

Dog Trainer Guarantees Results

By Charlene H. Carpenter
Pet o' Mine Editor

Piper is a six-year-old Dalmatian who spent most of the first five years of his life locked in a crate. When Christine Bishofberger of Charlotte rescued him seven months ago, the once beautiful dog was emaciated and covered with sores. He was fearful and hard to control.

Because he had never been around other dogs, Piper was afraid of them and aggressive towards them. On a walk around the neighborhood, he might take off after another dog pulling his owner along behind him.

"I couldn't control him with my voice from a distance," says Bishofberger. "He was experiencing the world for the first time and he was like a curious puppy. Normally, that happens when the dog is smaller, like 12 to 25 pounds, and easily controlled. Piper was 60 pounds and acting like a puppy," she says.

Although Bishofberger had worked as a Dalmatian rescuer for 12 years and fostered about 50 dogs over the years, the dog training methods she normally used were not working with

Piper. So, she turned to Andy Hanellin of Dogs by Andy K9 Services LLC in Mooresville for help.

A professional dog trainer for more than 27 years, who guarantees his work for the life of the dog, Hanellin worked with Piper doing both on-leash and off-leash training and taught Bishofberger how to handle the dog.

"Andy told me 'I will give you a dog that looks for you instead of you looking for him.' My dog does just that," says Bishofberger. "When I take him to the park, he is not out of my sight for 30 seconds before he looks for me. On the rare occasion I have to say 'Piper Come,' he comes.

"What Piper was when he came to me and what he is now is a total turnaround. He is not a fearful dog. He is confident and I see him becoming more confident each day. He is still a little edgy around other dogs, but he just ignores them. I can control him."

Bishofberger's success story is one often repeated by dog owners who have taken their dog for training to Dogs by Andy.

Amy Kosofsky Fish of Cornelius has a two-year-old German Shepherd, Abby, who she took to Hanellin because she was aggressive towards other dogs and hard to control.

"My dog is 80 lbs and I am 4'9 and 100 pounds. When she would take off, there was no stopping her with a leash," explains Fish. "I have never had training like Andy's. Andy does it as a profession and it is much better than the way the big box stores train."



Andy Hanellin offers individual dog training in obedience, agility, and search and detection at his training facility on N.C. Hwy 150 in Mooresville.

Abby did so well with the obedience training that Fish now has her in Dogs by Andy's personal protection training. As a private jeweler, Fish says she would rather take Abby with her for protection than a gun. In the personal protection training, Hanellin teaches the dogs to protect their masters by biting on command.

Custom-Designed Training

Hanellin, who trains about 400 dogs a year at his training facility on Hwy 150 in Mooresville, custom designs a training program for each dog. The training addresses problems identified by the owners. He works one-on-one with each dog and does not offer any group classes.

"It is very confusing to take a dog in for training with 8 to 10 other dogs and 8 to 10 other people and come out with any sense of accomplishment or any real results," says Hanellin.

"We offer free evaluations to find out what the real problems are the owner wants addressed. Most problems can be



addressed through obedience training. Some have real problems that have to be dealt with in a way you can't do in a group."

The most common problems Hanellin sees involve dogs not responding when called, jumping on people and things, and being aggressive toward people and other dogs.

"You can't treat every dog the same, so we have a lot of different methods to draw from to develop an individual plan for each dog. I have 27 years experience to draw upon," says Hanellin. "And, we constantly have other trainers here either being trained or re-certified."

Dogs have to be taught what is expected of them just like children, says Hanellin.

"Dogs should be fun to be around. Not training a dog is like not teaching a child and expecting him to know what to do," he says. "You have to put a word with the action. That is the command. A command is only as good as the enforcement so we train dogs and people," he says.



Christine Bischofberger says her Dalmatian, Piper, was a different dog after being trained by Dogs By Andy.

He teaches basic commands and the enforcement of those commands.

"We teach basic commands that are necessary functions for your dog's safety and the well-being of people and other animals," explains Hanellin. "Commands are important at all times for a variety of reasons. If your dog is well trained, you have the control, and that is important if you are a responsible dog owner. A well-trained dog is also able to communicate and function in your home and around others. Training is about function, control and prevention."

Dogs by Andy offers three training options: a six week course with on-leash training only, a 12 week course for on-leash and off-leash training and a three week boot camp. In the six and 12-week courses, the owner takes the dog to each session. The boot camp option allows the owner to leave the dog for three weeks of training. After the dog is trained, the owners take one or two lessons to learn how to handle their newly trained dog.

Hanellin guarantees results.

"When people leave here with their dogs, they should be able to walk that dog through the middle of a shopping center without a leash," he says.

Dogs by Andy also offers agility training and search and detection training for law enforcement and military dogs, and he sells fully trained dogs. He has dogs in 63 police departments around the country. He is the K-9 Training Services Director for the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department and works with other area law enforcement agencies. Before moving to Mooresville, he was the training director for the Long Island, N.Y. Search and Rescue Department. He is the training consultant for the country of India's military explosion detection dogs.

Having trained dogs all of his professional life, Hanellin has a long line of credentials as well as a long list of clients. Headquartered in the heart of the NASCAR industry, Hanellin has trained for many of the NASCAR drivers. Among the many sports personalities he has worked for is professional boxer Jerry Cooney. He also has trained dogs for movie stars including the actors on the Discovery Channel television show Miami Ink.

"I tell people I haven't worked a day in my life," says Hanellin. "I love this work." 🐾

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