

## Mary Price

Mary Price is the director of training at Quincy Kennel Club and teaches both beginning and intermediate obedience classes and conformation classes. She has trained dogs since 1967, started with her own dog. She was immediately asked to be an instructor by longtime club member Gladys Rupp, and has been involved in training since that time.

Mary currently owns three Chihuahuas (one smooth-coat and two long-coats), one toy poodle and one Chinese Crested. She has previously owned Australian terriers, a Japanese Chin, a Shetland Sheepdog and a Bearded Collie. She bred a couple of litters of Australian terriers in the early 70's and later bred Chihuahuas.

She has shown over 70 different breeds in AKC and UKC shows. She has put many championship titles on several breeds with many group placings. One of her Chihuahuas was in the top five in the country for several years, winning eight Chihuahua specialty shows. (Those are large shows, up to 300+ dogs in competition, all Chihuahuas, although some were under 100.) She has also put CD and CDX titles on dogs in obedience. She wishes that rally and obedience had been around when she was actively showing in obedience.

Before Shar Peis and Australian Shepherds were accepted by AKC, Mary was approved to judge them at their specialty shows and also judged their obedience. She has judged all groups at both AKC and fun matches and was honored to have been selected to judge sweepstakes at several Chihuahua specialties, including the Nationals in San Francisco and Chicago. Judging the puppies was always her very favorite thing to do.



The most challenging situation she faced with her own dogs was shortly after she started training in obedience. Her teacher used very rough methods, and Mary followed her lead. In preparation for her very first obedience trial, her loyal sweet, gentle Australian terrier, Saucy, wasn't sitting when she stopped, so Mary corrected her. It made her worse so she corrected the dog again, harshly. Mary says it taught her the best lesson she ever learned, and that was to be patient and loving. Saucy was so upset she suddenly completely shut down and couldn't remember anything she had been taught. Needless to say, they were not successful at their first trial and it took a couple of weeks before the dog trusted her again. Mary says, "You have to be able to read your dog or you shouldn't train. It seems I always learn the hard way."

The most rewarding aspect of training is when someone comes to her with a dog they were going to give up on and she is able to turn things around and make them best friends. Mary feels so fortunate to be able to spend so many years doing what she loves with dogs she learns to love. And she like the owners too, for the most part!