

Behaviour Consultation - Testimonial



I took my 8th month old rescue puppy, Buster, to the Natural Animal Centre after they were recommended to me by my vets. My puppy had not been socialised and was consequently fearful of everything, especially other dogs. His fear showed itself in constant tail chasing, a constant state of excitement, not sleeping and lunging and barking at other dogs.

When I first went to the centre it was not what I expected as I thought it would be classes where he would learn to behave around other dogs. Jonathan, explained to me that my dog had to become relaxed, because he was in a high state of anxiety and meeting other dogs would only increase this. I was a bit sceptical, but we began his programme by using the stroking game, giving him plenty to chew and walks away from other dogs. After a week there was a real improvement in his tail chasing and he was beginning to sleep. We then began relaxation exercises and again I was not sure how these would help my dog who was still very fearful when he met other dogs. Along with these exercises I walked my dog with a friend's dog, who mine got on well with.

After a couple of weeks I was told I could begin to introduce him to other dogs by doing the exercises in front of them. Again I was lucky to have a friend and a vet who was willing to help and to my amazement, although he was barking at first, by the time we had done his exercises, slowly moving closer to the other dogs, he was lying down beside them and then playing with them. We continued with this for a couple of weeks and finally I took the huge step (and lots of rescue remedy) and took my dog to the park where I sat him in the middle doing his exercises and looking at other dogs.

It worked! Although still unsure at first, he is now greeting other dogs happily off lead and will come away when called. He is still unsure on the lead, but thanks to his exercises this is improving all the time and he begins fun classes in a couple of weeks.

I would like to thank the Natural Animal Centre, but especially Jonathan for all the help and support they gave me particularly when I thought it was never going to work. They supported me continuously over three months and I know have a happy relaxed dog due to their techniques and support.

Thanks from me and my Buster

Note: the names in the testimonial have been changed for privacy