

Hi! My name is Lexxe Neu. I am a 7 year old Rottweiler. I am writing this because I would like to nominate for the Awards Banquet, my dog trainer Sylvia Gottschalk for the Best Dog Trainer Ever. You probably would like to know my reasons, so I will tell you my story.

It all started 3 years ago at the Humane Society, where by soon to be mommy came into visit all the dogs. The dogs all talked about this lady that came in every day and brought special homemade treats and walked them. I do remember her looking at me and talking to me. She had the softest voice. One of the workers there came in and this soft-voice lady pointed to me and said "I know that dog". They informed her that she was wrong. You see the place I came from used me for breeding and they must not have wanted me anymore because they never came back for me. I found out this soft-voice lady's name was Linda. Everytime she spoke, I could hear the gentle softness in her voice and I will always remember that. When she finally looked into my eyes and I in hers, we both feel in love.

Linda came back in the next day and talked to me and then we went for a walk together. Then she brought me back inside and left. I wanted her to take me home but she didn't. What I didn't know was that Linda was trying to adopt me. Oh wow, she was going to be my mommy! The next day, an older couple came in to look at me but the shelter workers had moved me. When they then found me, I heard them say to the worker that they wanted to buy me as a Christmas present for Linda. Whew as I was getting worried they were taking me before Linda came back. Then I realized what they really said and I was so excited I was trying to tell them "YES, YES, YES!!".

The next day this older couple who ended up being Linda's parents came in again with Linda...but then they left again. I was becoming very scared because I thought I was going to my new home with Linda. The next evening, Linda came and this time she had a pretty leash and collar for me. We left and went to her home....my new home! I was so happy and just wanted to be near her. This is where the fun began.

The first night at my new home was pretty scary. Everything was strange and there were these two cats named Abbie and Zowie that also lived there. I soon found out that Abbie was the boss, all 6lbs of her. Anyway, back to my story. I could hear Linda who was now my mommy, on the phone. She was talking to her son. She was saying "No I won't take her anywhere, I'll stay around the building." I was hoping she didn't mean she was going to take me back. Then I found out it was only because I was in heat...AGAIN! The first night, Linda put me to bed in this so-called crate thing. I didn't want to be in the Dog House. She insisted though and locked it. All I did that night was try to get out because I wanted to be near Linda. I ended up breaking the lock on it. Well the weekend went by and we all survived. That weekend my mommy also decided to name me Lexxe. I really liked that name. It sounded kinda French

That Monday, I went to see my vet who my mommy called "Dr. Cheryl". She was a really nice lady and I heard her tell my mommy that I was very skinny and that my boobies hung down almost to the floor. She also told my mommy that they may never go back up tight again and it was from me being bred so many times and having all those puppies. My mommy said she didn't care and that she loved me anyway. The next thing she then told my mommy was that she had good news and bad news for her. Oh...oh...well the good news was that I wasn't pregnant and the bad news was that I was in "full blown heat". Then my mommy got angry and I thought that she was going to send me back but that wasn't the case. My mommy was upset because they made a mistake at the shelter in what they had told her. Her son I guess told her he thought so too because of some of the ways I was acting.

So now I have to tell you more things. The shelter were mistaken again and told my mommy that I was dog-friendly. However, I didn't know what to do with a dog. All I knew was how to protect them. I thought that you did that with all dogs, which with me meant that I hovered over them like I did with my puppies. Well I soon found out that it was a no-no. My poor mommy got so upset she didn't know what to do. When I laid on top of another dog, the other dog would get upset and start to fight me. I didn't know what I was doing wrong. All I knew was that I was sick of being bitten. The last straw for my mommy was when I was hovering over a dog and this dog tried fight me. So I then put my teeth & mouth on the back of her neck like I did with my puppies to stop them from being bad but when the other dog then tried to get away, I put a rip on the back of her neck.

I thought for sure then that my mommy was going to send me back or get rid of me. All she kept saying to me though was "Lexxe, I love you and I am going to teach you how to play". Keep in mind that all these things had taken place over the course of a year. Well when she said that, it was then one thing though I knew by now and that was that my mommy loved me, that my home was secure and I was here to stay no matter what.

