



'The thought of owning a dog that wouldn't come to me when I called really bugged me'



His name is Jake and he's a *Wonder Dog*

By ROLAND LUND
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One dog fancier describes Jake as "the reincarnation of Rin Tin Tin." Jake is a bright-eyed, alert, intelligent hunk of lovable dog flesh, but Rin Tin Tin?

Well, maybe.

After all, Jake, a 2-year-old German Shepherd, was smart enough to convince the person he owns — 22-year-old Ron Pace — that Pace had a future in training dogs.

Jake, you see, got Pace started a year and a half ago, when Jake was a pup.

"The thought of owning a dog that wouldn't come to me when I called really bugged me," Pace said.

JAKE FIXED that up fast. He had Pace enroll both dog and master in an obedience and guard dog course at Western Metro Security Guard Dog Training in Kent.

Each week, Jake took Pace to school and showed him how easy it was for man and dog to get along.



Pace was so enthused with his own progress in working with Jake, he devised dog training might be fun as a profession.

Pace pursued his studies at Western Metro. And Jake is proud of his "prize pupil," who now is a full-fledged, full-time, honest-to-goodness dog trainer.

Today pace is the owner of his own guard dog-training and obedience school, which he started earlier this year. He has been operating out of his north end home, but has been looking for more spacious quarters.

There, under Jake's watchful eye, of course, Pace will train dogs to heel, sit, stay, guard, not take food from strangers (poison prevention) and otherwise generally obey the master's commands.

A DOG OWNER shouldn't have a pup under any other terms, Pace says.

"You want a dog to mind," Pace says. "A dog that obeys really is a good pet. It doesn't offend anyone by running around loose and it can give the owner a lot of pleasurable hours."

Having the dog be a guard is a bonus.

"People get a little spooky about their pet being a guard dog. . . They have visions of it being some kind of vicious, attack animal."

"What people must realize is that guard training doesn't change the basic dog. It's still the same pet. It just has more skills."

With proper training, a guard dog is as safe as any pet. Witness Jake, a bundle of tail-wagging happiness when being petted by Pace's friend, Patti Smith.

PACE EVENTUALLY PLANS a full range of dog-training activities, in addition to boarding and dog breeding.

The roomier digs also will give Jake a chance to break out his bag of show-dog tricks, like walking the beam and jumping over obstacles.

He's the star of Western Metro and Associates' Wonder Dog Show, which is playing the area.

Jake put on a demonstration of guard-dogging. With the help of Mike Stanley, who provided the agitation, while wielding a stick and wearing a heavily padded shirt, Jake demonstrated that being a guard dog is serious business.

Pace instructed while Stanley agitated.

"Jake isn't hurt by the training," Pace explained.

The dog is corrected by a firm tug on the collar, not by slapping or other abuse.

"DOGS HAVE a short memory span," Stanley said. "They have to be reminded about what they've learned, but we never hurt them."

Pace said he prefers to train the owner with the dog. But in most cases, the dogs are left for just a week of obedience work, but its owners are taught the silent hand signals needed to handle their dogs.

Jake seemed to be enjoying the guard-dog session.

He obviously liked training Stanley as well as Pace.



Staff photos by Bruce Larson