

"Thank you so much for your time last week, I learned a great deal. I have noticed a huge shift in my own behavior and reactions towards the dogs. And with that comes more calmness from them. I have been working with the leash/jumping behavior and really watching my own behavior with him. It's all good". I love the thought that Jackson is being a dog, it makes so much sense. I also have to tell you that people are already noticing Jackson's calmer energy (as I calm mine down). I have been really focused on using their names positively ONLY and have stopped saying "no." It's not all better, of course, but I see changes. I wish more people would understand that about dogs. But that will come in time, just like people's understanding of what I do!

- Dr. Angela Lambert ND,Lac

Yeah. I had my doubts about hiring you after our Initial Behavior Consultation...there was something about your style that I wasn't so sure about. But also something, like I told Geoff, that felt very right and we had to know more. At this point, I know you can handle (and even appreciate) my questioning your actions...cuz of course you know that I really want to understand them at this point (as opposed to wanting to slap you upside the head and swear in your face)!

I know you're popular and busy...for good reason. We've seen great results with our dogs, to the point where I haven't felt so desperate that I've needed to call you. =) When things do get frustrating, we have tools that we've put in place (food in toys in their room has been a HUGE help!) so that helps. Thanks again for all your help! It's so great to get less frustrated with Kensa. And to enjoy her more often! -Tamara

Thank you for an awesome lesson! I feel rejuvenated and excited. Wanted to share our success tonight with you... Beyah is STILL tired from today, so a plus of course. Tried the technique you showed me with the food to her nose, once she stopped nosing it and made eye contact, I put the collar on her WITHOUT her breaking her sit or eye contact. JACKPOT!! No mouthing!! Did the same to remove the collar, same result, I felt she was ready for another try and succeeded three times in a row and ended on success with a lazy puppy tug game. So, tonight is a short trip to the park with a new toy and then the relax game.

Thank you again, Gina! You inspire and give me the vision of a fantastic, trusting, fun relationship with my dog. And in other areas too =) Thank you for sticking with and believing in me. It means a lot. Anyone, anytime, use me and the pooch as a reference. - Shelby

So, remember I told you that Xochitl was running with me so well....well – now the mornings are dark and cold and Utley is walking with Robin and our neighbor and her dog and X started doing her “STOP” and making herself a POST....so I went in to problem solving mode – I was going to call you but wanted to see if I could figure it out. First – the first day I got mad – I mean we meet outside at 5AM – still too sleepy to think clearly. So, I realized quickly that that was not going to work. I decided I either needed to give up ever running with her or find my patience and figure it out...so, I started taking her home when she did that – you see a couple of times I gave up and just walked – she won – well, that didn't really seem right so...

Second try – remember when we were working on leash walking and “walk away”? I talked to you about her turning into a post and you suggested attaching her long line and using her tendency to not want me out of her sight? So, perhaps that would work with running – got to tell you – so far (2 weeks) so well. I use her leash and the 15 foot long line – it is a true pain in the ass but she really responds – better and better all the time – its still real work but I'm getting longer times in between needing to use it. We'll see if it works permanently – meanwhile I'm getting pretty good runs and having fun with her.

So, other than the fact that third way is positive and reinforcing it also teaches problem solving and I love that – she has no side effects...

So, once again – thanks for teaching... Molly Butler

Just got back from the park, this is the third time we have done so since the training session with you. She was amazing today. She barked only twice and never once lunged for the Frisbee. She re-commits to the sit when I try to fake her out and she keeps her eyes glued to mine until I release her. Unbelievable!
- Marc & Amelia

Wanted to thank you for the info and tell you your web site is awesome. I believe in the way you teach and practice it here everyday. I think that is why we get away with so much more than other daycares in the line of fights and frustrations. Open 11 years now and have had several ear nicks but nothing in the line of defensive or aggressive out and out fighting. It's like we are all the same size, equal, and I just walk different. We communicate with eye contact and body movements more than verbal. I can look a dog dead on and my next move gives the "Q" to meet me at the door or gate. Just the one dog, they deserve more credit, more "Yes" time. I tell people to laugh with them and tell them they are good when stuff is really just that. Don't let your only communication with them be because you're mad at something they did or didn't do. I've learned a lot from all my critters. They taught me with love. - Hope all is well, - Brenda

Not a "No Ginger, leave it"
Not a "Mom, Ginger is grabbing me"
Not a "Mom, Ginger has my Lego"
Nor a single sock, underwear or shoe has been moved....

