



POST-CONSULTATION REPORT
Great Dog Canine Education Center
11333 Roosevelt Way NE Seattle Wa 98125

The information below is feedback from your behavior consultation on 6/24/2015.
If you have questions or concerns contact: judi@gogreatdog.com

Dog's Name: Jenny
Breed: Mix-Cattle Dog/Spitz??
Age or DOB: unknown adult over 4 years
Age when acquired: adult
Sex: Female, spayed

Owner Name(s): Amie Thao and Olli Tumelius
City, State: Seattle WA 98144
E-mail Address: thao.amie@gmail.com
olli.tumelius@gmail.com

Primary behavior problem or primary concern: Jenny is a foster dog who has been in placement with Amie and Olli since November 2014. She entered foster care with them in need of training, socialization and medical attention for some skin and dental issues. She has, at times, displayed behavior that is consistent with fear reactivity while in this foster home and while being cared for by other foster families in the absence of Amie and Olli. It is reported that Jenny may air snap, growl, bark and lunge toward other dogs and people. These behaviors are consistent with situations that are created by stress and fear. (An unknown person approaching at a fast pace, a person leaning over her head to put a collar of leash on, a socially inappropriate dog attempting to make contact.) Amie and Olli sought a behavior consultation with me to complete a basic behavioral consultation to discuss if Jenny was displaying behavior consistent with being labeled a dangerous dog.

Overview of Behavior Consultation: Jenny was observed in an unfamiliar training facility with an individual previously unknown to her conducting the assessment. Jenny entered the facility with some indication that she was on alert, but she was not exceptionally aroused. She did not display any overt aggressive or dangerous behavior. She initially barked at a staff member who appeared in the hallway unexpectedly. Her reaction was not excessive, and was appropriate for the level of surprise. Jenny responded to coaching from Amie and Olli and settled down quickly. Upon meeting me Jenny was alert, but appropriately calm and responded with mild interest to me. She did not growl, bark, lunge or pull toward me. She was on a leash and was in a heel position next to Olli. When I approached her, with my eyes averted and my body slightly angled away from her she displayed a willingness to engage me. She allowed me to touch her collar, scratch her chest and come along side of her without any incident of warning behavior. At this point in the assessment many dogs display signs of arousal, anxiety or even offer requests for me to give them more space in the form of a growl or by moving away from me. Jenny did not show any signs of being wary or worried. Because we were in a secure room, gated from any public interaction, I asked Olli to let Jenny move freely about the room. She welcomed the chance to explore, checked out the smells, toys, equipment and then came back to sit calmly with Amie and Olli. We spent several minutes talking about Jenny's history and behavioral past to give her a chance to settle in and for me to observe her. She had neutral body position, was not showing any calming or appeasing signals. She gave the impression of a well-adjusted, calm and non-aggressive dog. As other clients entered the facility hallway to attend class in another room Jenny offered an alert bark that was appropriate and fleeting. She did not move toward the people or their dog, but she stood next to Olli taking his verbal coaching well. She was a bit more aroused at this point at which time I stood up and approached her to evaluate her ability to accept my physical presence closer to her and to her person, Olli. No reaction to my encroachment was evident. She took a treat from me with appropriate mouth behavior and followed my verbal request to sit on request for another treat. She displayed appropriate ability to wait for food being offered and also allowed me to remove food being offered. All of these interactions were consistent with a dog in the range of normal social behavior with people. At no time in my encounter with her did she display any sign of aggression (purposely moving with intent toward me to make me give her more space, or to make any attempt to physically intimidate me.) The time in observation with Amie, Olli and Jenny was approximately 70 minutes. During that time she remained even tempered, displaying effective relationship with her owners. She appears to be a non-demonstrative dog and did not seek out excessive physical contact with Amie, Olli or me; however she did appreciate petting and mild chest scratching. She allowed me to touch her ears, back and feet without any reaction.

Clarification of Findings:

- Breed mix in Jenny could account for some specific tendency toward being a “one person dog” and may attribute to Jenny expressing some difficulty in accepting people who approach her while she is with Amie and or Olli.
- Jenny was able to be relaxed, displayed confident ear postures and relaxed facial postures throughout our time together. She did not exhibit any aggression during my physical contact with her.
- Based on shared information about Jenny’s behavior when fearful she has elected to demonstrate an air bite and or muzzle touch. This behavior is consistent with fear arousal and can generally be managed with the full attention of the owners and appropriate management tools such as a basket muzzle, gentle leader and or harness to help move Jenny away from people. Because she is predictable as to when and how she may elect to use these behaviors it should be reasonable for her owners to set up a safe management plan. I strongly encourage them to immediately purchase a yellow vest that Jenny will wear that states “DOG IN TRAINING GIVE SPACE” I gave them the resource by which to purchase this tool. I also suggested the use of a harness to offer additional maneuvering space when needing to give Jenny more space away from people.
- My time with Jenny did not result in any observable unsafe behavior on her part. She consistently presented as a well-managed and behaviorally appropriate dog. She did display minimal reactivity that can be addressed via training and behavioral management techniques. Every dog is variable depending on the setting and people that the dog is required to interact with. On this given day Jenny was behaviorally appropriate and well within the range of behaviorally normal for her breed mix characteristics, age and experience.
- I also referred Amie and Olli to Dr. Sung, Ph.D. and Behavioral DVM as a resource for additional behavioral assessment and potential training.
- Based on the information shared by Amie and Olli and the written report they provided me I believe that Jenny could benefit from behavioral modification training as well as participating in our Aggression Prevention Workshop and Reactive to Reliable Class. Jenny would be welcome in our training program.
- My experience with dogs like Jenny has shown me that with appropriate training and management techniques dogs with reactive fear behavior can live successfully within our urban environment. The degree to which the owner is committed to the safe training and behavioral management is the degree to which the dog is able to function appropriately.

Judith Anderson-Wright, M.A., CPDT-KA #1071298
Director of Canine Education and Co-Owner Great Dog