

If you're looking for a dog behavior specialist, look no further! Tammy Smith saved our family! I have been a pet owner for 33 years. I became an "informed" pet owner when Cesar Millan's TV show "The Dog Whisperer" first appeared. I became a Cesar fan, read his books and followed his rules. I recently adopted my third boxer, she was 7 months old. All have been rescues and the first two were very compliant and "eager to please". The third came and I followed Cesar's recommendations and this dog, Gurley, was NOT responding. I quickly realized her behavior was above my knowledge. I hired a very respected local dog trainer. He came to our home for two or three sessions, (its all a blur) and I followed every recommendation he suggested. Initially, I was concerned. He believed in "some of Cesar's methods", but his techniques work better for him. His methods were forceful, demanding, Gurley was becoming more aggressive. My fears were mounting. She had been surrendered for being too rough, growling and barking around small children. I stopped these "training" sessions.

As part owner of Bark Central, the dog park in Inverness, FL, I had heard mention of a dog trainer trained by Cesar that works in the Villages. I called immediately. Tammy drove to my home, came in with a huge bag of puzzles and "tricks" and spent 2-3 hours during our initial consultation. She was never forceful or demanding. She mentally challenged Gurley and taught me to not only challenge her physically but to work with Gurley on a daily basis with puzzles and other mental exercises. Gurley responded SO positively! This was a way for me to build a bond with her in a positive manner. I also learned she does NOT like to be challenged. I had to discover a way to have fun and positive interactions with her. Tammy helped me learn my dog's true personality and how to positively meet her needs.

Gurley could have easily been an aggressive dog. She was going down the road to becoming a dog that bites and attacks. She still isn't perfect – she's still young (under 2) and insecure) Through Tammy's knowledge, I've learned to "listen" to my dog's warning signs. I know when she's not comfortable with another dog, I know when she needs more exercise, and I understand what her needs are. Tammy helped me train her to walk on a treadmill, walk on leash, integrate her into the dog park, and now she runs next to me on my bike. One of my largest challenge with her is meeting her physical needs. She is VERY active. Once again, Tammy taught me how to meet Gurley's physical needs too.

Tammy did a fantastic job with Gurley and I've heard she has been helpful to many other clients. I have absolutely NO doubt Gurley will be a balanced dog. With Tammy's continued help and my continued diligence, Gurley is in the right Furever home.