

THE LEADER OF THE PACK



Photography By Jan Janecki

Who You Gonna Call? Bark Busters!

Five years ago, a revolutionary dog training service made its migration from Australia - where it first launched in 1989 - to the United States. As a franchise now operating from thirty states across the country, Bark Busters provides a bouquet of holistic techniques for mitigating your dog's negative behaviors and improving obedience. Best of all, the trainers come right to your home to get the job done in your dog's most familiar and frequently occupied environment.

Emulating the dynamics that exist between wild canines, the agency operates on the foundation that dogs are pack animals and do respond to the presence of a leader. This is precisely why Bark Busters trains *pet owners*.

Animal Fair caught up with Jan Janecki, a San Diego based Bark Busters animal behavioral therapist. Providing some key tips for becoming the "top dog" in the household, Janecki points out that in the animal kingdom, pack leaders always eat first and walk ahead of the troops. To show your dog that you are the head honcho, you must do the same. The habit of feeding your dog and then sitting down for dinner must be reversed. "Even if you are going out to dinner, eat something as simple as a cracker before you feed

your dog so that it recognizes your status," Janecki comments. "Also, when taking your dog outside, it must sit and stay indoors until you cross the threshold of the door," she mentions. "Once you fully step outside, vocalize the release word 'free' and the dog can exit the house." This goes for walking on stairs as well. "It's not only a matter of leadership, but one of safety too!" Janecki says. Having three fifty-pound bearded collies at home, she should know!

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Solid communication is another essential facet in training. Janecki uses three different tones. The happy voice is high and soft, conveying praise. The command voice is spoken in a normal tone, while the corrective voice is uttered as a low, guttural growl.

Bark Busters offers training guarantees that last your dog's lifetime. In each of her numerous endeavors, Janecki has successfully instructed owners to take the leadership position. "There are stubborn dogs," she admits, "but it is a matter of who has the stronger will!"

- Robin Brown