

When we tried calling K-9 connection we were at the end of our rope. Our one year old dog Jasmine (lab, Sheppard, blue heeler mix) was fairly well behaved at home, but was a beast when we met another dog on leash in the street or park. Upon seeing another dog on leash she would turn very aggressive, pulling, barking, growling and snarling, building in intensity as the two dogs got closer together. This always ended with Jasmine in the “red zone”, and one of us pulling/dragging her away completely embarrassed. We had the nasty dog in the neighborhood. Neighbors would turn and walk away with their dogs when they saw us coming. The not so funny thing was that we were taking her to obedience school, and we had a trainer! We were trying to do the right thing for our dog, but both the obedience school, and our trainer at the time were unable to change her behavior. We had been trying to change her behavior for about 6 months with the obedience school and trainer before we called K9 connection. They offered a free initial consultation where we met Josh (one of K9 connection trainers), and he was able to demonstrate in 60 minutes how her behavior was able to be changed. We signed up, and fired our other trainer who we were working with for several months.

From the first of three individual training sessions with Josh, and while participating in the dog socialization classes we saw immediate positive behavioral changes in Jasmine. We felt a weight lifted off our shoulders because we could see change in Jasmine was possible. We couldn't believe how she socialized with other dogs without incident. But this is a true story, and I must tell you we still did not have the happy ending we were looking for. Jasmine still had aggression issues while meeting other dogs on leash away from class. I sought out Tyler, and explained I was exasperated because the one real thing we wanted corrected through the first obedience school, our first trainer, and even K9 connection up to that point was not corrected. Tyler listened and assured me this could be corrected. He told me he would come to my house and would not leave until her behavior was corrected. He blocked off several hours in an afternoon and came to our house, to our neighborhood, to see Jasmine's behavior up close and personal. In preparation for Tyler's visit I had knocked on all the doors of all the dog owners in the neighborhood and explained Tyler was coming to help correct Jasmine's behavior, and could they assist us by having their dogs come out into the street during the training exercise. Almost every neighbor agreed to help with Jasmine's rehabilitation.

The day came and Tyler showed up with two of his own dogs to start the training. I'm not going to lie, breaking this behavior was not easy, and it was a very intense first hour. Jasmine was true to form, and became very aggressive with other dogs on leash. But while working with me on my crittering technique, we were finally able to get her to walk past a dog without reacting aggressively. Then we were able to get her to walk past two dogs! Then three dogs! Then walking around a corner where dogs in two different yards, restricted by an invisible fence snarled and menaced her, while at the same time that was happening she was able to walk past dogs in the street with no aggression on her part! Finally that same session she walked past eight dogs in the street and in people's yards at the same time without losing control. Not once. The very next day to make sure it wasn't a dream we took Jasmine to the canal to encounter other dogs on leash to see what would happen. Now the happy ending, nothing happened!

Ever since that day Jasmine and I have not had a real incident while meeting another dog on leash. If Jasmines behavior sounds like your dog, I can't recommend K9 connection highly enough. Tyler and Josh showed me how to change Jasmines behavior, I know they can help your dog, and change the quality of the time you spend with your dog.

Jim, Nancy, and Jasmine McGoldrick

