

A TESTIMONIAL

by Lee Netzler

Angus is my scrappy, high-energy, two-and-a-half year old Scottish Terrier. His doggy daycare exposure has made a big difference in how he relates to other dogs. Recently, as we walked along the St. Vrain Greenway in Longmont, we encountered a lady dog-walking a very unkempt 6-year-old male Scottie. She let us approach, but kept her distance, warning us that her dog "nips." In response, I stopped 5 feet away and Angus sat at my side.

As I chatted with her, Angus quietly sent "calming signals" to her Scottie. After 2 or 3 minutes of watching her dog's body language, I gave Angus slack in his leash and let him move over to the other dog. The woman got a frightened look on her face, quickly tightened the grip on her leash, and voiced serious concern.

Angus and the other dog gently touched noses and quietly got to know each other. You could see the other dog's stiff posture "melt" as he accepted Angus. In a couple of minutes, they were sitting side by side, watching the scenery and not paying much attention to each other or to us. At that point, I moved forward, stooped, and offered the back of my hand to the dog. The woman again went into a visible fright display. But, I moved slowly and offered my hand from a couple of feet away. Curious, the dog relaxed and moved over to sniff me. He wasn't impressed and after a few seconds went back and sat down by Angus.

The woman gave a big sigh of relief. She looked surprised and a little confused, then blurted out that her dog had already bitten several people. She said it had cost her over \$1000 in ticket fines and dog training fees ordered by a judge. She was sure Angus and I were both going to be bitten.

I have to credit Angus with winning this one. It was his demeanor that put the other Scottie at ease and convinced him we were both friendly. I'm glad I put my money into Doggy Daycare rather than in fines and court costs!