



Tara Romano

Jeff, I would like to start out by giving you a big THANK YOU for everything you did for me!!!

As they say, hind sight is 20/20 because most people who get dogs do not realize how important it is to train and socialize a dog and more importantly how we can ruin our own dogs and not even realize that we are. Well I was one of those people. I tried to humanize my dog and I let my emotions control him. I would like to tell my story about my little 14lb Havanese named Chino. It all started about 3 years ago, in a dog park where another dog tried to mount Chino and not realizing that my dog could handle the situation himself, I reacted. I admit, I didn't know better, so from that point forward anytime we saw another dog, he growled and lunged. I can remember



saying to myself "oh great, here comes another dog..." and I would move or pick him up to avoid the scenario. Little did I know I was making it worse. One day after reading a very sad news email about a dog that was severely abused, I decided to rescue a second dog. I wanted Chino to have company and I wanted to open my home up to another dog that was in need of a loving home. So I made the decision to get Chino

trained. I did a lot of research, at least I thought I did, and found a trainer.

Without getting into it, I felt so awful after the trainer left. I felt this awful, awful feeling inside me. I felt that the trainers system was too harsh and basically like punishment. The whole experience did not sit well with me from the outset. As a matter of a fact, I must have broken down into tears 3 times throughout his training session. What was even worse was that he didn't give me any hands on training. He showed me everything, so there was never any point where he let me do hands on work and corrected what I was doing wrong. He basically lectured me and left. He also gave me a choke chain made out of nylon and when I would walk Chino he would end up gagging himself. It didn't take long before I said forget this!! It didn't feel right from the



start, I threw out that stupid collar and went back to his harness. I continued with my research and finally called Jeff.

Jeff came over, we sat down I told him what my issue were, then he said “ok lets go for a walk”. He gave me a pinch collar and explained how and why they were the superior tool for dog. Now, just a quick side note about pinch collars, for everyone who ever looked at these collars and thought they were come kind if Chinese torture devise, I can’t tell you how very wrong that assumption is. They mimic a mama dog’s nip, mama dogs will pinch their pups when they disapprove of their behavior and that is what this collar does, it DOES NOT CHOKE the dog. Believe me when I tell you, because my dog WAS getting choked with the stupid choke chain the other trainer had me use. Don’t take my word for it, read all of the case studies and research and in addition to that I put the collar on my neck so I knew exactly what my dog was feeling. This collar does not hurt the dog but rather surprise your dog at first, and then they learn that the collar equals working. Chino actually darts towards me and gets very excited when he sees me take out his collar.

Now keep in mind, as soon as we stepped outside, Jeff let me walk Chino and showed me how to do the commands. This was very important for me because I learn best hands on. I saw results on that first walk, we passed 3 different people walking their dogs and every time we passed another dog Chino’s reaction decreased until he stopped reacting completely! It completely blew my mind! So from that point on I practiced, just as Jeff had told me and Chino was doing great with his command, but I was still having trouble with the walks. So I called Jeff (another great thing is he is always available by phone when you have questions) he asked me how I was feeling was I stressed, nervous, frustrated, all of which I was. Jeff explained to me how IMPORTANT it was and is for me to be calm and assertive when I was walking Chino. Our dogs are like our little mirrors, they reflect every feeling we feel, they completely feed off of our energy. This was an issue for me for a little while, a personal goal that I needed to attain—my energy. I had some personal issue in my life that were being reflected in my walks with Chino. It wasn’t that Chino was bringing them out in me, it was that I carried them around with me and he picked up on that energy. Therefore, even after Jeff’s training Chino was still acting out on our walks.

My turning point was when I finally rescued my little 10 year old Maltese named Scruffy, he came from a pet mill and has no teeth. After he became acclimated to my home I began to take him on the morning/afternoon walks with Chino but what I quickly learned—and this was the point where all of Jeff’s training came full circle for me—was that I had to be more assertive with Chino so that he would not snap at this new little defenseless dog. I soon had this new attitude, it was unacceptable for Chino to growl, bark and lung at other dogs because now I have to protect the other dog in my pack. So I made the decision to communicate to Chino, that his



unruly behavior was not allowed in my pack and not only did I see the change in me but in Chino as well. It was an amazing feeling of WOW that's what Jeff was trying to get me to do this whole time!! It took a small 9lb toothless dog to make me realize I had to be responsible for Chino and communicate in a calm way what is ok and what is not ok. I no longer get nervous when I see another dog coming towards us, nor do I turn around and walk the other way. I now have confidence in myself and in my dogs that I can walk them by anything or anyone and not have a problem!!

Essentially what Jeff does is train us! We are the one that mess up our dogs. I found out after educating myself, that in a dog pack there is a hierarchy—there is the leader then there is the pack. I finally made myself the leader of my pack. Jeff also taught me about how important the tone of our voice is, when you want to praise your dog you use a happy excited tone and when you are correcting you dog it's a deeper assertive firm tone, and believe it or not your dog knows exactly what you are communicating! Jeff, I can't thank you enough for everything you taught me about myself and about Chino! I try to share my knowledge with anyone and everyone who will listen, whether they have a dog already or are just thinking about adopting one. I explain how important it is to teach the dogs what is ok and what is not, not to foster bad behavior and how black and white it is in a dog's world!

Tara Romano, Pack Leader