

## SUCCESS STORIES USING THE JOHN EARLE COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL METHOD

### Ann and Norm P.

Ann and Norm P. have 4 dogs — Emma, Lola, Bonnie and Jake. Emma had begun to attack Bonnie for reasons that were unclear to her family. Things were getting worse despite the family's efforts to keep peace. An opportunity came when they were at the veterinary office seeking treatment for the latest attack. The veterinarian gave them the contact information for John and comforted them with the knowledge that this person can work miracles.

Ann and Norm P. called John with what they felt was a huge problem, after all, we have 4 dogs that can't be anywhere near each other without killing each other. Not only that, it seemed to be spreading because now the dogs were trying to get to other dogs on walks and attack them too. John was called in and an in-home evaluation was performed. He told them that this program was a 3-phase process and that we have a challenge ahead of us with 4 animals to modify. John was confident in this family and the process began. Each dog was evaluated and personality grouped according to social type within the cognitive model. If the outline that was created were followed, we would be entering a new life with these dogs in 9 to 12 months' time.

The structures and routines were set up in the home and Ann and Norm P. began working their program with an inner fire. Phase #1 was full of learning new ways and struggle; but with each hill, victory followed. Phase #1 ended 3 months after it started, and with the transition into Phase #2 more success followed. The program was working just as John had said it would. The next 3 months flew by and they found themselves in a place that they had not even thought of before they ever had problems. Ann and Norm P. now have off-leash dogs that are not reactive and stressed out. They can actually plan activities that include the dogs as a family. John had said that Phase #3 never really ends. They understood that they needed and wanted to maintain the new hope they had found.

### Stephanie and Marc

Stephanie and Marc wanted to help their bull terrier named Gladys. They were not strangers to the breed or to the search for help. Their beloved pet would spin in circles for hours until she finally collapsed from exhaustion. They had heard what seemed like a thousand reasons for this behavior, yet the answer still eluded them. The search for help would take them to U.C Davis Veterinary School of Behavior and Tufts Veterinary School of Behavior. After months of treatments, tests and medications, they felt very defeated. Nothing seemed to give Gladys the peace that they all longed for or the answers as to why this was happening. It wasn't until one day while at the

veterinary office for routine care that the topic of behavior was thrust back into conversation. The veterinarian told them about John and how they had personally seen the miracles that could be achieved. Stephanie and Marc were so moved by her conviction that they said they would like to contact this person if she had his information. They had nothing to lose and honestly had low expectations based on the previous experiences.

John came over to their home and evaluated Gladys. She immediately took to John and his mannerisms in a way that puzzled and amazed Stephanie and Marc. She only treated them like this. After the evaluation was complete, John outlined the 3-phase program that would follow. This process would take 9 months to a year to complete. They agreed to follow through one last time for Gladys. They were skeptical and unsure but were intrigued by the process and how Gladys had responded to John.

With the program and structures in place, a trip out of town would unexpectedly be necessary for Stephanie and Marc. John would agree to take Gladys to his home to continue her program personally while they were away. John would also have Gladys evaluated by the holistic veterinarian for herbal therapy, acupuncture and diet change. Her diet would be switched to a grain-free product while she was with John and the new food sent home with Gladys upon her return home. This was part of the protocol that was outlined in the beginning and seemed like a good time in the process to implement.

The evaluation revealed some imbalances in Gladys that could be corrected by herbal therapy. Her program was now complete. Upon her return home after her 2-week stay with John, her parents could now see Gladys on the full protocol that John had outlined at the very beginning. They worked the program diligently and could see the changes in her weekly and even daily. It was like someone had reached into Gladys and turned something off.

Upon entering Phase #3 Stephanie and Marc had tears in their eyes just hearing themselves say to John that she hasn't spun in 4 weeks. Her spinning was now limited to greeting only her favorite people, and she only did 3 turns and then stopped. For this family the impossible became reality.

## Lars and Leila

Lars and Leila fell in love with a red-nosed pit-bull puppy and named him Balder. They had 2 other dogs in the family — Odin, a pit-pull/Queensland Heeler mix and Lola, a German shepherd mix. They had already known about John from their veterinarian. She had given them John's information when Odin started showing aggression towards other dogs. John had come into their home and given them the tools and instruction that they needed to solve the issue. It had been over a year since then, and they were living the life with their dogs that they had engineered with John's help.

Now their hearts were turning to Balder. They consulted with a number of trainers and behaviorists because they knew that this puppy came from serious fighting stock. Both parents were part of an illegal dog fighting ring that had been brought to justice and this little man was a victim that they very much wanted to give a chance at life. What was to follow was not what they had expected. Everyone they had turned to suggested that they abandon this idea. It would be an impossible task or they didn't train the breed. It seemed that all hope was lost for Balder before it even began. It then occurred to them, lets call John and see if this is something he works with. They called John and he was very excited about the project. He said to them that the way to address inappropriate stress management in the dog is through the education of the dog, not its destruction. John did not discriminate against breed, nor did he try and detour them from taking on this labor of love. He just explained to them, like he had with Odin, this will be a journey not a destination.

They set up all that was needed and followed the protocols to the letter. They had done this before and were going to do it again. This family has been working on the journey for over a year now. Balder is well on his way to his full potential.