

Dear William Barse:

Nick Reggio here, wondering when the service dog training classes with Stacey Spies might be resuming. We went to classes for 4 or so years but it's been several years since my 2 dogs and I had a class with her and we all miss it very much.

It was such a great idea to have those classes, especially with Stacey as the teacher. She taught us so much which enabled me to take my dogs out into the community to many different venues such as the VA, festivals, church, stores, weddings and even a funeral one time. People are always asking me where they can train their dog, too, and I tell them about Stacey and her extensive knowledge of dogs but I have no idea where to tell them to go for this training.

There are many vets I talk with at the VA who are so impressed with my dogs' behavior and tell me they would come to classes to train their dog if they knew where to get such training. It's a wonderful idea that these classes are free for these vets, too, as many of them are struggling in today's economy. A well-trained service dog in a home can also reduce or eliminate the need for outside help as these dogs can do so much for their owners, right down to answering the telephone for them, as ours can.

It's fun to see people watching my dogs pick up my keys from the floor, even pick up a credit card, be so well mannered, carry the tip to the bartender who's always amazed at that, do the basic commands of sit, stay, come and all the others and always tell me they wish their kids were as well-behaved as my dogs are. I tell them to take them to Stacey Spies for some great training!

My service dogs are welcome everywhere I go now, and it's encouraging to see more and more places accept service dogs without giving us the usual hassle we used to get until people became more familiar with seeing well-behaved dogs out in public places.

So how about it, Bill? Can you get a nice place for us vets to begin and/or continue with this very important issue of training our dogs to be of service to us and the community in general? It's very gratifying to see the reaction of the public to these specially trained dogs and indeed, fosters a feeling of all-around well-being as these dogs cause big smiles which start conversations with all who see them in action.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we sure hope you can work some magic to get us a training place where we can continue our education with Stacey Spies, who in our opinion is the very best teacher and human being!

Best regard and woof woof,

Nick, Dinky and Jake Reggio

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