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**JEFFERSON COUNTY MEDIATION SERVICES**  
**VOLUNTEER COLLOQUIUM MINUTES**  
March 19, 2013

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Volunteers Present: Judy Archuleta, Peter Bowes, Terri Eaton, Terry Ehrlich, Georgine Kryda, Deirdre Santoscoy, Jerry Schopen, Suzanne Yates

Staff Present: Mark Loye, Julie Carter and Helena Jo Goldstein

Others Present: Mark Milford, Jeffco Animal Control

**I. Welcome:**

Mark Loye welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked those present to introduce themselves.

**II. Program Status**

A. The new JCMS website, while still under construction, has gone live. All volunteers are encouraged to check it out. It is still at [www.JeffcoMediation.com](http://www.JeffcoMediation.com).

B. JCMS has ramped up marketing with the goal of getting more non-domestic cases.

**III. Presentation: Bark Busters Dog Training**

**Presenter: Brian Kornreich**

Mr. Kornreich started off by explaining that humans are very complicated, and dogs have a very simple view of the world. When working with dogs, it is easier to join them in their world than it is to try and bring them into ours. We must provide dogs with food, safety/security, shelter, and entertainment. Almost all problems with dogs can be resolved by addressing these four basic requirements. For example, excessive barking can stem from a lack of a good leader, a lack of safety or fear itself. Every dog needs a leader. A dog owner must reassure the dog that the owner is a good leader; if the dog knows the owner will take care of the dog's needs, this will help barking cease.

A lack of shelter can be a problem area. Some dogs are scared of noises such as thunder, so it would be important to have a safe place for them to retreat to during storms. Lack of entertainment can also be a source of problems. Most dogs need exercise and intellectual stimulation. There are a number of good toys on the market that help in this area. But a dog cannot simply be left in a backyard for hours with a couple of toys. They need real exercise and interaction. A tired dog is a happy dog.

Dogs are very good people trainers. They can train each other and us in several different ways: Active training involves demanding behaviors, such as barking until they get action or attention (interaction, treats, etc.). Passive training describes sweet and insidious behaviors such as

dropping a ball at the owner's feet until its gets picked up and thrown; or even just nudging a person until they get pats or tummy rubs.

Dogs can come to the wrong conclusion. If they are left in the backyard and they bark all day and then the owner comes home, they may conclude that barking all day works to bring the owner home. This vicious cycle can make the behaviors get worse and worse with time. (Refer back to the first sentence of the presentation.)

Consistency is the key in training dogs. A dog owner must be consistent with rules in order for the dog to know or believe a rule exists. Often people say to the trainer, oh, my dog knows he is not supposed to jump on people; he is just misbehaving right now. This is not an accurate assessment of the situation. Dogs who know not to jump on people do not jump on people. It is not necessary to be physical when properly training a dog. Bark Busters utilizes dog-friendly training techniques that leverage the same communications methods - body language and voice control - that dogs follow as part of their instinctual pack mentality. Dogs learn new behaviors quickly using Bark Buster techniques; however, it takes about 5 weeks for the dog to adopt the new behavior as a habit.

Dogs have several different levels of communication. The first level is with their body language. This is the best time to notice a developing behavior and intervene. For example, if they are eyeing another dog, or an elk, intently, this is the time to call their attention back to you. This lets the dog know that the owner is a good leader by keeping everyone safe and watching out for danger. It tells the dog, "I see what's out there. I'm OK with it. You should be OK with it, too." This helps alleviate anxiety, because it lets the dog know that it does not have to worry about the surrounding distractions – the owner will take care it (if the dog knows it is not his/her job to watch for this danger, it will look up to the owner for guidance as opposed to barking at the distraction).

The second level of behavior is growling. The growling is a warning to the source of the threat. Snapping is level three. A snap is aimed at the neck (where fur is usually thickest) of another dog, to say, "What you did right at this moment is not OK." When dogs snap at each other, it often means "I'm tired of playing," or "Leave me alone." When dogs snap at children, they usually mean the same thing. Unfortunately, children do not have fur and may end up getting hurt.

The fourth level of behavior is fighting. This is not typical behavior in an established pack, because the dogs depend on each other for survival, but the behavior may emerge in a mixed pack. A mixed pack is a random group, like a group of dogs at a dog park. Aggression is a behavior, not a personality type. All aggression stems from fear.

Anxieties and stresses can go away very quickly when a dog is provided with good leadership. Mr. Kornreich gave this example: Every dog needs a good leader. If a dog does not have a good leader, it will instinctively take the leadership role, because somebody has to! Imagine you are in a plane and someone says, "Can anybody fly a plane?!?" Then they throw you in the pilot seat. You may keep the plane in the air, but you will certainly have stress and anxiety while

doing so; however, as soon as a pilot sits next to you and says, “I can fly this plane,” your stress and anxieties drop instantly – like air rushing out of a balloon. Likewise, if the owner shows the dog “I am the leader, I can handle any situation (I can fly the plane)” the dog will relax and follow the owner’s guidance. The dog will not bark at imagined threats because the owner is the leader, and the owner is managing threats for the dog and owner both (this will not prevent a dog from protecting the owner if the owner is in actual distress).

At the conclusion of his talk, Mr. Kornreich generously answered specific questions about their own dogs for members of the audience. This was greatly appreciated. Mr. Kornreich can be reached through Bark Busters at: 877-500-BARK (2275); DenverWest@BarkBusters.com.

Mr. Loye thanked everyone who attended for participating in the discussion, and wished them a good evening.

**IV. Next Colloquium: Tuesday, June 18, 2013, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** in the Open Space Hearing Room (Ponderosa Room). Topic to be announced- suggestions are welcome.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: *Helena Jo Goldstein*  
Helena Jo Goldstein, Programs Manager

Approved by: *Mark Loye*  
Mark Loye, Director