

**PHONE CONSULTATION WITH CHERIE LUCAS
WHO WORKS WITH CESAR ON CASES
SECOND CHANCE RESCUE
CALIFORNIA
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Judy: Everything is going quite well with my pack with the exception of Callie, my little 15 pound Sheltie. She has an aggressive streak. I don't quite know how to handle her. **Example:** A White Shepherd was here on the weekend. My friend and I were working on genetics. The dog walked up to Callie and she is all over the dog like a piranha. I correct her and the correction seems to take, but two hours later, she would do the same thing.

Cherie: Explain it to me exactly. Walk me through it step by step.

Judy: Yes, I can do that.

Cherie: Are you inside, outside, tell me exactly.

Judy: My friend and I are working on the computer; her dog is sitting at her feet. Callie is back on the leather couch she is allowed on. We're in the loft. Anything at all that triggers Callie like us just getting up and moving so the WS gets up and before I know it Callie is down and doing what I call the "Sheltie attack, growling, in the dog's face." It lasts about 2 seconds long enough for me to make the "bite" correction and hold her on her side. She isn't relaxing though and Cesar said they have to relax in that position. She won't keep her head down.

Cherie: How much does she weigh?

Judy: 15 pounds

Cherie: And, you can't hold her head down?

Judy: Of course I can hold it down but she doesn't ever really relax it. Cesar said that you have done the correction properly when the dog relaxes and submits but she doesn't really submit.

Cherie: Your hand is the bite, your fingers are the teeth and you bite harder.

Judy: Well that's what one of my questions was – I guess I'm not "biting" hard enough.

Cherie: Well, they decide the intensity of the correction because if she corrected by a stern look you wouldn't even have to go further. This is the way I look at it. It is really up to them. If you want less correction, then respond sooner.

Judy: One of the things she will sometimes do in response is growl and snaps at me – including teeth on me. She has never bitten me. She is like her dad and some of her relatives – they all do it.

Cherie: If she won't relax, you are eventually letting her up?

Judy: Well, what I'm doing is waiting until she has relaxed but not her head.

Cherie: So she hasn't fully submitted and the reason you are having trouble with it is that she has learned that she doesn't have to fully submit to get up. She is giving partial submission, but not full.

Judy: Okay.

Cherie: You are just not asking her for all of what you want because when you get tired of just standing there and not getting what you want from her, you have two options, you can either get up, in which case, she wins, because she hasn't given you full submission and all she learns from that is "I can get up eventually so I don't have to go further. I got to get up with less submission so why would I submit more?" That is the one option which is the good one. The other is to continue to give her the correction until she does submit even if it takes you 15 minutes and even if you have to give her a more intense physical correction.

Judy: So literally Cherie, what you are saying is that let's say we are standing here and she hasn't submitted even though I gave her the correction. Now I'm holding her down so we're saying that the holding down is a correction.

Cherie: Yes, and you want to do it swiftly and you want to make your demeanor be clear that you are very disappointed in her behavior. You want to make sure that you don't do a lot of talking or anything.

Judy: No, I've gotten pretty good at not saying anything and remaining quiet.

Cherie: Okay, you want it to be swift and accurate. You want it to be so that the dog knows the minute it starts that behavior it is going to get a correction.

Cherie: Where is she laying when this happens?

Judy: Usually she is up on the couch on a cushion.

Cherie: And why do you think she needs to be up higher?

Judy: I don't really, that's where she got down from and where I had her in a down stay. I had her in a "stay" there and that's what she broke when she came after the WS so I sent her back to that.

Cherie: So, why don't we put her permanent pillow or wherever she sleeps on a lower level? The higher she is physically, the more dominant she is going to be. That's why we like dominant dogs on the floor. And, that's why we don't like dominant dogs on the bed. They feel they have spent 8 hours superior to their owner while they are on the bed. In a wolf pack, the alpha is always at a higher level than the rest of the pack.

Judy: Yes I knew that.

Cherie: Remember, with dogs everything is physical. Everything has meaning. Even though it doesn't mean anything to us, we don't think like that, they do. That's how the dog is thinking so we have to look at everything from their perspective is their reality.

