



TWO PAWS UP FOR ONYX!



Onyx is a sweet, smart and dynamic Border Collie mix, doing his best to cope with city life.

When Onyx began nipping at people leaving his elevator, barking at people who crossed the street in front of him, and acting nervous around guests, Stacey and Josh contacted City Dog Country Dog for help. They diligently implemented the behavior plan that we developed, focusing on changing the way Onyx viewed people in these situations. We used distance to help Onyx stay calm and rewarded him with his favorite treats (anything peanut butter flavored, and popcorn!) for staying at Stacey's or Josh's side while people walked in front of him or out of the elevator. We also came up with a step-by-step protocol to follow when people came to visit Onyx's house. This helped him to disengage from visitors when he became nervous. Soon Onyx began to wag his tail with delight when in the elevator and approached by people.

With the tools and knowledge Stacey and Josh gained, they decided to teach him some fun party tricks for him to do when they have guests, giving him a positive activity to focus on when guests come over. The first tricks he worked on were carrying his leash in his mouth and playing "Pick the cup the treat is under". Another project was a photo shoot – here's a glimpse of this guy's charm and cuteness!

~ Meredith Haynes, Onyx's trainer