

Moki's Musings

It's been pretty quiet around here since the last time we chatted. Of course, that's relative, given my mom's weakness for taking in the occasional odd dog here and there. After CoCo the Border collie left, it was actually pretty peaceful around here. But then this really nice lady convinced my mom that we should take in a Labradoodle puppy named Fritzi. Seems that Fritzi's person took to heart everything my mom said in the puppy class about socialization, and she was afraid that she didn't have the time and knowledge to do it right. Fritzi came to the puppy class really, really shy and got a lot better by the end of the class, but he was starting to lunge and bark at other dogs when he was on a leash. Such an undignified behavior for one of our species!

Mom hasn't taken in a dog for "board and train" for a long, long time because my big brother Buster is pretty wobbly (hope my hips hold up better than his!). But she gave in, and Fritzi lived with us for almost four weeks! It was a real experience for all of us so I interviewed everyone and compiled some survival tips for you just in case you find yourself in a likewise situation.

Survival Tips from Kiwi, 4-year-old Petite New Zealand Bobtail Griffon (PNZBG):

- Ignore him and he will eventually go away. This technique works in about four weeks.
- When puppy touches you, scream and yell like you've just been stabbed with a pitchfork, and he will go away, temporarily. Repeat as needed.
- Give ugly stink-eye and a low growl when he races along beside you after you have retrieved your racquetball. Works like a charm, immediately.
- Teach mom to hit the racquetball so that it banks off as many walls as possible in the backyard because puppies get dizzy and trip over their own feet trying to figure out where the ball is going and when it's going to stop. Works every time.

Survival Tips from Sandy Mae, 11-year-old Miniature Pyrenian Eskimo Dog

- Strut your stuff, tail and head high, walking on tippy toes and check him out completely. If he tries to get fresh while you investigate, lay him out flat without touching a hair. Gains instant and long-lasting respect.
- When puppy gets sloppy with where his body is in relationship to yours, repeat above. Greatly reduces his Labradorness and brings out the inner finesse of the Poodle.

Survival Tips from Grandpa Buster, 13 1/2-year-old Greater American Hounddog

- Entice him to play, yodeling, smiling, and play wrestling and when he starts to treat you like a sibling, correct that assumption by immediately aborting play with a loud woof and pinning him to the ground. Step back, and if he is contrite, invite him to play again. Repeat, repeat, repeat.
- Sleep a lot.

Survival Tips from Mom

- Take plenty of notes and video so you can remember how much work this is.

- Invite Aunt Nikki's puppy, Charm, over to wear out this puppy.
- Don't be quite so convincing when talking about the importance of socialization.
- Train as many cues as quickly as you can and then keep asking for behaviors. Keeps puppy out of trouble.

Survival Tips from Yours Truly

- When puppy comes near you, bark and playbow and then when puppy falls for it and comes closer, lower chin almost to the ground and bark continuously and ferociously. Confuses them immediately.
- Once they are convinced you are deranged, increase playbowing, further confusing the poor thing, but never ever let them get close enough to slobber on you or put one of those huge feet on your back.
- Act young and silly in hopes that Mom will think you are a puppy and get her puppy fix from you instead of bringing them in off the streets.

There you have it. We forgot how quiet it is around here until after Fritzzi went home. But I hear we're not completely out of the woods, yet. Fritzzi's person wants Mom to train him for agility. But he doesn't have to move in to do that, so we're safe.

Hope my tips help y'all out. Back to my nap! Ah, peace and quiet.

Sweet Little Miss Moki Jo