Since our session, Ginger slept when she got home and even awake was very mellow. The power of wearing her out has eliminated a huge amount of frustration and now we can get busy on the management.

Norm and I haven't had a puppy for 14 years and had forgotten so much. Having you show us a new and better way to train along with your sage advice was amazing. You are worth every single penny and more. Dogs truly have a friend and advocate in you. Thank you so much, Gina. --Norm, Julie & Dylan

I just wanted to "thank you" for everything you do for us. You inspire me with training and hope about working with Brody. I just can't say enough for what you do and how well you do it. Without you and the rest of the "third way" team I shutter to think about what our relationship with Brody would look like. I just wish more people would recognize the value of what the third way does for human/canine relationships. I just really can't express all the gratitude I have for you and the rest of the "team".

Glen Lewis - glewis@AloftPDX.com

A friend of my roommate was over our house the day after we got our puppy and raved about your program. In his words "my puppy is a different dog now!" I can't recall his name (the pups or the owners!), but if we are cleared for the 11th, my boyfriend will be with me and we are planning on coming and observing you on Monday. Thanks so much for all the information, you have been very helpful!
-Emily

I just wanted to thank you once again for your time last night. Just sitting in your class for one night made me realize that I am going in the right direction. And I am so glad that I brought Amy with me, I have been trying to convince her that this is the way to go and I hope that she finally realizes that I am right. You really made a huge impact on her, and thank you so very much!!! Like I said, I still plan on looking at 2 more trainers but I can honestly say that your time and effort (not to mention techniques) have put you on the top of the list. once again thank you so much for your time, I know that we were all ready to go home last night and yet you stuck with us through our silly questions and apprehensions, and that is what will always set you away from the rest. -Thank you so very much,
- Jeremy Paquet

"Bella is really participating more in play with her and Sophie. I want to make sure that you know that I give all of the credit to you for this resurgence in Bella. She has really never been the same since she was lost for 4 days, and then Bruno died. You have returned my crazy puppy to me, and for that I will be eternally grateful". - Rosalie

I wanted to let you know that Bailey and I had a great night!! We went to the school and Alberta Park and we had a blast!! I FINALLY had a break through and everything fell into place - no pulling on the leash, leave it and walk away went really well and yes she even responded to "front". We had so much fun!! This proofing thing is a blast - (spin, down/maintain and stay)!! I have had a lot of success when I hold the leash behind me rather than in front. Thank you so much for your patience!! Bailey adores you and Missy and I have had blast learning from you!!
You rock! --Molly Luby & Missy

The other day a bull dog ran across the street and attacked my dog Dakota. I basically backed away to get her away from "Pork Chop" while the dog's owner grabbed him/her. Then the owner picked the dog up and threw it on its back, yelling "BAD DOG! NO!" Dakota and I quickly left. We gave each other a look, as if to say, "that poor dog, no wonder. . ." It also made me appreciate the Third Way, and its gentle approach. Thank you. Yours truly -Caroline

I just want to tell you that you have become such a different trainer than two-three years ago. You are amazing. If I may share this with you, you are much clearer and calmer, and so much more helpful. I liked you back then and I love what you have to teach, but now I am soooo getting how to do all these steps. You are so patient with me, as well as Gracie, and it is invaluable work. Thank you so much for what you do, And for your desire and willingness to better yourself and your skills as a teacher. I, too, am always searching for ways to communicate with my students and to become a better teacher myself, so I really appreciate all your efforts. It is working, big time! Just wanted to share that with you... you rule.... -Paulette Rees-Denis

As you say "Smile!" I want to thank you for ALL that you have done to inspire and teach us. I love your seriousness and your humor. I admire you for sticking to your guns and not letting us get away with doing things halfway. Rita and Cinzia are wonderful too, a tribute to you that you attract good people.

