

To: Animal Behavior and Training Specialists

I'm anxious to let you know that our dog, Otis, is now going to get to stay with us! He was walking a very thin line for the first year and a half. We've learned a lot about dalmatians since we bought him as a pup. When we fell in love with him he was an adorable nine week old liver and white puppy, but he became a huge spotted menace with a mind of his own! Not only did he do the terrible "puppy" things (chewing, digging, jumping on people, etc.), we didn't know how to change his behavior, and if we did anything, it was inconsistent. After desperately placing calls to various breeders and trainers to get any help, our local VCA in Agoura said you might be able to help. We hired a trainer for seven in-home lessons, and are now beginning the group obedience. Rochelle Spiegler is our trainer, and she absolutely adores animals! Otis looks forward to his pets and kisses when she gets here. Looking back, we've covered a lot more than I would have guessed- heel, sit, stay, come, down and down-stay as well as the behavior changes (which were our main concern). Otis used to scratch on the French doors until the paint was off when he wanted to come him. Now, he wouldn't dare! Also, he decided he wanted free run of the house and he had a ball! Now, he has limited boundaries and he respects them.

Otis seems to enjoy life more now because we praise him rather than yell at him. I know we enjoy life more! People come over and tell us how he has changed. We still have to work on the rough edges, but that's OK- now we know better what to do and just need to keep it up! Thank you, Rochelle!

Bill & Cheryl Burt
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P.S. I want to thank you, too, Rochelle. I'm much happier dog now because I get praised!