

January 25, 2003

SUBJECT: LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

In a grading scale of one to ten, I would give Kari Bastyr a ten for her skills as a dog trainer. It is amazing to see her in action. It is even more amazing that she can teach you the skills you need to master your pet in a professional and humane manner.

Kari came to our rescue. We are the owners of two rottweilers: Jake and Elwood. They are large, adult male dogs. While we were on a business trip, Jake and Elwood had attacked a person entering our gated property. Also, they had gotten loose one day and viscously attacked our neighbor's dog. We had never trained our dogs to be aggressive. Now, we could not trust them. Especially Elwood, who was the instigator.

My husband feared the worst. What if a small child entered our property? We contacted local trainers, but found their methods to be ineffective or brutal. Finally, we called Kari and she assessed our problems over the phone. She was able to identify problems in our daily routine, feeding, and interactions with our dogs. We felt she could help us. Nevertheless, I must admit my husband was skeptical of Kari's training techniques after our first telephone conversations. He initially thought that her methods might be too "soft", especially for two male rottweilers. However, we knew we needed help and decided to fly Kari to our home.

After only four days, we could see the change in our rottweilers. They were eager to train and work with us. They understood our commands and were very responsive. We learned a lot ourselves on the wolf pack mentality of our dogs. This helped us to communicate with them, to speak their language. We were able to gain control and be the pack leaders again.

I cannot emphasize how important and special Kari is to us. Our friends and family are amazed at the change in Jake and Elwood. Not only because they can do all kinds of tricks, but also because they are much more relaxed dogs. They each know their place in the pack and are confident in their roles. Kari saved Elwood's life and I can never thank her enough. She taught us how to have the dogs we always wanted to have.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sheryl Ballowe