

Why Train with Pat?



After months of my campaigning to get a dog, Dom and I started to look in the fall of 2005. I grew up with many animals, all of the them from either a shelter, or rescued in one way or another. The SPCA was our first choice, we knew there were so many great dogs there. Fraser's assessment from the SPCA was bang on. He needed tons of exercise, basic obedience, and he would take the dominant role if we let him. His dominance turned out to be our biggest challenge. Let's just say our initial training did not go the way we hoped. We did get a recommendation for a trainer, who upon meeting him turned to us and said: "this is the type of dog I take into my house and train for a year." Why we thought we could meet up with her on Saturdays and make some headway I don't know. It never worked.

As I said dominance was a major challenge. Dom is an avid runner and thought he could burn off some of Fraser's energy that way. They never got more than a block without him jumping up and nipping. On walks he would go from walking quietly to being a dog possessed; spinning out of control, snarling and biting at us. Ten months in and no progress, we were now deciding on whether we could keep him or not. The tipping point came one morning when he refused to come, only relenting after 45 minutes. After many phone calls to a place called Rural Adventures and not being able to get him in, they recommended Pat to us.

My first phone call with Pat left me instantly at ease. She listened to my shopping list of issues and said: "it sounds like this boy needs some manners." Her practical approach was very reassuring.

We dropped him off on April 1st 2007, which we later thought was appropriate as we realized we were the "fools" for not doing this sooner. May 1st he came back a different dog. He walked on the leash without pulling, looked to us for direction, and ran enthusiastically to us when we said: "come." Also gone were those out of control episodes.

I highly recommend Pat's approach, and her 'boarding while training' service. She takes an individual approach to the dogs (and humans) she trains. It is not about learning a whole bunch of parlor tricks as others may offer. Fraser has 3 essential commands: 'down' 'break', and 'come'. The 'leave it' command comes in handy once in a while too. Not to brag (too much) but Pat said Fraser's 'downs' are better than some of German Sheppard's she has trained. Pat also worked with us reinforcing his commands so that Fraser does see us as his leaders.



Pat's training has stood the test of time. Here it is over 4 years later and we couldn't be happier with our guy. He follows all of his commands, and has settled into being a truly loving companion. We still keep in touch with Pat. She boards Fraser when we are on vacation....hey a little reinforcement from the guru never hurt!

Grant McCullough, Dom Khoo, and Fraser