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Dear Dr Sleeper and the staff of Mt Laurel Animal Hospital

I have a 5 year old Australian Shepherd named Roxy, and have been using your vet services since she was a puppy. When she was about 8 months old, I used Susan Engel and Ron Nober at the Dog Training Company (DTC) to help with her obedience training using the traditional leash and collar method. In most situations she is very well behaved; over the years, however, she became more and more aggressive, but only in very specific situations; seeing other dogs while on leash, and when people, especially men or teenage boys come up our walkway and into the front door.

I could handle her while she was on leash, but the other situation at home got worse and worse, with her barking and growling, increasingly more and more out of control. These were the only situations where she would exhibit these aggressive behaviors. She plays well with other dogs at the dog park, and was fine seeing men away from the house. It got to the point where she actually bit someone coming up our walk, and at this point I felt as if I had lost control.

I consulted Susan & Ron about this behavior, and we decided that it is a protective streak that is common with the breed. They told me about a new training method they use now and have had tremendous success with using a remote electronic collar, so I decided to try it. The results have been stunning. After consistent training Roxy now listens to me intently. If someone comes to the door, I can say sit and she sits, whether she has the collar on or not. She will stay sitting until I release her. She has also been trained to use the 'place' command, and will stay on a predetermined area until I tell her it's OK. Once the person is in the house she accepts them and is not aggressive. This training allows me to control her as they come up the walk and into the door. She is also under control when I walk her, heels beautifully, and doesn't carry on when she sees another dog while on leash.

The collar does not provide a strong shock, but a mild stimulation that gets her attention to me as I say a command. It conditions her to obey me when she hears the command. Now that I have been using it for a while she will obey me whether she has the collar on or not. I am completely sold on this method of training. I find it more humane and affective than the leash and collar method because you aren't constantly saying 'no' to the dog, you are just saying the command until they complete it.

I would recommend Susan, Ron and the DTC without reservation. Feel free to call regarding the electronic collar training, or about Susan, Ron and the DTC, and the results I had with Roxy.

Thank you very much!

Jesse Rosenthal