Judy: Probably, than every other thing I have about Callie is another version of the same thing whether she is growling about the food, whether she is going after a dog because a treat fell to close to her and the dog it was supposed to go to came after its own treat, but Callie goes after the dog, or whether it is a toy – it doesn't really matter. It is the same thing I have to do it is the correction I have to do to get her to understand.

Cherie: Yes, you have to correct consistently and every time. You have to address everything they do you don't like if you want them to demonstrate good behavior. A lot of people make their biggest mistake by not having access to tools. So, if you had a leash on her, a long leash and she is on a pillow on the floor –because you need to take everything back from her and not let her claim anything. She has taken over things and that's why she feels she has the right to go after another dog. She thinks she owns that area of the home or you or whatever.

Judy: Yes, and the other point I forgot to say is Kyra, my WS, the one in the picture with Cesar died in June and Kyra, of the four dogs, was the leader. Callie was kind of her sidekick. The problems I'm having with Callie now were not that evident until after Kyra died.

Cherie: Yes, the balance of power shifted.

Judy: Yes, and she really went after it hard and heavy at first. She was going after the Mal and the Golden but she is still trying to do it at certain opportunities which tells me I am not following through and I am not being consistent.

Cherie: And she is not seeing you as her leader.

Judy: Yes, it has to be true.

Cherie: Yes, the behavior wouldn't be there if it was not true.

Judy: Yes, I see that.

Cherie: Just keep in mind, do you have kids?

Judy: Yes.

Cherie: When one of your kids came home and did something bad at school or whatever and you told them okay no TV for a week or whatever your method of correction was and then they went out and did it again the next day, what are you going to do?

Judy: They would get additional correction and it would be worse.

Cherie: The kids basically ask for it and if they had listened to the first correction they wouldn't have to deal with the second and the second is going to be much worse – harsher, otherwise it wouldn't make sense. If they don't take you seriously with one correction than you know you are not giving them enough initially to make them listen. So, with Callie, it is “big deal, you hold me down, big deal, I don't care.” That is basically her attitude. It doesn't bother her enough to make her stop the activity. You have to up the correction. You have to up the level of correction to fit the crime. If the behavior is continuing, especially the same kind of behavior, then she is developing a pattern and your own pattern is to correct her to a certain point and then stop.

Judy: It is not enough to bother her.

Cherie: You don't think you are giving up but if you don't get 100% then to her you have given up and she becomes more powerful each time.

Judy: The thing about the food and maybe others do it to – I've seen other Shelties do it. When I feel them, Abby and the Mal, Zeus, are within a couple of feet of each other. Callie is in a crate which I put her in before and leave her in for about 10 minutes afterward because if I let her go free while she is “in that zone of excitement” she is in a mindset where she almost goes nuts and wants to go into the attack mode. All I've done is blocked her from doing the behavior by putting her in the crate. Ideally I would think would be to have all three to be able to eat together.

Cherie: Yes, you have prevented the attack from happening but you haven't changed her behavior.

Judy: Right.

Cherie: Her brain is still in the same state – but confined within the crate. So, if you got her out and used your tools, like a leash or put a muzzle on her.

Judy: Okay, good.

Cherie: She could find some big dog some day that didn't take to it very well.

Judy: Well, you are right; Lynda told me that if that had been Moxie instead of Pen with her, Callie could have been dead.

Cherie: Right, you are doing her a favor by giving her this correction. She is not playing smart. If you are the leader she doesn't need to have a role of protection that is your responsibility. That's why leadership resolves aggression behavior between dogs. All that aggression is among dogs is vying for leadership position so as soon – even with food – because the leader gets to eat first and he can eat anybody's food he wants to. In a wolf pack the most subordinate members of the pack don't always get to eat every day because there may not be any left. They have to wait for every wolf more dominant than they are to eat first. The alpha gets to mate first with whichever females come into heat. So once you empower yourself as leader, the theory is that the aggression in the dog that is vying for position is gone because leadership has been established and it is you.

