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Jan Metzger: In her shop the topic is knitting and canines, complete with a dash of homespun philosophy.

## Her yarns might involve canines

By Laura Kaufman  
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FALLBROOK — Jan Metzger presides over her shop from a couch and offers advice on her two favorite topics: knitting and canines.

And when Metzger is not running the shop — a creatively cluttered melange of wool crammed into several small rooms here — she is breeding dachshunds on her 40-acre ranch in De Luz Canyon and teaching weekly canine obedience classes at the community center here.

There's no such thing as an unmanageable dog," said Metzger. "There are unmanageable people."

Metzger obviously likes dogs.

People, too, although some more than others. For example, she has affectionately dubbed some of her customers as pains, or P.A.s for

short.

Such individuals are discouraged from patronizing her store, which looks more like a living room knitting circle than a business establishment. To get stuck with the P.A. label, Metzger explained, a repeat visitor might ask a thousand questions about knitting and then not buy anything.

"I don't keep people I don't want on the mailing list," said Metzger, who speaks her mind with obvious relish.

"We keep 3-by-5 cards, and if somebody is a P.A., we mark it on their card. If it gets marked too many times, the card goes into the pail and they don't get the newsletter" announcing sales.

Metzger, a full-bodied woman of 50, says the P.A.s are few, however. The vast majority of her customers are like family.

On a recent afternoon, for example, as an overhead television muttered in the background, a woman with swollen hands sought advice about making a sweater. Metzger greeted her warmly and helped her with her project.

Later, Metzger explained that the woman, who recently underwent a double mastectomy, was advised by her doctor to begin knitting to help regain muscle strength in her arms.

Metzger is sympathetic to those who have suffered with the disease, and a year ago she invited a mobile breast cancer detection clinic to park in her store's lot once a month. During the past year, "They've detected three or four cancers," she said.

Metzger opened the Village Yarn Needleart and Sweater Co. five years ago when she took  
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