Even with a Henry lesson remaining, I don't want to lose track of you. Talking with you and sharing some of each of our lives was of course so very special to me. Just can't say enough good things.

-Love, Mary, and Henry and Quid-a-licious

Seriously, I can actually go walking as my exercise now. It's so nice! In fact, I have to tell you that everything is going so well that, if we master what you've taught us already – we'll be 100% happy with Max.

-Dineen

This is awesome. I also wanted to comment to you on how helpful (and also comical) it was for you to talk as if you were the Dog when Ernie was having trouble committing to a sit. That is exactly what is going on in their head and it was such a great learning experience for me.

Thanks, --Dee

"I wanted to tell you how glad I am that my vet recommended your program to me. He wanted to make sure I was going to have a good relationship with my Rottweiler, Ginger. I must tell you that it has been so much more educational than I thought it would be. And the results of playing your "games" with Ginger have been phenomenal! I feel like I've learned so much more about dogs in general, but specifically, you helped me to read my own dog, too.

I have been able to calm her down when she was in conflict (the old me would have used the term aggressive), because of what you have taught me about how dogs react to either distractions or sensitivities. I have learned that my dog sees me as only either safe or dangerous, so I need to provide safety for her at all times and not be "dominate" over her.

I was a little nervous about the cost of training, at first. But when I compared what I have learned to what my sister learned from her "pet store training classes", there isn't a doubt in my mind that you are worth every penny! I know for a fact that my sister's trainer (and I use that term loosely) has never emailed her to follow up on anything. You are very quick to respond to my questions and patient enough to deal with my insecurities. I truly appreciate that! I have also been told (by strangers) that she is the calmest Rottweiler they've ever been. What a wonderful friendship you have helped facilitate between Ginger and I. Thank you so very much!" – Rebecca

You and your insightful (and successful) training are frequently on my mind. Jack is now 2 1/2 but still a sleek 60lbs. He's an affectionate, intelligent and energetic dog. Your training and education helped us get past the puppy frustration and our own ignorance to see his true spirit--he is a perfect dog. :-) Are you still offering home train & play visits for lonely at-home dogs? I think it would be a better alternative to day care as we all know no daycare environment is perfect for every dog. - Terri Sleight

Thanks for the chat yesterday. I think the toughest part of the training has been transitioning from my "old" way of training/thinking to this new way of training. It has really challenged me to be very aware of my tone and posture not to mention being sure that I am consistently communicating the sequence in the right order and at the right time so as to set my pup up for success and not confuse him.

Although the first 6-8 weeks were bumpy, I now see my pup through a totally different lens. He is so sweet and continues to gain confidence every day. If I had tried to use the "old" way of training, I'm afraid I would have suppressed the very sweetness that makes him so special. Also, his response to direction is wonderful and most important we have so much fun together. Again, I don't think the "old way would have fostered the same responsiveness and fun. It has been worth every challenging minute to get to this point and although I know the challenges will never stop, I take great comfort in knowing that we have the foundation to move through them.

As always, thanks so much for your commitment and patience. We really appreciate it! -Stacey Chapman

"I'm quite happy with where Simon is at right now. I'm noticing a lot of change on walks with him...he's not pulling or freaking out on walks. He is fairly easily redirected from distractions-just this morning, he saw a cat running up steps to move away from him, he paused looking at the cat, I said leave it (without tugging the leash)...he turned and kept walking. No whining, no pulling, no manic behavior...just kept walking. I know he's not perfect; he will try to jump the fence again someday. And he may act differently the next time we pass that cat". - Kimberly Horner

I think of you as efficient, In fact, I was just thinking about your path... your credentials...and I must say, it is impressive, we all have interests and ideas, but you are of the cloth that pursues and accomplishes. It is a brave soul that follows his or her intuitions. Now that your butt is covered with kisses, I will end by letting you know that I believe it is important to tell people how much you appreciate who they are and what they do. You are a fantastic teacher, and that is a tough job, too. In all sincerity, -Jodi O.