This is now where Sylvia, my second saviour came into my life. My mommy phones Sylvia and left a message on her answering machine saying; "Hi! My name is Linda Neu and I own a Rotti named Lexxe. I would like you to help me teach her how to play". Sylvia then called my mommy back and they talked. My mommy told

her about my behaviour and my attitude. Sylvia and my mommy then set up an appointment to meet the next week.

When I met Sylvia, I liked her immediately. She was very gentle. My mommy walked in with two leashes on me. One tied around her waist and one in her hand. Sylvia could not believe what she saw and said "what is that for"? My mommy replied that she didn't want me going after her or any other dog. She had her dog very far away though in like a doggy office. They talked a little and then Sylvia said to my mommy that she would have her walking me with one finger on the leach and playing with other dogs. I remember my mom laughing & saying "YEAH RIGHT".

Well one and a half year later I can write this. Sylvia worked with me and my mommy every week. First it was just my mommy and me with Sylvia. Then she started having her dog in that office watching. I wasn't too sure about this but Sylvia gave me the confidence that I could do it. First we were walking on the opposite side of the room so I could get used to seeing the other dog. Then we'd walk on opposite sides of the room where Sylvia would walk her dog and mommy would walk me. I also was learning some obedience things each time to help.

Every week my mommy and I went off to school. We also had homework that my mommy insisted that we do. Sometimes I am sure that my mommy and Sylvia were discouraged but they never stopped loving me and helping me to improve. Over time we got closer to each other passing each other nicely. My next step was meeting then a dog face to face. That is when I met Shadow that soon became my best dog friend. The first time we met, my mommy was so nervous. Sylvia still made it safe as we had to wear these funny things around our noses and Sylvia kept telling her that I was ready to start to play with a dog. Anyways, I met Shadow and we started to run and play and I wasn't even getting on top like I used to. We were running and jumping and wiggling and wagging and barking. I was so excited. Sylvia was there the whole time directing me and helping me, cause I wasn't 100% sure of what to do every time. Well over time, we didn't even have to wear those silly things on our noses anymore and played all the time. We then would start to play each week for the first bit and then we would have to do some obedience work. Then one day Sylvia told my mommy that I was ready to play with her puppy Mishka and Mishka's half brother Thunder. Mommy right away said no but Sylvia said "just trust me and trust Lexxe and that Lexxe would do fine" and I did! We now continue to play each week for 15 minutes and then always do work. A year and a half later I got a graduation certificate for doggy aggression (which Sylvia called something else), level one, level two, level three and now I'm starting Tricks class. It's so much fun!

So basically I want to say that I owe my life to two very special people. My mommy and Sylvia. My mommy loves me unconditionally and all she wants for me is to have a full-filled life that includes other dogs. My mommy is still very cautious about who I play with because she was once attached just before she got me by another dog and had to get 29 stitches in her arm. So when she sees other dogs running towards us, she tends to panic still which in turn makes me a little nervous and on guard because I don't want anything to happen to her. Then I see her look at me & remember and relax and we trot off happy again.

Sylvia is a very special lady who helped my mom and me to overcome a very serious problem. If it wasn't for Sylvia, who knows what could have happened to me. I know my mommy loves me and would never give me up but with Sylvia's determination, kindness and love, my life extended itself. I have now traveled to the Arctic Circle, Windsor and Sauble. Anywhere my mommy goes, I go along. We are a team but without Sylvia this never would have happened. I was mad and angry at the world and Sylvia showed me that the world is a happy place to trust.

You Judges may not realize how my life has changed for the better but everyone else does. This is the reason I nominate Sylvia for the BEST DOG TRAINER IN THE WORLD! I love her very much. I am only one dog of many that she has helped. I know she has helped many more dogs but she is just too quiet to admit it so I am doing it for her. YAH, SYLVIA, YAH SYLVIA...THE BEST DOG TRAINER IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD!

Love, Lexxe Neu

