

Vet Nearly Gives Up On Dog -

Bark Busters saves the day!

Dr. Mark Kopit loved his fiancée's dog, but things got so bad he was ready to give it to a no-kill shelter. His fiancée, Julie, and her 12 year old son, Ethan, had a 3 year old lab/husky mix, Jeter, who loved to bark. Of course, Jeter never barked when they were home – only when they were at work. The barking reached the point where neighbors started to complain. One neighbor said it was so bad that she lost the sale of her home because of Jeter's barking. Dr. Kopit felt they had done everything they could to control Jeter's barking. It seemed beyond their control because Jeter always barked when they were gone and that, he felt, was impossible to eliminate. In addition, Jeter would terrorize their cat, Bette Davis. As soon as Julie or Dr. Kopit came home from work and opened the door to the house, Jeter would make a mad dash at the cat and scare it. This ritual had continued to the point that Bette had withdrawn from the family. Finally,

every time the front door opened Jeter would bolt outside and need to be retrieved. Everyone in the family loved him, and thought he was a 'cool dog', but they knew the time had come for him to go.

Dr. Kopit has a mobile practice in Orange County, CA which focuses on providing ultrasound exams and consultation to other veterinary clinics. Several months ago he saw a Bark Busters brochure at



Ethan with Jeter

a vet hospital and he noticed that it said 'written lifetime guarantee' on the front page. "I remember thinking how skeptical I was about someone who would guarantee anything about animal behavior," said Dr. Kopit. "But it interested me, so I read the brochure and filled out the quiz inside that rated Jeter's behavior. I was amazed to find out he rated near the bottom. I thought he only had a couple of problems but the quiz showed me there were many things we needed to address."

"I decided to call Bark Busters and talk with the trainer to see if there was any hope for Jeter. And, to see if the lifetime guarantee was for real. Again, I was amazed to find out that Lisa and Nelson Neyer, the Bark Busters therapists, didn't feel that fixing Jeter's problems would be very difficult. Finally, I saw some light at the end of the tunnel."

"The whole training process was incredible. I was shocked to see how fast the problems went away. Julie and I knew we'd need to work with Jeter, but at the end of just 2 hours he was a different dog. This gave us confidence that it wouldn't take months to change Jeter's behavior. Our neighbors wouldn't give us that much time, and neither Julie nor I could devote a lot of time because of our work."

It is now several weeks after the training and Dr. Kopit and Julie are reflecting on how things have changed. "Jeter is now an established member of the family, 'with family privileges'. He doesn't chase Bette Davis anymore, and even sleeps alongside her at times. Bette has returned to the family and is so much fun again. And, no more barking. Our next door neighbor is astounded that Jeter no longer barks while we're gone. I guess I wouldn't have believed the change in his behavior unless I saw it with my own eyes."

Additional Comments From Dr. Mark Kopit:

"I, and other vets, have seen trainers 'come and go'. Mostly we've had bad experiences. But this was different. I learned so much about dog behavior from the Neyers. Vets didn't receive much behavior training when I attended vet school so this was a real eye opener. Once I understood why Jeter was having these bad behaviors, and I learned how to communicate with him using his language, the whole process of changing his behavior was simple. Ethan, our son, learned just as quickly as Julie and I did. The Neyers, and I suppose all Bark Busters trainers, were excellent. They were extremely professional and made the learning simple and fun. The whole experience was really enjoyable. I would recommend Bark Busters without reservation. I was skeptical at first about the lifetime guarantee, but now I understand. They can make that guarantee because the training process is so good."

"One last story that was most impressive was when I was at a vet practice recently and dogs were barking in the kennels so much I couldn't concentrate to do my work. As a last resort I decided to 'communicate' with

the dogs using the Bark Busters techniques. Much to my surprise I was able to make them stop barking. Then I went into the next ward and there were four dogs barking totally out of control. I did the same thing and for the next 45 minutes there wasn't a sound out of them. Amazing! Finally, in one hospital there is a 'clinic' dog, a



Dr. Mark Kopit & his fiancée Julie

Terrier mix, that has been very aggressive towards me. When I come into the hospital it growls and acts like it wants to kill me. I've tried to use treats but it bites my hand. He bit me on the leg once and tore my pants. I've since used the Bark Busters techniques with him and the results have been the same. He actually lets me pet him now. I never would have believed it."

Dr. Mark Kopit can be reached at echovet@aol.com to answer readers' questions about his Bark Busters experience.