I liked your presentation last night, lots of energy, and lots of information. It was easier this time, from the point of view of understanding the reasons why training needs to begin with fundamental skills.

Lizzy was very excited when she first came in, but really did OK and settled in to the process after a few minutes. I've been able to achieve distances beyond 15 feet while she is in the down position, without a false release

I've also made progress going from the house to the car. Ginny is the one who gets really wound up, so I put her on a floor cord, which I'm holding in my hand for now. I've made a very small floor cord that is easy to always have in my back pocket. Amazingly, she accepted it fairly quickly and the other two just stood around waiting for her to get excited. She didn't, so we all walked calmly from the laundry room to the garage door, and then calmly through the door to the car. Doing the class will probably give me a lot more ideas of what to do and how to proof it. - John Gibson

Finn is doing well. We had some break through moments training him to be around our young nephews. He has been great and is much less fearful around children now. Thank you for your foundation class or we would have been lost.

We would love to bring him to your next session. Please keep us posted on when the next class is. Take care and thanks again for all your help.
Tamara (Rebecca and Finn)

I took Nisha with me this past Sunday morning to the Hillsdale Farmers Market since dogs are allowed there. I wanted to practice her greetings. I reinforced her sitting for greetings. After the first couple, she started walking up to someone she wanted to meet and sitting at their feet. Needless to say, she met a LOT of people. We also practiced sit/maintain while waiting in line for a bagel. Despite all the distractions, she really did well. She got a lot of compliments on being such a well behaved puppy. People kept asking me how old she was and were surprised to learn that she was only 15 weeks. One woman told me several times that she had never met such a well behaved puppy before. Thanks again
-Phyllis

Thank you from all of us. You're a real crusader. (I enjoyed reading about your experiences with whelping) Everything you've taught has turned out to be invaluable, and integral to our relationship with Max. Thanks for giving us such a strong 'foundation' to build upon. I miss being around your energy

■ Jeanne and Cliff

You are so wonderful! Thank you from me, Rocket and Nautica. I've tried many training methods and have seen for myself how great this one is. You have really helped us communicate and be much happier together. Rocket has really come a long way with this method and I can definitely see how much easier Nautica is catching on having tried this method with her first thing. I talk you up every chance I get!

Again, thank you so much. Your classes are so enjoyable and we all look forward to learning more. See you soon! -DeLyne, Nautica and Rocket

"We were thoroughly impressed with the new information and instruction that we received in the class. Your personal attention to Peri and our needs was truly a gift. We are continuing to work on the Third Way strategies and Peri is doing great with her skills. You have been very generous with your time. Thank you for your hard work, energy, and fun teaching style! We learned so much. Hope to see you again soon!" - Moe, Kris, and Peri

What I like best about your class is the relationship that I built with Parker. It's one of trust and mutual respect, if you can get respect from a dog! I trust Parker to come when called and not stray off too far away from us. When we are out hiking around 1000 acres, Parker is the one that's by our side always. Also around the house he'll follow me everywhere.

Parker knows that I'm safe and I trust him to be off leash. Our relationship is more than just human and dog. And I really want to thank you for helping me relate to my dog in ways that he can understand. It's completely because of your class that he and I are so close. -Annie

Just wanted to send a quick note to say how happy we are with this class. It's exactly how we want to work with him. Bocce is learning like crazy, but more importantly, we are learning tons! We very much appreciate the service that you offer. It's also great to get a constant flow of answers, feedback, and additional info or manuals. That is far different from our friends who have gone to different training. Some thought the trainer was just downright mean.

You have helped us create a great environment for our new addition. Yesterday was really the first day where he was comfortable and interested in everything. He also started nipping like crazy for the first time, so we finally got our floor cords in place. We have to start working on that constantly and using tethers more.

