



Draft Re: [REDACTED] Training

From kelsey@authenticcanine.ca

Draft saved Fri 8/7/2026 12:36 PM

To [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:20 PM

To: Authentic Canine Training <kelsey@authenticcanine.ca>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: [REDACTED] Training

Hi Kelsey,

I wanted to thank you so much for your help and guidance with [REDACTED]!

We are excited that the training plan has been going well and that he has a potential adopter. We want to set him up for success, so he will be going foster to adopt and we will support him. We were wondering if you would be open to us sharing your information to book a training consult with the adopter. The first session we would cover the costs of and then assess if more are needed.

Let me know if you have any questions,

[REDACTED]

She/Her

[REDACTED]

Victoria Animal Centre

[REDACTED]

BC SPCA

3150 Napier Ln.

250-516-1781

[REDACTED]

• spca.bc.ca

Animal Helpline: 1-855-622-7722



*Respectfully acknowledging that I work on, and this email was sent from, the unceded traditional territory of **WSÁNEĆ (Saanich) and Lək̓ʷəŋən (Lekwungen) People of the Songhees and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) Nations, whose historical relationships to the land continue today. OUR MISSION: To protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia.***

OUR MISSION: To protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia.

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From: Authentic Canine Training <kelsey@authenticcanine.ca>

Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 10:13 PM

To: REDACTED

Cc: REDACTED

Subject: REDACTED Training

Hi REDACTED,

It was great meeting you last week, thanks so much for taking the time to fill me in thoroughly on REDACTED's behaviour. Below is a summary of the strategies we discussed to either try right away, or to look into with the appropriate shelter staff:

- For entering his kennel:

- carrying a high value duration snack such as a peanut butter-filled kong to put immediately into his face while promptly gearing him up to get him straight out to the grass.
- Connect a basket of treats high up on his kennel wall, out of his reach, where staff can reach up and offer treats without carrying anything on their body
- This may not be a major help, as I believe it has already been tried, but I'd recommend continuing to offer lower value treats, such as kibble, as long as he is still showing interest in them, to help minimize the overstimulation response toward food. This will be especially

relevant when training him, to help him access the learning part of his brain more readily.

- For muzzle training (or training in general, even after muzzle training, if impulses are still high)
 - Tether him with a leash or long line to either one of the big hooks in the gym, or the fence pole out in the back area.
 - Continue keeping treats in a separate container out of his reach and only feed treats as needed for the training, keeping his temptation away from grabbing at pockets or treat bags during training.
 - Consider very brief training sessions to start, and probably timing these sessions right after a walk will best allow him to learn, after he's had time get some good decompression sniffing. We may find that another short sniffari walk *after* the training session will help with decompression from the learning.
 - The focus on training should be conditioning to a basket muzzle. Here is a video link for support with this training - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCnuZZ2HEsg>
 - Once he is muzzle trained, I would probably start with prioritizing the skills of Find It, Leave-It, and Drop, all of which would help manage his impulse control and redirect the unwanted behaviours of jumping & biting at people. I would be happy to help train these.
- Other management strategies:
 - We didn't discuss this specifically - but I wondered if there is a break stick on hand at the shelter, and if it would be helpful to have on-hand until muzzle training is sufficient, if we are concerned at all of his ability to let go when he grabs a hold of a person or clothing.
 - Look into whether or not a harness could safely be left on his body between walks for a quicker, smoother transition outside each time. This may not be an option due to SPCA safety policies and/or if he will chew it off.
 - While he is already at his maximum dose of trazodone & gabapentin, could we explore the option of either changing, or adding to his current medicine load, another drug such as fluoxetine? I do believe that the right mixture of meds is going to be valuable to spend time figuring out, as part of his overall behaviour plan.
 - Offer each of his meals through enrichment feeding - i.e. in towel wraps, stuffed & frozen in kongs, in cardboard boxes to shred.
 - It sounds like many toys are off limits for him due to his power chewing, but are there any chews that are safe for him, such as extra large bone toys for aggressive chewers, antlers, or yak cheese chews? This would also have to be based on SPCA policy around what items can be left unattended with dogs.
 - We had discussed, if possible, to stand back and capture a video of the one staff member who had been successfully getting in & out of walks on their own, without experiencing his big behaviours. This observation may provide some useful insight.

In terms of moving forward with his training, I would be happy to schedule a follow-up session to discuss how these management strategies and first training steps are going, and offer support for any pieces that are not working well.

I would be comfortable working with [REDACTED] directly once muzzle training is established, but could provide support in the meantime for this process, as needed.

Video footage of the muzzle training process would be valuable for me to offer my input about how to resolve potential challenges that anyone there may be experiencing.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, and let me know if we would like to look at setting up another session to follow up and determine next steps from here.

Best,
Kelsey

Kelsey Patterson, CTC FFCP

Certificate in Training & Counseling

Fear-Free Certified Professional - Dog Training

BCSPCA AnimalKind Accredited

DogSafe Canine First Aid Certified

Authentic Canine Training

Reward-based Training & Behaviour Modification

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