

July 9, 2003

Dr. Lisa Trachtenberg
1425 Marlton Pike East
Cherry Hill, NJ

Dear Dr. Trachtenberg,

I wanted to take a minute to write to you about my incredibly positive experience with the Dog Training Company. As you know, I adopted Conan, an 8-year-old German Shepherd, a little over a year ago. Conan came from a very troubled background, having been rescued from an abusive home by the police after his old owner abandoned him in a locked basement for several weeks. While I loved Conan on-sight, soon after I adopted him he became extremely overprotective of me and began to exhibit some very aggressive behaviors. On walks, Conan would pull on the leash and aggressively bark at children, adults and other dogs. When visitors came to the house, Conan had to be restrained for several minutes after I let them in the front door. On one occasion where a friend walked in the front door unannounced, Conan cornered the friend in the foyer and bit him on the thigh. Conan was also very edgy indoors, barking loudly at any sound filtering in from the outside.

All of these behaviors were a clear sign that I needed some help. After looking in the yellow pages, I found The Dog Training Company (DTC). I called and spoke to Susan Engel, Founder and Training Director at the DTC. Susan was incredibly friendly and informative, answering my endless barrage of questions. I was worried about everything from "Will Conan feel abandoned when I leave him at DTC for his training?" to "Is Conan too old to be trained?" and of course "What is the Remote Training Collar and will it hurt my dog?". Susan had a thoughtful answer for all of my questions and I was quick to schedule Conan for training with Ron Nober, Head Trainer at DTC.

I cannot stress enough the improvement I saw in Conan from the moment I picked him up from training. After a few quick lessons of my own with Ron, not only was I able to control Conan around a variety of distractions, but also he was so much more relaxed both at home and out in public. I got the sense that once Conan realized I was the one "in charge", he stopped feeling the need to be so overprotective and aggressive, both physically and vocally. The Remote Training collar was the key to our success. The adjustable levels of the collar gave me the ability to get Conan's attention, no matter what the situation, and let him know what behavior was expected from him, in a consistent and humane way. From the standard commands Conan mastered during his basic training, to the fun and camaraderie of the Polishing Classes we attend as often as possible, every aspect of my experience with the Dog Training Company has been a positive one. With the help of Susan and Ron, I am the proud owner of a well-behaved, well-adjusted and HAPPY German Shepherd who brightens my life on a daily basis.

Old dogs can learn new tricks. It just takes the right people teaching them the right way. Susan and Ron at The Dog Training Company were the right people for Conan, and I recommend them highly for any dog in your practice that just needs a "helping hand".

Sincerely,

Kristen Utt

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