

To Whom It May Concern:

Where do I begin telling what an incredible help Kari has been for my dog, Mr. Kim, and me?

I adopted my dog from the Denver Dumb Friends League in November of 2001. He is a SharPei, but was so underweight and had ringworm so bad that I barely recognized him as a SharPei. In addition to being neglected, it was obvious he had been abused because he had a very deep scar across the back of his neck.

He and I bonded the minute the DDFL adoption counselor put us in the same room together and there was no question that he was now the love of my life! Thrilled that he was so friendly and lovable, I drove home that night with him next to me in the car and a grin on my face.

The next day is when the issues began to surface. As it turns out, he had serious aggression/anxiety issues around other animals and couldn't be around them. He also had separation anxiety very badly and the first time I left the apartment he almost scratched his way through my front door.

Naturally, I panicked. I immediately feel in love with him, and so it seemed he with me, and I knew I could work with him, I just didn't know how. I took him to South Penn Animal Hospital to get his ringworm treated and the wonderful vets there recommended that I get in touch with Kari. I called her immediately and have been grateful for the reference from South Penn ever since!

Mr. Kim and I had private training and took classes with Kari and I am happy to say that my dog has come amazing lengths since that first week. Kari's knowledge of behavior and rapport with animals, her patience with owners who get upset and panic, her positive reinforcement of owners and their pets, and her love of animals and their relationships with their people are all truly amazing qualities of an amazing animal behaviorist! I am happy to report that Mr. Kim's separation anxiety is remedied and that he hasn't had to stay in a crate when I leave the house for almost a year! He is better around other animals, as well. He plays wonderfully with my brother's two dogs and even though he doesn't do great around other animals, he can be in the same area around them without completely having an anxiety attack and when he gets fidgety, I give him commands to keep him in control and he doesn't hesitate to obey. And, as I continue to work with him, little by little he gets better and better.

I would not be surprised if Kari were to say that Mr. Kim is one of her most severe clients, as he had some very serious issues. He will probably always have issues, but after working with Kari and the incredible help she has been, I have come to accept that and learned to make it workable.

Kari Bastyr is an incredible behaviorist whom I owe the life of my dog and my sanity to, literally, as without her he probably would have been euthanized. Work with Kari and you will be glad you did so!

Most Sincerely,
Nikki Brewster