

Meet Winston

The New Improved Version 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

By Marilyn Wilson

Winston, the Weimaraner, has led a charmed life. His pregnant mother was rescued from a Raleigh puppy mill operation just before she gave birth to him. Raised in a foster home for seven weeks, Winston came to his new Charlotte home as a Christmas present.

The Beshears,

Benny and Kathy, shared their home with Wally, a miniature black and tan Dachshund but the young active couple, like so many Carolinians, wanted a large athletic dog to share their passions of running, hiking, biking and camping – all the other things they just couldn't do with little Wally.

Winston thrived with his new loving family, quickly growing into his floppy ears, gangly legs and big paws. Soon, his athletic abilities became all too apparent to 6' 5" Benny.

"I took him out jogging and for two days my arms and shoulders ached," Benny said. "He pulled so hard on his leash. It felt like my arm would come out of its socket. Kathy couldn't and wouldn't take him out for a walk."

Clearly, Winston was out of control and getting worse by the day. When called he galloped away in another direction. When family and friends visited he charged the front door barking, jumping and clawing. Outside he ran

up and down the fence line barking away.

Every day, dogs just like Winston, beautiful,

healthy, untrained teenage dogs are turned into shelters because of behavior problems. Many are put to sleep because they are out of control and owners can't find an effective way to train them.

"The breaking point finally came," Benny explained.

"We had a big family dinner at our home one evening. Winston

jumped on everyone. When the food came out he was getting into everyone's plates, right up on the table." Frustrated,

Benny put Winston in his crate where he whined, cried, clawed and howled uncontrollably.

"It was



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upsetting to everyone, so I put him in the yard where he continued the howling and scratching and slamming into the door,” Benny said. “Clearly, that wasn’t working either. I wound up eating dinner with one hand while I held Winston’s collar with the other. That night, Kathy and I agreed that life could not go on like this.”

As publisher of the “Carolina Bark,” Benny Beshears had a bevy of dog training assets to draw upon. “We did the PetSmart program, we read every book, watched every CD, but nothing worked,” Benny said. “In fact, things were getting worse by the day. Not just for us but for Winston too. He was as frustrated as we were. No one was happy.”

But Winston was a charmed dog and things were to soon change for the Beshears.

“I was visiting Andy Hanellin, a dog trainer in Mooresville,” Benny explained. “I told him all about our very disobedient Winston and all of our training attempts that just didn’t work.”

Andy, who owns and operates Dogs by Andy K-9 Services, said “I can have that dog trained in no time.”

Benny watched as student dogs were put through their paces, heeling, walking quietly on lead, jumping over obstacles and such. “That’s what I wished for Winston,” Benny mused. “I immediately made an appointment for an evaluation of our family and our dog.”

Dogs by Andy K-9 Services offers many different training programs – various options and fees - to suit the needs of his diverse clients and their equally diverse dogs. In addition to training services, Dogs by Andy K-9 Services also sells fully trained adult dogs for families in need of personal protection, companionship or assistance. Courses are also available for those who wish to become dog trainers.

After learning of the busy schedule that consumed Winston’s owners, Andy thought that his three week live-in ‘boot camp’ was the right option. Winston had grown into a particularly strong and rambunctious dog and he required expert handling to curb his bad habits without harming his good nature and enthusiasm for life.

“I believe in real life dog training,” Andy explained. “In the real world, if your dog is running toward a road full throttle and a big semi is on that road there is no room for ‘the dog sometimes comes when called.’ The dog

MUST come.”

