

I can not even start to explain how impressed we are with Julia. I've tried all week to write a testimonial with everything there is to say. Our dogs are so much better now I'm almost wordless to describe all the good things that have happened in our 5 weeks of private classes.

We brought our 3 year old German shorthaired pointer Cooper, he's the normal dog without training he use to drag us all over and if we ever did see another dog he's go nuts barking and growling with his hackles up. He was hyper and in general just didn't have many good manners. We also brought our 6 month old wirehaired pointing griffon. I own a barbershop and she is my barbershop puppy so I want to make sure she's well behaved since she sees people everyday.

Within the first class my family could see a difference in Cooper and Kona, by the fifth class they were completely different. All my family could say is they are so good now. They both have the same personalities as before but they can now control their excitement. Or I guess now we can tell them how to control it without getting stressed out. I would not hesitate to bring an older dog now either. I figured we ruined Cooper and some of his habits would take a long time to change, but he took to Julia's balanced methods quickly and although our shorthaired pointer is still hyper, in exciting situations he acts very mature now. He can sit get petted and get complemented on how well behaved he is after only the 3rd class (probably the second class if I were more brave). We never took him in public because we would be too embarrassed to, but after the second class we did take him for walks in town and by the third week major improvements happened. He learned he could not get away with unacceptable behaviors.

I believe the balanced method of training is the most fair to your dog because they learn what you don't want them to do (unacceptable behaviors) and still get rewarded and praised for their good behaviors. It definitely got the bad out of Cooper quickly. I have customers in my shop that are like 'oh you put fear in your dog' and that is not the case. Wirehaired Pointing Griffons are known to be hard to train, sensitive, hard to discipline dogs, in no way has Kona been at all fearful of me or balanced methods. They have made her more confident; she now looks into my eyes and has stopped submissive peeing. I'm pretty sure if these training methods put fear into your dog Kona would be worse off now and not greatly improved. Also I think people don't understand how gentle a correction can be. Example: I have a customer that has a dog that chases turkeys and he asked what would I do to get her to come, and I said I'd but her on a long line when the turkeys are out and tell her to come and if she doesn't come pull her back to you. He was mortified. 'I can't pull on my little dogs neck' but the little dog does pull him when he walks her. Interesting.... It doesn't make sense to me. He can't gently pull her back to him, but she can pull him on a walk. Allowing her to pull is putting more stress on the little dogs neck then calling 'come' and gently pulling her in, IF she does not come on her own. But people view you doing something to your dog as mean but your dog can do the same thing back to you and it's not mean or hurting them. It doesn't make much sense to me.

Julia's method of training is very simple. I believe the easier it is for us to learn, the easier it will be for us to continue maintaining our dog's behavior after our training is over. We love our dogs so it's rewarding to learn so much to help our dogs and be able to spend more time with them (because now we can bring them to public places with us.). We now have noticeable results we can maintain thanks to Julia. It's a huge relief to be able to control our dogs. We traveled 1 hour and 40 minutes for classes and will not hesitate to drop in to some advanced classes now to keep up our good work. Even with the long drive and high gas prices these classes are worth everything we put into them.

*-- Amy and Matt Caswell with Cooper and Kona*