

The Cord Family



photo courtesy of [Steven Schwartz Photography](#)

Dear Jeff,

I just had to write to tell you how thrilled we are with all that you have done for us. When we first decided to get Matrix, we were concerned about bringing a German Shepherd into a neighborhood where kids are always running in and out of the yard. We have always loved the breed but also recognize the large responsibility a dog owner has as well. We took him to puppy kindergarten and researched different trainers and their methods. I don't think there was a single episode of the Dog Whisperer that we missed. We were blessed to stumble across



your web page. After reading everything you wrote we thought “this is it, he’s perfect”. Your training philosophy was exactly what we were looking for. Real school.

So off went Matrix to 6 weeks of summer camp with you. He was missed terribly but the heartache was softened by your updates in your blog and Kennel Journal. It was a fun family experience to see what Matrix was up to while at camp.

The 6 weeks went by quickly and I had my doubts that you could accomplish all you needed to in such a short period of time. We were also worried that somehow he wouldn’t remember us or would be a different dog altogether. When we picked him up I was impressed at how much he respected you. It was quite clear though that he didn’t forget us! When we got him home we couldn’t wait to take him out for a “test drive”. Despite all the excitement of the day it was amazing to see him transform into everything the perfect dog should be. As for our worry that he would be a different dog altogether? He is, but in a wonderfully good way. No more mouthiness, stealing shoes, chewing, jumping, barking at the kids or taking stuff off the table. Outside he now heels like a gentleman, stays where you put him, meets people politely and plays with dogs at the dog park.

The following week we took him to N.H. for the long weekend. We stayed with my family, my brother has three little boys and the house is on a lake. Matrix had a blast. Since you taught him how to swim, he spent most of his time in the lake. Despite all the kids running around and having fun he was gentle and didn’t even knock anyone over. Inside the house full of people he was put in Place command and there he stayed (I think he was happy to have a spot of his own).

After the N.H. break we took Matrix to Boston Vet Specialists for his hip dysplasia surgery. He was planning to have a triple osteotomy on his left hip to correct his dysplasia and your training was going to help with keeping him controlled during his recovery. The vet was surprised that his hips felt better on exam and repeated the xray. He was impressed to find that his hips had improved so much that he no



longer needed surgery. I attribute this to all the low impact exercise that you did with him on a daily basis, especially the swimming. The fact that you saved me from a \$4,000 vet bill is the ultimate icing on the cake you gave us.

You are a wonderfully warm and kind human being that understands dogs on a level most of us will never reach. We are so lucky to have found you right in our very own backyard. I hope you can use this letter as a testimonial to your great talent so that other may see how wonderful you are.

For others that may read this all that I have written is true but you must also understand that training is a lifelong process. We continue to work with Matrix everyday constantly exposing him to new things, constantly testing, constantly putting him in various commands under different settings. To not continue his training would be an insult to you Jeff for all the hard work and dedication you gave to Matrix.

In closing, we would just like to say that you have shaped Matrix into a wonderful dog that we can all be very proud of. We look forward to a continued relationship and will be planning another training session with you next summer. Maybe you can teach him to drive next.

With love, thanks and admiration,

The Cord Family

P.S. Matrix passed his Canine Good Citizen test today with flying colors.