

TTouch

Companion Animal Practitioner Training Case Studies

Case Study Number 4 Digby



Owner/Carer Details

Name(s) [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Animals details:

Name: Digby

Species:

Breed: Labradoodle

Age: 6yrs

Sex: Male

Entire? Neutered

Background

Digby lives with his people and a female Labradoodle called Daisy who's about 4 years old and has the same mother as Digby. They all lead fairly active lives doing agility and good citizen classes most weeks; they also go swimming on a regularly basis.

Reason for seeking help

Carol would like Digby to be better co-ordinated and she would like to feel more confident that he won't react badly to people.

Client's view of animal

Carol thinks Digby is a wonderful dog and doesn't really think Digby has many issues, he is on the whole a well behaved happy dog.

Overview

Digby sometimes struggles when out walking and occasionally he will lunge and bark at lone people or people who give him too much eye contact which Carol thinks started when he was about 18 months old when she was chatting over the fence to a neighbour who suddenly decided to lean over and pat Digby on the head, he reacted then and as I have said already occasionally when they are out on their walks when someone is walking towards them.

Digby is fearful of slippery surfaces, he doesn't like meeting horses and has a slight fear of the vet. He barks when he is excited, likes digging and burying bones and is good to groom.

Health Issues

No known health issues and the only surgery has been castration.

Date of Initial Consultation: April 7

Location: Client's home

Duration of first session: 2 hours

Practitioners Observations

Before going to see Digby, I said to Carol that I would like to include some ground work for Digby, so when I arrived Carol showed me around her garden, so that I could choose where I wanted to set up the equipment.

I thought I may as well set it all up while I was there and while I did so, Carol went to let Digby and Daisy out of the house. When they saw me and Carol's friend Sue in the garden, they came running over barking, so I carried on laying out the labyrinth, but was careful to make sure I was side ways on to them and talked gentle to Digby as he approached. After a couple of minutes he was fine and the two dogs were playing together.

After laying out the groundwork course, we had a cup of tea and I completed the forms, whilst doing so, I was able to do a few observation of Digby, He looked like his ears were quite low set and he seemed to have a domed head. The biggest thing I noticed was that he had what looked like a dropped back, like a horse who's carried too much weight. Digby also looked like he had very straight front legs and seemed to stand on his toes, he's right hind leg turned out to the side a little, his tail also seemed to turn the same way. In the moments I was able to touch him briefly I could not feel any temperature changes, his tail did feel slightly thicker in the middle and the hair was slightly lighter there.

TTouches and Learning Exercise used

Zebra	Labyrinth
Clouded leopard	Cones
Ear touches	Ladder
Raccoon	Poles
Tail Touches	Surfaces
Python Lifts	Low jumps
Belly Lifts	Full Body Wrap
Turtle	

Response:

Digby kept his distance at first and was a little standoffish but after a short time he started to come over and interact with me, at first just for a few moments and gradually longer each time. Each time he visited, I did a few Clouded Leopard here and a few Zebra there so to speak. Eventually I was

able to do Clouded Leopard around his shoulders and then Raccoon down his legs, I thought his shoulders felt quite tight. Later on after the groundwork I was able to do some Python lifts down both shoulders and all four legs.

Once I felt that Digby was reasonably comfortable with me touching him, I suggested we put a wrap and a harness on him and try the groundwork. I started with a quarter wrap, being very careful that I showed him the wrap and just draped it over him to start and I asked Carol to put on the harness because I thought he might think it rude of me to lean over him so soon. I attached two points of contact.

We went once around the groundwork course with Carol leading and me walking on the other side guiding them both around the course. We stopped at various points, where I did some Zebra and gave Digby a few treats, which he seemed to like, Digby hesitated at the ladder with the green plastic bag under it and sort of walked around it, I told Carol that was fine and to just carry on. Once we had been around the course, I attached a rear wrap around the waist and through the back legs and back up to connect to the harness, Digby seemed fine with it which was good as I hoped it would bring awareness to his back legs.