Judy: Back to a question about the bed. With Callie when one of the other dogs comes into the room, her lip curls and she starts the growling. So, what I've done is as soon as I see it, she is off the bed and I've even brought her crate back in the room and even when the WS I'm training was here for the weekend; Callie had to go into her crate. The last time they were here Callie and Kimber all slept on the bed together so I know it can happen so I know it can work out. So here is what I'm asking, when she does that and I correct her and put her in her crate that is appropriate isn't it?

Cherie: If her state of mind changes, but in most cases a dog can still fixate and target other animals through the crate. If putting her in the crate makes her calm and submissive than I would say do it. But, yet, if she claims that bed, I would claim it back. I wouldn't even let her up there because it gives her the physical height and she thinks she is superior and is challenging anyone who comes near it.

Judy: So with Zeus and Kimber who are not challenging me at all, they are fine to be up there?

Cherie: My optimal recommendation would be to have everybody on the floor and leave the bed for you. It is basically the leader's throne and that's where the leader sleeps. I certainly wouldn't let them up there under any conditions unless you invite them.

Judy: Yes, I've handled that – the other two ask.

Cherie: But while you are trying to rehabilitate Callie, I wouldn't allow anyone else up there.

Judy: Okay, I see.

Cherie: It will keep the confusion down. Like the dogs when I first started to walk with Cesar and I'm walking them and trying to keep them behind me. I would have one that would always stay with me but he would run out in front of me. He would never bolt; he wouldn't take off from the pack. I thought it was okay. Cesar said yes, it is okay, because he isn't going to take off, but it is causing confusion with the rest of the pack because they don't know why they **can't do it. It is better to keep them all on the same page.**

Judy: Okay.

Cherie: What I would like to see happen is this. Let me get the names again of the suspects. The WS she attacked the other day?

Judy: That was Leyta.

Cherie: Okay, you are in the room with your friend, Lynda at the computer and Leyta too. Were they there with you when Callie came into the room?

Judy: Yes, well we were all downstairs together. Zeus, Abby, Callie, Leyta, Lynda and me. Everything was fine when they first came in. I had Callie, get back and just stood there and she got a little attention from Lynda and then we came upstairs. The other two (Abby and Zeus) stayed downstairs. Callie, Leyta, and Lynda and I came up.

Cherie: Okay, here is what I would have done because I know this dog. This is not any dog. She is not a dog that is going to play by the rules. You already know this by her past behavior and she is going after other dogs she has no right to go after, if indeed she is a subordinate member of the pack. So, when Lynda comes in before she even gets there I would remind Callie who her leader is. She should be on a leash that you can correct her with and next time Lynda comes over – even if Callie didn't go after Leyta at that point, she DID demand affection from Lynda and got it. She asked for it and Lynda obeyed. She did it on her terms. So, next time, Callie is on the leash and when Lynda comes in, give it a tug, and make sure that Callie knows I am in control and make sure Callie knows I am in charge. Lynda and everybody else completely ignore her. We are not going to give a lot of attention to the subordinate member of the pack. We are not hurting her. We are just showing her who is in charge. If Callie can claim something from Lynda – her attention by demanding it, then she has developed a little bit of an ability to take over because now she kind of owns Lynda. Then you get ready to go up, does she run up ahead of you?

Judy: Sometimes she tries to, but most often she stands at the bottom and I have to call her up.

Cherie: So now you have her on a leash and you aren't saying anything to her, just like the alpha wolf, she goes where you go. The alpha wolf doesn't call his pack, he moves and they follow. You move and Callie has to follow because she is on the leash. All you are asking for is for her to follow me, follow me, follow me. As the leader you have the right to ask this. So, now she is following you. And you get up to the room and you pick the position where she is going to lay which is on the floor on her bed and you put her there and tell her to stay. Does she know a down stay?

Judy: Oh yes.

Cherie: You want the end of the leash near you so you can grab it if you have to. Then go on about your business. I would promise you she will be in a more calm and submissive state of mind than if you hadn't gone about it that way. It won't take up any more of your time; it is just a different way of approaching it. That way when you go up there, she has been invited up there with you and you have gone to your office on your terms and not her terms. If it was her terms, when Lynda walked in, she would have said pet me and Lynda says okay and obeyed her – Callie's terms, not Lynda's terms. Maybe Lynda would have eventually petted her, but it was still on Callie's terms.

