

first spoke with Gary Fisher from Bark Busters by phone. I poured my heart out about what was concerning my husband and me about our two dogs: leash aggression, dog aggression and sometimes, people aggression. In a very calm and reassuring voice, Gary told me he deals with these types of problems all of the time, and that I will be surprised at how quickly his behavior technique will work. We scheduled our first two-hour meeting for the end of the week, and I could not have been more excited. Finally, our two directors of "barketing", Zoey and Mattie, were going to get some much-needed behavior modification.

Gary, along with his wife Vee, showed up and knocked on the door. Zoey and Mattie barked excitedly and ran toward the door to greet the new visitors. They charged at Gary and Vee as they entered and jumped excitedly around them, leaping with lab enthusiasm at Gary's face. So far, nothing out of the normal for the Sims' household. Gary and Vee just ignored them and they soon calmed down. Hmmmm, ignoring them – make mental note.

The first hour was spent going through the history of Bark Busters and how the method works. It starts with a visit to the dog's home and a lesson in dog behavior.

Ok, so far so good. We are very excited about the prospect of getting our two hooligans – er, fur children – under control. After all, they represent the traveling canine companions of the world as they sniffout hotels to review for Fido Friendly magazine, and their demeanor needs to be beyond compare.

We were ready for our first lesson: the door. Gary instructed my husband to step outside and knock. Pandemonium ensued. Gary demonstrated the Bark Busters' technique and calm was restored. This was too easy. My turn to try the technique. Once again, complete silence. My heart began to pound. Could it be too good to be true? Was it possible that this simple technique was all that was needed to turn my out-of-control doggies into perfect little angels? Time, as it turned out, would tell.

As Gary and Vee left, we were instructed on our homework and agreed to meet the following week for training lesson number 2, walking on leash.

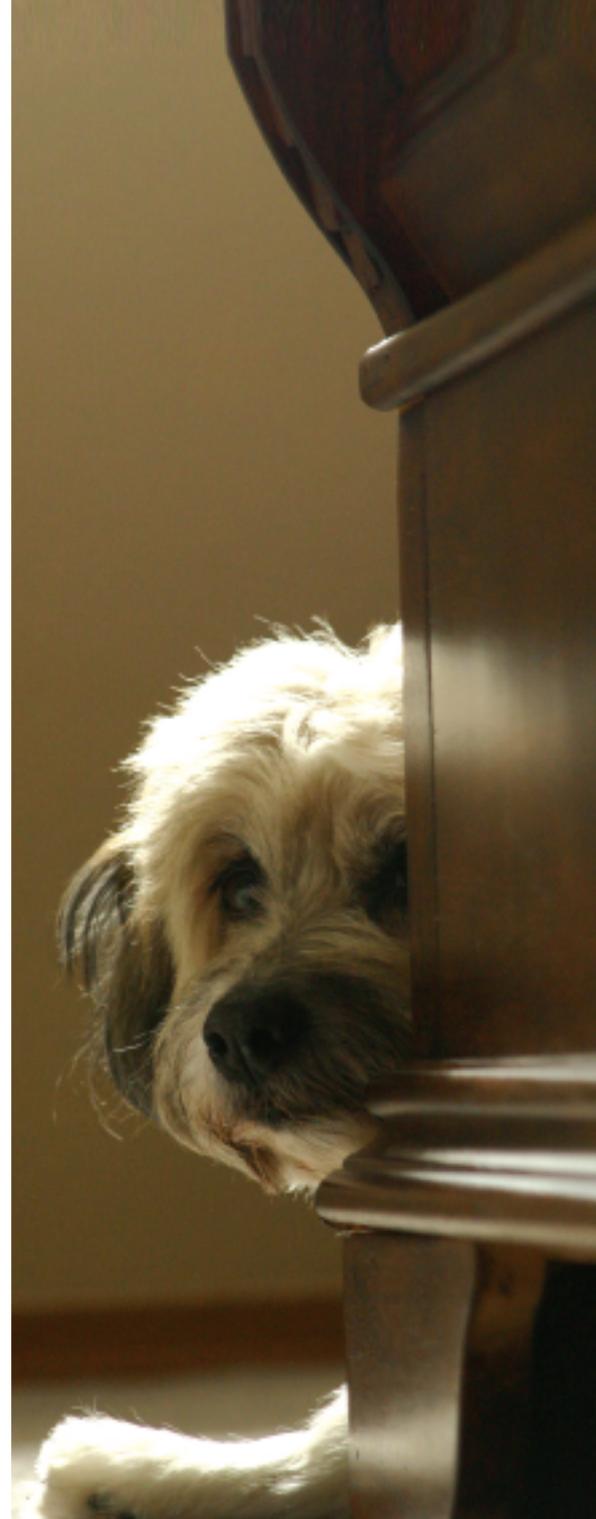
The week went by in a flash and as scheduled, Gary, without Vee this time, appeared on our doorstep and announced himself with a loud knock. We implemented the Bark Busters' technique and after one bark, the anticipated silence ensued. Not bad.

We went outside with Gary for the walking experience. Gary instructed my husband and me on the correction to heel our dogs. It was not long before Mattie was heeling pretty well. Zoey was another matter altogether. At the end of the session, Gary announced, "You have two very dominant dogs. This is going to take a little longer than I had imagined." Great. Leave it to us to have two "special children."

Yup, we were to blame for years of indulgence and now, all four of us were paying the proverbial piper. And yet, there were glimpses of hope on our daily training rituals. Small puppy steps were being made and our enthusiasm was returning. It was frustrating at times but rewarding at others. Yes, we could see a light at the end of the tunnel.

We are still working with Zoey and Mattie every day and seeing improvements. We are not expecting a quick fix and are grateful for the chance to work with Gary from Bark Busters. In fact, we received a bonus the other day. Zoey was being especially stubborn and Gary started singing a Hank Williams tune. Zoey started wagging her tail and before long, was licking Gary's face with happiness and submission. Who knew we had a music critic in the household? Yes sirree, with patients and a little Hank Williams thrown in, I think our Directors of Barketing will do just fine. Next week, Gary is bringing his guitar.

Bark Busters' training system is the only service of its kind that is guaranteed in writing for the life of the dog. Therapists will provide future sessions free of charge whether new problems develop or a refresher course is needed. 🐾



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# You've Been VERY VERY NAUGHTY