There are so many times that I think "what would Gina do?" Maybe we should make little multi-colored bracelets that say W.W.G.D.?
Thanks, - RP

It was a fabulous experience for me to attend your class and I am very much looking forward to attending the next class. I truly love your style and your information and your method of teaching, and who you are and how you are with both people as well as dogs. This type of training not only works with and speaks to the thinking behavior of a dog, but it allows for a much better relationship between the dog and his/her companion. It is also a more humane style of teaching... and I love how it focuses on the dog's solution oriented nature.

- Stacey Chase

My kids and I practiced greetings. We practiced asking the owner and what it means to ask the dog. We even took turns being the happy/relaxed and then the fearful/angry dog. We also acted out the ignorant owner that says, oh its okay he loves dogs. I taught my kids to say, "No thanks, he seems a little scared, I'll pet him another time." My girls and I acted out the dog saying yes and where would be okay to pet him and so on. They loved it! Saying, "I want to be the owner! I want to be the dog! And I want to ask!" We did it numerous times and they each acted out all three parts.

I threw them for a loop when I was the dog and I sniffed the hand but then backed away. I asked the girls now what do you think the dog is saying? Miranda said, he seems a little interested but not sure. I said, you're right, what might you do now? She said walk away? I said you certainly could do that. Because the dog seemed a little interested you could try to squat down and see if that makes the dog more comfortable. And if he doesn't approach you then you would know that he is not comfortable enough to allow you to pet him.

My girls totally understood this even Darlene who is only 5 years old understood how to read (somewhat) body language. I began by talking about body language and how you can sometimes know how someone feels by how they look. She identified, happy, angry, scared and surprised. I told them that dogs do this too, but in a little bit different way. Then we began acting... with Miranda as the dog first. It was fun. Next I can work on Robby and getting him to understand a dog's body language. It'll be a little different for him but I think if I draw some pictures for him it will work. I'll let you know how that works.

Thanks again for being so awesome! Becca

Just a quick note, to say hello and to tell you how great Jelly is doing, she is very happy and minds us very well. In addition to us, we have you to thank. Our Jelly is an adorable handful. We mention your name all the time. You do great work. Be well. -David

"Thanks for an enlightening orientation last night! Matt and I are really excited about the next few weeks! Thanks again!" -Michelle Birchard

Hey! Gina I'm so happy that you opened your business. As you know you've done so much for Pip and me — not to mention helping to turn the Alberta neighborhood around. You guys rock!!!

-Susan & Pip

The crate behind the chair is working out great. We had talked about getting another crate for Brittany, but never thought about putting it behind the chair. She is also coming back much better now. The thing that we have changed most is our attitude towards her. When we called you, we were at peak frustration - it had been building for quite some time. You reminded us of the attitude we need to have with her....a more positive attitude than we had been having in the recent past.

"Things are much better with us now. Thank you for your help. Honestly, Jenny and I were the ones who needed to change and we couldn't have made it without you. Thanks!!" -Scott Ogren, Ogren Engineering, LLC

My pup Resa attended your kindergarten program last summer and she is doing well. She has already earned a title in agility.

By the way, I have to tell you that after that class you had on tying up the dog when they start barking incessantly at the sight of another dog approaching. I couldn't make your class but you had talked about it at another class. I decided to try it out. There was a long straight gravel path fenced on both sides at where we do herding. There was a small group of people and their dogs at the far end. Resa, started barking like she does. We were quite a ways away. I stopped, tied her to the fence and took one step back. Barking stopped instantly and she turned her back to the group and made eye contact with me. I untied her and we proceeded walking towards the group and didn't get far before she started again with the barking. I stopped tied her up and took one step away. Again, instant stop to the barking and she turned her attention on me. We then proceeded closer to the group and she never said another peep. The barking has cut down dramatically. -Jean

I've been doing everything you said... taking Honk to run on the beach on a 50 ft rope, exercising him like crazy (he's only good for about 15 minutes of chasing balls and then he gets tired and stops), and doing a lot of eye contact work, etc. It's really working! I'm very impressed with the whole thing.

Terri Mandell Campfield -Phone consult client from Alabama

I used the "Pearl call" (come) the other night when we were walking down the road. She was off leash and a car came. Michael, me and the dog freaked. Cars are such a rarity and we weren't being as careful as we should have been. Pearl took off, but I called her and she instantly came. It works great.

