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Tuesday, March 6, 2007		
<p>Assistance</p> <p>Archive help</p> <p>Archive fees</p> <p>Search archives</p> <p>Recent 7 days</p> <p>Buy photos</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Cape Cod Times Archives</h2> <hr style="width: 30%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <h3 style="margin: 0;">'Dog man' barks out commands, helps train out-of-control pets</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">By PAULA PETERS Published: January 21, 2007</p> <p style="margin: 0;">With all the bad dogs and dog horror stories making headlines, I thought you might enjoy reading about some dogs that are at least trying to be good - and a guy who gives hope to dog owners on their last nerve.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">When I met Ginger in the lobby of the Paws Dream Doggie Day Care in Hyannis, she was an out-of-control five-month-old Labrador retriever puppy.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Her owner, Bill Wright of Sandwich and his 11-year-old daughter Alexandra were trying desperately to keep Ginger calm. Each time someone came through the door, the dog would lunge and gasp for air as her collar cinched around her neck.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Her fat tail thumped excitedly and could have easily taken out a group of small children. It landed soundly against Bill's leg like a club.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Ginger clearly had no idea how big and strong she had become. And she did not respond to simple commands such as "sit," "down girl," or the one that should have covered all of her behavior: "No!"</p> <p style="margin: 0;">As it turns out, the Wrights had brought their puppy to the right place, Doggie Boot Camp with Joe "The dog Man" Yukna. He didn't mind telling the Wrights they had done wrong by giving their lives over to Ginger.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">She was attending a class with about half a dozen other dogs, including a very shy German shepherd named Sasha whose owner tried desperately to coax her inside. Sasha was reluctant until forced with a gentle shove to the hindquarters.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Moose, a Chesapeake Bay retriever, came into the room with a little more sass and attitude, intimidating poor Sasha into a corner, where she climbed up onto a low table and quivered like a Chihuahua. (I think she is suffering from an identity crisis. Someone needs to inform Sasha she is a very big dog, but that would have to be in another class.)</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Looking like a motivational speaker with his microphone clipped to his head, Joe told me he got into the dog-training business as a result of his own bad experience.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">"I got a dog and did everything wrong. I made 'come' a bad word, gave her separation anxiety, punished her after the fact...."</p> <p style="margin: 0;">The result was a doggie disaster so frustrating that Joe began consulting</p>	
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any material he could find - from books to videos to the Internet - on how to train his dog. In the process, he developed a passion that became his profession. Since 1992, when he started his business, Joe has trained more than 5,000 Cape dogs, or better said, dog owners. He addresses dog aggression, but **doggie** dominance - established by jumping up on people, not coming when called, and chewing up furniture - is probably the most prevalent problem dog owners face. And these problems can lead to tragic consequences. Joe told the group about a loveable but woefully untrained lab that jumped on an elderly woman who fell and broke her hip. The lawsuit is still pending.

Joe uses the wolf pack model, establishing the owner as the leader of the pack. It is a model that dogs actually appreciate because the dominant dog is the one who is responsible for the pack, feeding them and protecting them. A submissive dog has no worries.

Joe quickly established himself as the leader of the pack taking Moose down a notch in the pecking order much to Sasha's delight.

His tone of voice and a strong fast snap of the dog's choke chain forced Moose to pay attention and, within a few minutes, he could sit and stay for 30 seconds. By this time, Sasha, who had no problem sitting and staying, was smug.

"If you can teach your dog to do this, real life will be a piece of cake," Joe said.

But the Wrights were at the end of their ropes with Ginger. At home, she would assault every house guest, bound over furniture and knock things over. No piece of cake was safe in their home.

Joe took Ginger's 6-foot lead from Bill and she immediately jumped up on his chest, a sign of dominance.

Snap! Joe gave the choke chain a quick pull to get her attention and assert control. "She will learn to avoid that," he said.

As he spoke, Ginger assumed her usual position, gasping at the end of a taut lead.

Again, Joe gave a quick snap of the chain and she was back at his side where he gave her a pat on the head and words of approval.

A few more quick snaps of the chain and Joe was walking Ginger around the room with the lead loosely draped between them. Ginger followed meekly, ignoring the other dogs and people and watching Joe, who was clearly in charge.

It took less than 10 minutes and Ginger was dramatically transformed from an unruly beast to docile pet. She was simply not the same dog. If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I probably would not have believed it.

But for Joe, it was a piece of cake.

By the time she graduates he says, Ginger will be so loyal to the sit and stay command you will be able to walk by her with a T-bone steak and she won't move. And Bill Wright will again be king of his castle.

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