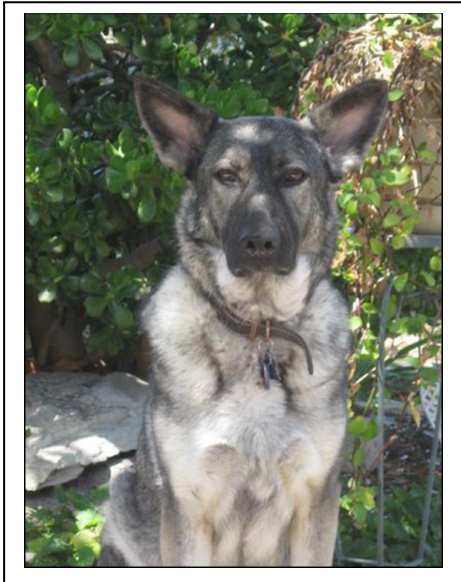


Woofimonial of Ruth Jelsma and Cleo



From the moment that Denise came in to our lives, we have relied on her compassionate and common sense approach to dog training. We first met Denise at a local pet shop when we had been advised by our Veterinarian to purchase a crate for our recently rescued German Shepherd. To understand the complexity of the future domestic home life for Cleo, you have to understand her history. Cleo was a horribly abused dog, not only physically and mentality but her spirit was damaged as well. This was a dog that was about 15 pounds underweight, who could not stand to be touched, talked to or even looked at, in fact she would sit and face the wall so that she would not have eye contact with anyone.

After Denise assisted us with a crate for Cleo, we decided that Basic Obedience training (also suggested by the Veterinarian) should be in her future but we were unsure if Cleo could handle the stress of dealing with strangers and unfamiliar dogs. At the time, Denise was offering a variety of afternoon classes at the local pet store to assist with basic training skills.

Once a week we would bring Cleo (who of course was terrified to walk through the doors) to her skills classes with Denise looking for some inkling of improvement in her behavior. Some weeks were better than others, but even on the "off" days, Denise would demonstrate extreme patience with Cleo. We might just sit and talk (not looking at Cleo of course) and feed her snacks hoping to develop her trust in humans. We finally got to the stage when Denise thought that Cleo was ready for a Basic Obedience class, so Cleo was enrolled. The first few classes were rough. She would come home exhausted and not be very excited when she got out of the car to start class. At the end of 6 weeks, Cleo had passed her Basic Obedience class and was on her way to becoming a more relaxed dog.

Fast forward to present day, Cleo is now playing with toys, seeking out attention and sleeping through the night. She still has moments of uncertainty & fear, but we are able to work through them because of the skills and techniques learned from Denise.

Denise has a true passion for helping owners and their dogs overcome obstacles. She creates the happiest of packs by applying a common sense approach to training. Denise is innovative, as well as a great communicator. These skills allow her to analyze a situation, and make recommendations to improve behavior, and develop lifelong skills.

I would highly recommend Denise & Barry to help you with any behavior or training needs you may have. Over time you might find "a little Denise sitting on your shoulder" encouraging you to be patient and consistent, so that you and your dog can work together toward a successful future.