

## Sandy and Bryn

Michelle was a gift to both my grand puppy and me! I was caring for my daughter's 5 month old Australian shepherd – a beautiful intelligent Aussie! Bryn was full of life and energy and was extremely intelligent. I have worked with many dogs but Bryn was operating beyond me at times and I needed to find help to keep her mind busy in a positive manner. Bryn was becoming reactive to other dogs and bouncing off everything and everyone!

I had known Michelle from her visits at the vet clinic as I had provided services to her lovely fur family. I always enjoyed watching Michelle work with her fur family and knowing these family members could have been very different if it were not for the guidance she provided to them. So I asked Michelle if she could help me with Bryn and the development of my skills to bring out Bryn's abilities further, making it fun and rewarding to both Bryn and myself.

Michelle would meet Bryn and I at various locations with a plan that would adjust if needed to accommodate "in the moment" behavior as well as developing new skills.

After our lesson, I would go home with new found confidence and techniques to try until our next meeting. This would last until the next time Bryn would pull a "Bryn" and master the skill from our lessons, and add a new behavior which was not always good! To keep me on track Michelle would send videos and a recap email of what we had done with step by step procedures with added enhancements to the skill after the rudimentary skill had been achieved. So we could build upon the basics and add new things.

The best part about working with Michelle was her positive manner and the confidence she so easily instills in both you and your dog. Michelle has the ability to teach the skills to you along with the confidence to go forth, succeed and blunder! Yes, blunder I did, but thankfully, Michelle would provide me with the logic behind the skill and the techniques to adapt to Bryn and the various situations I would find myself in. We are talking about an Aussie that is three steps ahead of me in thought and covered 10 times the steps physically!

The best activity Michelle introduced to Bryn was nose work. The focus, the drive, stick with it and show of success all rolled into a tired Bryn after a half hour of scent work! Bryn has been back with my daughter for 6 months but came to visit over the Christmas holidays. Not only did we enjoy some nose work sessions; long walks; visits with other dogs but her basic skills learned through Michelle have given her the foundation to grow from. Here is a picture of Bryn in the airport leaving to return home with her Mom (my daughter) January 3, 2018. In the very busy airport with many people and other four legged fur travelers – and complete focus on me!