At this point Carol's friend Sue had to leave so Carol handed Digby to me and said she'd be back in a minute. I was slightly worried that Digby would get stressed at being there with just me when his person had just walked off, but luckily he seemed fine, so I continued to take Digby around the course on my own, he did really well and went over the ladder with the green bag no problem as always we stopped frequently and did various touches like Zigzag, Clouded leopard and a bit of Turtle on his shoulder and some Raccoon along his spine on both sides and some Belly lifts using my hands.

Once Carol returned, I did one more circuit of the groundwork course in Homing pigeon, Me with the two points of contact and Carole with the one. Digby did really well and went over all the surfaces and the poles no problem at all, again we stopped frequently and did some touches, on one stop I thought I would try some tail work which Digby seemed ok about so did some circles each way and then some purling.

I felt Digby had done enough by then so finished off by doing some Belly Lifts showing Carol how to do them using a 4 inch wrap, some Python lifts on his legs again showing carol how to do them and finally just showed Carol how to do Clouded Leopard and Ear TTouches.

At the end of the session I noticed that the droop in Digby's back seemed to have gone, the top line was much straighter.

Recommendations:

I suggested that Carol do Belly Lifts using a towel, python lifts on Digby's shoulders and down all of his legs and Clouded Leopard around his neck and

head and some Ear TTouches if she had the time. Carol has Sarah's book so new a little about the touches.

Update: email received July 8th

Dear Denise

I thought you might like to know ... The day after you worked on Digby we went to an agility show and he had clear rounds in both classes.

Best wishes Carol

Follow up

Date Second Consultation: August 1st ***Location:*** Client's home

Duration of second session: 1 hour 30 minutes

Owner's observations since last section

Carol said that Digby didn't seem to be anxious and run from one room to the other when she used the hoover, which is what he would normally do. He hadn't had any of he's funny tummies since I went last time and someone at agility said that he looked more co-ordinated.

Practitioners Observations

I noticed straight away that his top line looked much more level and not drooped as before. Digby's ears looked a little more relaxed and his right hind leg didn't seem to be turning out to the side as it did last time.

I thought his front legs looked very straight still, which could be his breed I know that the Poodle half of him have a tendency to have straight front legs. The groove at the bottom of his front legs where you can feel the tendons seemed pretty deep in comparison to Daisy. I also noticed that Digby's tail looked a bit thickened at the top with a raised area on the top surface.

TTouches and Learning Exercise used

Zebra	Labyrinth
Clouded leopard	Cones
Ear touches	Ladder
Raccoon	Poles
Tail Touches	Surfaces
Python Lifts	Low jumps
Belly Lifts	Full Body Wrap
Turtle	
Lick of the Cows Tongue	

Response:

Today we started inside while I completed the session report and had a cup of tea with Carol. Digby came over to say hello and I took this opportunity to have a look to see if I could see any coat changes and once I felt Digby was happy for me to touch him, I did a couple of Zebra to introduce myself to him and then followed that with some flat hand observations to check for temperature changes, I couldn't feel any. I spent the next few minutes doing some Clouded Leopard around Digby's shoulders, then after a short break some Raccoon along his spine. I interspersed this with a few Zebra and some ear slides. As he looked so relaxed and had laid on the floor beside me, I thought I'd do a couple of Lick of the Cows Tongue and a few leg circles on the up facing side.

After this we put a Half Wrap on him and a harness and went outside to do some ground work. Before starting the ground work I added a rear end wrap around his waist and through the inside of the hind legs around and back along the outside to meet up with the harness.

We started with two points of contact one on the harness with Carol leading him. I explained to Carol about how to use the lead in an upward motion to halt and to try to turn in towards him if possible so as not to cause him to pull against her as he would if she pulled back rather than up. We stopped at various point around the course and did some touches and gave a treat. At one stop around the course Digby hesitated on the slippery looking surface, so we just let him walk around it this time. Next time round in Homing Pigeon he was fine and walked right over it.

On a couple of stops we made, I did some tail work, which at first Digby was not entirely happy with so each time he looked concerned we stopped and did some Turtle TTouches on his ribcage or Clouded Leopard around his neck area. On one occasion he didn't seem to mind me touching his tail, but there was a point about 2/3's of the way down that if I touched it he brought his tail up and seemed to wag his tail from that point up to the tip of his tail, this seemed really strange, I tried it a couple of times and each time he did the same. As I couldn't decide if he liked it or not, I thought I better not do that any more.