Judy: True

Cherie: This way everything is on your terms. You get up there and if she does start to act up, you have the ability to control her. So, when she went after Leyta, what is it that she did?

Judy: Nothing, Leyta just stood up and Callie came after her.

Cherie: So, you know that is going to happen so keep one eye on Callie at all times. You know you have one hand near the leash and if you even see Callie with head up and looking around, targeting, or fixating, you grab the end of the leash and give it a tug. If she doesn't give you the right response, then stand up and move in to her, like a bully would do to a kid in high school. Stand up from your chair and lean over to her and give her strong eye contact, shrr, or point your finger at her, whatever you want to do to get the compliance. She needs to understand that if she begins to fixate on Leyta she is beginning to become aggressive – it is then in her brain – even if she hasn't charged. This is a symptom of aggression. I used to let my dogs fence fight because it kept their weight down. I said to Cesar one day, look how nice and thin my dogs are – remember how fat she used to be. He said, "Are you crazy?" they are practicing aggression. The body might be on this side, but the brain is on the other side beating the dog up. After I thought about it, it made perfect sense. Why would I

think these two dogs would ever get along if I opened the gate? Of course, they would attack each other. They had been practicing it 8 hours a day – of course they would attack each other. You have to address it before it escalates into an actual overt action on Callie's part. You are addressing the state of mind whether it is with the physical touch, the leash, going over and using the bite, strong eye contact, holding her down. Eventually, you should be able to simply go shrrr or eye contact and she would acknowledge and turn her head away, but you have to do the prerequisite work. The shrrr means I'm not happy with your state of mind.

Judy: What about the food?

Cherie: Has she gone after them before?

Judy: Yes, and Abby will submit. She only responds to attack if she is cornered. Zeus will just turn his head. He has been very tolerant with her. It hasn't happened with him for quite a while. After Kyra died, I had to stop letting her go out with Zeus because she was jumping at his hock and into his face. I blocked it by not letting her go out, but I haven't handled the state of mind at all.

Cherie: Yes, you want to be careful there. He could put up with it and put up with it and then one day say that's it, enough and so you need to make sure you get control of it. He sounds like a pretty tolerant dog, but since her behavior has escalated and she has been challenging him more and more since Kyra died, you have to be careful. You are doing the right thing because you are getting a grip on her behavior. If you are not worrying about them attacking her back during the feeding, I wouldn't put them too close, but have her on a leash, make her wait and if she looks over at another dog, snap her out of it.

Judy: I feel confident.

Cherie: You might have to do it 30 times. She isn't expecting the correction and you need to do it like you mean it. Let her know in no uncertain terms that it is unacceptable behavior. Your leash is going to be your best friend with a dog like that.

Judy: That's perfect. In the car if she is not close enough that I can stop her she will bark at anybody who drives by or walks by. If she is close enough to me, she stops, so probably a small leash in the car.

Cherie: When you travel is someone with you?

Judy: Rarely. Normally she is traveling in the crate, today she was loose on the front seat, which is why she could move away and did the barking. We're talking but if she gets out of my reach she continues to bark.

Cherie: Again, use the leash. Make sure she is calm and submissive before getting in the car. Invite her into the car. The same thing as before going for the walk. You want her waiting for my instructions just like before the walk. She is waiting for a signal that it is okay to get in the car. So you start out the car trip with her being calm and submissive. Hold the end of the leash when she is in the car and correct if necessary. The only thing of course is I don't want you to get in a wreck. You might try just driving slowly around your neighborhood where the traffic is not that bad – set her up – and make the corrections. Use the leash to give her a pop and don't forget to get her a muzzle.

