



Companion Animal Behavioural Services

Creating Contentment From Knowledge And Kindness

www.companionanimalbehaviouralservices.co.uk

Case History - Bert

Bert is a medium-sized crossbreed dog born to a feral mother and imported from Cyprus at about 5 months old. He was 2½ years old when he presented with extreme tension in proximity to strangers which had resulted in two people being bitten. Bert lives with another medium-sized crossbreed dog Dave who is 4½ years older and also shy with strangers.

Unfortunately, Bert's owners had been referred to a behaviourist who had instructed them to throw metal "training" rings at Bert when he displayed fear. Although they had complied, they soon realised that this was making Bert even more fearful and aggressive and making their walks and weekly café visits stressful. There was a very real danger that they too would be bitten when they disciplined Bert.



We undertook a thorough consultation and implemented a new training plan for Bert with three main aims:

-  Bert's owners would concentrate on using positive reinforcement for Bert and Dave
-  Bert's new training régime would focus on building his confidence and resilience
-  Bert would learn to become gradually more confident when close to strangers.

Bert's improvement was noticeable very quickly. He began to learn that he could trust his owners to help and guide him and that he would no longer be punished for being afraid. As he progressed through games that helped him to develop resilience, he was able to feel relaxed in closer and closer proximity to strange people.

Bert's owners now enjoy their daily walks and can be sure that Bert will be happy and safe during his visits to the café in the park even when lots of people are very close.

Bert has never bitten anyone again and, although he may never be the life and soul of the party, he no longer spends his time out being anxious and afraid and is much more relaxed when strangers visit his home.

Bert is now even prepared to come and eat a treat out of my hand when we meet.



Bert's case is very typical of dogs with his background, but it is almost always possible to make life better for all concerned even when a dog has been so frightened that he has bitten. Often, as with Bert and his owners, working through a customised training plan can transform the situation within weeks.

If you need help with a dog like Bert or have any other problem with a dog or cat, please contact me on **info@dogsnet.org**.

No dog or cat is too young or too old to learn and you too can make your life with your chosen companion easier.

Find out more here:

<https://companionanimalbehaviouralservices.co.uk/about/>