After we'd been around the course 3 times I felt he had done enough so finished off by reminding Carol how to do the Belly Lifts using a towel and how to do Python lifts on his legs.

Recommendations:

I recommended that Carol carry on as she had been doing with Belly lifts, Ear Work and Tail Work if he allows her to. I also suggested that she try to do Mouth Work and some Clouded Leopard around his shoulder and if possible python lifts to his legs.

Update:

Hi Denise,

I thought you might be interested in the following changes we've noticed in Digby since we started doing TTouches.

1 He's always been very wary of my vacuum cleaner and left the room as soon as I entered with it. Lately though he's just kept an eye on it and only moved when it's come really close.

2 The other day someone watching him doing an agility round said how much more flexible he was than when she'd last seen him.

3 He's often had unexplained digestive problems, sometimes going out first thing in the morning to eat grass and then not wanting his breakfast. This hasn't happened for about six weeks.

See you on September 12th Carol

Follow up

Date Third Consultation:September 12th

Location: Client's home

Duration of Third Session: 1 hour 30 minutes

Owner's observations since last section

Carol said that Digby was still ok around the hoover and still hadn't had any problems with his stomach. She also said that Digby had not shown any aggressive behaviour or done any barking at lone people while they have been out walking and the other day he got over a style on his own which he had never done before and was one of the things Carol had hoped TTouch would help with.

Practitioners Observations

I thought Digby's top line looked quite straight now, when I first met him he had a bit of a dip in his back. He looks like he is in balance most of the time when he was standing. I couldn't feel any changes in temperature and he wasn't too keen on me touching his ears. I also noticed that 2 – 3 inches from the base of his tail the hair looked slightly different, there was no heat or anything but he didn't like me to touch it and it felt much firmer than the rest of his tail.

TTouches and Learning Exercise used

Zebra	Labyrinth
Clouded leopard	Cones
Ear touches	Ladder
Racoon	Poles
Tail Touches	Surfaces
Python Lifts	Low jumps
Belly Lifts	Quarter Body Wrap
Leg Circles	Leg wraps

Response:

We started our session out in the garden while having a cool drink, it was quite a hot day. Digby was quite keen to interact with me, he had met me at the car when I arrived and he seemed quite relaxed with me around. I started with a few Zebra followed by one or two Clouded Leopard touches around his neck and then one or two Python Lifts to his shoulders, which I thought felt a little tight. After a short break, we put a quarter wrap and a harness on and went to do some ground work, I'd set the course up on arrival so we were ready to go so to speak. We used two points of contact, one on the top of the harness and one on the flat collar, I've always started with this combination and haven't so far had to change it.

We went once around all the items in the course, which Digby seemed quite comfortable with but he did knock some of the poles as he walked over them. On the way around we stopped several times where we did things like some Belly Lifts on one stop and some Tiger touches around his hind quarters followed by some tail circles and some purling on the tail on another. Digby was a lot happier about having his tail touched this time which felt looser than before. When I did the purling along his tail it still had the funny wiggle but from further along than last time.

We then went around the course in Homing Pigeon, Carol with the two points of contact and me with one on the other side. This time I added some leg wraps and a head wrap and made the Quarter Wrap into a figure of eight to make contact with his hindquarters.

As usual I stopped several times on the way around, this time as well as the usual Zebra etc. I added some leg circles and some Raccoon TTouches to his feet. I also did some more Clouded Leopard around his neck and shoulders and one of two ear slides but only while he was ok with me doing them.

This time we got around the whole course without knocking any of the poles and so I thought this would be a good point to stop.

Recommendations:

I recommended that Carol try to do some Python Lifts down his shoulders and legs at the front and hindquarters and legs at the back (I demonstrated how to do this), to do some Tail Work if he is ok with that and some ear and mouth work. Carol is already using the Belly Lifts to help Digby with his occasional stomach problems.

Update: Returned Evaluation form comment and a note returned with it.

Digby enjoyed his sessions and seemed relaxed and happy afterwards. On the days following two of the sessions he had agility competitions at which he performed more than usually well. Digby actually got a 5th place in one of his classes yesterday and a clear round in the other. He's never been placed before!