Cherie: Is she the one that snapped at you. I will send you a link for them and they can drink out of pans, etc. It is a tool that gives you the confidence you need to correct her grab her, etc. In most cases when a dog snaps we are in retreat and that's how we get bitten half the time. A dog that is a dominant dog and testing needs to be dominated by the leader. The leader will continue to push even if they get bitten. You want the head all the way down on her. You ground her that way and you can use both hands. One hand on the front of her body and the other hand on her head. When she relaxes her head, keep on hand down on her, but keep the hand that is over her head and gradually lift it. If the head comes up with the hand, put it back down again. You want to be able to lift your hand up several inches away from her head and have her keep it down. So do that even if it takes forever and if she is not responding, use the teeth a little harder. And it is important when she finally gives you calm submission, when it is over, stand up and walk away like it didn't even happen. Don't say a word, don't look back, just stand up and walk away. This is what another dog would do – this is the end of it – I corrected the other dog and it is over.

Judy: I asked her the question about Kimber, a dog I didn't even know that well enough until three weeks ago. I'm looking for context to get a feel for it. Kimber isn't mine but I'm training her for herding. She lives in a family with six other dogs, she was brought back from CA when the people weren't taking good care of her. My breeders were going to find her a home but fell in love with her and kept her, but never really started doing activities with her like they do with the other dogs. She is very talented in herding and this is one of the things my Kyra did and when they said I could take her herding if I wanted to and I jumped at the chance. So, as I say this will be the third weekend I've brought her home. She is showing me respect, she is listening to me, I'm not making mistakes with her and I'm being consistent with everything I do with her. When I pick her up on Thursday, I want to do quick downs with her because in herding, they have to go down right away when you ask them to. She also has to stay. She is almost 7 and in all these years she has never had to remain in a down stay. My question is since she is just learning she is going to break the stay. My tendency would be just to put her back, but that is not a correction. So, don't I need to correct.

Cherie: You are putting her in a sit stay?

Judy: No a down stay. And first I'll practice in our lower level and then I'll move her outside with more distractions. Then, eventually when we get to the big yard, I know she will break. So do I just put her back down or do I do a correction?

Cherie: Well, you are getting into an area I'm not that familiar with. I don't do a lot with obedience, but it is the same thing really. I guess your question is do you make it punitive or do you just correct her? Right?

Judy: Well, do I give her the bite and let her know she has to stay there or do I just put her back?

Cherie: Go with the lesser at first since that is what you are used to doing and that is what you are used to doing. You've done a lot of training with them and have done fine with them in this area. Certainly give the bite correction and immediately take her back to the downstay. Even if we do a lot of force we are not doing a lot to the dog, not like if another dog did the correction. If you are pretty certain that this is a tough area of obedience for the dogs to get and you know she is going to break then do what you do know including the bite and take her back. Make the two things happen as close together as possible. Boom, boom.

Judy: Last one on Zeus. Dog aggressive but as Cesar said he is submissive to and only with a look and voice, he will respond. So, I have been delighted that with my son's lab mix, male, 11 months old, I've had them together, no problem, but if I bring in an intact male WS, another story entirely, do I need to do more before I let them go in the same room together?

Cherie: Oh yes, if you know one dog is used to being dominant especially, you need to take it slowly cause this is his territory. If Cesar said he was submissive that's great because it means you have authority over him, but certainly you have to do more. I'll take you into the rescue part of it. When we place dogs, one of the things I learned from Cesar that I do every time is if I place a dog in a home with other dog(s). I tell the people what time I'm coming over. I let them know I'm out in front of their house with the new dog. I tell them to come out with their dog on leash and without a word to me, we start walking in the same direction – me with the new dog and them with the dog they already have. We walk in the same direction with them on opposite side of the street. Then I cross over to their side of the street and the dogs are walking on the outside – humans in the middle. Then we change things around and the dogs will be side by side. And then I will pass the leash to the person and they will walk the dogs together. Once again we are going into that primal mode of the primal walk where you create a team and team members do not destroy each other. You are establishing leadership and introducing them in the most natural way you can by taking them on a walk together first. The human way is if you and I met right now, we would probably make eye contact, put our hands out and touch each other; this is the human way, right? But the dog way is they smell first. They

don't greet each other with excitement like we do. The natural way, for example a wolf that lost its pack through disease or predators or whatever is not a good place to be a lone wolf, they are not going to live long w/o pack protection. A lone wolf will always try to migrate into the pack. He doesn't do it by running up and saying "Can I join your pack?" He will smell another pack from miles away and begin to walk in their direction. Then about a mile apart he can see the other pack and will gradually migrate until he gets into the pack in a natural way. It may take him days before it happens. They are all moving in the same direction in that natural primal walk. That is what you want to do with this dog. If you are bringing an intact male in, you are talking about a whole other thing than a lab under a year old.