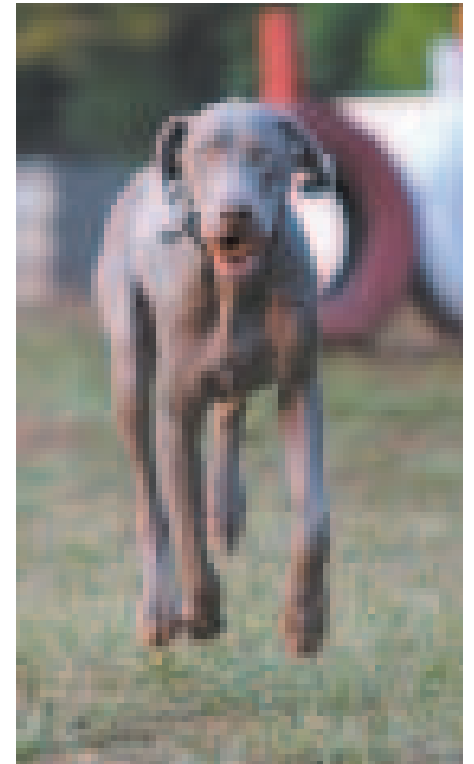
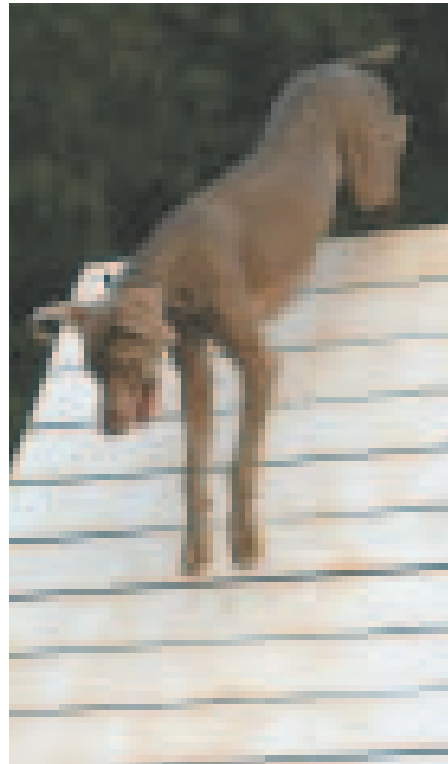
Andy has been training dogs professionally for more than 25 years. Expert in many areas, including Scent Detection for Narcotics and Explosives, Schutzhund, Ring Sport, Competitive Obedience, Personal Protection, Law Enforcement, and Search and Rescue, as well as the pro-bono training director of the Iredell County Humane Society, his career has taken him throughout the world - most recently to Alaska to evaluate military detection dogs and to Florida to train Miami Ink’s famed bulldog Bella.

“I enjoy all aspects of dog training,” Andy explained. “But nothing brings me more pleasure than taking an out of control family dog – a dog that everyone has given up on – and transforming that dog into the perfect pet. It’s very satisfying work. I couldn’t think of a better way to make a living.”

The Beshears were impressed with the highly professional tailor-made dog training program Andy detailed. “Kathy and I talked it over,” Benny said. “It was real tempting but Kathy had emotional concerns about a three week away-from-home-camp.” As horrible and disconcerting as Winston’s behavior was, there was no doubt that the Beshears were loving dog parents. Could they endure three weeks without Winston?

Benny, more pragmatic than Kathy, also had concerns about the price tag that came along with the promise of a totally obedient dog. Dogs by Andy K-9 Services premium package, three week, live-in, training boot camp is \$1500 and

includes a lifetime guarantee and admission to all Dogs by Andy K-9 Services training activities. Other training programs were discussed, but ultimately, the couple decided on the Boot Camp. They had wasted enough time and money on failed training methods and it was time to hire someone who really knows what he is doing and has the professional creden-



tials, awards and glowing references to prove it.

Winston was dropped off at Dogs by Andy K-9 Services training facility the next morning. Kathy wiped away tears as they drove off, asking herself if they did the right thing.

Three weeks later the anxious couple arranged to meet Andy and The New and Improved Winston – the Andy-cised

Winston. As agreed upon, the couple

parked their vehicle from a vantage point and

watched Winston go through his paces – without a leash.

Immediately, upon observing the majestic silver dog walking along in a dignified fashion next to Andy’s side, Kathy said, “That’s not Winston! Where’s our dog?”

It was indeed Winston, the very charmed Winston, demonstrating his impeccable obedience and keen understanding of commands.

“Winston is the perfect dog now,” Benny proudly said. “He’s what every dog

should be. We love being with him and he is now able to go everywhere with us. We put his collar on in the morning and he’s ready to go – have fun – enjoy life with us.”

In the past Winston was left behind at home because he was so unruly. He now often accompanies his owners to Berkdale Village or Cornelius. Look for him - walking off lead - calmly - by the side of Kathy or Benny - stop and say hello.

Once skeptical about Winston’s rehabilitation, Kathy now observes: “I never realized that Winston in many ways was as unhappy as we were. He just didn’t know what we wanted. He wanted to please but he was confused. He’s so much happier now.”

Winston and family now attend agility sessions every weekend at Dogs by Andy K-9 Services training facility. “I don’t think we’ll do any kind of formal competition – this is just fun,” Benny explained as Winston leapt over a six-foot A-frame. “Look how happy he is now. All dogs deserve to be trained by Andy and his trainers.”

Dogs by Andy K-9 Services is located on River Highway/Highway 150 in Mooresville. Dogs by Andy K-9 Services can be reached at: cell: 704-746-6636; office: 704-662-3456. For more information, please visit www.dogsbyandy.com □

