

Had I Only Known

by Joan Krumm (As published in the Pinscher Patter, Sept 2005)

Ringo, a typy and beautiful red male min pin won a five point major in California the day after the National Specialty. I was elated, but confused at Ring's attitude, which had always been good, when suddenly his tail went down as the audience clapped on the "go-around". The judge called him into the center of the ring, a dog somewhere barked. Ringo's tail went up again and he was awarded the purple ribbon. But....Ringo never finished his championship. He needed another major and never go over the apprehensiveness of being in the show ring.

Several years later, our dog training facility hired Pat Muller of Quansa Kennels in South Beloit, Wisconsin to teach our conformation class. I had three lovely min pins in the class, two geniuses and Buddy. Everything I had always done in training worked famously on the two black boys but none of it worked on Buddy. He was a tall, handsome red male with an outstanding pedigree, beautiful hackney, lots of rear drive and my hope for a future special. Buddy, however, would only walk along with my left leg, going and stopping as my left leg walked normally because he was lacking the confident min pin attitude which he always displayed everywhere except in class. I eventually called him my little backyard champion.

Pat complimented to two black boys at each class and watchem em struggle with Buddy who made no progress during the eight-week session. On the last night, she challenged me that she could have him walking along nicely and free baiting in ten minutes. I had to take her up on this because I knew this could never happen! Several class members stayed to watch the callenge as Buddy became a confident little show dog and members of the class could even walk him right by me with no attention paid to me at all.

How did Pat do that? I have asked Pat the explain briefly a little device that she as invented called a "Q" bone that can be easily added to a collar or lead that if used properly teaches a dog in dog language the way Mama Dog teaches her whelps.

Pat.....

"Thank you for the opportunity to share a little of what I see people do when they train their dogs. I constantly see handlers struggling with their dogs because of inconsistency, unfairness, lack of praising their dog and bad timing. I saw a real need to develop a training aid that would clearly communicate with the dog gairly, firmly and consistently. The Q-bone used correctly is the answer.

There are only three natural behaviors or corrections that a mother dog uses to correct her whelps. These are:

1. Growl: Handler's commands are compared to the growl.
2. Nip: Pressure from one Q-bone delivers the nip and

3. Bite: Two Q-bones pulled in opposite directions delivers a bite quite similar to the mother dog's correction.

I have found all dogs regardless of their size or breed can quickly transfer this understanding from the dam to the Q-bone.

A dog is never afraid of these natural corrections. With the Q-bone as long as there is a bit of slack in the lead, the dog has the choice if he gets a correction or not. The handler simply has to give commands, encouragement, and praise for appropriate behaviors. Dragging, choking, bribery and prevention are not natural and can cause even a very confident dog to become worried, fearful and distrustful of its handler and the "show" situation.

And so it almost was with Buddy. All of his fun and good times happened off lead while playing with other dogs. Buddy, like so many other dogs, have been conditioned to believe that the lead was bad and a very negative thing. That is not what his handler had in mind. Each and every time he was on lead it was never fun. He was not allowed to play with the other dogs and he did not feel safe. The choke chain hurt and Buddy saw absolutely no purpose in what he was being forced to do.

Before a dog can learn to trust, its handler must be respectful, calm, confident and trustworthy. Then and only then will there be a trusting relationship that allows the dog to turn on and perform anywhere he is. The handler's only responsibility is to communicate by teaching the dog to associate commands with desired behavior and follow with praise for the dog's success."

Thank you Pat.

Buddy finished his championship that summer with four majors and was shown by 4-H kids while I showed other dogs. He was Best of Winners at the Badgerland Specialty and took Breed over many specials from the classes. Had I known about this amazing "Q" bone certainly Ringo could have easily attained his championship title too.

I have continued to use this amazing "Q" collar on all my dogs and puppies. It is the easiest and quickest way to teach things like confidence on the table, not pulling even on corners or "down and backs", and it works wonders teaching a dog to free bait at the end of the lead in just minutes. Pat is available to answer your questions online at <http://quansaqcollar.com> or at 815-389-3754.

If I had only know, Ringo would have become a Starr!