Judy: I never thought I could get to the point I'd consider it. I thought maybe I'd get a puppy, which would be a different story.

Cherie: If you rescued, it would probably be neutered right?

Judy: Probably, unless one of the kennels had an intact one they wanted to place.

Cherie: I think you would have some challenges. You would be better off with a puppy but at some time the power shift would happen.

Judy: So, we've done the walk outdoors, and now we are inside.

Cherie: Keep the leashes on when you bring them in. No affection, nothing to fight over, no tension on the leash, just be together and allow them to begin to sniff each other as long as it is not that over the top aggressive, pushy stuff. The sniffing is what they need to do. Start with a walk and if you want to make it better have the person who is bringing the male give them a long walk before they even come over because if you have that energy drained, you will be that much further ahead and have much better results. Often I'll put them on a treadmill first. No talking, no looking, no touching – just be dog like. Let them meet in a natural way. Even if you decide to let them move because they seem to be getting along, drop the leash so that you can grab it if you want to.

Judy: Cherie, is it a natural thing that if a male dog, especially where Zeus has shown me maybe because he was so close to Kyra, I'm thinking he could eventually run with other whites in the big yard, but not with other males.

Cherie: I've had more luck with males than with females. A dominant female or two Rotties or Pit Bulls together rarely can you get this to work unless the people really know what they are doing.

Judy: What are your dogs?

Cherie: You name it I have geriatric dogs right now. I had two rotties – they are my breed. I've lost two in the last year. I've had labs, American Eskimo. My lab died at the age of 17. My rottie was 14, my Eskimo 15 and he has prostate cancer but you would never know it. I've got a daschund and I've got the whole gamut.

Judy: This has been wonderful.

Cherie: I used to have a lot of fights. And, once I corrected Corky, the dominant one, it took care of everything.

Judy: People are so intrigued with Cesar and what they are seeing happen. It is so fantastic.

Cherie: Have you seen the new season?

Judy: Yes, I'm copying them to tape as well.

Cherie: You will see me in one of the shows probably near the end of the season. We rescued some of the dogs. I asked him if he would take some and suggested that it would make a good show. He told his producers and they jumped on it. He told me to evaluate three dogs and tell me which of the three worst dogs you want me to take on. So I did I picked three dogs with three different issues. It was very cool. One of the dogs the owner surfaced from New Orleans and they flew the entire camera crew there to get the reunion.

Judy: Oh my gosh, that's wonderful.

Cherie: You will see me in that.

Judy: I will look forward to that. You will be teaching a new course with Cesar?

Cherie: I do a lot of seminars. I do hands-on. He is only doing a handful of seminars every year. He only wants to do them for his favorite people and the big ones because he could do one every weekend I'm sure. Ours is June 24. I'm doing one in Washington DC the end of April and one in N.Y. in August. I do slightly different things. I do hands on; I like to have dogs there. When I teach local, I do a half-day course – 9 – 1:30-2:00.

Judy: Would you ever come to Michigan?

Cherie: Yes, but it has to have something else with it so it is lucrative for me. This is how we keep Second Chance funded. I have been asking to do it in Nevada. I only charge \$125 per dog and the whole family can come. If there are 6 people in a family, I want them all there. It is just the dog I work with and it is

an all day thing. I say have a workshop and book me for some privates so I can cover my expenses.

Judy: People here are dying for hands-on stuff. I would have no trouble filling it.

Cherie: You learn the best from hands-on.

Judy: Tell me forever, but if you show me once and if I can get to do it that's why when Cesar came and spent the day with us after the seminar it is unbelievable. I thank you so much and I am thrilled.

Cherie: I hope it helped. Be sure to e-mail it and let me know how it goes.

Judy: And the muzzle? Will you send info?

Cherie: Yes I will send the link and the info – it sounds great.

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