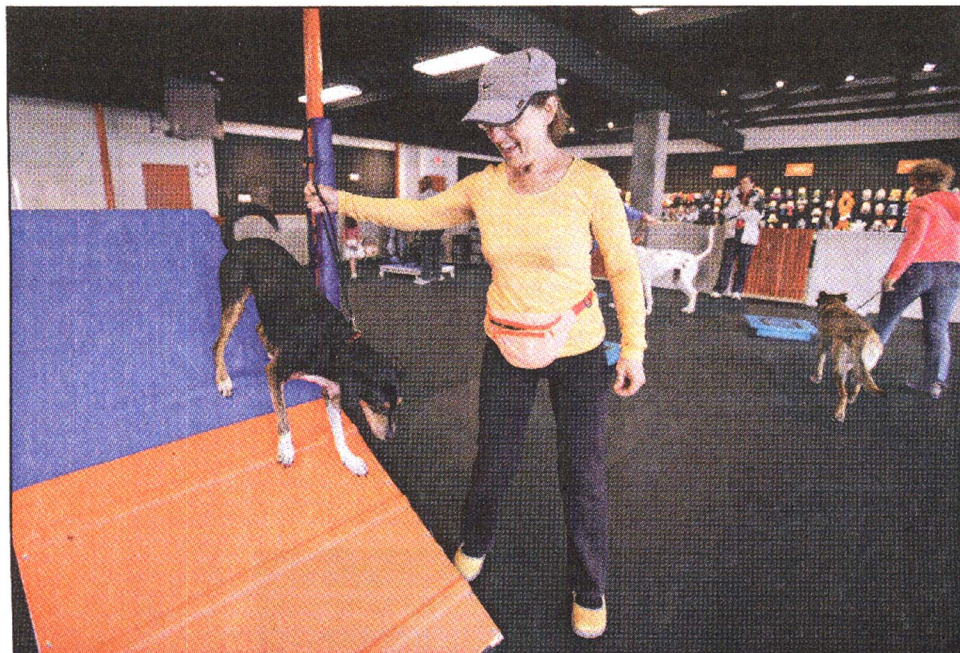


# Monterey County BUSINESS



Katy Travaille with her dog, Tika, take part in agility training class at the Zoom Room in Pacific Grove on Tuesday.

VERN FISHER/The Herald



"All of that time training really builds a bond between dog and master and it builds self-esteem for the dog."

— Ratna Anagol teaches the dog agility training class

## Place where dogs get room to zoom

AGILITY CLASSES IMPROVE POOCH MINDS, BODIES

By LANE WALLACE  
Herald Staff Writer

"Slow, slow, slow," Katy Travaille urges her catahoula hound, Tika, as the dog scrambles up to the top of an A-shaped climbing wall.

As the 3-year-old dog slows her pace on the downhill, Travaille is waiting with a small treat.

The drill, and others such as hurdles, hoop jumping, going through tunnels and weaving around poles, is part of dog agility classes at Ratna Anagol's Zoom Room, which opened in April in Pacific Grove.

Agility training "is as much about their minds as it is with their bodies," said Anagol, who was overseeing a class of four dogs and their owners on Tuesday.

A dog can get exercise by

walking or running, but agility drills work their brains, Anagol said.

"All of that time training really builds a bond" between dog and master, Anagol said, and "it builds self-esteem for the dog."

Tim McFaddan said he brought his 9-month-old Great Dane to the class to have her get more interaction.

The dog, Cyrus, was making progress on the drills, but sometimes needed coaxing from McFaddan. When she got the hang of going through a plastic tunnel, Cyrus seemed to enjoy it, sometimes bumping the sides.

McFaddan, who hasn't had dogs for six years, picked Cyrus from a litter because "she was the kindest of them."

Also making progress was

Tika, who was abandoned before Travaille got her.

Tika isn't as calm as the other dogs, but she's in control.

"She's like an (attention deficit disorder) kid," said Travaille, who brings the dog to agility classes because "I like her to socialize."

Anagol offers classes in obedience, tricks, sessions for shy dogs and for dogs whose presence serves as therapy for the owner. She even offers Doggie Disco, with laser light shows on the floor for dogs to chase. Some classes are especially for puppies.

Classes cost \$150 for six sessions. Anagol also offers private training and open

## Zoom

From page B1

gym agility practice.

Three years ago, Anagol had no thoughts of opening Zoom Room or anything like it. She was a vice president at CTB/McGraw Hill in Monterey when she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

She is healthy now, but Anagol, 44, decided she wanted a job with less travel so she can spend more time with her family in Pacific Grove.

Even when she got a dog, Anagol wasn't planning to open a training center. After taking her dog to agility classes from a woman who works out of her home, Anagol went on the Internet last summer to see if there were indoor training facilities

she could patronize.

She found Zoom Room, but the company's other three branches are in Southern California.

The more she looked into it, the more Anagol realized "it was exactly what I wanted to do."

She spent three weeks in online training, then went to Southern California, where she trained 12 hours a day for three weeks.

Anagol, who has a master's degree in business administration, said, "I liked the (Zoom Room) business model. I thought it could be viable" on the Peninsula.

She expects the business to expand, but already "it's been fairly busy," Anagol said.

Lane Wallace can be reached at 646-4478 or mhbusiness@montereyherald.com.



Tim McFaddan and his dog, Cyrus, take part in agility training class at the Zoom Room in Pacific Grove on Tuesday.

VERN FISHER/The Herald

### If you go

- **What:** The Zoom Room
- **Where:** 120 Central Ave., Pacific Grove, 717-4580
- **When:** 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Please see Zoom page B5