

Instinct

By Felicia Chesser

I thought that I would share with you all what happened with Jet and me at work last week. I was in class and had Jet with me when a customer approached with a shepherd mix. Jet saw the dog and flew to the end of his lead barking and growling, along with another dog in the class that has some dog aggression problems. I instantly thought that he was going to see if he could get by with acting like the other dog in class, and came down hard on him putting him in a down stay for a while.

The whole time they were around he continued to give me trouble. He has been giving me trouble with doing some growling at customer's dogs, but that has been more of him asserting himself as the "big dog at PetsMart" and this was much different. When the people left the area, he calmed down.

Later, in a break in the class, I ran into the people with the dog and they had some questions about training, as they had been having some shyness problems with the dog and they had only had him about two weeks. I asked the dog to sit, and he did and I gave him some treats, and petted him. The whole time I was fighting with Jet, who was trying to get close to the dog and kept up a deep, low growl. I just kept putting him in a down-stay behind me every time that he got up.

The whole time the other dog was a little shy, but continued to take treats nicely and seemed to be enjoying the attention, wagging his tail loosely, Tail still wagging and not moving an inch from his spot, he aggressively bit my hand, luckily showing some bite inhibition that kept me from getting several large puncture wounds. Of course, Jet got up again, but this time I just grabbed him by the collar and held him close by my side.

It was at that point I realized what had been going on. Jet had picked up something from that dog and knew something was going to possibly happen. What I thought was just bratty adolescence showing through was actually my dog trying to tell me not to get too close, and of course I didn't listen. When I looked down at him, he was giving me this look as if to say "you big idiot, I was trying to tell you that was going to happen!"

I just thought I would share this with you all to remind you to listen to your dogs all the time. We humanize our dogs so much that we often forget that they pick up on things that we never will understand. Lets all remember that they analyze the world around them with the instincts that God gave them. I wonder how many times they could have saved us from trouble if we had just listened to them?

Go thank your dogs for what they are – dogs!

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