runs between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., consisting of four lessons with a lunch break between 12:30 and 2:00 p.m. and are only available on the dates listed above. Each session costs \$100 per day for owner and dog, and is limited to a maximum of 10 dogs. Reservation must be made in advance of the course, no later than the Monday prior. Canine College participants and pets are invited to stay the night in a comfortable and convenient guestroom at Talaris for the reduced rate of \$109. To make reservations, please call Talaris Conference Center at 206.268.7000.

About Talaris Conference Center

Talaris Conference Center, a full service retreat, event and meeting destination that combines a distinctively Northwest environment with metropolitan technology and amenities, is located on 18 acres in a natural, park-like setting near the University of Washington in Seattle. Talaris is just four blocks from University Village and within walking distance of neighborhood restaurants, cafes and jogging trails. With three large conference rooms, two intimate meeting spaces and multiple breakout areas, this wooded oasis is an ideal destination for intimate training workshops, meetings, retreats and other events for up to 150 people. In addition, 31 well-appointed guestrooms complete with flat screen televisions, daily continental breakfast and other fine amenities are located adjacent to the conference center offering convenience and comfort while making Talaris an ideal alternative to a traditional hotel. Talaris Conference Center is managed and operated by Seattle-based Columbia Hospitality, Inc. For more information call 206-268-7000 or visit www.talarisconferencecenter.com.

About Joey Iversen

Professional Dog Trainer & Behavior Counselor, CPDT, KPA-CTP

With over 16 years experience training and showing both dogs and horses, Joey has worked with all breeds of dogs and their owners. Her calm, patient manner makes it easy for people and dogs to understand and learn from her. Joey received her Certified Pet Dog Trainer title from the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers and is a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers. She is a graduate of the Karen Pryor Academy for Animal Training and Behavior.

About Columbia Hospitality

Columbia Hospitality, Inc. (Columbia), a Seattle-based hospitality management and consulting firm specializing in luxury hotel and resort management, was founded in 1995 by John Oppenheimer. Columbia's growing portfolio of premier properties, including boutique hotels, award-winning resorts, event venues and conference centers, offer world-class service in exquisite settings. Columbia creates memorable experiences for guests and team members while achieving phenomenal results for owners. The company's continued success has led to an international expansion of the consulting division and more than 100 hospitality development projects worldwide. For more information about Columbia and a full list of properties visit www.columbiahospitality.com.

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