

Case Information

Luke

Live Aggression Consultation Sessions with Michael Shikashio CDBC on GrishaStewart.com



Clients: Stacy and Michael

Dog: Luke, an eight-year-old, male American Staffordshire mix

Acquired from: Shelter approximately six years ago

Intact status: Neutered prior to adoption.

Other household dogs:

Sasha, a female, spayed 12-year-old medium sized mixed breed

Bella, a female, intact 4.5-year-old Labrador/Golden Retriever mix

Medical history:

Injuries – damaged ligament in right rear leg. Vet has recommended holding off on surgery. Also suspects arthritis in right front leg.

Left pupil is dilated. Examination by veterinary ophthalmologist did not reveal vision issues or warrant any treatment.

Illnesses – no known illnesses since adoption.

Surgeries – no known surgeries other than de-sexing

Vaccines – DAP, Rabies, Lepto, Bordetella all current as of 10/9/2019

Medications – Previously on Rimadyl 75mg as needed for right rear leg pain. Deracoxib 75mg for two weeks started on 1/11/20.

Diet:

Purina ProPlan Savor dry (1 cup) plus Purina ProPlan Savor canned (1/4 can), twice daily.

Environment:

All three dogs have access to the entire house when Stacy and Michael are not home, which on average is 4-6 hours on a normal work day.

Luke sleeps in a chair in their bedroom, unless there is a thunderstorm in which case he cuddles with them in bed.

Enrichment:

Daily walks of approximately 45 minutes on a 15-foot-lead where he sets the pace and is empowered to explore the environment and sniff. These include trips to a park or new walking location bi-weekly. In addition, Luke enjoys food puzzles a couple times per week and sniffing/training games once per week.

Presenting Behavior Issues:

“Luke has a difficult time meeting new people. He starts off looking excited about the interaction but over the years he’s had 4-5 incidences where he’s been overwhelmed during the interaction and reacted negatively. In those situations, he’s growled, lunged, and looked as though he’s bitten the visitor. He often goes for hands but not always. No one has ever ended up with a serious injury or broken skin from the interaction but they are usually frightened by the experience.

In the last three years we have used strict management to prevent these interactions. At first, by having him go to another room of our home when we have guests. He’s also done well in his crate which is placed close enough for him to observe the guests but far enough that they do not go near him. Since conditioning him to a muzzle we now let him meet some guests (with their permission) while wearing his muzzle and under close supervision.”