-Leslie Goldberg

I was thinking about you today after beginning the book called "Animals in Translation" by Temple Grandin. She is an animal scientist and absolutely brilliant. She is Autistic. The subtitle of her book is "Using the Mysteries of Autism to Decode Animal Behavior".

Anyway, as I was reading, I thought a lot about how much I've been comparing the skills I've learned from you to the skills and things I've learned in caring for my son. And not just comparing them, but what I've learned, I've been able to intermix and use on both my animals and my kids. It's an amazing connection. Like I said, made me think of you and how you are so different than most "trainers" and how your methods really work and that's the difference. Because you are about reading the dog and being on the dog's program as opposed to trying to force the dog on my program.

I also thought about you today as I took my two dogs to the little dog park near our house. They were sooo well behaved, I was loving it other dogs came over and wanted to check them out, and my dogs were like, okay sure. Then when one of the other dogs started getting into a barking and growling match with another of the other dogs there, I called my dog's names and began running away from the growling and they ran after me, away from, what I'm sure was very interesting to them. I played with the dogs and then told them they were free and to go play. They went back to where the growling dogs were, who'd stopped by that time, and everything was good. An owner came up to me and said, WOW, I wish my dog would do that! I grinned and began telling her about you and your methods.

Anyway, I hope all is well with you and your family and I hope business is good.

Becca :)

Angela "Ozzy's owner is raving about you. She was so impressed that she is taking her Hubby to the next training session. She had a big smile the whole time she was talking about you. Thanks, my friend."

Brenda from "Happy Puppy Park" in Vancouver

It is so much fun working with you and the entire team. It is also just a lot of fun watching Brody grow and participate in his life... Keep feeding me the information....I love it.

"Smile", "don't get frustrated", and "be patient" - glen Lewis

Gina - Hi - This is Dani - Stacey was telling me how happy she is that I am now three years old and how happy she is that we have survived those 3 years together. She tells me that I have you to thank for the good life I have, 'cuz...I guess I was quite a challenging puppy, and you helped Stacey understand my instincts and how to help me make choices that benefit me.

I wanted to tell you that I am very good at walking on a leash now....not just a leash, but a loose leash! I am also very good at sitting and waiting until I have been given the "free" command....and when I find myself too focused on what I smell to respond to the "come" command, the "pup pup" song never fails! I LOVE that song! When I hear it, I run as fast as I can to Stacey...and that makes her happy too, I guess...but I don't do it to make her happy, I do it 'cuz for some reason it makes ME happy....

I LOVE learning new things and am so happy that Stacey is constantly thinking of new ways to keep my brain and my body active. We go for walks just about every day...long walks too...and we go to the beach quite a bit and we hike into the mountains and around some pretty lakes and rivers....and I have learned how to walk on the treadmill....Stacey is soooooooooooooo good to me! :-)

We play tug-of-war often, and when Stacey asks me to "give" the toy, I do, 'cuz I know that she will reward me by letting me play with it again and again and again and again. I play Frisbee with my best buddy, Rio....She is great at catching the Frisbee...I can now catch the Frisbee too...Rio LOVES the water....I am still a little nervous about getting into the water, but I have been wandering out into it a little bit more each time...especially when Stacey throws a stick or a floating toy into the water.....

I stopped eating couches and cds and shoes and pens and books...well.....I do still like books.....I read them less often than I used to, but from time to time I still cannot to resist the urge.

I am crate trained now....I never new how comforting it is to hang out in the crate....why I resisted so hard I do not know.....

I have also become a band dog....when my friend Pilar has band practice, and I am visiting her house, I hang out with the band....right in the middle of the drums and the electric guitar - such fun! Rio doesn't like it; she goes upstairs during rehearsal...but not me! Rock on!

I just wanted to say Hi and to thank you for training Stacey so she had the tools to help me help myself.

Loving Barks and Hugs to you,

Dani

Ps: Stacey says "Hi" too ... The Third Way Rocks!