

Dear Mijoy

I visit your site daily to see what has changed and I noticed you have commented on the DOG WHISPERER. Since I became aware of the program I have tried to see as many episodes as possible. We are faced with a problem currently. My Husband suggested I contact you. We met you two years ago when we bought Sage from you. At that stage we were surprised how your dogs interacted and how your attack trained dogs licked your tiniest Yorkies, instead of eating them for breakfast.

My Mom is currently in and out of hospital. She has two German Shepherds they have been trained (in house) in obedience. They do the sit and stay, down, heal. They are in general well behaved dogs. It is our intention for my Mom to come and live on our property in a Granny flat. She insists if her dogs are not welcome, she will not be coming. My Husband has suggested we fence off a section of the property around the flatlet that her dogs are kept away from my yorkie. I do however have concerns that should they get past my Mom when she is leaving her flatlet to come to us, that they may seriously hurt or kill my Yorkie. Do you have a solution? I know you have done a lot of rescue with German Shepherds for a long time – can you give us advice? We obviously do not want to upset my Mom unnecessarily but I do not want my Yorkie at risk.

I look forward to your reply.

PS. Sage is adorable, such a well balanced, loving little girl.

Regards

Penelope

Hi Penelope

Glad to hear Sage is a winner. We put a lot into our puppies and Sage would have been pretty well socialized before she left us. She would know all about BIG DOGS.

You are 100% correct, we have worked with German Shepherds – the problematic ones for many years, and I only stopped recently because of Grand children visiting regularly. I did not want to risk a drama.

You are already half way there with the two GSD's in question, having been trained in obedience. They sound placid enough dogs from your description. Mind you that is not an issue, we have worked with vicious GSD's one in particular returned to an animal shelter three times, because of aggression. The one here presently – the owner could not even handle at 8 months of age. He went to school, and started with obedience, went right up to attack. He has been with us for years, and I attach a pic of him and a teacup pup.

Sage will be fine with the GSD's. One thing I must recommend you DO NOT do is put up fencing to keep the dogs separated. By all means put up fencing to keep your Moms dogs with her but they must be allowed to explore outside that boundary. If you put up a fence and those dogs are not allowed past

that boundary, they will possibly PLEASE NOTE “possibly” see Sage as a problem, whereas if they are allowed out to run around they will accept her. If you have any problem with introducing the dogs to one another, call in a Professional. Don’t listen to old wives tails, I have heard them ALL, I have also broken every rule when it comes to introducing dogs, and listening to what can and cannot be done. If you learn to be the Pack Leader your problems are history and any future problems will soon be sorted in record time.

You mention these dogs were IN HOUSE trained. Meaning I imagine, that a trainer came and trained them on the property. It may be beneficial for both you and your Hubby, to take these two GSD’s for a brush up course. This will not only help you understand the breed better, but the dogs will then bond to a degree with you both and will learn to trust you. You will then have a far better knowledge of being in control. I would not do this in house, I would do this at a training venue where these two GSD’s come into contact with other dogs. You will very quickly pick up if there is a potential problem and the Trainer will be able to assist you with dealing with any problem that may arise. I would do some training prior to bringing them onto your property.

There are ways and means of introducing the dogs to one another, and if you have done some training prior to the introduction you will be better equipped . If you still have concerns ask a Professional to be around at the time of the introduction.

When I first met my vet which was 11 years ago. He thought we were crazy working with problematic Shepherds and owning so many really small Yorkies. He considered this an accident waiting to happen. To date we have never had a GSD go for a yorkie. We did have a situation where one that was totally abused, attacked a miniature horse. I have a pic somewhere of a yorkie and GSD of mine on the lawn, in the late 1970’s. I have a great passion for the German Shepherd.

Cesar Millan has become a household name and is brilliant and very gifted when working with and understanding dogs.

He believes there is no such thing as a problem dog it is a problem OWNER.... If you ever have done dog training or in future do dog training you will see he is 100% correct. Not everyone is cut out to be the perfect, understanding dog Owner or handler. This is where dogs suffer abuse at the hands of their Owners who believe that they have a very unruly, difficult dog, when the bottom line is simple, the owner does not understand the needs of the dog concerned. This sadly does not only apply to large dogs, but in a lot of cases Yorkies are abused as well. We have one that was hit with a hosepipe for the first 8 years of his life. He is now 14 years old. In PERFECT health. This particular dog lived with another male dog – barked continually and marked territory everywhere. IGNORANT OWNER, had he neutered both of these dogs at a young age, he would not have had them fighting firstly or marking territory secondly. He did have a barking problem, which we sorted in a relatively short period of time. He is however super intelligent and barks when he wants outside, barks on his way back to the door so that the doorman is there and waiting to open up, so he does not have to WAIT to be let in. Dogs are highly intelligent and can read their owners like a BOOK. Are you the Pack Leader? Or do they twist you around their paw???

Something I found amusing in one of the episodes recently on the box. He was working with a YORKIE, He said it did not matter how they were handled by their owner, or what their owner did with them and even a yorkie of 2inches in size (over exaggeration of course for a real tiny) ALL had to eventually know they were first and foremost a DOG.

A very good friend of mine stresses in the rainy weather says her Yorkies hate getting their feet wet. My yorkie kids can go in and out at their leisure. Our grass is always green all year around in that particular part of our property and there is minimal sand, only in the garden on the perimeter of their private garden. First and foremost they are DOGS, and if they want to go out in the rain, so be it. In heavy downpours they are obviously not allowed to play outside. Our tiniest scaps have access to outside, but we obviously monitor the exceptionally small ones.

If you need the services of a Professional, the Lady associated with MIJOY's details appear on our site. Today the Professionals are very differently trained to years back. I called in an Animal Behaviourist in 1988 for a GSD that was a waste of time.

If these two GSD's spend a lot of time in a small enclosure around the flatlet, you are going to have to walk them. You do not mention their age, but presumably they are fit and healthy and lively dogs. Dogs need exercise, it keeps them balanced.

Please keep me updated. I am sure they will all get on very well together. Just ensure your introduction to one another is done properly. Best of luck.

Joyce.